



January 2005

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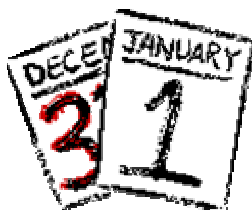
## The New Year

**A Publication of Denton County Master Gardener Association.**

**Comments & Suggestions:** Please call Pam McClimon or e-mail [Editor](#) with your comments and suggestions.

Thanks to the wonderful "Merry Web Elves" who, while others were busy with personal holiday preparations, spent many days working to get this newsletter "on-line". For a time, their names were only known to Santa, but now its time to publicly thank Joanne Fellows, Linda Krimm, Karen Martin, and Janie Farler, all gardeners with multiple talents. We couldn't have done this without you.

## Articles



*The New Year* January brings a new year, new DCMG interns (welcome ya'll!) and always new garden projects. Each new year, North Texas gardeners also face the challenge of horrific weather, perplexing soil, and insects that seem to come from some from biblical prophesy. And yet, always hopeful, they spend cold winter days planning new beds and redesigning old ones.

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- [Newton Rayzor Outdoor Leaning Area](#)
- [Children's Community Garden](#)
- [Bayless-Selby House](#)
- [Upper Trinity Regional Water District..](#)

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Digital Photos and the Garden



### *Updates:*

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Registration and



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## Happy Birthday



- **Jan 1** Tom Edmundson and Dave Rowley
- **Jan 4** Ruthanne Dencklau
- **Jan 5** Grace Eubanks
- **Jan 7** Mary Hafer
- **Jan 8** Celia Cohen
- **Jan 23** Kristin Anthony

# Datebook

## January 2005

- **3 at 9:30 am** - Mentor meeting to be held at Evelyn McMillan's house. Anyone who would like to be a mentor can contact Annell Burns. We're expecting a class of 30 interns which will begin Jan 11.
- **5 at 9 am** - DCMGA Board Meeting at the Extension Office.
- **6 at 6:30 pm** - Graduation Day!  
The 2004 Master Gardener Class graduates on January 6, 2005. Join us as we mark the occasion with a reception, dinner and program at the Doral Tesoro (site of the 2005 Master Gardener State Conference). Our speaker will be Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium, whose topic will be "Guns and Roses—Tales of a Rose Rustler." Save the date and watch for your invitation in the mail.
- **11** - First Master Gardener Class 2005
- **17** - State Conference Committee meeting at the Doral Tesoro, site of the May 2005 State Conference. If you haven't been to the Doral yet, this is your chance.
- **25 at 12:00 pm** - Potluck lunch provided to the 2005 class by general membership. Bring whatever you'd like for the new 2005 trainees at the Extension Center. This is for **ALL** of our membership to come and meet our new interns and just have a good time visiting with other master gardener friends. Lunch will be at 12 noon and we'd love to see everyone there. **Save that date!**
- **27 at 10:00 am** - Topiary meeting at the extension office.



## February 2005

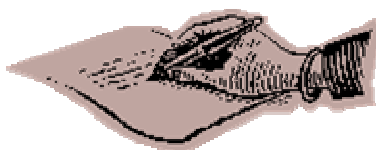
- **2 at 9 am** - DCMGA Board Meeting at the Extension Office.
- **9** - DCGMA Monthly Meeting at the Extension Office. Vegetable Gardening presented by Tom Harpool.

## March 2005

- **4-6** - Dallas Spring Garden Show
- **8 at 9:30 am to 12:30 pm** - Butterfly Habitat Certification Class, Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center

## April 2005

- **4 at 9:30 am** - Volunteer training session to bring all Denton County volunteers up to speed. Meeting will be at the Doral Tesoro.
- **18 at 7 pm** - Volunteer training session to bring all Denton County volunteers up to speed. Meeting will be at the Doral Tesoro.



# Minutes

## DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 1, 2004

**President Annie Brackin** called the DCMGA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 9:08AM. Those in attendance were Annie Brackin, Susie Cook, John Cooper, Peggy Durrett, Joanne Fellows, Carol Fitch, Sandy Hiatte, Linda Krimm, Maurine LeBeau, Pam McClimon, Carolyn Tinner, Linda Williams, Donna Wolfe and Mary Morrow.

**Mary Morrow**, Secretary, submitted the minutes from the Nov meeting emailed to Board members. Linda Krimm made a motion to approve, Linda Williams second, all present approved.

**Linda Krimm**, Treasurer, submitted the Treasurer's report. The balance is \$13,351.47, of this amount \$3,299.25 is from 2005 Conference receipts. Mary Morrow made a motion to approve, Carol Fitch second, all present approved.

**Carolyn Tinner**, 1st V. President, had no new business to report. Carol Fitch advised the North Denton Library requested she assist them in developing a budget for the gardens.

**Sandy Hiatte**, 2nd V. President, advised we had sold most of the bulbs and would be selling them at the Christmas luncheon. She advised we would be raffling the afghan Tina Litherland donated to DCMGA.

**Carol Fitch**, Program Coordinator, advised February's meeting would feature Vegetable Gardening presented by Tom Harpool.

**Donna Wolfe**, Volunteer Coordinator, advised 15 members of the 2004 class had completed their hours and would graduate at January's Dinner. There were 11 that had not completed hours and 28 veterans that have not completed hours. There are 24 applications for the 2005 class.

She advised the Dallas Spring Garden Show would be held Mar 4-6, 2005 and they had contacted her to see if we would be interested in giving presentations during the show. Carolyn Tinner will consider a Topiary presentation in preparation for the 2005 Conference. **Maurine LeBeau** advised there were about 10 MG that are interested in helping out.

**Pam McClimon**, 2005 newsletter editor, advised that the Newsletter committee had met and decided they would like to put the Roto-Teller on the website. Joann Fellows, gave a summary of how it would work. Carolyn Tinner made a motion to have the newsletter placed on the website for a trial period and Suzie Cook second. All present approved.

**Peggy Durrett**, 2005 Conference Chairperson, advised she would be making a presentation to the State MG Board Meeting on December 4th. She will be drawing the winner of the Doral Tesoro raffle. The dates for the 2005 Conference will be advertised from May 5th-8th 2005, instead of the 7th. The registration fee is \$100.00, after 4/1 \$125.00. If registering for Sat only the fee is \$70.00. Tour fees will be \$35.00.

Annie advised the Graduation Dinner is Thursday, Jan 6th. Mike Shoup will present "Tales of the Rose Rustler". The charge per person will be approx. \$25-\$26.

John advised of the need for DCMGA to take over the 2005 class fee and expenses. Sandi made a motion to approve and Linda Krimm second. All present approved.

Annie advised the State MG Board asked if the County associations would like to be included in the state 501(c)(3). Many questions were raised, but we have not received satisfactory answers. The decision was tabled until more information is received.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40am.

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## Updates

### **The dirt 2005 Conference Update**

**The Advanced Training Seminar committee** has been working hard over the holidays to prepare the conference registration information for statewide dissemination this month. We're "battening down the hatches" as we ready ourselves for the onslaught of registrations.

Denton County Master Gardeners will be hard at work putting on the conference but don't forget to register promptly! Check our website, [DCMGA.com](http://DCMGA.com), to print the registration form and mail or bring the form in to the extension office. Several events and tours are limited by space. Hotel registration can be made now (866-9-TESORO). Consider spending a few nights at the Doral and save yourself the drive. Plan your volunteer hours around the events and seminars you want to participate in.



And speaking of volunteering, Donna Wolfe is our volunteer coordinator for all jobs at the conference. This month, she and I will be compiling a list of the types of volunteers needed and when to be there. Volunteers are needed to fill many types of requirements: tour captains to host the tour on each bus, speaker handlers to provide our very special speakers with TLC, "hostesses" at the awards banquet to help with seating, a few special volunteers to help our vendors, many individuals working shifts at the registration table to welcome our attendees with Denton County hospitality and plenty of other positions requiring varying amounts of time and effort before the conference as well as Thursday, May 5, through Sunday, May 8.

Daunted at the thought of volunteering? Eager to learn details about the conference? There will be two volunteer training sessions held to bring all Denton County volunteers up to speed. The dates are April 4 at 9:30 or April 18 at 7 pm. Both training meetings will be at the Doral Tesoro so we can show you around.

What is your role in this auspicious event? Are you a "people person" or do you prefer a behind-the-scenes job? Please call/email Donna to discuss your options and volunteer.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions.

*Peggy Durrett*

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## **Butterfly Habitat Certification Class**

Rarely does this opportunity present itself! On March 8, 2005, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, Tina Dombrowski, Director of Horticulture - Texas Discovery Gardens, will be conducting a Butterfly Habitat Certification Class. Her introduction to butterflies will include history, life cycle, food and nectar plants, commonly seen butterflies and how to create an environment that will fill your yard with these beautiful creatures. Ms. Dombrowski developed and maintains the seasonal butterfly exhibit at the Discovery Garden.



Upon completion of the class you will receive butterfly attractant plants and a Butterfly Habitat Certification Certificate. You will get a unique behind the scenes view of the Butterfly Exhibit and an opportunity to receive a beautiful color metal sign that will designate your property as an official butterfly habitat. The class will be held at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden Center during their March Butterfly Exhibit. Space is limited, so sign up quickly. Registration fee is \$30.00. Contact Mimi Lyles at [mimilyles@aol.com](mailto:mimilyles@aol.com) or JoAnn Hahn at [johahn@charter.net](mailto:johahn@charter.net) for reservations and additional information.

*This event is sponsored by the Garden Club Council of Fort Worth.*

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## **The Graduating Class of 2004**

Congratulations to the nineteen 2004 interns who will graduate at the DCMGA Annual Dinner Meeting on January 6 at the Doral Tesoro Hotel. Those interns receiving certification are Diana Block, Emily Clough, Celia Cohen, Ruthanne Dencklau, Gracie Egan, Carol Eggert, Joanne Fellows, Ragenia Fulton, Alice Gill, Millie Leclair, Maribeth Lynch, Evelyn McMillen, Maggie Metzinger, Deanna Miles, James Murdock, Susan Musgrave, Pam Owens, Shari Prince and Joy Stewart.

## *The New Year*

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### *Habitat for Humanity*

Habitat for Humanity is one of the most personally rewarding projects of DCMGA. Master Gardeners get to see these homes go from bare earth setting to a finished landscape in one morning or afternoon. Habitat constructed homes for seven families in 2004 in Denton and Lewisville, and next year, their plans include Sanger. These homes are landscaped by a Master Gardener, working with the building coordinators for Habitat, the actual family who will live in the home and various other volunteers. Some are from Habitat itself, working to earn "sweat equity" toward their own homes. Others are from the church or organization sponsoring the home, and still others are community volunteers. It's wonderful to have several Master Gardeners available to oversee various parts of the volunteer labor.

The Master Gardener who is the Habitat liaison visits the site toward completion of the home, measures for flowerbeds, coordinates with the city to make sure regulations are met, orders topsoil and meets with the family receiving the home to determine their preferences in landscaping. Some families have definite preferences and want to help choose plants. Others have never had a landscape before and want the Master Gardener to do most of the plant selection. In either case, the plant selection and landscape plan is a challenge, as we need to select hardy plants which will survive with minimal care and we need to do it for \$250! (Many times, Master Gardeners will donate plants from their own gardens to our projects and this is a real budget stretcher.)

The day before the landscaping project, the MG liaison (and sometimes the family) will select the plants, mulch, grass seed, and any hardscape materials and transport them to the site. The day of the landscape, we coordinate the volunteers and the various components of the landscape...and sometimes do the planting raking, etc. ourselves. I



would love to welcome aboard anyone interested in volunteering one time or on an ongoing basis.

*Nancy Franke, project manager*  
<http://www.dcmga.com/RegionalProjects.htm>

### ***Newton Rayzor Outdoor Learning Area***

Newton Rayzor, an elementary school in the Denton ISD, now has an outdoor learning area, thanks to the volunteers of DCMGA. The learning area fills a courtyard between the library and classrooms and has been landscaped with a fabulous butterfly garden, large herb bed, native plant bed and vegetable garden. Pathways, seating/observation areas, and even a compost pile, have been included. Not only are the students able to study insect and plant life first-hand, the area is used as a "behavior incentive". (Children can be given permission to eat lunch there.) This school counselor says she likes to bring students out to the area to calm them (A phenomenon gardeners know well!) This year, plans call for installation of a weather station, along with bird feeders and a shade garden.

*Brigid Corbett, project manager*  
<http://www.dcmga.com/SchoolProjects.htm>

### ***Children's Community Garden***



Aimed at introducing pre-school age children to vegetable gardening, the Children's Community Garden, at Bowling Green Park, has become a DCMGA out-reach to parents as well. Last spring, from March until June, 18 children, along with parents and even some grandparents, planted two garden plots, with a variety of vegetables, flowers and herbs. We had two "tee-pees" covered with scarlet runner beans and bird-house gourds, along

with a cucumber tunnel. Giant sunflowers provided shade as the summer progressed, and to some mixed reactions, a rabbit took up residence in our "bunny garden" of radishes, lettuce and carrots! Classes met one morning a week with everyone participating in garden preparation, planting seeds and transplants, and, as summer progressed, watering and weeding. A worm compost bin was a big hit with the children, who brought food scrapes from home in their "compost cans" to feed the red wigglers. In the last two years, produce from the Children's Garden has won over 12 red and blue ribbons from the Denton County Vegetable and Flower Show. But the best part of the experience is the picking of their very own vegetables to take home to share with their families.

*Pam McClimon, project manager, 2004*  
<http://www.dcmga.com/YouthProjects.htm>



### ***Bayless-Selby House***

Denton County Master Gardeners have created and continue to maintain an authentic Victorian landscape garden around the historic Bayless-Selby House, near the Courthouse Square in Denton. Many opportunities are available to volunteer in the herb, antique rose, perennial, and pass-a-long gardens, as well as guiding visitors on tours of the walking path. Volunteers may set their own hours or participate in scheduled workdays, held the third Wednesday of each month, from spring to fall. Bayless-Selby House and its beautiful park-like grounds are considered one of the treasures of Denton. Master Gardeners have a unique opportunity to work there, educating the public about turn-of-the-century family gardens and enjoying its beauty, all at the same time!

This year, plans are being made to add another section to the park, with a "new" house, so we look forward to even more creative opportunities.

*Carolyn Gold, project manager*

<http://www.dcmga.com/DentonCountyProjects.htm>

### ***Upper Trinity Regional Water District***

In 2000, DCMGA was asked to redesign a demonstration garden at the Upper Trinity Water District plant to make it more appealing. The result was so successful that we were asked to design and install four more major beds. All that you now see when touring Upper Trinity is the result of the ideas and labors of Master Gardeners. DCMGA provides docents for 2-3 events a year, as well as giving tours (invitation only) to mayors, water district members, city architects and designers, state representatives and senators and others working with the water district.

Our efforts are now focused on bed design, clean-up, mulching, and maintenance. Workdays are usually held each Thursday, 8:30-12:30. Volunteers may work more hours but must coordinate first with the project manager, since the plant is now a secure site after 9-11.

Plans for 2005 include labeling plants and publishing a booklet of plant identification and care.

*Linda Williams, project manager*

<http://www.dcmga.com/DentonCountyProjects.htm>

## *Use Those Christmas Gifts!!!*

### **Digital Photos and the Garden**



Last Christmas, Santa left a little gem of a digital camera under my tree. I must have been a very good girl that year, or a name tag got mixed. Now I carry it everywhere, especially when I go for walks on trails or in other gardens. I snap away at any plant I wish to research or remember. Today I caught my favorite garden view with a miraculous dusting of snow. As soon as there was a break in the falling flakes, I grabbed my heavy coat and hat and went out to snap a few shots. Snow in Texas is definitely worth recording.

The best is when I need that one photo for my garden journal. To preserve that one perfect boom that comes along. With a digital camera I can immediately see the image, and if it is not what I want, I just snap another.



Photo December 2004 - Scarlet Sage planted earlier this year

I have always made a photo record of my gardens. I love to look through and remind myself just how small of frail some plants are at the start. It is a great way of reminding yourself that the shade tree you are patiently waiting for is really growing quite well. I use photos during the quiet winter months to help me plan adjustments to the garden.

This year's winter project is to organize all the information and photos I have judiciously gathered for the past three years about the building of our Texas garden. This will be a gift to my grandchildren. Often I hear people talk about their childhood memories in their grandparent's garden. I loved teaching my children, and theirs, how to garden. Working as an intern at the Children's Vegetable Garden this past year brought back many fond memories. It is so wonderful to see the sense of accomplishment on the children's faces when their seed start to grow and produce.

When we first moved here, my son brought his children and we had lots of adventures in the yard and by the lake. I made a small story book for them to take to school and share. It had pictures of the plants, birds and insects they encountered in Texas. It was a big hit with their Massachusetts friends.

All of these projects were made possible with that little gem that Santa left.



*Joanne, Shady Shores*