

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy New Year, friends! After two challenging years, it feels hopeful to start afresh, and, as we look forward to the promises of 2022, we have much to celebrate.

Speaking of celebrations, congratulations to the Class of 2021 graduates, our newest DCMGA members! These fine folks comprised our first-ever fully virtual class. And, what a class they are — so enthusiastic and willing to share their time and talents. Each and every one is an asset to DCMGA and to our community; welcome, y'all — your official Texas-shaped name badge awaits!

And, we are so delighted to welcome our new intern class, who will begin training this month. Hooray for the Class of 2022! We count you as our newest friends and look forward to serving our community with you.

CONNECT WITH US ON THE WEB
<https://dcmga.com>

Buds From The Board (Cont.)

While we're on the topic of service, last month DCMGA joined our fellow Denton County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension associations (Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter, Denton County 4-H & Youth Development, and Denton County Family & Community Health) to honor our Denton County Commissioners Court at the new Denton County Courthouse.

After a wonderful breakfast, courtesy of the 4-H youth, Janet Laminack, Denton County Extension Agent for Horticulture, addressed the Court and shared a recap video of our 2021 programs and projects. Denton County Farm Bureau President Tommy Calvert presented the Court with a "check" for \$1,415,113.09, representing the value of our combined Denton County AgriLife volunteer service hours this year (49,583.50 hours multiplied by the Independent Sector's value of \$28.54 per volunteer hour).

DCMGA contributed 42% of that number (20,960.75 hours representing \$598,219.81), but, it's hard to quantify the value of our service, because, of course, volunteers are priceless!

And, since our volunteers are valuable beyond measure, you may notice that the January issue of *The Root* is briefer than usual; that's by strategic design, so that our editor and contributors could enjoy some extra time to spend with friends and family during the holiday season. However, the February issue is now well underway; stay tuned for next month's full-to-overflowing issue!

Friends, as we begin this new year, we are so very grateful for the opportunity to educate and engage our Denton County community. So, come on, y'all; let's get growing!

Kathryn



2022 Garden Tour Preview

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Please plan to join us for the 2022 Garden Tour, May 7, 9 am to 4 pm. Self-guided tours of four beautiful Denton County properties will inspire and delight you. Master Gardener docents will be onsite to help you learn about all the beautiful plants and gardening techniques. Check dcmga.com in February for ticket information

Urban Butterfly Haven

Wow, what a metamorphosis! This hard-working husband and wife team transformed what was originally an unremarkable suburban yard into an inviting and beautiful landscape filled with native and adapted plants. Together, they removed the sod in the front yard, converting it into a low-maintenance beauty. It requires no mowing, herbicides, pesticides, or supplemental watering.

Urban Butterfly Haven Front Yard



Before



After

"From goldenrod to milkweed, my garden is alive with pollinators feasting," says the homeowner. "Parsley, dill, bronze fennel, and passion vine are all dined on by the insects and caterpillars they host." This full-service pollinator garden even includes a butterfly feeder with dried fruit and water to keep them coming back.

Urban Butterfly Haven (Cont.)



Swallowtail Butterfly



Swallowtail Cocoon



Butterfly Feeder

Space and drainage issues didn't deter the homeowners from putting in a space- and water-efficient vegetable garden along their backyard fence line. Using the lasagna sheet mulching method, they filled their 80ft x 5ft bed with compost amended soil, layered with cardboard and wheat straw to keep out the weeds. The raised bed includes a French drain to handle the water run-off from the neighboring yard and a drip irrigation system run on a timer. Shade cloth protects the plants from the hot summer sun and doubles as frost cloth in the winter months.



French Drain



Veggie Garden

Urban Butterfly Haven (Cont.)

A testament to the low-maintenance theme is their mostly weed-free backyard lawn. Timely applications of pre-emergence herbicides and spot treatment have kept the weeds at bay.

The homeowner describes the 10 rose plants in the landscape as "the queens of the garden." Ever conscious of the dreaded Rose Rosette Disease, this homeowner takes an active role in educating the neighbors who grow roses about RRD.

True believers in protecting the environment, these homeowners fully leverage the benefits of compost, proper mulching, companion planting, rainwater harvesting, and attracting beneficial insects to keep their garden beautiful. Rain barrels positioned at several downspouts provide water for container plants.

With so much to learn and beauty to take in, the Urban Butterfly Haven is an inspiration you just must-see.



Peggy Martin Rose and Rain Barrel

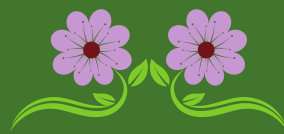


Master Gardener Help Desk

If you have questions about any horticulture-related subjects, please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov. It's free of charge, and our pleasure to assist you.

New Year's Resolutions

1. Gardening
2. Gardening
3. Gardening



IT'S 2022 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Dues paid by January 31, 2022, \$15; \$25 after

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The Fine Print

- Enter VS & CE hours in VMS by January 31, 2022
- Veterans need 12 hours VS & 12 hours CE in 2021
- Interns need 70 hours VS & 50 hours training in 2021
- On March 31, 2022 members not in good standing will be inactivated unless granted an exception by the CEA-Hort.

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Email Tammie Gurley with questions tmgurley@msn.com



Scan or go to Annual DCMGA Membership Renewal on dcmga.com to submit your renewal and payment



Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

Click on "Videos" and check out our new presentations!
And don't forget to subscribe!

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>



2022 GREATER AUBREY AREA GARDENING SERIES

Jumpstart your gardening in 2022 with this free educational series



JANUARY 20
6 - 7:00 pm
Vegetable Gardening
Dana Bays, Mike Crawford



FEBRUARY 17
6 - 7:00pm
Drought Tolerant Plants
Charlotte Canion



MARCH 17
6 - 7:00pm
Pollinator Plants
Kim Wootton

Location

Aubrey Area Library
226 Countryside Dr., Aubrey, TX 76227

Sponsored by



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. We seek to provide reasonable accommodation for all persons with disabilities for this program and ask that you notify the Denton County AgriLife Extension Office of the auxiliary aid or service that will be required.

The Denton County Master Gardener Association's *2022 Spring Gardening Series*

in partnership with The Flower Mound Public Library

February 7: *Permaculture Design*

Permaculture creates a sustainable environment in harmony with nature. Human activity melds with natural surroundings for an ecosystem that reduces work and energy to maintain it.

Presented by Daniel Arenas, Denton County Master Gardener and Master Naturalist, Certified Permaculture Design Specialist

February 14: *Bees and the Ecosystem*

Learn how to identify bees. Discover what bees need to help them thrive in their hives, as well as what pests and parasites can harm them.

Presented by Erik Dietrich, Experienced Beekeeper and presenter for the Texas Beekeepers Association

February 21: *Growing Microgreens*

Grow fresh, nutritious greens at home, even during winter months! No special equipment is required to enjoy the healthy edibles.

Presented by Lynda Harvey, Denton County Master Gardener

February 28: *Gardening for the Birds*

Birds have basic needs to thrive and prefer native plants for their resources. Find out what determines "plant nativeness" that will attract an endless supply of birds to your yard year-round.

Presented by Cecil Carter, Native Plant Society of Texas, Trinity Forks Chapter



All programs start at 7 p.m. and will be presented virtually through Zoom.

For more information and to register, visit dcmga.com



**FLOWER MOUND
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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What's Growing On

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Upcoming Events

- Jan 20** **Vegetable Gardening**
Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series, presented by Dana Bays & Mike Crawford. 6-7 pm, Aubrey Area Library
- Feb 7** **Permaculture Design**
Virtual: Flower Mound Library 2022 Spring Gardening Series, presented by Daniel Arenas. 7-8 pm, register on dcmga.com
- Feb 14** **Bees & the Ecosystem**
Virtual: Flower Mound Library 2022 Spring Gardening Series, presented by Erik Dietrich. 7-8 pm, register on dcmga.com
- Feb 17** **Drought Tolerant Plants**
Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series, presented by Charlotte Canion. 6-7 pm, Aubrey Area Library
- Feb 21** **Growing Microgreens**
Virtual: Flower Mound Library 2022 Spring Gardening Series, presented by Lynda Harvey. 7-8 pm, register on dcmga.com
- Feb 28** **Gardening for the Birds**
Virtual: Flower Mound Library 2022 Spring Gardening Series, presented by Cecil Carter. 7-8 pm, register on dcmga.com
- Mar 9** **General Meeting & Program**
Business meeting & program "Gardening Under Glass", presented by Marilee Crawford. 10 am-noon, Global Spheres Center
- Mar 17** **Pollinator Plants**
Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series, presented by Kim Wootton. 6-7 pm, Aubrey Area Library

For detailed information:

dcmga.com/upcoming-events

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Mission Statement

Denton County Master Gardener Association educates and engages county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Extension EO/EEO Statement

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

2022 Board of Directors

President	Kathryn Wells
Vice-President - Projects	Tom O'Brien
Vice-President - Outreach	Georgiana McCoig
Secretary	Kelli Bixler
Treasurer	Courtney Dunn
Communications Dir. - Systems	Cheryl Huckabee
Education Director	Daniel Arenas
Member-at-Large	Kim Shaneyfelt
Past President	Pat Moyer
Extension Agent - Horticulture	Janet Laminack

Social Media

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA>

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<https://www.instagram.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>

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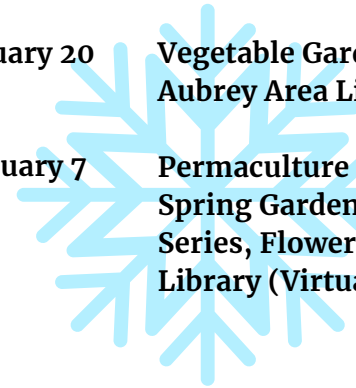
YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

Save the Date

January 20 Vegetable Gardening, Aubrey Area Library

February 7 Permaculture Design, Spring Gardening Series, Flower Mound Library (Virtual)



Contact Information

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dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Website:

<https://dcmga.com>



Content

Submission deadline for the February edition of *The Root* is Saturday, January 15. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson or Communications Director Cheryl Huckabee at dcmga.communications@gmail.com.

All photos are courtesy of DCMGA's Creative Visual Arts (CVA) Team unless otherwise attributed.