



# Garden Chatter



*A Quarterly Newsletter for Walker County Master Gardeners Association*

Spring Edition

March 2008

## *President's Message*

You may have read a story several months ago about a young man who bought and reopened a grocery store in a small town in Minnesota. He was 17 years old at the time. His reasoning was simple; he wanted to provide a service for his small community, and in particular, for the older residents who were unable to drive to a supermarket 14 miles away. The support he got from his community was overwhelming. And although it's a business venture, it points out that, no matter your age, giving back to your community fills a need, and is most assuredly appreciated and personally gratifying.

As Master Gardener volunteers, we too give back to our community. You may recall our first General Meeting in January where I challenged all members of our association to rededicate and recommit themselves to our Master Gardener objectives and to have fun while doing so. I believe you have, and in grand style too. I for one am so appreciative and overwhelmed by the volunteering spirit exhibited by our WCMGA members. Just look where we are today!

Our 2008 Class began in mid-January and our interns have already become a thriving part of our organization. We've participated in the E-Waste Recycling Day, the Walker County Proud Tree Sale, Trash Bash, conducted programs and workshops on butterfly and hummingbird gardening, growing and using herbs, selecting and planting trees, garden pest management, and consulted with and are guiding the landscaping of Huntsville Memorial Hospital.

We introduced and implemented the Intern Mentoring program, the Scholarship fund for High School Seniors, and the Continuing Education Reimbursement program for our members. Our wonderful website, "walkercountymastergardener.org" and fact-filled newspaper articles keep our community up to date with our activities. We finished our beautiful split cedar fence around the Demo garden, our greenhouse is filled with wonderful offerings for our Spring Plant Sale, and our Demo garden is coming alive and taking shape for our Plant Sale and TMG Conference tour. Construction will probably have begun on our LEAF-PRO Education Facility when this issue comes out. Wow!!! And it's only March!!!

I sincerely hope that you are all as gratified as I am. My sincere congratulations and thanks to everyone for a fantastic start to 2008. Happy Gardening! Jean McLaren

### *Deer Aunt Daisy*

*Can perennials be grown from seed?*

*Absolutely! The top ten perennials grown from seed are:*

- Agastache*
- Black-Eyed Susan*
- Blanket Flower*
- Coneflower*
- Coreopsis*
- Hardy Hibiscus*
- Perennial Bachelor's Button*
- Pinks*
- Saliva*
- Shasta Daisy*

### *Leafing thru...*

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*Among gardeners, enthusiasm and experience rarely exist in equal measures.*

*- Roger B. Swain*

Spring Things!  
By Peggy Bennett

As gardeners, when the spring season arrives, our thoughts turn to the great outdoors! We begin thinking of ways to beautify our lawns and gardens. Each spring, I consult my list of online "Favorites" for ideas on ways to fully enjoy the season. There are several "gems" worth discovering in the surrounding areas, and I'd like to share a few of them with you.

The annual March Mart will be held March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mercer Arboretum. They have a huge selection and variety of plants rarely found at local retail nurseries. For information, <http://www.hcp4.net/mercer/marchmart/index.htm> or phone 281-443-8731.

For herb enthusiasts, the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Herbal Forum at Festival Hill in Round Top is also scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>. For information, check their website <http://www.festivalhill.org> and click on **Herbal Forum**, or phone 979-249-3129.

One of my personal favorites is The Arbor Gate in Tomball! It's a bit of a drive from here, but well worth it. In March, they will be featuring speakers on blooming natives, roses, herbs and bulbs; AND, they offer classes such as welding (making your own trellis), and this time, a new fused art glass class. For more information phone 281-351-8851 or visit their website <http://www.arbortgate.com> and click on **Classes**. There is so much to see and do at The Arbor Gate!

Many of you may already know about Martha's Bloomers in Navasota. They have a lovely selection of plants, pots, gifts etc. The tea room is beautiful, and they offer teas, luncheons and dinners. There are free Saturday seminars and floral demonstrations offered as well. For information call 936-825-7400 or visit the website <http://www.marthasbloomers.com> and click on **Upcoming Events**.

In April, at the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, TX (near Brenham), APRIL WEEKENDS are OPEN HOUSE. They'll have 10,000 roses, annuals and perennials in bloom! On April 4, 5 & 6 they will have an Art Show in the Chapel. On April 5<sup>th</sup> ONLY, the Herb Association of TX will host an Herb Festival in the Pavilion from 9:00 - 5:00. For more information on their events schedule see their website <http://www.weAREroses.com> or phone 979-836-5548.

Who could forget about bluebonnets and wildflowers in the springtime? One website that gives bluebonnet and wildflower sighting reports is <http://www.wildflowerhaven.com/reports.aspx>. If you're traveling this spring, visit the website and click on **Wildflower Events** for listings of the wildflower-related events in various areas of the state. According to the site, the 1997 TX Legislature designated Ennis as "The Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail." I have not visited there yet, but I have heard that it is really something to see when the bluebonnets are in bloom!

And last, but not least - for those who enjoy visiting pick-your-own farms for fresh produce and/or fruit, you might want to check out Moorhead's Blueberry Farm in Conroe. They are open approximately from the last weekend in May, through mid-July, BUT, that is dependent upon the weather and the crop. So, you will want to call first before making a trip. Check online at <http://moorheadsblueberryfarm.com> or phone toll-free 888-702-0622.

As with most websites, it is sometimes difficult to tell how often they are updated. So, before planning a visit to a particular location or event, please call first to confirm dates and times.

I hope that these suggestions will add to your enjoyment of the approaching spring season! Happy Spring!

### March 2008

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Trash Bash
- First Saturday Work Day
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 5<sup>th</sup> - MG Monthly Meeting
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Trade Expo
- Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Spring Plant Sale
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 25<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Walker County Fair
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Walker County Fair

### April 2008

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - MG Monthly Meeting
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 5<sup>th</sup> - First Saturday Work Day
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 10<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 15<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> - TX MG Conference
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary

### May 2008

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- MG Intern Class
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - First Saturday Work Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 7<sup>th</sup> - MG Monthly Meeting
- 8<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 15<sup>th</sup> - MG Class Graduation!
- (Congratulations!!)
- 20<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 22<sup>nd</sup> - Thursday Work Day
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Gibbs Elementary
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Thursday Work Day



Sweet spring, full of sweet days and roses,  
a box where sweets compacted lie.

- George Herbert

Musings of an Earth Citizen  
By Bek Akin



There is plenty of talk about earth warming which, quite frankly, I believe is caused as much by the natural, cyclical events of the earth, and the universe in which it resides, as it is by human goings on. But after watching Ed Begley, Jr. on an HGTV program called *Living with Ed*, I discovered that his ideas for greening the earth were not necessarily all his ideas. In fact, this earth citizen has been doing a few "right" things for quite a few years.

For at least the past three decades, I have been hanging my household's clothing to dry. My reasons were not so lofty as to be saving energy or reducing fossil fuels. However now that I know more about such things, saving our environment has become a very pleasing side effect.

For me hanging-clothes-to-dry helps them to shrink less and eliminates heat damage to the fabrics and threads and, as a result, the clothing lasts longer. After washing them I put them into the dryer for about five minutes, steaming them. Then I pull them out, shake and smooth them, and hang them on those clear plastic form-fitting hangers. When dry I just hang them in our closet. Drying in this manner also has the added benefit of some not needing to be ironed. So while I have been saving time, money and value which were my original goals, I now know from good ol' Ed that I have been helping the environment.

Ever since the cute little spirally, fluorescent bulbs came out, I have used them in fixtures where the lights stay on the longest. For instance I have always had a timer on at least two lamps in my home which automatically go on at night for security reasons. I also leave a light on continually over my kitchen sink and in a lamp in my laundry room. Each of these fixtures uses a fluorescent bulb. I also use fluorescent bulbs in my closets – you know those areas where lights periodically and inexplicably get left on for hours at a time. And fluorescent bulbs are in my outdoor fixtures. While I do use other types of light bulbs – incandescent and halogen, I use them less often and in places where I need brighter light. Again Ed helped me realize that me using fluorescent bulbs in as many fixtures as feasible is helping the environment.

In addition to light bulb usage and clothes drying, I have been recycling household products and packaging for over twenty years. I sort, separate and bag newspaper, cardboard, catalogs and flyers, glass and aluminum cans and take them to the Huntsville dump where there is always a nice person to help me take them out of my vehicle and put them into the appropriate receptacles. However in the area of recycling there is one glaring issue for which I need better discipline.

One non-biodegradable item that seems to multiply faster than bunnies on fertility drugs is plastic grocery bags. Ideally we should use – and reuse – cloth bags for our groceries. But even that is not always practical and, depending on what cloth or style one prefers, they can be costly. I might need eight or ten of them for one weeks grocery shopping.

Carrying cloth bags into the store will take up space on my person or in my grocery cart. So is there possibly another answer? Perhaps I could fill a small cosmetic bag with grocery sacks to reuse at the store. However actually implementing this new hassle, uh that is, habit would take quite a bit of discipline for me.

In the meantime I use those petroleum-based excessities (my word) for lining small trashcans, cleaning the cat litter box, doggie pooper-scooping, holding dirty clothes on trips, putting over shoes on muddy occasions, storing gardening tools, transporting dirty items and a multitude of other tasks. Still my storage bin runneth over with many, many more of them. And while I can always locate a bag recycling bin at a grocery store, I have heard that many grocery stores dump them at, you guessed it – the dump!

UPDATE: Well I found out something new, actually two somethings! One is that those grocery bags are recyclable at the Huntsville Dump recycling station. Fantastic! The other is that as I was checking out at Walmart the other day, I spotted some black cloth bags stacked on a shelf and which say on them, "Plastic? Paper? Neither!" And they were only a buck each! Brookshire Brothers also carries a green bag – same price. While old habits seem to die with a heavy thump, I plan to give those reusable bags a good try!

Now me helping the earth in the last year involves more than just tending to household items. When I realized that a gutter on the back of our home was not level and rain poured over its end onto the deck, I began "harvesting" that water. First I started with a couple of kitchen trash cans. But soon I developed a mosquito breeding ground. So I bought a "blemished" rain barrel off the Internet for 80 bucks, shipping included. It holds 55 gallons, has a screened hole on top and a spigot for dispensing the water, and it fills up in one or two good rains. Watering my plants and hanging baskets has never been better. I am saving money, conserving water and I'm sure my plants love the untreated, chlorine-free water.

Another project I began this past year is composting. Using three large wood pallets to form three sides of a square, my husband built me a compost bin. He built the front of it out of two 2X6 treated pine pieces that can be built up higher if necessary. I save food scraps in a small kitchen bucket and done properly, the whole composting process is as nice as a springtime breeze. And what wonderful nutrients for my plants!

So Ed was right! Greening my own little patch of this earth provides me a lot of satisfaction. It frees the landfills, it saves money, it conserves water and energy, and as an added benefit, it provides me additional exercise. Stooping, pitch forking, bending, smashing, and crushing might not be a typical person's idea of environmental fun but it is, after all, for a worthy cause! And this worthy cause offers this earth citizen a peace of mind that comes with knowing I am doing something good.



A rind is a terrible thing to waste!

## Remarks from Mark



I am happy to report that all of the committees are up and running with chairpersons in place. I want to thank everyone for the hard work and support. We still have some empty spots on the committees, so let me know if you want to volunteer. You don't have to commit to any set number of hours. We accept and appreciate help in any form or fashion. We've really started off the year running and we like it that way. Come and join us if you can! Contact me or any committee chairs for information on how you can become involved. Volunteers make the organization and I am proud to be a part of the Master Gardeners. Thanks again, Mark Short

## Update on the Spring Plant Sale

It's coming! It's almost here! In less than 3 weeks the *Spring Plant Sale* will be here and it is time for everyone to pitch in. We will need everyone's help before and especially the day of the sale. Sandy Tykol and Jean Marsh have done a great job in getting the plants ready for the sale. Thanks Bill Dawson for selecting and ordering our veggies. George Tykol and his hard hat committee are working on the composting shed and the split rail fence is now complete. WOW! The new class has really been showing up and lending a helping hand in the Greenhouse. Good Job interns!

This year we will be offering four mini-seminars the day of the sale; and, a special thanks goes to Gail Warren, Jean Marsh and Bill Dawson for volunteering. Many Thanks! Rhonda Hanks

## Volunteer Participation Committee



Thanks to all who are participating in the new Mentor/Intern Connection! This is a great way to get the intern class familiar with us and all that we do. It also helps us get to know them faster. Interns and mentors are encouraged to send me ([woodwardlee@hotmail.com](mailto:woodwardlee@hotmail.com)) feedback on how the program is going, and any suggestions for next year. Also, everyone should have received the new 2008 Volunteer Hours submission form, information on how to use it and how to submit their hours on a monthly basis. Please email them to me at [woodwardlee@hotmail.com](mailto:woodwardlee@hotmail.com), or put them in the Master Gardeners folder at the Extension Office. Call me at 936-438-0389 if you want to mail or fax them, or if you have any questions about the form or volunteer hours.

Recording your hours helps Reggie with his job and it helps with grant applications, etc. - it's important!  
Lee Woodward



## RECIPE

### Southern Zucchini Squash Casserole

5 to 6 medium zucchini, sliced  
½ cup chopped purple onion  
1 to 2 cloves minced garlic  
Sauté in frying pan in 2 Tbsp olive oil;  
remove to 2 QT greased casserole

4 large eggs in 2-cup measuring cup  
½ cup milk  
Salt, pepper to taste  
2 to 3 cups grated cheese

Whisk above in measuring cup &  
add 1-1/2 cups grated cheddar cheese;  
mix and pour over squash. Lightly stir;  
sprinkle remaining cheese over top.

Bake @ 350 for 25-30 min. (serves 4)

Much has been going on in the Greenhouse with our Spring Sale fast approaching. Bill Dawson has very carefully selected the seeds this year taking into account what has been the best performer in the past. And the Greenhouse group has worked hard to get all the seeds planted and have been faithfully taking care of them. Also lots of propagation has been happening. We have added another table at the back of the greenhouse to allow the extra work, and have set up a germination table with heat pads.

Soon to arrive is a hydroponics demonstration table. Reggie will be working with Dan Tippen, Tom Jordan and Theresa Hughes to get this up and running.

Scott Dolezal from SHSU Horticultural Department was kind enough to share some of his extra annuals with us so our Master Gardener Interns had a quick lesson on transplanting tiny plugs -- approx. 300+." Thanks Scott for thinking of us."

The enthusiasm of our 2008 Interns is catching. The Thursday workdays have been well supported, averaging over 20 Master Gardeners and interns volunteering in the Greenhouse and Demo gardens.

The Texas 2008 Master Gardener State Conference and tour of our gardens is fast approaching -- April 24 - 26. The Greenhouse volunteers have been getting plants ready for planting in the gardens the first of April, weather permitting.

The best is yet to come! This year the Greenhouse budget included monies for a label machine which was approved, so all the handwriting of labels will soon be done by machine. See you in the Greenhouse! Sandy and Jean



*Did You Know?*

Certain plants filter the indoor air better than others; 15 to 20 Boston ferns, Dracaenas or Rubber Plants will clean a 1500 sq. ft. area according to NASA scientists.

*Demonstration Garden 2008*

We are into the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter and will shortly be working on the Houston Galveston Area Council grant projects. Thanks to the combined effort of the new Master Gardener Interns and Master Gardeners the Demo Gardens beds are mostly cleaned, pruned and ready for spring. The flower beds at Tam Road around the Extension Office sign are in the process of being re-done. We have also asked Judge Danny Pierce if the ADCORP sign can be removed and the total sign rebuilt. It is in poor repair and needs an upgrade.

The Split rail fence has been completed and really makes the gardens stand out. Bulbs are popping through in various places, and soon the gardens will be staged in the greenhouse to be planted in the Demo Garden for early blooms and give the gardens color for the 2008 State Master Gardener Tour April 26<sup>th</sup>.

The new Shade House is completed with the exception of the cover. We will soon need to harden plants in the Shade House for the Spring Plant Sale March 15. The Master Gardener Intern class beds have been moved to allow room for the Outdoor Learning Center. New soil and additives will be added to give the class plants an extra boost.

We look forward to spring and milder weather. The Demonstration Garden plants are more mature and should surpass last year's beauty. Thank You for your effort in making it so. George Tykol



**COME JOIN THE FUN!**



**Walk<sup>®</sup>  
Across  
Texas!**

**March 4<sup>th</sup> to March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**For a registration form, go to  
<http://walkacrosstexas.tamu.edu>**

## *Beginning the year with a Bang!*

In January, our first big success of the year was enrolling a new class of Walker County Interns. With twenty-seven (27) enthusiastic, talented members, the class is off to a fantastic beginning. Their participation in several community events has been great; their dedication and work ethic are an inspiration to all. They have enjoyed five educational class sessions as well as extensive greenhouse and demo garden experiences. Walker County Master Gardeners continue to grow and provide quality volunteer service to our community. Billie Lee, Chairman--Steering Committee

### *Press and Publicity*

The Press and Publicity Committee is now complemented by three Master Gardeners who have volunteered to be our photographers. Rhonda Coffey, Maria McIver and Joe Smith will be seen around the gardens, greenhouse, at meetings and workshops and at community events taking pictures chronicling our Master Gardener activities. Thanks to Rhonda, Maria and Joe for helping publicize our activities.

### HMH Landscape Revitalization Project:

The WCMGA is partnering with Huntsville Memorial Hospital on a Landscape Revitalization Project. The recent changes in administration (MG Sally Nelson is now CEO) created a desire for a new image for the hospital. Master Gardeners Rhonda Hanks, Jean Marsh and Sandy Tykol are consulting on Phase I of this project which includes enhancing landscaping at the main entrance as well as planning a landscaping "screen" around the hospital's one designated smoking area. As soon as the irrigation system is complete, JP Landscaping will plant the areas using the recommendations of these three very talented ladies. My involvement goes no further than taking notes and keeping a record of Master Gardener participation, but I must say it's amazing to see these gals in action! "Before" and "after" pictures will be taken by our publicity photographers.

## *Reaching Out This Year*

Walker County Master Gardeners were very successful in 2007. We were able to promote our LEAF-PRO program by providing a positive message emphasizing responsible environmental management to many residents in our community. Our goal this year is to continue to grow and expand our educational outreach capabilities.

We were busy during the month of January. In addition to welcoming a new class of Interns on January 17, the group presented five educational programs within the community. Among these events were Container Gardening, Hummingbird Gardening, Plant Propagation and the E-Waste Recycling Day. In addition, the Greenhouse and Demo Garden committee began planning for the upcoming Spring Plant Sale and Texas Master Gardener Conference Garden Tour.

February is a busy month. In addition to the weekly training classes, nine events are scheduled.

March madness will then be upon us. Weekly training class, several community events including the Trash Bash, Trade Expo and the Walker County Fair & Rodeo will be taking place. Other educational programs are planned for school and community groups. Most importantly, our Spring Plant Sale will be held on March 15.

April will be especially busy as we continue our training classes, work with school and community groups and plan for our BIG EVENTS – being the featured Master Gardener Group at the Texas Master Gardener Conference as we present our seminar "Grant Availability and Writing" and the tour of our Demonstration Gardens. So much SUCCESS in so little time!

In May, we will complete our training sessions and have a Celebration to honor all of our members who have worked so hard to achieve so much success. Billie Lee, Chairman, Community Outreach Committee



**LANDFILL DIVERSION:  
THE IMPORTANCE OF SOLID WASTE  
MANAGEMENT** By Sue Harris

The success of the January 2008 E-Waste Collection Event clarified just how important it is for us to manage our solid waste. There are three locations in the City of Huntsville to take your recyclable items: The City of Huntsville's Transfer Station at 590 I-45 North - (936) 294-5724, T. J. Burdett & Sons at 570 I-45 North - (936) 291-2525 and Try 2 Recycle at 916 15<sup>th</sup> Street - (936) 293-1612.

Many of you who live in the county seem to think that these facilities are only for residents within the city limits. While accessibility to the City's free of charge mulch is for city dwellers only, the recycling center welcomes everyone. The city accepts not only newspapers but also office paper, magazines, cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, steel cans and glass.

However, about 40% of materials entering our landfills are paper products, 20% is yard waste, 9% metals, 9% food, 8% glass and 7% plastic. These statistics are estimates as there aren't accurate ways to measure the contents of a landfill. Obviously, most of these materials could be recycled rather than dumped into the landfill. So let's explore what happens when our trash goes into a sanitary landfill.

**What exactly is a Sanitary Landfill?**

Sanitary landfills, also known as modern, engineered or secure landfills, are where municipal solid waste is disposed of, as well as other wastes high in organic material. The landfill is, quite simply, a hole in the ground. That's where the simple factor ends. Modern landfills generally are located in a clay basin, the bottom of which is lined with a landfill liner, consisting of one or more layers of impermeable membrane such as high-density polyethylene (HDPE) to keep the leachate (the "liquid brew" of decomposing wastes) out of the surrounding water table. A leachate collection and recirculation system is constructed using a network of perforated drainage pipes for pumping leachate from the bottom of the landfill. There are also perforated venting pipes for pumping air into the bottom of the landfill. The pipes are then covered with a layer of gravel and/or shredded tires.

**How does the landfill work?**

Landfill wastes are systematically divided into small units called cells. Cell structures minimize waste exposure to weather elements; only one cell is opened at a time and is covered nightly. By covering the cells each night, odor is reduced and vermin problems kept at a minimum. Excess leachate is continually pumped from the bottom of the landfill and returned to the waste by pumping it through recharge wells. Air is regularly pumped into the bottom of the landfill. The combination of water and air creates an environment where microbes proliferate. As organic wastes decompose, they generate gases including methane. As landfill cells are closed, pipes are installed to vent or incinerate gases before they can diffuse into the ground, possibly causing an explosion. Some landfills employ recovery systems, where the methane gas produced

from decomposition can be used as an energy source, often referred to as a methane-to-energy project.

During landfill operations, the waste collection vehicles (garbage trucks) are weighed on arrival at the Solid Waste facility and their load is inspected for wastes that are not suitable for a sanitary landfill. They then proceed to the working face of the landfill where they unload. A compactor flattens and crushes the garbage, and it is then leveled and packed down by trucks before covering the cell. Before leaving the landfill boundaries, the waste collection vehicles pass through a wheel cleaning facility and then back to the scales to be weighed without a load. The weighing process allows the waste tonnage to be calculated and used in databases.

**What happens when a landfill is full?**

It is capped, or closed off, with a layer of clay followed by a 6' layer of soil. Capped landfills are tested according to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards, are certified closed and then "reclaimed." As the population increases, it has become increasingly important to develop land re-use strategies for completed landfills. Among the most common uses for reclaimed landfills are parks, golf courses and other sports fields. As a matter of fact, the City of Huntsville has a reclaimed sanitary landfill which is suitable for use as a sports practice field.

**How can we manage our own solid waste management?**

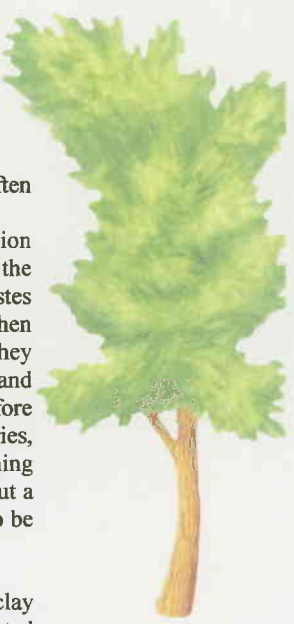
Recycling which includes composting diverts over 70 million tons of material away from landfills and incinerators each year.

Reusing items by repairing, donating or selling them gives them new life.

Composting your lawn clippings, leaves, limbs, etc. or bagging them for the City of Huntsville pickup on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month allows these materials to go into a huge compost pile, and that material is available free of charge to city residents.

Before you dispose of anything in the trash, ask yourself if it can be recycled in any way. We don't have an unlimited amount of land which can be used for landfills, and with our population growth, it's becoming a really serious problem. Let's all make a difference!

*Sources for the information contained in this article are the Houston-Galveston Area Council of Governments; Texas Commission for Environmental Quality; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Solid Waste; Solid Waste Landfills; The University of Arizona; Part 3, The Sanitary Landfill; Environmental Literacy Council; California Integrated Waste Management; A Brief History of Solid Waste management in the U.S. During the Last 50 years; Robert Kroboth, Sanitary Landfills; Science News; Vermont Recyclers.*



Here in the moving shadows  
I catch my breath and sing --  
My heart is fresh and fearless  
And over-brimmed with spring.  
- Sara Teasdale, *May Night*, 1920



# Walker County Master Gardener Association

## *2008 Executive Board*

**PRESIDENT \*\* Jean McLaren**  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT \*\* Mark Short**  
**VICE-PRESIDENT \*\* Rhonda Hanks**  
**SECRETARY \*\* Theresa Hughes**  
**TREASURER \*\* Bob Robinson**  
**PAST PRESIDENT \*\* Sandy Tycol**

## *Walker County Extension Office*

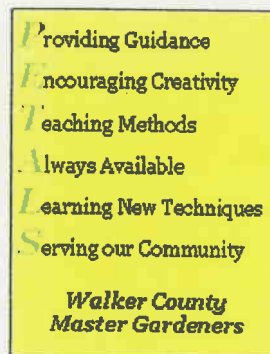
Reggie Lepley, County Extension Agent  
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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Fax: (936) 435-2429

Email: [r-lepley@tamu.edu](mailto:r-lepley@tamu.edu)

Web: <http://urbantaex.tamu.edu/D9/Walker/AG/HomeHort/WCMG>



SPRING EDITION

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