

# Over the Garden Gate



<http://www.overthegardengate.org>

Volume II, No 3 March 2010

## EarthKind Roses and Landscaping

Was led by Jerry & Nan Warren on February 10, 10am - noon at the Kemp Center for the Arts.



## LOCAL EVENTS

**March 2; 5:30 pm:** The Wichita County Master Gardener Association meets at the Wichita County Extension Office, 2nd floor, 6th and Scott, Wichita Falls, TX

**March 12; 9:30 am:** The First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls meets at the University United Methodist Church, 3405 Taft, Wichita Falls, TX. Mary Barry will present a program on Plant Pests. The program counts as advanced training hours for MGs.

**March 18; 5:30 pm:** The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, 300 East 3rd, Burkburnett, TX

**March 20; 12-4pm:** River Bend-Nature Center plant sale.

**March 26 & 27:** First African Violet Society holds their annual show and sale at University United Methodist Church. Hours are 2:30 -4pm on Friday and 10am-4pm on Saturday.

**Our next Master Gardener class will be on Home Greenhouses and will be led by Stephen Bitz. It will be held at the Kemp Center for the Arts on March 10 from 10am until noon. Make plans to attend and invite a guest. Cost is \$5 for the general public and is free to MGs.**

**Association Contacts:** Beth Turlington, President 692-7570; Jerry Warren, Vice President 767-2020; Gail Elmore, Secretary 569-0188; Rae Paris, Treasurer 538-4148

**State Directors:** Lulu Canan and Rae Paris; alternates: Deloris Lane and Jeff Smith.

**Advisor:** Fred Hall, CE, Texas Cooperative Extension, Wichita County (940) 716-8610



**10 years of MG service**

## **STATE EVENTS**

Master Gardener Specialist

### **Irrigation Efficiency Training**

March 29-31, 2010

San Antonio Botanical Garden

Host: Bexar County Extension

(210) 207-3250

[www.texasmastergardeners.com](http://www.texasmastergardeners.com)

## **DALLAS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS**

announce

### **2010 MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN**

**APRIL 8—10, 2010**

visit [www.2010tmgconference.org](http://www.2010tmgconference.org) and

**REGISTER TODAY**

### **New EarthKind Roses Named**

Dr. Steve George, Texas AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist in Dallas reports that Cecile Brunner and Reve d'Or were recently named Earth-Kind Roses by a team of horticulturists with AgriLife Extension. Only 21 roses hold the title.

Reve d'Or, originally released in 1869, earned an additional honor by being named 2010 Earth-Kind Rose of the Year, George said. Cecile Brunner, introduced in 1881, is light pink and the bush grows to about 4 feet by 3 feet, George said. Adapted throughout Texas, it's a repeat-bloomer, fragrant and tolerates some light-dappled shade in the afternoon. It is also known as the "Sweetheart Rose."

Reve d'Or (pronounced rehv dohr) is medium-yellow, fragrant, nearly thornless and also a repeat-bloomer.

Adapted to all of Texas except the upper Panhandle, the bush is a vigorous climber that will grow 10 feet to 18 feet tall and about 8 feet wide, he said. Its name is French for "dream of gold." "Reve d'Or is the healthiest yellow rose that we have ever tested," he said.

There is more to these roses than good looks, George said. Earth-Kind Roses are robust and thrive in tough conditions. Grown and evaluated over eight years on average, the roses are not fertilized or pruned when tested. They are not treated with pesticides, and are watered far less than other roses. They also are grown on their own roots, as opposed to those grafted onto other plants. The results are roses that are easy to grow and maintain, he said.

To be Earth-Kind, a rose must have received the designation from AgriLife Extension, an agency of the Texas A&M System. Earth-Kind is a registered trade mark of AgriLife Extension. "These winners of the prestigious Earth-Kind designation are long-lived, tolerant of most any soil and are so environmentally responsible that almost never will you need to apply harsh pesticides or even commercial fertilizer," George said. "These are truly roses with which anybody can be successful." A list and descriptions of all Earth-Kind Roses can be found at <http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu>. George and the team of Earth-Kind rose evaluators offer growing tips:

- The roses should be planted where they receive at least eight hours of direct sunlight daily.
- Their location should allow for good airflow over the leaves.
- They should be planted in well-aerated soils. (Visit the Earth-Kind Rose Web site for details on how to manage specific soils.)
- They need the year-round protection of a 3-inch layer of organic mulch over their root systems.