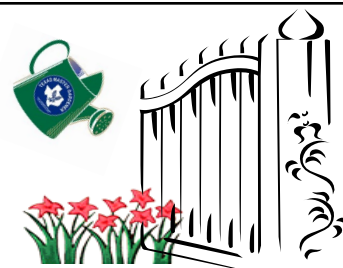




# Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume VIII, Issue One

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

January, 2014

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](http://www.ECMGA.com), click on subscribe, and it will be sent around the 1st of every month. Best of all; it's FREE! Susan Clark, Editor

## What's Happening in January

**Saturday, January 11, 8am, "The Color of Winter" Nature Walk at Cedar Ridge Preserve with Jim Varnum.** Here's an opportunity to get out of the house for a couple of hours to observe winter color: birds (black and white chickadees, yellow-rumped warblers, etc.), leaves (red and yellow), berries (red and blue), and maybe even some butterflies. Fun for adults and children. Meet at the CRP Educational Building. Bring binoculars and bird guides. Dress for the weather of the day. Walk will last about two hours max. RSVP if you wish in case of weather issues. Audubon Dallas website—[www.audubondallas.org](http://www.audubondallas.org)

**Saturday, January 18, 2pm–4pm, Plant Propagation Workshop–Texas Discovery Gardens.** Grow your own plants from cuttings and seeds and save money! Learn easy-to-implement techniques from an expert in plant propagation, Dallas County Master Gardener Roseann Ferguson. Bring home some plant starts to get your garden going! \$25; \$20 for TDG Members. Located at 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas. Phone: (214) 428-7476 Website: [TexasDiscoveryGardens.org](http://TexasDiscoveryGardens.org)

**Saturday, January 18, 9am–12pm, Cedar Ridge Preserve—Conservation in Action Workday.** Volunteers help remove non-native plants, restore trails, and work in the butterfly garden. Water, snacks, pruning shears, shovels, and work gloves provided. Contact: [info\\_CRP@yahoo.com](mailto:info_CRP@yahoo.com). Location: 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. [www.audubondallas.org](http://www.audubondallas.org)

**Saturday, January 25, 9am–12pm, Dogwood Canyon—Fourth Saturday Workday.** For more info, contact Julie Collins at [jcollins@audubon.org](mailto:jcollins@audubon.org).

**Monday, January 27, 7pm–8pm, Indian Trail Master Naturalists present "Nature Photography 101"** by Jack Dunaway, Amateur Nature Photographer & Texas Master Naturalist. Learn how to use your camera to document your nature adventures with photos. Come explore the mysteries of basic terminology, types of cameras, lenses, techniques and more. Besides the technical side, learn about the "art part" of subject placement, backgrounds, and lighting. The program is free and follows the 6 p.m. Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. **Note Meeting Location—First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie, TX.** For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email [ellis-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:ellis-tx@tamu.edu)

**Various January Dates, Garden Inspirations Classes.** Classes in January include Canning, Tomatoes, Onions, Potatoes and Peas, Vegetables, Makeover Your Medicine Cabinet, Essential Oils Study and more. For complete details and to register for classes, visit [www.gardeninspirations-tx.com](http://www.gardeninspirations-tx.com).

**February 25 to May 27, Master Naturalist 2014 Annual Spring Training Class.** Indian Trail Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist will hold their Annual Training Classes on Tuesdays from 6pm–9p.m., at First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 505 West Marvin Avenue, Waxahachie. The Texas Master Naturalist Program is co-sponsored by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Applications are due by February 1, 2014. For more information and to receive an application, please e-mail [ellis-tx@tamu.edu](mailto:ellis-tx@tamu.edu), or contact the AgriLife Extension Service Office by phone: (972) 825-5175.

TEXAS A&M  
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## Listen to KBEC

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

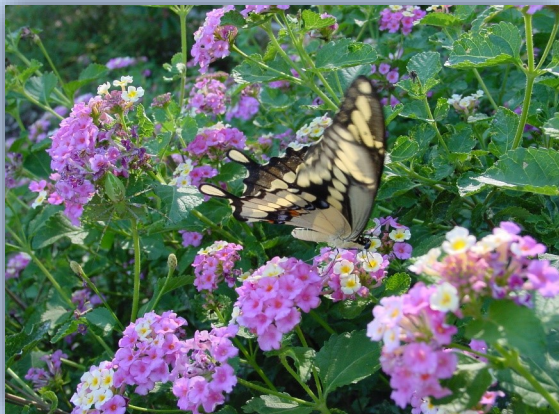
The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a five minute segment every week, offering you helpful information on what you need to be doing in your landscape, as well as "happenings" around the county. Be sure to listen in!

Melinda Kocian

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2014  
50th



### LANTANA

*Lantana horrida* is a Texas native perennial that produces orange and yellow flowers. Lantanas are extremely heat and drought tolerant. Plants can become four to five feet tall and bloom from May to November.

All other lantana are considered tropical perennials and used as annuals in Texas. 'New Gold' (a Texas Superstar) doesn't produce seed and uses all energy to produce a profusion of blooms.

Purple trailing (*Lantana montevidensis*) is also a Texas Superstar with peak bloom times in the spring and fall and less during summer months.

Caution: This plant is poisonous to humans, dogs, and livestock. It can cause serious illness or death.

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

### Planting

- ◆ Transplant small trees and shrubs while they are dormant. It is best if they are 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 onions from seeds in rows  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. Alternatively, they can be planted in flats along with tomatoes and peppers. Plants in flats need bright light and warm temperatures (60 to 70 degrees F). Use grow lights for best results.

### Fertilizing and Pruning

- ◆ Keep a spray can of pruning paint in your garage to immediately paint any wound on your oak trees. We no longer say there are windows of safety because of cold weather or hot weather. Central Texas weather is too unpredictable and changeable—paint every wound all year long.
- ◆ Prune trees, including live oaks and red oaks, to remove dead, broken, and unwanted branches, or to "limb up" (raise the canopy to allow more light underneath).
- ◆ Water, as needed, newly planted trees and shrubs and apply a liquid root stimulator monthly.
- ◆ Peach and plum trees should be pruned to stimulate lateral branches and keep their "bowl" shape. Thin the trees to open the center to allow more sunlight resulting in fruit production over the entire tree.
- ◆ Apply a balanced fertilizer to iris and asparagus. Feed pansies with blood meal.
- ◆ This is a good time to have the soil tested in your lawn and vegetable or flower gardens. 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.

### Garden Watch

- ◆ Remove by hand, broadleaf weeds such as clover, dandelions, henbit, and chickweed in lawns and beds. If necessary, spot spray turf with a broadleaf weed killer when temperatures are above 70 degrees. Be careful when using weed killers in flower beds to prevent the drift from harming desirable plants. The application of a pre-emergent in September or early October on lawn grasses will help prevent winter and spring weeds.

### TIPS and Little Known Facts

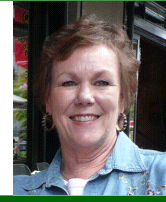
Lantana's origin is from tropical America. The foliage of all lantanas is aromatic. Trailing lantana is useful in hanging baskets, containers, or spilling over retaining walls. It makes a ground cover in dry sunny locations. Texas lantana can grow to six feet tall in an ideal location. The plant was naturalized from Mississippi.





## Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian  
Ellis County Master Gardener*



### **Anemone, Windflower–Buttercup Family (Ranunculaceae)** *Anemone decapetala* (Nutt.)

**Region:** 1–10 (Ellis County is Region 4)  
**Size:** 6–20 inches  
**Blooms:** January through April, perennial

Blooming earlier than nearly any other flower, anemones bring the promise of spring. Ranging in colors from white, pink, violet, and blue to purple, the wheel-shaped flowers are one and a half inches across and appear at the tips of unbranched stems. Ten to thirty petal-like sepals encircle a cylinder, which elongates to one and one-half inches as the flower matures. Between a basal rosette of leaves and the flower, a whorl (or much smaller leaves) surrounds the stalk.

Three species of anemones are found in Texas. They grow mostly in grassy areas; their flower opening in the sun and closing at night. Our word “anemometer,” for wind gauge, is derived from the same Greek word as anemone, or wind-flower.

Thank you to all our 2014 calendar sponsors listed below! Without their support, there would be no calendar. A free copy is available when you visit any of our calendar sponsors.



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Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce  
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### **Midlothian**

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### **Red Oak**

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### **Maypearl**

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## Herb of the Month

By Arlene Hamilton  
Ellis County Master Gardener



### January 2014—Winter Herbs and Greens

Now that your tomatoes, basil, peppers, pumpkins, and squash plants have been relegated to the compost heap, it's time to spread some seeds on those bare patches in your garden. One of the great treats of living in Texas is winter offers an ideal growing season. Many of the plants that can't survive our 90°+ summers will thrive during our cool winters and provide us with plenty of fresh and flavorful greens to enliven our winter meals.

How many times has your mother told you, "Eat your greens, they're good for you."? She was right, of course. The fact is greens are very good for you. They are filled with nutritious vitamins and other trace elements that help your body fight off winter colds and illness.

Now is the perfect time to get some greens going in your garden with a few inexpensive packets of seeds. You will find a ready supply at local nurseries and big box stores.

This is a prime time for planting micro greens, salad greens, mesclun, mache, sprouts, lettuce, English peas, broccoli rabe, spinach, Swiss chard, kale, and herbs. Now is also a good time to plant cool season root crops such as radishes, carrots, beets, scallions, and turnips. I usually sprinkle the seeds on top of the soil, press them down, and apply a very gentle mist of water.

Just because you have a packet full of seeds doesn't mean you need to plant them all at one time. Space the plantings out about every two weeks or so, then start harvesting and thinning out

the tender greens and sprouts when they are one to two inches high. Add these seedlings to the evening salad. Thinning will allow more vigorous growth of the remaining plants. Planting over several weeks will extend your harvesting season. You may need to cover the garden with a row cover fabric if a deep freeze is forecast.

Herb and edible flower seeds that can be planted now and harvested all winter through late spring include: salad burnet, chervil, chives, chamomile, coriander/cilantro, cress, dill, fennel, nastur-



tium, parsley, pot marigold/calendula, and sorrel. All of these herbs prefer the cooler temperatures of spring. Plus the unique flavors of these herbs and greens will add zest and nutrition to salads, soups, sandwiches, and snacks.

If you are accustomed to buying your fresh produce from the Downtown Farmers Market, cool weather greens picked fresh from your garden will be a pleasant surprise to the winter meal

and remind you of treats to come next market season.

Prepare the soil well with lots of compost or aged manure before planting. Keep it evenly moist while plants are young and mulch to conserve soil moisture and suppress weeds.

Try this special salad of mixed greens and fruit in season during cooler weather.

#### Mixed Greens with Pears, Fennel and Pecans

4 cups various lettuce leaves, torn into bite-sized pieces

4 cups various dark greens such as spinach, mache, rabe, kale, etc.

1 small fennel bulb, sliced thin

1 large pear, cored, quartered and sliced thin

Parmesan Reggiano, sliced into curls with a vegetable peeler

¼ cup pecans, toasted and chopped

Toss the greens. Scatter the fennel, pear and parmesan over the greens. Sprinkle the pecans and a few fresh leaves of your favorite herbs over the top. Make a dressing of 2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar, ¼ cup olive oil, salt and pepper. Drizzle over the salad, toss well, and serve.



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Contact James Kocian at  
[expo.ecmga@yahoo.com](mailto:expo.ecmga@yahoo.com)

Reserve the date: **March 29, 2014!**



## In the Vegetable Garden

With Robert Shugart  
Ellis County Master Gardener



### Onion Planting Time!

Mid-December I start watching local nurseries. Hardware stores and other

providers for fresh onion sets. An onion set is a small onion that is sold in bunches, banded together in 50 to 100 small plants. I am told the number depends on the size of the hand that is preparing the bundle and the size of the small plants that make up the package.

I try to choose bundles with plants that are healthy looking and whose plants are about half as big around as a pencil (#2 Eagle). Onions are one of the crops that do well in our black clay soils. Texas leads the U.S. in onion production and the state is well known for its high quality, large sweet onions.



from seed or bulbs.

I try to get my transplants in the ground New Years Eve day, but before February if possible. Rainy seasons (wet conditions) early in the year make this difficult some years. The books say get them planted four to six weeks before the average frost-free date. You can consider about mid-March to be frost free for onions.

Soil should be slightly moist at planting time. One pound of complete fertilizer should be spread over 100 square feet of planting area. Try to use a fertilizer that does not have sulfur, as sulfur will make onions hotter. Plant individual seedlings three to four inches apart and consider additional spacing by removing green onions early in the season.

After about four weeks, a side dressing of high nitrogen is helpful. Work fertilizer into the soil and water lightly. Mulching can be done after this side dressing, as soil moisture is important.



The 1015Y will be your best bet for a good crop. That said, I usually add a couple of bundles of a red variety (they always look good in salads). In any case, choose one of the short day varieties. Reliable, local providers (owned by local people) will only stock short day plants. Short day varieties need 10 to 11 hours of daylight to promote bulbing.

I don't recommend planting onions



When the plants start to mature (the neck will start to show signs of sof-

**Save The Date!**  
**Saturday, March 29, 2014**



tening), begin to let the soil dry out. This helps the bulb to mature. This will be followed by some of the tops falling over, signaling the beginning of the time to harvest. Please note:

varieties will mature at different times. My red onions matured a week or two after the whites.

Pull mature onions and place in a cool dry place for the tops to dry. When they are dry, you can remove some of the root and all but two inches of the



tops to prevent entry of decay. I prefer to leave the tops on, tie in bunches of five or six, and hang them in the rafters of the tractor shed till needed.

## Invite the Birds to Dinner

By: Shirley Campbell, Ellis County Master Gardener



Who among us doesn't enjoy watching the birds flitting around in the garden looking for something to eat or a place to rest and hide? Although we may not be able to identify all of them, most birds will enjoy the fruits produced on these plants that do well here. To attract birds to your garden, have a diversity of plants. Using nature's own foods to attract wildlife is infinitely more gratifying than simply scattering store-bought seeds.

Today, the **American Beautyberry** (pictured right) has put on rose to purple colored berries in clusters all along the long radiating branches. Planted in mostly shade, it becomes a very large shrub. The blossoms are nondescript, but the berries are spectacular.



**Coral Honeysuckle** vine thrives in full sun. This native produces clusters of orange to scarlet fruit, up to ½ inch in diameter in late summer and fall.

In the dreary days of January, yellow grape-like clusters of blossoms appear on the **Leatherleaf Mahonia**. These blossoms turn into bluish/purple berries. Plant it in the shade and since it is prickly, keep it away from the sidewalk. This Chinese native is widely grown for its distinctive leathery, hollylike, coarse-textured foliage.

The birds like the bluish/black fruits on **Lantana**, especially the native Texas lantana. For the best bloom and then the fruit, lantanas should be planted in full sun.

The hollies, **Berries Jubilee**, **Burford** regular and dwarf, **Needlepoint** or **Willowleaf**, and **Nellie R. Stevens**, with their scarlet-red fruits all attract a broad spectrum of birds. Their fruits last far into the winter.

**Yaupon**, a large shrub or small tree,

is a widely-distributed, native evergreen holly with 1/8 inch, translucent, glasslike, red berries that are produced in great abundance on female plants only.

**Possumhaw Holly**, or deciduous holly, is also a large shrub or small tree. Before frost, the foliage drops to expose branches heavily laden with the yellow to orange to red fruits, which persist until new growth begins in the spring if not eaten by birds or other wildlife. 'Warren's Red' bears the most fruit.

**Nandina domestica**, which can grow in sun or shade has grape-like clusters of bright, red berries. Compound leaves



turn wine-red in winter. Fruit appears in prominent, striking, grape-like clusters with individual bright red berries up to ¼ inch across in autumn and winter.

**Fatsia** (pictured above) has rounded clusters of berrylike fruits that turn black when ripe. Birds clean this plant of its fruit before many people see it in its ripened state. Fatsia has small creamy white blossoms in the fall and winter that turn into the developing fruit. Looking for a dramatic plant that can take shade? This would be a great choice with its large 12-inch tropical-looking leaves.

**Chinese Photinia** berries grow in clusters. This large, dense shrub is the

one photinia that we still recommend as it is not as susceptible to leaf and root diseases. The clusters consist of scarlet to red berries in fall and winter. As an added bonus, as the clusters dry, they can be used naturally or sprayed with gold or silver and used as Christmas decorations.

Driving down the street during the winter, do you ever see a tree that looks like it has white beads all over it? That's the **Chinese Tallow tree**. White, waxy seeds, usually three per pod, give the appearance of popcorn, and become quite prominent after leaves drop in the fall. Chinese tallow is somewhat tender in our area, but mine has lasted for 30 years. The striking autumn color in reds, gold, yellow, and maroon is an added feature.

**Rusty blackhaw viburnum** (pictured below) is an excellent understory large shrub or small tree. Its dark blue fruits with a powdery-white sheen are present in moderate numbers in the fall and are more showy after the leaves fall. This native is best planted in the fall. It will give you an outstanding show of fall color with its brilliant hues of red, mauve, and orange. It can be used to soften the corner of your home, and because of its size



would make a good patio or courtyard tree.

**Eastern Red Cedar**, a native juniper, has ¼ inch bluish, berry-like fruits present on only the female plants in fall and winter.

Another native tree is the **Mexican Plum** with its reddish purple to

(Continued on page 7)



## Mulch...It's a Must!

By Susan Gilliland  
Ellis County Master Gardener



As a gardener, you hear so much about mulch and how important it is – true. Mulch is vital in Texas gardens. There are two basic kind of mulch, inorganic and organic, and that selection is typically based on what look you want in your gardens. Beyond that, the combinations are endless. And, you probably don't want the same mulch in all of your gardens types.

Inorganic mulch include plastic, rocks, rock chips, and other non-plant material.

Organic mulches include straw, compost, newspaper, sawdust, shredded bark, and similar materials.

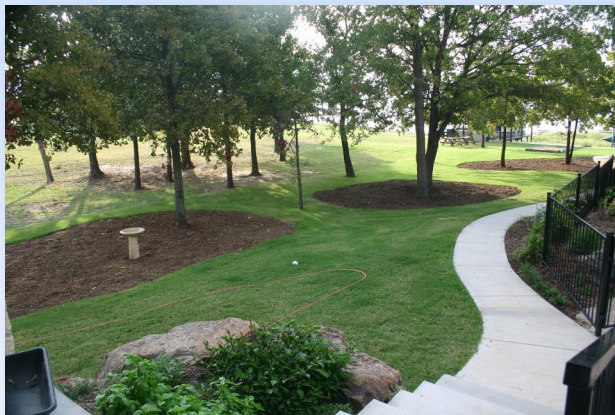
The benefits of any mulch are many:

- ★ Allows the soil to soak up more water
- ★ Slows soil evaporation
- ★ Keeps soil cooler in summer and insulates in winter
- ★ Keeps water from washing away soil particles
- ★ Prevents raindrops from splashing on soil surfaces and reduces the

spread of diseases

### ★ Helps in the control of weeds

Most preferred (at least by me) are the organic mulches because in addition to the list above, they enrich the soil as they decay and they look more natural. Soils high in organic matter are easier to till and will produce better crops and healthier flowers.



A four-inch layer of organic mulch is recommended. In my new perennial gardens, I will use a pine mulch the first year and hardwood thereafter. I prefer the weight (doesn't wash away as easily) and color of hardwood mulch, but pine will decay faster and add nutrients. My established gardens

get only hardwood mulch purchased from a well-known source.

Mulched beds have been created beneath all the trees in my yard out to the drip line. My trees no longer have to compete with grass for nutrients and water. It's also much easier to keep weeds out. Additionally, most Texas grasses don't grow well in shade so I'm not dealing with bare spots. I've heard tree experts say that more trees are damaged with string trimmers than anything else.

Vegetable gardens need mulch to survive the brutal Texas conditions. Finer particle mulch, such as straw or compost is the most common. I use straw because it keeps vegetables from rotting if they lay on the ground to ripen. Mulch in vegetable gardens should be tilled in the soil after the growing season. Remember never mulch with composted material from the crop that is to be protected since it increases the possibility of disease.

Mulch early and mulch yearly. You will lessen your workload and improve your gardens.

### Invite the Birds (Continued from page 6)

nearly black, crabapple-like fruits up to 1-1½ inches across that ripen in autumn. It signals the return of spring with its fragrant white blossoms (pictured right).

**Virginia Creeper** is probably the most important vine that produces fruits eaten by birds. This native vine will grow in full sunlight to shade, will cling to walls and trunks, and grow into the canopies of trees. (Often confused with poison ivy which has leaves of three, Virginia

creeper has leaves of five.) Dark blue fruits, ¼ inch in diameter are produced in long



clusters in early autumn along with rosy red autumn foliage.

**Grapes** are a favorite of many fruit-eating birds along with **blackberries**. Because of their sugar content, they are a preferred food source of many birds.

Birds add something to the landscape that no human can provide. "A garden that has no wildlife has no soul."

Invite the birds in for dessert and serve up their favorites. They'll thank you.



## Landscape Gardening

From: Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

Ellis County Master Gardeners have a website at [www.ecmga.com](http://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.

### Top Reasons to Garden

#### ♦ 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 40% 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, or 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 15%.

♦ **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

(Continued on page 9)



## ECMGA Amateur Photo Contest

The Ellis County Master Gardener Association announces its annual photo contest is under way beginning September 1, 2013. **Last date for submissions is March 1, 2014.**

Grab your cameras and get out in your yard, garden, and Ellis County and take your best shot! **You can submit up to five photos**, so you may want to submit photos from different seasons, as well as, your personal favorite. Vegetables and summer garden pictures are great, but don't forget to include beautiful fall and winter photos, too. Please **do not include** people in your photos.

For contest details and submission of entries, go to **Photo Contest** at [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com). There is **no cost to enter** the contest, and photographers can enter up to **five photographs per category**. Prizes will be awarded to first, second, and third place in each of two categories: "single specimen" and "in the garden". Each winner will receive a gift certificate from one of the following businesses: Roland's Nursery or The Greenery in Waxahachie or EarthTones Greenery in Midlothian.



**Save The Date!**  
**Saturday, March 29, 2014**

### *Landscape Gardening (Continued from page 8)*

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**

- ◆ 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 arm-chair gardening before the fireplace will pay off in improved plant selection. Besides, it is fun to page through the garden catalogs.
- ◆ 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 early January. Warm temperature plants, such as tomatoes, peppers, marigolds, and periwinkles, should be sown in late January or early February.

- ◆ Apply a light application of fertilizer to established pansy plantings. Use one-half pound of ammonium sulfate per 100 square feet of bed area. Repeat the application every four to six weeks, depending on rainfall. Dried blood meal is also an excellent source of fertilizer for pansies.
- ◆ Prepare beds and garden area for spring planting.
- ◆ 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 are ways of reducing the potential damage next spring.

- ◆ The life of a plant received as a Christmas gift 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.





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