

# Over the Garden Gate



<http://www.overthegardengate.org>

Volume III, No 4, April 2011

Mary Barry led our March program, her subject was Garden Insects; thank you Mary! There will be a change to our April 20 class on Firewise Landscaping led by our Specialists in partnership with the Texas Forest Service. This class will be from 9am-4pm at the Forum, and the cost is not yet confirmed. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend and bring a friend.



Recipients of 5 year pins Photo by Peg Marquardt

## LOCAL EVENTS

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

**April 8; 9:30 am:** First African Violet Society meets at meets at University United Methodist Church.

**April 15, 2:30-4:00pm & April 16, 10am-4pm:** African Violet Show & Sale. At University United Methodist Church.

**April 20; 9am-4pm:** Firewise Landscaping at the Forum.

**April 21; 5:30 pm:** The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, 300 East 3rd, Burkburnett, TX.

**April 30, 1-5pm:** The Benson Iris Society will have their annual iris show at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4605 Cypress Avenue in Wichita Falls, TX. Contact Pearl Carter at 767-7086, for more information.

**Turn your volunteer hours in to Jan Gardin or Fred Hall (Interns) each month.**

### Burkburnett Boys & Girls Club Community

**Garden Update:** Here are the dates and times for training & activities on Thursday afternoons. You are invited to join us at any of them.

**March 31, 4:00pm—Plant Tomatoes**

**April 7, 4:30pm—Research Basics class**

**April 14, 4:30pm—Plant seeds**

**April 21, 4:30pm—Good/Bad Bugs class**

Thanks to all of you who are helping to make the kids successful gardeners! Bonnie Jones, MG Intern continues to coordinate this project.



## **Firewise Landscaping**

**On March 10 we presented Firewise Landscaping to approximately 30 people at the Friberg-Cooper Community Center. There was lots of good interaction with the audience. As we continue the process of educating our community about Firewise Landscaping we are working with the Texas Forest Service**

**to present a day-long event on April 20. Watch for more information.....**

## **STATE EVENTS**

### State Events from Texas Master Gardener Website

#### **Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training**

Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service in Williamson County and Williamson County Master Gardeners are offering a Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training in Williamson County on June 9th and June 10th, 2011. The training will take place in the Training Room of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 3151 SE Inner Loop, Georgetown, TX.

This hands-on training will include the installation of a collection system and drip irrigation at an Extension/Master Gardener demonstration site. Every trainee will make a rain barrel to take home for their own use, or to use as a demonstration. Each trainee will receive a shirt, power point and other materials to help them install a rainwater harvesting system demonstration in their counties and teach others about rainwater harvesting. Be sure to dress appropriately for these activities. A copy of the tentative schedule is attached with the registration form with some information on hotels.

Only 30 participant spots are available for this training, so please submit your registration forms as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Payment and forms must be in our office by May 20, 2011. Contact Sally Todd by phone (512) 630-6008 or email [sallybtodd@gmail.com](mailto:sallybtodd@gmail.com) to answer any questions or provide further information.

Once the course is complete, Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialists will be able to set up a rainwater harvesting demonstration and trainings in their counties for other Master Gardeners and for the public.

We are excited to be able to host such a great learning opportunity and look forward to seeing you here in Historic Georgetown, Williamson County.

The Master Gardener Specialist – Rainwater Harvesters are charged with increasing awareness and providing training in rainwater harvesting. Basic working knowledge of systems to collect rainwater for landscape, wildlife, and livestock as well as methods and materials to train other individuals will be gained by participants.

Training participants will be provided with the Master Gardener Specialist Rainwater Harvesting Training Manual, a manual with all presentations, a CD with training presentations and supplemental training material, a rainwater harvesting shirt, and a rain barrel.

**Association Contacts:** Beth Turlington, President 692-7570; Jerry Warren, Vice President 767-2020; Anne Dohrer, Secretary 781-0082; Stephen Bitz, Treasurer 733-8083

**State Directors:** Rae Paris and Virginia Krebs; alternates: Deloris Lane and Pearl Carter.

**Advisor:** Fred Hall, CEA, Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Wichita County (940) 716-8610