



# Garden Chatter

*A Quarterly Newsletter for Walker County Master Gardeners Association*

Summer Edition

June 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jean McLaren

What's next? That always seems to be the question that MG Interns ask once their classes are finished. And many of us that have been in the program for a while also ask that question. *How can I help? What's the next Project? When is the next tour? When is the next workshop or seminar? Do I have to keep turning in my hours?* The list goes on and on.

Thank goodness! These questions tell me that you want to be involved, want to contribute, and want to make a difference in our community. Our payment is the pleasure and satisfaction we all receive from volunteering. It's immeasurable.

This volunteering spirit is the reason we sold out of the majority of our plants at our Spring Plant Sale. We all worked hard putting together a wide variety of quality plants - offered at great prices, assisted customers with their plant questions, and provided mini plant seminars. Our customers knew they were going to get a super value from WCMGA. Community groups are now approaching us to advise them on plants to use around commercial buildings, such as Huntsville Memorial Hospital and the new Storm Shelter. Now we are attracting a larger audience for our workshops and seminars. And our speaker's bureau is staying busy scheduling tours and talks.

The successes we are experiencing are an indication that we have one heck of a team. Just take a look around our facility and see what our visitors see. It's truly splendid, and we can proudly say there's nothing else like it in Walker County. The only complaint from our visitors after our recent Texas Master Gardener Conference Tour was that they had to leave!! How great is that?!?! I could go on and on about what we have accomplished so far this year, but there's not enough space here. I'm sure you will find many committee reports inside this newsletter to bring you up to speed with the WCMGA doings and happenings.

The enthusiasm shown by our newest members is contagious, so catch a little of this fever and call on any committee chair to find out how you can help them with their projects. Got a question about volunteering for work needed to meet our Classroom Grant deadlines, or about turning in hours, etc. etc., but not sure who to call? Then call any of your Executive Committee members. If they don't have an immediate answer, they will get one for you. Or call the Extension office and ask the ladies in the office if they need any help. They usually do. They don't work for us, but they help us enormously. And of course it also counts towards our volunteer hours!

Yes, we do need to continue reporting our hours each and every month. Keep a calendar handy and jot down what you did that day and the hours you spent doing it. Then look over your calendar at the end of the month and fill in the blanks on the Volunteer Hours Form, and send it in. It's a simple, painless process really.

Happy Gardening to you all and see you at the next Thursday or first Saturday workday, or the next first Wednesday monthly meeting,

### News Flash!

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, over 100 Master Gardeners celebrated the completion of classes for 26 Master Gardener Interns. A meeting, dinner and two programs presented by the new interns were enjoyed by all. The graduates were given their certificates and badges, and several of them were commended for perfect attendance.

Word has it that a number of the new interns earned their volunteer hours by helping to prepare the demonstration gardens for the Texas Conference Tour. Everyone is looking forward to working with them on future and current projects. Congratulations, New Master Gardeners, for becoming members of a fine Walker County organization!

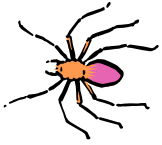


**Did You Know?** Two of our new interns won ribbons at the County Fair. Saundra Syphrett won two ribbons for canning (pickles and Cinnamon Cucumber Rings), and Kay Ohendalski won a Judges Choice and a blue ribbon for her double wedding ring quilt. Also Saundra's daughter won a Grand Champion and a 1st place steer. Congratulations All!

### Leafing thru...

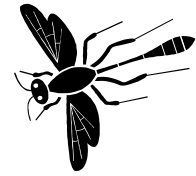
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# Wonders in Nature's Garden

By: Peggy Bennett



So often in our busy lives, we miss the wonders in nature right outside our doors. It is only when we slow down and take the time to really “see,” that we discover the fascinating events taking place in the natural world. I was fortunate to witness just such an event about two years ago.

One hot afternoon, I sat on the back step to take a break from yard maintenance. Our back yard is a lovely, peaceful place, and it relaxes me to just sit and look at it.

All of a sudden, out of the corner of my eye, I saw movement on the ground. I watched for a few seconds and saw a wasp atop a blade of grass. It looked a little odd, so I moved closer for a better view. The wasp was carrying a spider in its mandibles! The spider was almost as large as the wasp, and too heavy for him to carry in flight. He was making his way across the yard with it on foot.

I noticed that the wasp was walking backward, and moving at quite a fast pace. As he topped another blade of grass with his heavy load, I imagined that it must seem like climbing a mountain to him! When I moved even closer, the wasp dropped the spider and flew just a short distance away. That was enough to make me back away as well! As soon as I did, he returned to his prey. I watched the wasp carry the spider about thirty five or forty feet, all the while, wondering where in the world he was taking it.

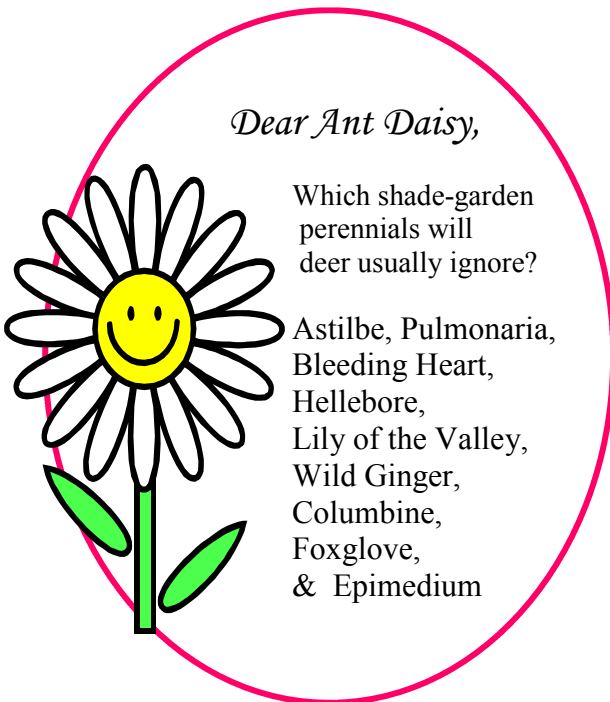
Finally, he turned the corner at the end of our back porch. As he approached the house, he walked backward right up the foundation! About halfway though, he fell back to the ground and dropped his prize. Undaunted, he picked it up again and walked backward up the foundation once more. This time he backed right into one of the weep-holes in the brick veneer – SUCCESS!

Some may consider this kind of observation a waste of time, but for me it was absolutely fascinating. I have since witnessed several other interesting events in our back and front yards. Observing nature in this way, has given me a greater understanding of the connectedness, or interdependence of all creatures in nature. It reminds me that we must maintain balance in our natural world, so that all living things can survive and thrive.

Here is a link to a video of a wasp carrying a spider. It isn't my video. Obviously, someone else enjoyed this type of observation as much I did! I happened across the video while attempting to learn more about the wasp, and wanted to share it with you. The wasp's determination in transporting its heavy prey long distances is impressive!

[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/243733/spider\\_wasp\\_carries\\_prej](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/243733/spider_wasp_carries_prej)

I hope that you will take the time to sit quietly and observe the natural world around you. You might be amazed at what you discover and learn in the process!



*Dear Ant Daisy,*

Which shade-garden perennials will deer usually ignore?

Astilbe, Pulmonaria, Bleeding Heart, Hellebore, Lily of the Valley, Wild Ginger, Columbine, Foxglove, & Epimedium

\_\_- Ralph Waldo Emerson



*I had the pleasure of a visitor in my garden this morning as I was deadheading my daylilies; a young male cardinal perched in a gardenia not a foot away from me. I think that these marvelous experiences with nature are what life is all about & they certainly give me pause to reflect and try to repay Mother Nature! S.H.*

# Wren Will They Come?

By Bek Akin

I ask myself that question every year. A pair of cute little Carolina wrens love my back porch. They flit in and seemingly bounce from one place to the next... between chairs and tables, pots and plants, even landing sideways on hanging garden art. This is the fourth year for these perennial visitors who I suppose now consider themselves residents. And they always choose their nesting area to be where I have green-housed my plants for the winter.

My back porch is thirteen by sixteen feet, and covered. Extending from the porch is a deck of about sixteen by twelve feet, and over it is a pergola. So the area is fairly protected and always filled with plants either around the deck and porch in summer, or in a 5' X 8' section surrounded by clear plastic which is moveable on rods in winter.

In summertime the wrens are in and out of the porch. In late wintertime, I hear the male, but I don't see him. The wrens are out in the property, foraging and scavenging, and living on the land.

I began hearing the male wren's "tweedle, tweedle, tweedle" song in February. However I didn't actually see the pair until early March. A freeze occurred at that time, and I thought it was surely too early for them to build their home. But in mid-March, they were flying into the "greenhouse," both the male and female flitting about, the male singing, and generally ... acting like Carolina wrens.

The Carolina Wren is a sweet little bird, brown with a buff breast and belly, a white throat and a golden bottom. A prominent white stripe is over each eye, and its tail sticks straight up. These particular wrens are monogamous and non-migratory. They forage for food along the base of trees, and in plant growth along streams, preferring insects and spiders, snails and worms. From five or six eggs the babies are hatched, and the mother protects them as the father takes them food. After the babies grow a bit, the mother will go out and forage for food also. Soon after, the babies venture out. What a springtime treat for human eyes!

I've considered naming my pair Angelina and Brad, or Romeo and Juliet. Except, only the male sings, and since Angelina seems to be the boss lady in that couple, how can the Mom wren be boss if she doesn't talk? And Juliet begs the question, "Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou Romeo?" So how can this non-speaking female be a Juliet? So I just refer to them as the Carolina wrens. Not as romantic, but they are usually very prolific!

Early in the spring, I tried to ignore them, hoping that they weren't going to do anything drastic until I got a chance to move out the plants. Now why I thought that is beyond me – I guess it was wishful thinking. I took two trips in March and the preparation for those and other things left me no time to work with my plants. Still I knew the male was outdoors somewhere doing his thing.

In researching these wrens, I read that the male scopes out an area of approximately one square acre. Therein he builds about a dozen crude stick nests. The female comes along and chooses her favorite spot out of the lot. After picking one of the crude nests, she makes it comfortable with softer materials. With all the work involved, I hoped that they wouldn't be nesting before April.

When I finally got to moving out my plants in late March, I quickly realized something was up. A harsh scratchy sound, not unlike a piece of metal scraping on concrete, was resonating near me continuously, and with a bit of furor. I looked around and sure enough, there they were. Mom and Pop wrens were close, and the male was letting me know in his brusque tone, *go away, just go away*. I may as well have been a cat, or some other predator. Surely they knew I wasn't going to hurt them or their nest!

So I walked to a chair nearby and sat down. Both promptly flew to a large pot plant. *Ah, I thought, so that is the pot where they are nesting. And that particular plant needs to be out on the deck -- in the sun!*

A friend told me that if there were no eggs yet, I could remove the nest and they would simply build another nest someplace else. So later, when I noticed the wrens were out, I checked the pot – it was full of babies! All hatched and piled in the nest chirping for food. Soon, the parents were again letting me know, *go away, just go away!*

The Carolina wrens are monogamous and can have two or three sets of babies in the season. I honestly think last year they had four or five! So for now, that pot will stay put and those babies will surely be flying the coop soon!

**Update:** We watched as the babies learned to fly and were gone in, seemingly, a flash. So I moved the pot forward just a bit, where it could get a little afternoon sun. But the wrens did not come back. Every so often I hear the male with his *tweedle! tweedle! tweedle!* And I wonder where they are nesting. I've even watched him recently confront a squirrel on the railing of the deck where they chattered at one another until the wren left. Perhaps next spring I will be better prepared for them on my back porch. If and *wren* they come back.



# CHAIRPERSON BLURBS

I want to thank the people who work diligently and tirelessly on the committees that make the Master Gardeners work efficiently. The great strides we have made were very apparent at the End of Class Celebration on the 15th, and this is becoming a banner year. I've been working my paying job more than I expected, and I've missed some major activities that I wish I could have attended. Yet every committee chair and member have made my Master Gardener job easier, and I've never had to worry about a thing. We are very lucky to have so much talent in our membership.

I want to ask everyone to take an opportunity to get to know the new class, or other members. Let them know what you do, and to see what interests them the most. We had two excellent presentations at the celebration. We plan on shamelessly stealing them and using them for presentations to other organizations.

What I am saying is there is a lot of talent in the new class and we should be seeking them out. We have many demands for all types of talent from answering phones to public speaking, so let's not leave someone behind because they did not know the opportunities that we offer. Get the word out. Getting more people involved will only help the organization. Full time or just a few days a year, any volunteer time is helpful and much appreciated.

Please don't hesitate to ask for help or let me know if you need any kind of assistance. Thanks for making my job easy and enjoyable.

Mark Short



## The Greenhouse

If you take a look around the greenhouse you'll see that it's empty compared to the first of March. The spring plant sale was a great success! We took cuttings, planted seeds and nursed them into a sellable product. Thanks to all the Master Gardeners and Interns that helped to make this happen.

The greenhouse is ready to get started on preparation for the Fall Sale. We will continue to have our Thursday workdays during the summer and encourage all our Master Gardeners and Interns to bring in any extra plants that they might have or plants that can be propagated our stock is very low and we need a good selection of for the Fall Sale October 11<sup>th</sup>. See you in the Greenhouse ... Sandy & Jean



## Historian/Scrapbook Committee

The Scrapbooks from 2001-2007 are almost completed, and was quite an interesting undertaking. It took two books to complete all the archives of 2007. We are trying something a little different for the 2008 book, and it's almost up to date. This year's members are Linda Moore, Jenny Marcotte, Betty Elvin, Emma Bookout, and Marie Sanders, and these girls can really work their magic...

Any interns or members interested in joining us are WELCOME. We need some new members to take over and help next year; so join us now. If anyone has pictures that we can use, we would be happy to put them in the books also... Dianne Laskie



**The Herbal Forum**, held in Round Top, on March 28 -29, 2008 was attended by twenty Walker County Master Gardeners and Interns. Before arriving at Festival Hills on Friday, the group toured Martha's Bloomers Nursery in Navasota and the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence. Afternoon workshops were offered on Friday and a delicious herb-based dinner was served Friday evening.

Saturday morning began with a general session, "Roses are Herbs Too!" and was followed by lectures including "Edible Flowers," "Tea and Health," "Future of Water," "Sweetie and Savory," and "Calendula, 2008 Herb of the Year."

In addition to the educational information acquired, the group enjoyed purchasing plants and great fellowship. Jean Marsh, Betty Brown, Sandy Tykol, Carol Hayes and her daughter Allison, Jenny Marcotte, Jan Stanley, Leta Richards, Billie Lee, Jean McLaren, Gail Warren, Evelyn Dawson, Rebecca Cobo, Virginia Coleman, Dian Herrod, Mary Laurent, Pauline Blackard, Lois Friday, Mary Oates, and Tammie Marsh attended the event.



## Hospitality Committee

For the week of the plant sale, we provided the necessary ingredients for over 150 sandwiches, soups, and desserts. Afterward, we went on to put some sparkle on the Conference Tour. All of this was topped off with a special night honoring our new interns and what they are bringing to the Walker County Master Gardener Association.

Looking forward, we will provide the cold cuts and rolls for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month meeting, September 3, 2008 in the new facility. Members are to bring potluck salads.

We will provide the sandwiches, soups and desserts for the plant sale October 11, 2008

Our Christmas Party will be held in the Carriage Inn Dining Room, December 10, 2008.

I hope you will all take time to thank the Hospitality Committee Members: Beckie Akin, Peggy Bennett, Lois Friday, Dian Herrod, Dianne Laskie, Mary Laurent, Katherine Richmond, and Linda Roberts... Jan Stanley



# CHAIRPERSON BLURBS (CONT)

**Huntsville Memorial Hospital** CEO and Walker County Master Gardener, Sally Nelson, presented a plaque of appreciation to the Walker County Master Gardeners for their consultation on the design of Phase I of the hospital's Landscape Revitalization Project prior to the "Docs Around the Block" event on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Phase I included landscaping around the main entrance to the hospital which has softened the landscaping; it includes trees as well as roses and natives. Master Gardeners Rhonda Hanks, Jean Marsh and Sandy Tykol comprised the team of design consultants. The recognition of their efforts is an example of what a partnership between two not-for-profit organizations can contribute to the community... Sue Harris



At the Texas Master Gardener Conference, held in Montgomery County, April 24-26, Jean Marsh instructed a group of seventy-two (72) Master Gardeners from across the state in a two-day concrete leaf-making workshop. These one of a kind, hand-made leaf replicas are huge attractions in the garden. They can serve as bird baths, bird feeders or bubbly fountains enhancing the landscape. Jean demonstrated the process of preparing the sand mold, mixing the cement and placement of the leaf material and shaping of the cement mixture on the leaf. She also explained the method of painting their creation when it becomes dry. Members of the workshop were happy with their creation and the instructions they received. Billie Lee

Friday, April 25, 2008, at the Texas Master Gardener conference held in Montgomery County, forty Master Gardeners from around the state were given information necessary to successful Grant Writing. Cindy Blaylock prepared a power-point program detailing the steps necessary to grant writing.

A well-done, useful manual was put together including a copy of the power-point program, sample grants, lists of sources of grants and foundations and other useful material. Jean McLaren organized the manual in a very professional manner; Sue Harris & Billie Lee assisted in the preparation. A feature of the manual "Grant Writing Tips" was especially useful as Cindy carefully explained the "do's and don'ts" of the process. She emphasized grants as a way to develop a program, and expand and enhance an organization.

All attendees were extremely interested as Cindy presented the information very concisely and completely, allowing time for a question and answer session following the hour-long presentation...

Sandy Tykol adds that our organization is unique in that we have applied and received three different grant. Many other Master Gardener organizations are looking to apply, and now understand what can be accomplished in this area. Billie Lee

Another quarter has gone by and together we have completed a Rose Garden trellis, a new Daylily Bed, a partial underground water system and controls for the gardens, and a new Water Feature complete with an electrical timer and wrought iron fencing.

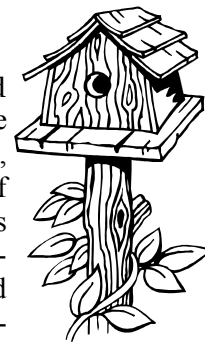
My counterpart in Bryan College Station happened to be taking pictures of our grounds while I was working on our water system. He introduced himself and his wife and stated they were going to reconstruct their Demo Gardens. They were both impressed with what we had accomplished, and left with ideas for their project. Our gardens are becoming a Master Garden facility that is beautiful and attracts others.

THANK YOU ALL, FOR YOUR  
TIME AND EFFORT! GEORGE  
TYKOL -





## IT'S TIME FOR TEXANS TO GO "WILD" By Sue Harris



I've always been fascinated by the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Habitat certification. A recent article in the Texas Co-op Power magazine on the Texas Wildscape certification sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife spiked my curiosity, and a little research resulted in some interesting facts. Most importantly, the Best of Texas Backyard Habitat Program is a joint effort of the National Wildlife Federation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Texans can now certify under both programs with completion of a single form. The Best of Texas Habitat Program has taken "the best of the two individual programs and challenged Texans to create a habitat that seeks to maximize wildlife benefits and highlight sound conservation stewardship within the bounds of urban restriction."

Years ago, I had copies of both the NWF and TP&W forms but never completed them. I must admit, the requirements weren't quite as stringent as they are now, but I certainly don't disagree with the new requirements for reduction of pesticides and herbicides and the trend toward more native plants. I was amazed at how closely the new guidelines for certification parallel with the Walker County Master Gardeners' LEAF-PRO and Texas Agri-Life Extension's Earth Kind projects. It really pleases me that we are all becoming more conscious of how we effect the environment. Good for us! The form is available on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website ([www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes)) or can be obtained by contacting Mark Klym at (512) 389-4644.

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is a wonderful opportunity to see native plant wildlife gardens which is a Texas Parks and Wildlife/National Wildlife Federation-certified habitat garden. You can also visit the Center's website ([www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)) to select plants for your backyard habitat. Don't forget our local garden centers; I'm certain you'll find the folks at the Plant Environment more than willing to work with you in planning your own habitat.

Some wildscaping tips are using native plants that produce seeds, nuts, berries and nectar. Water is vital; something as simple as planter trays, water troughs, shallow pools or birdbaths work well. Provide a variety of bird feeders, feed trays and nest boxes. They will diversify the wildlife attracted to a Wildscape. Don't forget composting! It provides natural sources of nutrients to a developing Wildscape. These tips and more are available in the Texas Parks & Wildlife brochure "*Texas Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife.*" They have great brochures on a wide variety of topics and all are available online.

The cost for certification as a Texas Backyard Habitat is \$15.00, and the National Wildlife Federation Backyard Habitat is \$30.00. The form is only three pages and is straightforward. They require that you have 50% native species in your habitat, and provide food and shelter for wildlife year-round. It's not as difficult as it may sound and I think that you'll be surprised at how many native plants and trees you have in your yard. You'll reap the benefits of seeing more butterflies and hummingbirds as well as other wildlife (we're currently enjoying watching the baby wood ducks which hatched in our nest boxes) and at the same time, we'll be insuring a healthy future for the wildlife of Texas.

If you have any questions on information contained in this article, please contact the Walker County Extension Office at (936) 435-2426, [walker-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:walker-tx@tamu.edu) or Sue Harris at (936) 439-0086, [sueharris1227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueharris1227@sbcglobal.net). Roberta Short and Sandy Nichols at the Extension Office are very knowledgeable gals and always willing to answer your questions. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

## "Green" F.Y.I. By Peggy Bennett



A new *National Geographic* publication titled, *Green Guide – The Resource for Consuming Wisely* is available in our local Hastings Bookstore in the Science magazine section. There are several very interesting articles in the Spring 2008 issue.

An article on CFLs (compact fluorescent light bulbs) explains the proper procedures for disposal of the mercury-gas containing bulbs, and safety precautions to be taken in the event one breaks in your home (children and pets should not be exposed). The article states that Ikea offers a free in-store take-back program, and that other local disposal sites can found at [earth911.org](http://earth911.org) and [lamprecycle.org](http://lamprecycle.org). They cannot be disposed of in standard landfills, because when they burst, there is a risk of mercury pollution. Since legislation passed in December 2007 will effect change in the bulbs we buy by 2012 and again in 2014, we should all educate ourselves on the proper handling/disposal of these new bulbs.

There is also an article on, "Picking the Best Plastics for Storing Your Food and Drink". It discusses which plastics are safe for these purposes, and which are unsafe. The numbers inside the recycling arrows are the indicators for the kind of plastic used in producing the packaging.

There are informative articles on chlorine bleach, improving indoor air quality, healthy cosmetics, "green" cleaners and a well-photographed article on Wal-Mart's process for recycling their plastic bags. If you're interested in tips on "green" living, I would highly recommend checking out this publication. Enjoy a great summer season!

## Texas State Conference Tour...



On Saturday, April 26, 2008, the enthusiastic, energetic Walker County Master Gardeners and Interns hosted a tour for fifty-five (55) Texas Master Gardeners and Extension Agents. As the featured Master Gardener facility at the Texas State Conference, the group worked relentlessly to make this event successful and memorable.

Members of the tour group enjoyed the efficient, spacious greenhouse, the beautifully manicured gardens, the hardscape and the gracious hospitality. Each area was staffed with Master Gardeners and Interns who were equipped to answer questions and explain the project. Thirty-two (32) members of the Walker County group were on hand to assist with the tour and distribute educational material. Also on hand for the event were Judge Danny Pierce and County Commissioner Tim Paulsel.

A hospitality room was available for viewing a virtual tour narrated by Roberta Short depicting the history of the garden and the progression of the work done. As a young group, less than 7 years old, their desire to develop a premiere demonstration garden, is evident as they showcase responsible landscape practices in a beautiful setting.

Sandy Tykol, coordinator of the project, worked months planning, ordering seeds, plants and garden enhancements, and planning special features. Assisting Sandy in this team effort were Jean Marsh and her greenhouse group, George Tykol and Wes Sanders and their demonstration garden committee, individuals who assisted with special flower beds and planting areas, Jan Stanley and her hospitality committee and many other Master Gardeners and Interns. The hospitality committee greeted the guests with rosemary lemonade, coffee and cinnamon basil cookies allowing them to stroll through the garden enjoying refreshments served in crystal glasses and china cups. A special feature, the Interns Project beds, was very successful as many members of the tour expressed interest in implementing a similar idea. The Interns furnished hand-outs with information on organizing and implementing the project.

The entire Walker County Master Gardener group worked diligently toward the success of this project. It was successful, rewarding and memorable for all who worked on the project including Reggie Lepley, Extension Agent, and the office staff, and those who were guests at this wonderful event. Billie Lee

### Curried Chicken Salad (served at Jean Marsh's home – last intern class)

4 cups cooked chicken, cut into bite-sized pieces

1 cup thinly sliced green onions

1½ cups thinly sliced celery (cut on diagonal)

¾ cup sliced almonds, toasted

1½ to 2 cups fresh or well-drained canned fruit – pineapple, grapes, mango, papaya, or apricots (cut into bite-sized pieces)

Green vegetables such as peas, asparagus or green beans, blanched and cut – optional

#### Curry Dressing:

¼ cup vegetable oil

1/3 cup fresh lemon juice

1 tsp rough chopped garlic

¾ cup mayonnaise

1 ½ tsp salt, or to taste

2 tsp curry powder (adjust to taste)

¼ cup peeled and sliced fresh ginger

1 T firmly packed chopped fresh spearmint

¾ cup sour cream or yogurt

½ tsp freshly ground white pepper

unsweetened coconut milk or fruit juice as needed to moisten salad; several dashes of Tabasco or other hot Chile blend



Combine chicken with green onions, celery, almonds, fruit and vegetables of choice (if using) in a large bowl, tossing gently so chicken does not break into shreds. Prepare dressing by placing oil, curry powder, lemon juice, ginger, garlic and spearmint in the bowl of electric blender. Blend until smooth, adding more oil if needed. Place mayonnaise and sour cream in a medium bowl and mix gently with a rubber spatula; stir in blended curry mixture and mix well, adding salt, pepper and Tabasco to taste.

Pour dressing over chicken mixture and mix gently (preferable with clean hands – or with plastic gloves). Adjust seasonings with curry powder, lemon juice, salt, pepper and Tabasco Sauce. If mixture is too dry, moisten with a little coconut milk or fruit juice.

Salad is best when allowed to rest at least 4 hours or overnight to blend flavors. It may be necessary to moisten again or adjust seasonings before serving as the chicken absorbs the dressing.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings of 1 cup each; this recipe may be doubled.

# Walker County Master Gardener Association

## 2008 Executive Board

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President-Elect \*\* Mark Short  
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Serving Our Community

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## LEAF-PRO

**Landscape Environmental  
Awareness Facility  
Protection Reduction Outreach**



Walker County Master Gardeners Association  
102 Tam Road, Suite B  
Huntsville TX 77320  
936-435-2426 (Office)

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