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The President's Corner

Winola Van Artsdalen

Whew! What a month! We had such a wonderful blur of activity, we could hardly catch our breath. Our community impact ranged from new Master Gardener classes to projects, Sustainability Expo the 10th of October, and JMG classes in full swing, to our participation in the Georgetown Garden Club's 70th anniversary tea. Saturday, November 6th was the special work party at San Gabriel's Presbyterian Church on Williams Drive to help construct a labyrinth which encompasses a butterfly garden as well as a native rose garden. (Contact person Rebecca Caldwell, 512-591-7491.) All of us working with the new MG class are thrilled with the quality and enthusiasm of these excellent interns! If you are volunteering in any of the current MG projects, you are getting to know them, as they are showing up eager to work!

Interns in the new MG class had an enjoyable and informative tour of Walt Krueger's garden on Saturday, October 23rd. Walt was most impressed with their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn, while they were thrilled with the information shared! A field trip was planned for all Master Gardeners to College Station November 3rd, so stay tuned to your email or you'll miss something big!



MGs plant the "green wall" for Sustainability Expo October 10.



Grace Bulgerin and Winola VanArtsdalen man the MG booth at the Jonah Fair October 16th.

Carol Parsonage was the contact person who did an excellent job planning with the Georgetown Garden Club and Master Gardeners to provide two tables for the Garden Club's 70th anniversary tea. The first table theme was "Coming Up Roses" with a beautiful rose bouquet by Wayne Rhoden with Carol's dishes. The centerpiece for the second table with the theme, "Bountiful Harvest," was designed by Julie Townsend with Winola VanArtsdalen's dishes. Julie Townsend and Carol Parsonage are students in the 2010 MG class. Most MGs have not had an opportunity to meet them yet.



MG interns attend Walt Krueger's Garden Tour, October 23rd.

The Accidental Gardener

Claire Hall

I have been trying for two years to grow tomatoes. Last summer was a complete bust. I put the tomato plants in the ground in April and showered them with nutrients and lots of water. My seedlings turned into six-foot giants that teased me with gorgeous blooms promising fruit. But the blooms fell to the ground after a day or two. Not one tomato was seen in my garden in 2009.

This year I vowed myself I would be successful. I started earlier by buying plants from a local nursery before they were even ready for sale. I nursed them at home and put them in the ground in March, thinking I'd get fruit before the really hot summer weather hit. March was too cold for the plants to thrive so they hardly grew, and by the time we got hot weather I was again getting blooms never pollinated.

In the meantime the flower garden was thriving. The grandchildren loved eating meals on our back patio and not worrying about what they might spill. We ate lots of fresh fruit and vegetables (as well as ice cream) and all the residue was simply sprayed off the patio into my flower garden.

So last week, I noticed strange leaves poking out from under the Gregg's Mist. And look what I found:



Since I never planted tomatoes in this spot, my husband and I surmise this tomato plant must have started from cherry tomato seeds that were sprayed into the flower garden from the back patio after a family meal.

Clearly, the only way I'm going to grow tomatoes, is by accident.

Williamson County Junior Master Gardeners

Brigid Mejia

The Junior Master Gardener Program is a new and innovative 4-H youth gardening project. The JMG program is committed to helping young people become good gardeners and good citizens so they can make a positive contribution to their community, school, and family.

Williamson County has been blessed to have hundreds of youth participate in the Junior Master Gardener. With the 2010-2011 school year starting we have seen the start of 5 new Junior Master Gardener groups throughout the county and even the start of a new Junior Master Gardener 4-H club. The interest of not only the youth but the volunteers has been AMAZING. The Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns have given many of hours of service and hard work to ensure a quality learning experience for the youth.

'Tis the Season

Susan Blackledge

Help “Deck them Halls” and get into the holiday spirit at Berry Springs Park & Preserve on Tuesday, November 23 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and decorate the park for the holidays. This is the third year we have done this and would like for it to be tradition. We have garland, bows and other decorations. It is a lot of fun and there will be holiday treats when we are all done.



If you have decorations you would like to donate, please bring them. Decorations should be durable to handle the winter weather. Come get in the spirit for the holidays. Any questions call the park at 512-930-0040. The park is located at 1801 CR 152, Georgetown.

Georgetown Garden Club's Tea Party a Big Splash!

Patty Hoenigman

When the Georgetown Garden Club decided to celebrate its 70th anniversary, the whole town got behind it! It started so innocently, with the idea of a tea party in the sunken gardens, but then with weather considerations it was decided to have it at the Community Center in San Gabriel Park. A little idea blossomed into 145 people showing up for this grand affair!

Nine shop keepers and six garden clubs got in on the festivities by decorating tables using Georgetown's history and gardening as the prominent themes. The Mad Hatter theme, done by Natalie Vreeland and Liz Keith, stole the show, complete with a Cheshire cat peering down from trees surrounding the table. Master Gardener Carol Parsonage coordinated two tables, one using roses from Wayne Rhoden's garden, the other featuring vegetables.

"You had to be there to appreciate it all. Every table was so beautifully done and unique. It was a feast for the eyes", said Patty Hoenigman. The delicious finger sandwiches and desserts made by Mary Martha Denham, served by club members with a spot of tea, topped off the party.

Patty Hoenigman, MG and Club President, welcomed everyone and related a brief history of tea. Then she introduced speakers Myrtice Macomber and Shirley Conomos, long time club members, who shared some of the club's history. Celina Aguirre, from the Williamson Museum, also spoke about the area's history going back to 1940, when the club was started by two women. And finally Dorothy Barnes spoke about the sunken gardens, which the club built and has been tending since 1967, most recently under her supervision. Located just outside the Community Center, it's become a favorite spot for brides to have their wedding photos taken. This club's involvements reach deep into Georgetown's history.

Guests left with a 4 inch potted pansy or winter vegetable, a little more awareness of the Georgetown Garden Club and lots of memories of one of the most festive tea parties this town has ever seen!



Patty Hoenigman prepares to welcome guests.



Carol Parsonage, MG, looks over the Master Gardener's rose-themed table to make sure everything was just right before the party began.



Debra Hobbs and Paula Miller have just opened a new shop across from the theater on the square, called 'Garden Path Florist and Gifts'. Their colorful centerpiece showcases the kind of floral design work they do.



As keepers of the earth, there is always a place for fairies in a garden. This table was decorated by Patty Hoenigman, with help from various club members.



The morning of the tea party, Hank Belopavlovich , MG, picked flowers from the sunken garden and arranged them in tea cups to decorate the 'Garden Fairy' table done by Patty Hoenigman at the last minute to accommodate the overflow of guests.

United Way of Williamson County “Day of Caring” 2010

A huge success!

Susan Blackledge

Most of you have probably seen the TV show Extreme Makeover. It is usually a sad story about a family or person who has suffered in some fashion and is in dire need of an extreme makeover on their home. In Berry Springs Park version, Mother Nature’s home received a makeover after suffering extreme damages from flooding on Sept. 8th. United Way of Williamson County “Day of Caring” was held at the park on Friday Oct. 29th. The weather was perfect for the 117 volunteers who signed up to help restore the park. Flower beds were pruned, weeded, mulched and donated plants replaced those that were lost in the flood waters. The original 20’ x 40’ campground cactus garden was totally washed away and replaced with railroad ties made into the shape of the Lone star of Texas in the park road median. Roadside posts were replaced that had been uprooted. Rain barrel irrigation was restored to the front kiosk bed. A Born Learning Trail was installed at the playground area. Young pecan trees were once again mulched. Debris was removed from the Pecan Orchard trees and limbs picked up and hauled away. The highlight of the day for me was to look down from Cemetery Hill upon human worker ants busy as can be working together in perfect harmony enjoying the fruits of their labor.



Commissioner Valerie Covey prunes at Berry Springs.

Special thanks to all who participated and made the “Day of Caring” really live up to its name. Come out to the park and enjoy the makeover. The pecans are ripe for the picking!



Special Note: The front of the park is shaping up; however, the work is far from done. Much help is still needed in order to restore the pond and back trail areas. Regular volunteer hours are scheduled Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8a.m. to noon. You can also call the park @512-930-0040 to arrange other times to volunteer.

4-H POINSETTIA SALE



This year the Poinsettia Sales will be used to support the overall 4-H program. Proceeds will assist with scholarships, training and workshops. The 4-H Adult Leaders meet every other month for business and to discuss fund-raising activities.

This year we are selling beautiful poinsettia plants in a 6 1/2" red pot from Glass Nursery in Cameron, Texas. The deadline for ordering is **November 18, 2010**. They will be delivered on December 5, 2010 to the County Extension Office.

The cost is only \$11.00 per poinsettia.

Contact Brigid Mejia (562-237-4292) or call (512) 943-3300 to place an order.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE 4-H ADULT LEADERS ASSOCIATION.

Newsletter Submissions

Thank you to those Master Gardeners who submitted articles, pictures, and ideas for this newsletter issue. If you would like to contribute to the *Williamson County Master Gardener Journal*, please send your submissions to Jane Williamson at jawilliamson516@yahoo.com by the 25th of the month. As you garden, volunteer and learn, take a moment to share with other gardeners.

Monthly Meetings

Williamson County Master Gardeners hold monthly meetings at the Williamson County Extension Office, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Master Gardeners and the public are welcome to attend.

Williamson County Master Gardener Officers for 2010

Officers:

Winola Van Artsdalen, President	jimwin@verizon.net	(512) 863-4923
Ed Myatt, Vice-president	emyatt@dexcopolymers.com	(512) 869-4293
Jeanne Barker, Secretary	jubarker@yahoo.com	(512) 608-1296
Sandra Lawrence, Treasurer	swlawrence@austin.rr.com	(512) 351-9678
Wayne Rhoden, Immediate Past President	mgardener@suddenlink	(512) 869-8016

Standing Committees/Chairpersons:

Programs/Education	Paul Lawrence	pwlawrence@austin.rr.com	(512) 351-9678
Communications	Clyde Adley	cadley+mg@gmail.com	
Membership/Volunteer	John Papich	texasjayp@hotmail.com	(512) 863-4098
Awards	Norma Beissner	norma@beissner.org	(512) 535-6584
Class Training/ Facilitation	JoAnne Dieterich	crdieterich@yahoo.com	(512) 778-6690
JMG Coordinator	Juanita James	jjames20@sbcglobal.net	(512) 341-7116
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Greenhouse Manager	Brenda McIndoo	airedale98@gmail.com	(512) 868-9212

