



Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume V, Issue 12

Official E-letter of the Ellis County Master Gardeners Association, Waxahachie, Texas

January, 2012

Welcome to the Ellis County Master Gardener's **E-Gardening** Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you a month-by-month agenda of what you should be doing with your landscape. We will feature horticultural articles that we hope you will find interesting, and important dates where you can find the Master Gardeners speaking, demonstrating, and passing out information relative to your garden. If you would like to receive this newsletter monthly via your email address, log onto our website www.ECMGA.com, click on subscribe, and it will be sent around the 1st of every month. Best of all; it's FREE! Melinda Kocian, editor/Susan Clark, co-editor

What's Happening in January

Indian Trail Master Naturalists

Monday, January 23, 7pm Attracting Purple Martins to your Backyard! Steve Woodward, owner of the Bird Center of Fort Worth, will present an exciting program of how to attract Purple Martins to your backyard. Steve's business provides the seed and supplies to the Fort Worth Zoo and Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge. Steve has been a backyard birder for nearly 20 years. The program is free and follows the 6 p.m. Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. It takes place in the banquet hall of the First United Methodist Church, 505 West Marvin Ave, Waxahachie.



Cedar Ridge Preserve
7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas
www.audubondallas.org

Saturday, January 14 Take a hike! Bird Walk and Winter Nature Walks

9am Bird Walk: Master Naturalist and long-time CRP volunteer Jim Varnum leads a birding field trip at Cedar Ridge Preserve. Expect to see sparrows, kinglets, chickadees, wrens, maybe a hawk or two. Bring binoculars and bird guides.

11am Winter Nature Walk: Jim stays on to look at wintry things. Here's an opportunity to get out of the house for a couple of hours to observe winter birds, winter color (leaves and berries), and maybe even some butterflies. Fun for adults and children.

Saturday, January 21, 9am—12pm Conservation in Action Workday. Work in the butterfly garden and on the trails. Water and snacks provided. For info, call Jim Varnum at (214) 543-2055 or email jvarnum@aol.com.



Texas Discover Gardens
3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas
TexasDiscoveryGardens.org

Saturday, January 21, 10am—12pm Soil Biology Workshop Get back to the basics! Learn about soil biology and its impact on your garden and plants with Director of Horticulture, Randy Johnson. The creatures that live in soil have a tremendous impact on erosion and water retention. A healthy soil environment increases plant yield and blooms and protects plants from pests and diseases. **\$15; \$10 for TDG Members. Register in advance.**

Lighthouse for Learning classes coming in February!
See page eight for details.



Listen to KBEC.....

Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on 1390 AM.

The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a 5-minute segment every week, offering you helpful information on what you need to be doing in your landscape, as well as "happenings" around the county. Be sure to listen in!

Melinda Kocian

Inside this issue:

<i>It's Jan., What Needs to be Done?</i>	2
<i>Wildflower of the Month</i>	3
<i>Raised Bed Gardening</i>	3
<i>Landscape Gardening</i>	4
<i>Herb of the Month</i>	6
<i>Theme Gardens</i>	7
<i>Lighthouse for Learning</i>	8



**It's Winter...please
feed the birds**



Cardinal Photo by MG Photo Contest Entrant

Wildlife Gardening

Essential to any true understanding of the wildlife gardening concept is an appreciation of the symbiotic relationships between plants and animals. This interdependence is the result of species evolving alongside one another over millennia. Wildlife gardens come in many different forms depending on the species to be attracted. They all require food, water, shelter and space—places to raise young.

Need assistance attracting wildlife to your property? Do you have a nature-related question? Call the Texas AgriLife Extension Service—Ellis County at (972) 825-5175 and ask to talk to an **Indian Trail Master Naturalist**. Members of this volunteer program serve Ellis and Navarro Counties. The program is sponsored by Texas Parks & Wildlife and Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Hummingbird Photo by Lee Dann

It's January....What Needs To Be Done?

Planting

- * Transplant small trees and shrubs while they are dormant. It is best if they were root-pruned in the fall so that roots will be established before the heat and drought of the summer. Water the root ball well before digging.
- * Plant peppers, tomatoes and warm-season annuals from seed mid-month. They need bright light and warm temperatures (60 to 70 degrees). Use grow lights for best results.
- * Sow snap peas and plant onions in well prepared soil.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- * Prune trees, including live oaks and red oaks, to remove dead, broken and unwanted branches, or to "limb up" (that is, raise the canopy to allow more light underneath).
- * Pruning oak trees in late winter may help prevent oak wilt disease which can be fatal. Pruning paint may help prevent the entry of the disease.
- * Apply a liquid root stimulator monthly to newly planted trees and shrubs.
- * Peach and plum trees should be pruned to stimulate lateral branches and keep their "bowl" shape.

Garden Watch

- * Remove by hand, broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelions, henbit and chickweed in lawns and beds. If necessary, spot spray large areas of the lawn with a broadleaf weed killer when temperatures are above 70 degrees. Be careful not to spray desirable plants. Read and follow labels carefully before using any pesticide.

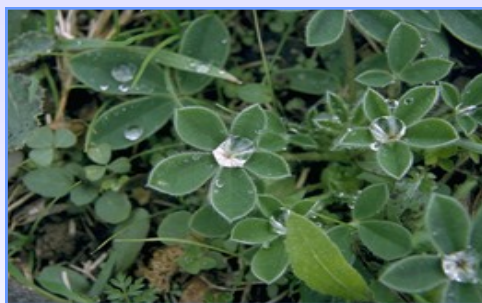
Odds and Ends

- * This is a good time to have your soil tested in your lawn, vegetable and flower garden. Contact the Ellis County Master Gardeners or the Texas AgriLife Extension Service – Ellis County at (972) 825-5175 for the necessary collection and mailing supplies, or for more information.
- * Order seeds now you intend to plant later to obtain the varieties you want.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Texas Bluebonnet - Legume Family (Fabaceae)

Lupines texensis Hook

Range: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 (Ellis is in Region 4)

Size: 6-24 inches

Blooms: March – May, Annual

This picture is what the bluebonnet plant looks like in the fall and winter. Usually the plant starts showing up in October, growing larger, by the month. Then in March, one can start seeing whitish buds and finally, the beautiful spectacle of the flowering wild-flowers that most of Texas is noted for.

Last year was an exceptional year with the draught and the hot temperatures. I read it was the hottest, driest year in approximately 1,000 years. Even though bluebonnets prefer hot, dry, rocky areas, after last summer, some predict this year's display to be less than spectacular. However, I have seen evidence on our property of a record display of flowers. As is often the case, the flowers one sees each spring are the seeds dropped by the previous spring, but can also be from the spring before that.

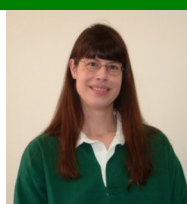
The Blackland Prairies have annual rainfall that varies from forty-five inches in the northeast to thirty inches in the southwest. I recorded 27.35 inches. Upland soils are dark-colored clays, locally called "black gumbo." Some of the soil west of I-35 is also white rock. Bluebonnets do well in most of Ellis county, with Ennis officially the "Bluebonnet capital of Texas".

I have been transplanting bluebonnet plants for several years in a flowerbed outside my kitchen window so I can enjoy them in full bloom without having to go out into the field around our house. I was surprised when I starting seeing young plants popping up all over the flowerbed, as well as the flowerbed across the walk path. But the most exciting part is seeing all the plants coming up in the pathway, which is made up of flag stone and nothing but mulch separating the stones! I am going to have a spectacular showing out my kitchen window this spring and absolutely **no one** will be allowed to walk on the pathway! I will publish the pictures in the April E-Garden issue for all to enjoy!



Raised Bed Gardening

*By J. R. McMahan
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Northern states may have more cold and ice but you can till a garden right into the rich brown earth in most of them. Not so in our area of North Texas where the ground is made of clay. Raised bed gardens are a good way to create planting beds in our primarily clay soils. A raised bed garden is an area built up on all four sides allowing the soil to be above regular ground level, but contained by sides.

Raised beds can be any length, but a

width of three to four feet allows the gardener to be able to reach into the center of the bed from both sides and not have to step into the bed, which compacts the soil. A wider bed will need a path of stepping stones or similar material. Sides can be made of any sturdy material that will hold up to outdoor weather conditions. Landscape timbers can be stacked several high and secured with rebar rods by holes drilled through the timbers. Landscape

blocks can be stacked to form decorative curves, and if stacked two to three feet high, can create a raised bed that requires little bending over! Garden ready bed kits are also available and include bed sides and connector pieces that fit together forming squares or rectangles. These are usually made out of recycled plastics.

North Texas clay soils makes raised

(Continued on page 5)



Landscape Gardening

From: Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

Ellis County Master Gardeners have a website at www.ecmga.com. Check this website for information on gardening in Ellis County, sign up for a monthly newsletter, or access other websites including the Texas A&M Horticulture website. Questions for Master Gardeners will be answered with a return email or telephone call, if you leave a message at (972) 825-5175.

Why Garden? The National Garden Bureau's Top Ten Reasons *Condensed from the list originally published in 2006*

Garden for safe, healthy food. Growing concerns about pesticides in our food supply have led to an increased interest in organic gardening and availability of organic produce. Processed foods contain additives and preservatives that many consumers want to avoid. It's estimated that during WWII, 20 million homeowners had Victory Gardens that produced close to forty percent of the fresh vegetables consumed in the United States.

Garden for Exercise. Studies show that an hour of moderate gardening can burn up to 300 calories for women, almost 400 calories for men. Mowing the grass is like taking a vigorous walk, bending and stretching to plant a garden compares to an exercise class, while hauling plants and soil is similar to weightlifting.

Garden to add beauty. A house with a nice yard is a pleasure to look at and satisfying to live in. Your home can be made more inviting simply by adding a container of colorful flowers near the front door. Herbs in the kitchen add freshness to the room, as well as flavor to daily meals. Trees and shrubs not only provide color and shade, but shelter for birds and wildlife.

Garden to learn. Problems with insects or spots on leaves provide the opportunity to find out the cause and understand how to keep plants healthy. Moving to a new house may mean leaving favorite plants, but also provides the opportunity to discover

new plants and growing conditions. There are a variety of ways to increase gardening know-how such as seminars, Master Gardener programs, vo-tech courses and formal degree programs at a college or university.



Garden to make money. For some people, gardening is a lifelong hobby. For others, the love of plants can lead to a rewarding job at a local garden center, a large global company,

or even owning their own business. A garden can be a source of flowers, vegetables, herbs, and other crops that can be sold at local farmers' markets and roadside stands. Real estate agents estimate that attractive landscaping increases a home's value by as much as fifteen percent.

Garden to meet people. Whether it's with someone who lives down the street or half-way around the world on the Internet, gardeners love to talk about plants. Surplus tomatoes, a bouquet of flowers, or an extra plant, are gifts to be shared with friends and neighbors. Meeting other gardeners through garden clubs, plant organizations, and gardening websites is an easy way to share information, ask questions and get involved.

Garden to be creative. Gardening provides an outlet for creative and artistic expression. A garden's design can reflect a personal sense of style such as a romantic cottage garden or a peaceful Japanese garden, as well as provide a showcase

for art and sculpture. With the wide variety of seeds and plants available in garden centers, it's easy to experiment with new plants or change a garden's color scheme every year.

Garden to win. For people with a competitive streak, gardening is a friendly way to show off their skills. Garden clubs regularly have shows that highlight the best flowers grown by local gardeners. County and state fairs provide an opportunity to show everyone the giant pumpkin, beautiful beans or luscious tomatoes harvested from the garden.

Garden for emotional needs and spiritual connections. Gardens play an important part in our well being. A garden might serve as a tranquil retreat or private escape from the demands of everyday life. The beauty of flowers can lift spirits, while pulling weeds can be a

great release for stress and excess energy. A harvest of colorful flowers or tasty vegetables provides a sense of achievement and feelings of success, while neighbors and visitors often



express their appreciation for those efforts.

Garden for lasting memories. Yards that once grew gardens have been replaced with hot tubs and driveways. Gardening is a fun activity that can be shared with children and grandchildren, even if the garden is a single container or small spot in the yard. And a garden provides a beautiful way to remember a special person or time of life.

Garden Checklist for January/February

- Continue to water and fertilize cool-weather annuals such as snapdragons,

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4) Landscape Gardening

Bells of Ireland, Stocks, larkspur, pansies, violas, and sweet alyssum to encourage the best blooms.

- Now is an excellent time to transplant mature or established trees and shrubs while they are dormant.

- Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before the rush of spring planting. Time spent in armchair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs and books while contemplating changes in your garden.

- Sow seeds in flats or containers to get a jump on plant growth before hot weather arrives. Petunias, begonias, and impatiens should be sown in January or February. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles should be sown in late January or early February.

- Apply slow release fertilizer to pansies and other cool season annuals. Distribute five pounds of cottonseed or alfalfa meal per 100 square feet of bed

area or use commercial slow release fertilizer products according to label instructions.

- Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting. Till in several inches of compost, composted pine bark, or similar material.

- Select and order gladiolus corms for February/March planting. Plant at two-week intervals to prolong flowering period.

- Check junipers and other narrow-leaf evergreens for bagworm pouches. The insect eggs overwinter in the pouch, and start the cycle again by emerging in the spring to begin feeding on the foliage. Hand removal and burning of the pouches reduce future damage.

- The life of poinsettias and other holiday season plants can be prolonged with proper care. Keep the soil moist, but provide drainage so that excess moisture can flow from the pot. Keep the plant out of range of heating ducts and away from heating units.

Keep in a cool room at night, preferably at 60 to 65 degrees F.

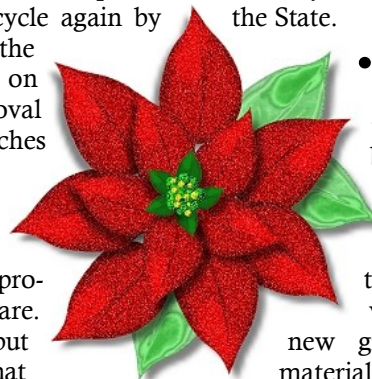
- Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly the first year.

- When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially when dealing with bare-root plants. The medium to small sizes (four to six feet) are usually faster to become established and more effective in the landscape than the large sizes.

- Hold off on pruning bush roses and grapes at this time until mid-February or until early March in northern parts of the State.

- Herbaceous perennials and hardy ornamental grasses may be cut back at this time. It may be difficult to assess the extent of freeze damage on citrus and semi-tropical plants until warm weather arrives. When new growth begins damaged material can be removed.

By Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist Texas AgriLife Extension Service



(Continued from page 3) Raised Bed Gardening



beds a good alternative for planting directly in the ground. Raised beds allow the soil in each bed to be prepared specifically to the plants being grown there. The height of the bed sides is not as important as the soil preparation. A bed with sides less

than eight to ten inches high should have the ground soil tilled and amended as much as possible before adding the raised bed soil so plants in the raised bed can grow their roots down far enough. Another advantage to having raised beds is the sun warms the soil more quickly in the springtime and some seeds and transplants can be started sooner in the warmer soil. One of the best advantages to having a raised bed garden is better water drainage. A raised bed allows water to drain down and away from the plant roots. When plant roots sit in water too long, the roots are deprived of much needed oxygen and continuously wet conditions can weaken the plant making it more susceptible

to disease and pests.

A healthy plant is a happy plant and happy plants love raised beds where they can grow and thrive in nutrient rich soil, warmer soil, and most importantly, good draining soil.



Herb of the Month

By Arlene Hamilton
Ellis County Master Gardener



January 2012—Herbs of the Bible

Humans have been growing and using herbs throughout history. Dried herbs, seeds and oils have been found in excavations and digs all over the world including Egyptian tombs and Aztec ruins. There are many references to herbs in the Bible, but it can be assumed that all of the plants grown around the Mediterranean and in the Middle East would have been available and widely used. In addition to their culinary use, herbs were used as medicines, in religious ceremonies, to anoint the deceased, and as preservatives. With the holidays just past you may be thinking of spring and gardening. A Bible-themed herb garden would be interesting and easy to grow as most of the herbs that thrive in the Middle East will grow in Texas. Here are some suggested plants and how to grow them in North Texas.

Coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*) – (Exodus 16:31) “Now the house of Israel called its name manna; it was like coriander seed, white, and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey.”

Coriander or Cilantro is a cool season annual, growing to two or three feet. The leaves have a sweet intense flavor and are used to flavor Mexican, Middle Eastern and Asian foods. The seeds and roots are used in curries and pickling spices. Coriander is an easy herb to grow from seed but does not like to be transplanted. As a garden plant Coriander attracts useful insects like bees and other pollinators.

It will quickly go to seed when days are long and hot, so plant in early spring or fall.

Dill (*Anethum graveolens*) – (Matthew 23:23) “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, for you tithe mint and dill, and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law, justice and mercy and faith; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”

Dill is a short lived annual that can grow to four or five feet. Most often associated with pickles; the fresh leaves can be used with fish, eggs, cream sauces, and dips. Dried seeds have a nutty taste and are used in breads, butters, cheeses, and curries. Seeds germinate and grow quickly with little attention. Dill will die out in the heat of summer, but look for seedlings when cooler days arrive. Dill is supposed to enhance the growth of cabbage, onions, and lettuce in the garden.

Mints (*Mentha* spp.) are perennial in the southern garden. There are hundreds of varieties of mints, the best known are spearmint and peppermint, but you should also try one of the fruit flavors or chocolate.

Brew mint into refreshing teas. Sprinkle over salads and vegetables. Blend minced leaves into yogurt, butter, or cream cheese; leaves can

garnish ice drinks and jellies; a must with lamb. Mints are invasive, wide-spreading plants, which are best kept in containers and prefer shade from the afternoon sun. All mints must be planted from cuttings or root division as the seeds are not true to the mother plant.

Garlic and Onion (*Allium* spp.) - (Numbers 11:5) “We remember the fish we ate in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic.”



Dill

Onion Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) is a perennial growing to about 12” clumps. They are hollow, green leaves that grow up from tiny bulbs; chives have a delicate onion flavor. Add chopped leaves to soups and salads; use in cottage cheese, cream cheese, omelets, and baked potatoes. Their pretty purple flower adds zing to green salads. Plant seedlings or seeds in early spring in full sun to part shade. Chives make a good border plant and are a companion plant for roses and tomatoes as a deterrent to black spot and mildew.

Garlic Chives (*Allium tuberosum*) is a perennial grass-like plant growing from 12”–18” and is used similar to onion chives, but has flat leaves and a mild garlic flavor. Plants produce white flowers in late summer which are attractive to bees. Plants stay green and flavorful all winter in Texas so plan to use it fresh year round.

(Continued on page 7)

Theme Gardens

By Linda "Mox" Moxley
Ellis County Master Gardener



THEME GARDENS is the focus of the *Ellis County Master Gardeners' 2012 Calendar*. (These calendars are free and available to the public at our sponsors' locations listed at the end of this article.) There is an abundance of garden themes; surely one will fit your tastes.

There are **SHAPE theme gardens** – round, square, triangular, rectangular and oval gardens. Ellis County Master Gardeners have been working in Getzender's Star Garden for many years. Gardens can even take the shape of dogs, cats, painters' pallets, and butterflies.

Of course, there are **ATTRACTANT theme gardens**. Some gardens are designed to attract butterflies, song birds, hummingbirds or bees and others are designed NOT to attract deer and unwanted insects.

You have likely heard of "country gardens". There are **FOREIGN COUNTRY theme gardens** such as Japanese gardens with lotus plants, raked sand and oriental lanterns. French and English theme gardens are also popular. I suspect there could also be Russian and African gardens.

Country Gardens could also be **WILD-FLOWER theme gardens** comprised of

plants that originally grew in Texas rural areas – plants like bluebonnets, Indian Blankets, and Indian paintbrush.

Some theme gardens are **PLANT-SPECIFIC** like iris, rose, and sunflower gardens. There are also **PLANT-GENERAL theme gardens**. Vegetable, succulent, herb and annual and perennial gardens could fall within this rubric.

Gardeners who design **CHILDREN'S GARDENS** like to include lambs' ears and clameyweed for touching, mint and garlic for tasting and smelling. After all, the word kindergarten is German for "children's garden". A swing or a game of "tick-tack-toe" could be incorporated into a children's theme garden.

Garden themes may relate to their **HOUSE PROXIMITY**. Folks never talk about "house-proximity" gardens, but there are dooryard, window, patio, and even kitchen gardens. Our ancestors used to look for the hollyhocks when they needed to use the outhouse.

COLOR forms the focus for many gardens. There are patriotic red, white and blue gardens, collegiate-proud gardens using only the colors of your favorite team and gardens of all one color. An all-white garden is frequently called a moon garden because it seemingly re-

flects the moon.



STRUCTURAL or HARDSCAPE theme gardens take shape as a result of the pergola, gazebo, pedestal, fountain or bird bath the plants surround. The plants are as diverse as the focal structures.

The varieties of theme gardens are so plentiful. If you have three similar items in a garden or if there is something common to all of the plants in an area, you have a theme garden. Label it! As you water your gardens, think about what is the commonality in each unique area? Ah, there are a bunch of pots in this area. You have a **CONTAINER GARDEN**. There is a garden in the valley with a sitting area. That is your **VALLEY GARDEN**. The plantings where you buried your pet bird are now the **CEMETERY GARDEN**.

Once you have named your theme gardens, you will more regularly tend to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 6) Herbs

Rose (*Rosa* spp.) - (Isaiah 35:1) "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the rose.

Roses are perennial shrubs to climbing bushes. Yes, roses are considered herbs and have been designated the 2012 Herb of the Year by the International Herb Association. Rosehips are tart and cranberry like. They are known for their high content



Rosa rubiginosa

with garlic and onions helps repel nematodes.

of vitamin C and are used to make syrups, jellies, teas, wines, breads and muffins. Rose petals can be used in tea blends, rose water, jelly and sugars. Every Texas garden should have at least one rose bush in it. They like well-drained soil and full sun. Under planting

Other herbs such as hyssop, mustard, rue, and wormwood are mentioned in the Bible and will grow here. Although rosemary, costmary (Bible leaf), and fennel are not noted in the Bible, they are associated with Bible stories and religious practices. I encourage you to consider them along with the many plants and flowers of the Bible. Create your own small sanctuary in a secluded spot in your garden and enjoy the colors, aromas and history of your special place.

(Continued from page 7) Theme Gardens

their needs. It is just like having a herd of goats or cows. If you name them, you won't be able to sell them. They are part of the family. Likewise, your theme gardens will receive tender care once you call them by name and make them a part of your family.

My mother, Julia Watts Moxley (1910-1995), penned the following poem:

GARDENS

*There are some dooryard gardens
That will soon be on display;
And the flowers blooming there
Will provide the first bouquet.
It may be a friendship's garden --
Where all the plants are rare;
For each was given by a friend
Who had a few to spare.
Or it may be an annual garden
With zinnias, snaps and such --
That is portulaca bordered*

*For an old-fashioned touch.
So in your friendship garden
where friends and flowers grow,
It's the daily cultivation
That makes their beauty show.*

For more theme garden ideas, pick up an **Ellis County Master Gardeners' 2012 Calendar** at one of the following sponsors: **Ennis:** Action Powersports, TexScapes Greenery, Ennis Chamber of Commerce. **Midlothian:** EarthTones Greenery, Midlothian Conference Center. **Maypearl:** The Cowboy Bank of Texas, Maypearl Insurance. **Red Oak:** Keith ACE Hardware. **Waxahachie:** Annie's Health Food Center & Market, ARK Country Store, Boyce Feed & Grain, CNB Bank of Texas - all facilities, Carlisle Chevrolet Cadillac, Carington Insurance—Agent Nita Wilson, City of Waxahachie, College Street Restaurant & Pub, Creative Quilts of Ellis County, Garden Inspirations, Gin-

gerbread Press, Larken Farms Orchard, Master Gardeners & Extension Service, Pam Daniel—Ebby Halliday, Living Magazine, Roland's Nursery & Landscape, Stone River Landscaping, Travis Equipment, The Dove's Nest, The Greenery, The Rock Pile, Waxahachie Civic Center, Waxahachie Daily Light.



Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

For reservations, call Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631.

Register online at http://www.wisd.org/default.aspx?name=CO_LighthouseforLearning

Monday, February 27, 6:00—7:30 Vegetable Gardening 101. Learn how and when to start your own vegetable garden. The class includes creating the space, adding all the necessary amendments for our Ellis County soil, planting, caring for and finally harvesting your bounty. **Instructors:** Melinda and James Kocian, Cost: \$12.00

Monday, March 5, 6:00—7:30 Vermi-Composting 101 Vermicomposting, or worm composting, is an easy way to recycle your kitchen waste and produce rich compost to use in your garden and house plants. This class will teach you the basics of vermicomposting. You will assemble your own worm bin to take home. Instructor: Susan Clark, Cost: \$12.00 + \$10 materials fee.

Monday, March 26, 6:00—7:30 Rainwater Harvesting Efficient water use is increasingly important to Texas. Learn how to capture, divert, store, and distribute rainwater for later use. This can be as simple as using a rain barrel or creating a rain garden. Instructor: Pam Daniel, Cost: \$12.00

Monday, April 2, 6:00—7:30 Turf Grasses for Ellis County This class will cover the following topics: turf grass selections for Ellis Co., preparing soil for planting, spring and summer lawn care, proper watering in dry times, disease control, and weed control. There will be a question and answer session and handouts. Instructor: Jim Tachias, Cost: \$12.00

Monday, April 9, 5:30—8:00 Plant Propagation Students will learn the basics of plant propagation, increasing and multiplying plants for the house, landscape, and garden. After a short presentation, students will have hands-on experience in the WISD High School greenhouse. Instructor: Walt Friis & Maureen Nitkowski, Cost: \$12.00

April 16 6:00—7:30 Earth-Kind® Gardening Earth-Kind® urban landscape practices are based on proven research techniques which protect the environment. This class will focus on plant selection and best planting methods. Instructors: Maureen Nitkowski & Jackie Wilhite, Cost: \$12.00

Monday, April 23 6:00—7:30 Tough Texas Plants Come see a presentation on selected ornamental plants that have been designated "flameproof" and have made the North Texas Winners Circle in the trial gardens at the Dallas Arboretum. Instructor: Shirley Campbell, Cost: \$12.00





Thank You to our 2011 Expo Sponsors!



Gold Sponsors



Waxahachie



Silver Sponsors



Ennis/Athens

Bronze Sponsors

Waxahachie Civic Center

**Please support
These Expo
Sponsors!**

Green Sponsors

Citizens National Bank of Texas
Ennis Garden Club
Holcim (Texas) LP
RiverMist Pools & Spas
Roland's Nursery & Landscape
Tex-Scapes Greenery



**Interested in becoming a
2012 Expo Sponsor Or
Expo Exhibitor?**

Contact James Kocian at
expo.ecmga@yahoo.com

Reserve the date: March 31, 2012!

