

Williamson County Master Gardener Journal

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Dedicated to growing with Williamson County

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The President's Corner

Winola Van Artsdalen

September 2010 was such a whirlwind! Where do we begin counting our accomplishments? After getting off to a shaky start with concerns about a meeting place but with a strong foundation built through a successful orientation session, the new Master Gardeners' class progressed going "great guns" through the month of September. Remember our saying, "Whatever happens, we can handle it!" It's definitely true for us! Students have settled in, enjoyed excellent presentations, filed security clearances, and have rolled up their sleeves and gone to work.



Berry Springs had much damage from flooding and has benefited from efforts of students and current Master Gardeners, but much more needs to be done. Contact Susan Blackledge, sblackledge@wilco.org, to help. The Jonah Community Center landscaping project has been successfully completed, and they finished a week early! Hurrah! Several students have joined the ranks helping at the display gardens at St. Richards in Round Rock and are greatly appreciated. Contact person is Janet White phillipsjs@sbcglobal.net.

The Jonah Community Association has given Grace Bulgerin free space for the Fall Fair in gratitude for the Master Gardener's successful project at the school. She plans to use it to promote master gardening and will borrow Hank's square foot gardening display, promoting JMG along with this tool. There will be an opportunity for participants to enter a raffle of an original "Jonah" painting, also. Grace tells us that, if you come to the fair on October 16th, (just east of Hwy 29 and Co. Rd. 126, 9-5), you can see the sign on the project that has a lot of people pleasantly surprised!

October 10th 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., there is a Sustainability Expo next to the Monument Cafe in Georgetown. Along with others such as Southwestern University and Georgetown Utilities, we will have information booths. We will have three booths: Oak Wilt, Vegetable Gardening, and Rainwater Harvesting. The October 6th Georgetown Sun had a lengthy article about the Expo with a picture of the Master Gardener workers who planted the "Green Wall."

There is a work party scheduled November 6th 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. Wow! What an opportunity! (Contact person Rebecca Caldwell, 512-591-7491.)

JMG is just getting started with great plans for this coming school year. Some helpful Master Gardeners and students have worked at Hutto and C. D. Fulkes cleaning out the garden beds. Students from the class have signed up to help with JMG classes, but more Master Gardeners are needed. Contact Juanita James jjames20@sbcglobal.net or Brigid Mejia blmejia@ag.tamu.edu if you can join the ranks! Just listen to Brigid tell about the number of students she contacts in a school year, and you will be impressed. Room for lots of help here!

The greenhouse has not been mentioned in all this, because we have been waiting for the evaporative cooler to be repaired. The cooler weather is soon going to enable us to get on with this program in spite of lacking repairs. At first, it will be used only for student training. When it is open for everyone, you will be notified.

Are we a get-up-and-get-moving group or what? If you are slouched down in your stuffy chair, get a move on. The citizens of Williamson County need YOU!

Gardening Tips

Marlyn Hooper

I knew summer would be over someday. Cool mornings, warm afternoons. Does it get any better in Texas??? I don't think so.

It is time to set out transplants of snapdragons, sweet alyssum and pansies as soon as the temperature has cooled. Begin by adding 2 to 4 inches of organic matter, such as compost or peat. Snapdragons are available in a selection of shades from pink to red, white, yellow, maroon and bronze. Plan your color displays by placing the lower-growing plants, such as the sweet alyssum and pansies, toward the front. Place the taller items in the back of your border.

Plan on enjoying all the beautiful roses blooming this month. Pleasant weather makes it a delight to be outside. Roses are hardy and will not mind winter's cold. Now that flower production has resumed, it's time to start dead-heading again.

This is the month your outside houseplants may need to be adapted for the move back indoors. You should have already repotted the ones that need it. Groom them, clean the outside of the pots with a brush and mild solution of dishwashing liquid and water, remove dust and debris from the foliage, and hose them down. In winter, plants usually slow down their activities inside as do plants outside. They are just "resting" through our normally cooler months.

Eat your vegetables, but save the cooking water. Let the liquid cool, then water your plants with the broth; it is fortified with trace elements and minerals.

Keep your hummingbird feeders full until two weeks after the last migrant has left. Stock up on bird seed and suet for the winter months.

Happy Gardening!

Landscape Design School

Claire Hall

On September 13th and 14th, Patty Hoenigman and I traveled to College Station to begin a course of study in Landscape Design. The curriculum consists of eight days of classes divided into 4 separate courses, each course held at a different time throughout the year. The instructors are professors from Texas A & M, Stephen F. Austin and Texas State as well as professionals who work in the landscape design field. The course is sponsored by National Garden Clubs, Inc. which has published a text entitled *Stewards of the Land* to accompany the course. Anyone who joins a local garden club, completes the course and passes all course work may qualify as a Landscape Design Consultant. This is not to be confused with an undergraduate degree in Landscape Design which requires 4 years of study or a degree in Landscape Architecture which requires 5 years. There were approximately 150 Master Gardeners or Garden Club members in our class.

Course I, which we attended, covered such topics as History and Development of Landscape Design, Public Landscapes, Design for the Environment and Basics of Site Planning. In the history portion of the course, we learned the elements of ancient Islamic gardens which included geometric shapes as well as botanical specimens. Japanese gardens strive to follow three design laws:

1. design must suit the site, not vice versa;
2. stones are placed first followed by trees and finally shrubs;
3. design must abide by the rules of *shin*, *gyo* and *so*.



Patty Hoenigman admires this Sugar Maple sapling that has been adapted to tolerate alkaline soils. About a dozen were given away, but unfortunately this one went home with another student.



Claire Hall, right, enjoys lunch with a couple from Ft. Worth, at the Landscape Design seminar in College Station. There were 150 students from all over Texas.

Western gardens from medieval Europe through Neoclassical England were described and analyzed. Many estate gardens from the 19th Century followed the landscape style typified by a planned rectilinear garden adjacent to the house, a serpentine park behind it and a sublime, wild area in the distance. This style is still widely utilized today.

Former Director of the School of Landscape Design at LSU, Dr. Neil Odenwald gave a spirited lecture on the elements of landscape design. He used a multitude of images to explain *Line*, *Form*, *Texture* and *Color*. His photos with images from all over the world may be found at onlineplantguide.com. Dr. Odenwald encouraged all of us to plan our own gardens with a goal toward intimacy and simplicity and most importantly to plan only what we can truly manage.

Dr. David Creech who created the Mast Arboretum and Mize Azalea Garden at Stephen F. Austin shared information on trees, particularly the bald cypress. Dr. Creech has collaborated with Chinese arborists in researching this tree. The Chinese government is growing millions of these trees to plant across the

country. It is prized because it is a relatively fast-growing, disease resistant hardwood that offers beauty and shade to a landscape.

Dr. Douglas Slack specializes in landscape design for the environment. He emphasized the importance of a thorough site analysis and the use of native plants. Not only will native plants attract more butterflies and hummingbirds, but they will reduce the need for water, chemicals and maintenance.

Dr. William Welch from the Department of Horticulture at Texas A & M moderated the courses and taught a class on the Private Garden. His comments were highlighted by photos from the recent Chelsea Flower Show in London.

In planning our own gardens we were encouraged to consider budgets and maintenance requirements before putting pen to paper. Above all, the pervading message throughout each class was that all landscapes should seek to incorporate the human element into the natural world around us.

We both learned a great deal in this first session and are anxiously looking forward to Course II. We'll keep you posted.



Beth Blankenship was the third person from the Williamson County Master Gardeners attending the Landscape Design Seminar. Many were Master Gardeners, some were garden club members, and many were both. All of us learned a lot and can't wait to go back for the next class!

Photos by Patty Hoenigman

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.

The WCMG Nursery and San Gabriel Presbyterian Church (SGPC) Project

Rebecca Caldwell

So, you might ask--what do the WCMG Nursery and the SGPC Project have in common? Last year I took on the leadership of Gabe's Gardeners of SGPC and spent weeks developing the proposal to make SGPC as a project location for others to have a closer location to obtain volunteer hours. I was cautioned by the board that the project COULD NOT BE a maintenance project but one that can be learning as well as a project that could teach others about Master Gardeners.

Our first work day was in the spring and unfortunately conflicted with a MG sales day so participation by other MG's was limited to me. However, our church is very volunteer oriented and over 100 people showed up. The transformation was unbelievable! I was able to purchase from the WCMG nursery about 20 different varieties of plants; because we had an over abundance of coleus, the nursery donated several of these plants as well.



Now almost six months later, look at how beautiful our coleus still look: And, as I worked in the nursery regularly with Brenda McIndoo and Teresa Robinson, these plants were my babies!

Another location at SGPC that is slowly evolving is a labyrinth that benefited from the investment of buying quality, native plants from the MG nursery.

The next work party is November 6, Saturday, from 8 am to 12 pm, and SGPC is located at 5404 Williams Drive, just west of the Sun City Del Webb entrance. There are lots of projects and learning and teaching opportunities so give me a call if you need volunteer hours. (591-7491)

Hopefully you will all look forward to your volunteer time at the nursery so you too, can raise these wonderful babies to beautify our community!

SGPC Labyrinth Project



Before the transformation of the labyrinth



The start of something wonderful at the labyrinth

United Way of Williamson County

Day of Caring Rescheduled for Friday October 29th

Susan Blackledge

Due to recent flooding, United Way of Williamson County, Day of Caring has been rescheduled to Friday October 29th 9a.m. to Noon @ Berry Springs Park & Preserve, 1801 CR 152, Georgetown.

Volunteers are needed to:

1. Restore the park flower/cactus gardens.
2. Install a Born Learning Trail near the playground.

Register through The Round Rock Volunteer Center at volrock@volrock.org. If you have questions regarding registration please call Elizabeth Leyva with The Volunteer Center at 512-733-7625 or Ramona Urbanek with United Way of Williamson County at 512-255-6799. If you have questions regarding the work day, contact Susan Blackledge at sblackledge@wilco.org or call 512-930-0040. Park staff needs to know who is attending in order to provide tools and make assignments. Many plants were lost in the gardens and donations of cactus, succulents and native plants/shrubs are needed. If you have any plants you would like to donate please contact the park.

Regular volunteer hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to noon. If you would like to volunteer during other times, we can work with your schedule. **Be a part of restoring the park to it's natural beauty.**



SUN CITY FALL PLANT SALE

Rebecca Caldwell

Each year the Horticulture Club at Sun City sponsors a plant sale in the fall and in the spring. This helps with the expenses of keeping such a large group supported. Last Fall I was a newbie to Texas, (California transplant) and had only been in MG training for a little over a month but was an enthusiastic Horticulture Club member. But, as I already knew, the learning curve for a California transplant is a very steep, almost mountainous endeavor. I could not answer ANY questions as to names, types, growing habits, best use, water requirements, or even offer suggestions.

This year I am a certified Master Gardener, and I am still on a mission to know more. The Fall Plant Sale has come and gone, and this year I became the "go to" person in the nursery! WOW! What a great feeling of self satisfaction! They even took my picture as I was explaining the importance of not planting a Red Oak right now and suggesting other trees that would give the customer what they were looking for!

I continue to attend as many of the MG classes as I can and am always learning when I go to the Sun City gardens as we have a large percentage of Texas Master Gardeners. Some day I hope to sound like a Winola or present like a Wayne, but in the meantime, I will keep on trudging this mountainous learning curve and enjoy every minute.

Did You Know?

Patty Hoenigman

I just trimmed a few branches off my young Live Oak Trees. It keeps my husband happy cutting the lawn if he doesn't feel threatened by low branches that might poke his eye out! So of course I had out my can of black paint and a little brush to paint the wounds each time I cut. The inevitable thing happened....I got black paint all over my hands. So thought I'd share this tip with y'all. Rubbing alcohol dissolves latex paint very easily. I keep a little of it in an old spice jar so my brush can stand up in it and then use a little to rub the paint off my skin...works like a charm! Rubbing alcohol can also be used to remove water-based paint from windows, door sills, any hard surface.

The Great Flood of 2010

Susan Blackledge

On October 6, 2005 Berry Springs opened its doors for the very first time. Never since that first day 5 years ago had the park ever been closed for any reason. Not until September 8, 2010, when over sixteen inches of rain fell on Georgetown and the surrounding areas. The day before at 10 p.m. I closed the park and emptied the rain gauge which measured 3" for the day. In the back of my mind I thought, there is no way it will overflow if I empty it. I awoke to a phone call from fellow coworker, Mark Pettigrew who said he couldn't get to work because the bridge on CR 152 was under water.

Sheets of asphalt, broken off curbing, fallen limbs and of course water, made the roads inside and outside of the park impassable. Both Berry Creek and Dry Berry Creek encircled their swollen banks around the park.



Dam! It's gone.

I grabbed my camera and waders and went to get the tractor before it too, could be washed away. From the top of the hill, all you saw was fields covered by water. I saw fish swimming upstream on the sidewalks which had waves of water on them. At first I couldn't cross to go onto the grass to get closer to the pond because of the water current was too strong. I drove the tractor to the campground and saw bales of hay on the roads and in flower beds. Picnic tables were in trees. Stone columns were broken in half in the middle of the road. Concreted posts connected by cables were knocked down like dominoes and stretched across the street laden with debris that had washed them away. Sheets of asphalt and road base laid buckled on the park roads. A huge wave of water flowed over what was

once the historical dam that was built in 1846. Barry Chamberlin, the former land owner and park neighbor grew up working and playing on the his grandfather's land which is now the park. He said he had never seen a flood this bad on the property.

The park reopened on Saturday October 2nd after nearly a month of cleaning up after the damages. Many Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and volunteers spent hundreds of hours putting the park back in order. Special thanks to Mike Harper, Walter & Carol Hoke, Robert Barneby, Valerie Clark, Bonnie Sladek, Pat Hooper, Dee Smith, Winnie Bowen, Gerald Savary, Pat Shirk, Mary Ann Melton, Sterlin Barton, the Georgetown Running Club, Williamson



Campgrounds demolished

County Community Service Coordinator, Dennis Allman, Georgetown High School ROTC and all the others who pitched in. On behalf of the Williamson County Parks Department and the citizens who enjoy the park on a regular basis, a special thanks to you all. The park would have not been able to open without your efforts as quickly as it has. There are sections of the park that are still closed such as the campgrounds and most of the granite trails. However, slowly but surely we will resume our daily operations of preserving a natural treasure for all to enjoy. If wanting to volunteer please call the park at 512-930-0040 and or email sblackledge@wilco.org.



Fence tear down



Volunteers rebuilding flower beds

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. Note: November's meeting will be held at the Georgetown Public Library.

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 Opportunities	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
Fund Raising	Linda Zazula	lszazula@gmail.com	(512) 240-5139
Greenhouse Manager	Brenda McIndoo	airedale98@gmail.com	(512) 868-9212

