

Free State Master Gardener News

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BIRTHDAYS:

Volume 4, Issue 10November, 2018

November

April Trekell, 11/02
John Clark, 11/03
Karen Gonzalez, 11/04
Martha Mitchell, 11/12
Mimi Sherwin, 11/15
Tommy Phillips, 11/17
Donna Burcham, 11/25
Carter Hallmark, 11/29
Bob Williams, 11/30
Sally Mitchell, 11/30

December

Joy Crabtree, 12/14
Louella Iliff, 12/16
Alaina Smith, 12/17

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Newsletter Staff Needs Your Help!

If you like to write, or even if you don't, but have good ideas for articles and/or subjects for the newsletter please consider joining the newsletter staff.
Contact Sandra Rosen or Paula Marshall for more information.

We welcome all of our Master Gardeners to forward articles or information for our newsletter to our Editor:
sandrarosen42@yahoo.com
News Committee:
Sandra Rosen Joan Driver
Paula Marshall Anna Baker
Susan Dahlman



*thankful for
Free State Master Gardeners*

I am thankful for new friends and wonderful helpful information. Mimi

Being a Master Gardener has opened a whole new world for me. I now know about green-houses, Superstars, vegetables, pH, soil temperatures, and so much more. It seems another door into another interesting subject is always opening. And the people that are in our group are friendly, kind-hearted, and fun. Being a Master Gardener has been a blessing in my life!

Sandra Rosen

I am first thankful for my Lord and Saviour that protects us from harm. Then for my wife, family, health and this land we call the USA. GOD BLESS THE USA! Anonymous

Thankful for meeting kindred spirits and making friends who are near and dear to our hearts. Nancy Szabo

I am so thankful for the opportunity to grow in my knowledge of horticulture, but by far, the greatest blessing comes in the friendships I have made. There is something very special about folks who love to dig in the dirt ----soil!!! Excuse me! Sally Mitchell

I am thankful to be a part of the Master Gardeners because we serve the community. It has been such a privilege to serve with others who are like-minded and to learn from them. And it's just fun! Sharon Palmer

My life has really changed in the last two years because my brother has Alzheimer's, so getting to work on the newsletter and come to meetings is a huge gift. I have enjoyed learning new gardening information and making new friends. So glad we finally started the Van Zandt Master Gardeners. Anna Baker

When I was being interviewed to become a Master Gardener, in 2016, I was asked why I wanted to be a part of the organization. My response was that I not only wanted to serve the community, but that I wanted to meet people of like mind...people that LOVE to garden. So, to everyone associated with the Free State Master Gardeners, I'd like to personally thank you for helping me reach that goal. Thank you to each one of you that gives hours of your life to lead, to teach, to serve in so many different ways. And last, but certainly not least, a special thanks, to all those that get hot, dirty and exhausted maintaining what we've built TOGETHER, in our communities,...gardens...BEAUTIFUL AND BOUNTIFUL GARDENS! Jimmie Pierce

Wills Point Depot Garden

By Nancy Szabo

The WP Depot Garden is sustaining itself beautifully. In 2015, Ms. Peggy Rogers sent out an e-mail request that a MG take on the Depot Garden as she was moving away from Wills Point. Because this garden was much closer to home, I decided to take on the task. After developing a plan and several major workdays, the invasive plants were removed, new plants added and mulch laid in the garden area.

The plan revolved around keeping the major shrubs and plants that were there (nandina, crape myrtle, Mexican petunia, turks cap, spirea, roses, day lily) and supplementing with perennials and annuals that would attract pollinators (zinnia, cosmos, salvia, dianthus, canna, marigold, coreopsis). Over the last couple of years, we lost some plants (plumbago) but most continued to flourish. Additions were made, pruning ensued and some plants were moved to new locations.

This year, we removed iris plants at the base of the rose bushes. Some will be returned and others will find a new home. Canna plants were thinned, which will be an annual chore as they love their location. The lantana in the corner garden performed its "third year reap" (First year sleep, second year leap...) and is overflowing with blossoms. We did lose a knock-out rose which will be replaced with an Earth-Kind variety. Mums have been added for continuing color. In the Fall, spider lily bulbs will be moved, additional bulbs added, plants cut back and more mulch laid to await another beautiful display in the spring. Many thanks to all who work to keep this little garden growing.



Jr. Master Gardener Raised Beds at Martins Mill Halloween Carnival



November/December Gardening Checklist

Tommy Phillips
County Extension Agent, Ag/NR

Night time temperatures in the 40's and 50's and day time temperatures in the mid to high 70's and put into the mix 8-12" of rain that we have received - our plants are ALL confused! Rest assured fall is here and winter is surely not far behind. There are some gardening chores that can be done now to ensure success in 2019.

- Don't forget to give your landscape a steady amount of water, through irrigation or by hand, if there is not adequate rain.
- As soon as the November weather appears to be settled, it is time to select and plant such annuals as pansies, violas and ornamental cabbages and kale.
- Plan now for your spring flowering season with a mixture of annuals and perennials.
- Don't get in a hurry to prune woody plants. Late December through February is usually the best time to prune them.
- Place orders for seeds this month so you will have them available when you are ready to plant. By ordering early, you will be more certain of getting the varieties you want. In addition to ordering seeds that you are already familiar with, try a few new kinds each year to broaden your garden contents.
- November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Bring in late-blooming plants such as decorative kalanchoes or Christmas cactus so they may finish flowering in the warmth of the house.
- Reduce the fertilization of indoor plants from late October to mid-March. An exception would be plants in an atrium or a well lighted window.
- Drain gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the carburetor is used up.
- Drain and store garden hoses and watering equipment in a readily accessible location. The lawn and plants may need water during a prolonged dry spell.
- Continue to set out cool-season bedding plants, such as pansies, violas, stock, snapdragons, and dianthus.
- Prepare beds and individual holes for rose planting in January and February. Use composted manure, pine bark, and similar materials mixed with existing soil.
- Use good pruning practices when selecting Christmas greenery from landscape plants. Don't destroy the natural form and beauty of the plant.
- Prolong the life of holiday-season gift plants by providing proper care. Check to see if the pot wrap has plugged up the bottom drainage. Don't overwater. Keep out of drafts from heating vents and opening doorways. Fertilizer is seldom needed the first few months.
- Take advantage of good weather to prepare garden beds for spring planting. Work in any needed organic matter, and have beds ready to plant when needed.
- Don't forget tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the refrigerator. They can be planted any time in December if they have received 60 or more days of chilling.
- Want to start cuttings of your favorite Christmas cactus? As soon as it has finished blooming, select a cutting with 4 or 5 joints, break or cut it off, and insert the basal end into a pot of moderately moist soil. Place it on a windowsill or other brightly lit area. The cuttings should be rooted within 3 to 4 weeks.
- Don't spare the pruning shears when transplanting bare-rooted woody plants. Cut the tops back at least one-third to one-half, to compensate for the roots lost when digging the plant.
- Take advantage of bad weather and holiday time to study seed and nursery catalogs as well as good gardening books.
- Berrying plants, such as holly and yaupon, may be pruned now while they can be enjoyed as cut material inside the house
- For more gardening and horticulture related information, please contact the Van Zandt County Extension office at (903) 567-4149.

Gardening Events – November, 2018

By Marsha Sasser

Tuesday, November 6: Smith Co. MG First Tuesday in the Garden Series: **"Container Gardens for Winter & Christmas"** at the Patio in the IDEA Garden (Tyler Rose Garden, 1900 W. Front) with Susan Nelson. 12 p.m. Free.

Thursday, November 8: Free State Master Gardeners, 9:00am Van Zandt Co. Library, **Garden Photography with Your Cell Phone** - Rebecca Morrow, MG.

Tuesday-Saturday, November 10: Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park presents "Drought-Tolerant Plants". 10-11 a.m. \$15 for non members. 214-336-671

Tuesday, November 13: Dallas Co. MG presents **"Perennials – Year-Round Color"** at Sunnyvale Town Hall (Board Room), 127 Collins Rd., Sunnyvale. 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Have an interesting landscape all year round by using perennials. Free. 214-454-8716. Also At the Chris W. Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria St., Mansfield. 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Free. 817-343-1845.

Thursday, November 15: Van Zandt Free State MG Library Series on **"Superstars"** at the Van Zandt County Library, 317 First Monday Ln., Canton. 10:30 a.m. Free.

November 20: Dallas Co. MG **"Bringing Texas Prairie Back."** Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northhaven Rd., Dallas. 7 – 8 p.m. 214-868-9240. And at the George W. Bush Presidential Library Texas Native Park, 2943 SMU Blvd., 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

Now through November 21: Dallas Arboretum presents "Autumn at the Arboretum". Every Wednesday is buy one admission, get one free.

Friday, Dec. 14: Awards Dinner at Van Zandt Country Club 6:30pm RSVPs required by Dec. 14th

Agriculture Day

By Nancy Szabo

AG Day – it's an annual event sponsored by the Farm Bureau where Van Zandt County 4th graders are exposed to different aspects of the world of agriculture. The morning begins with learning the differences between dairy and beef cows and a milking demonstration. Children learn what crops are important to this area and how the end product is part of their own lives. A mobile trailer with running water through manufactured sand showed watersheds and how erosion can be destructive. Other demonstrations included beekeeping and making healthy eating choices.

Free State Master Gardeners Bob Williams, Nancy Szabo, Louella Iliff and Carter Hallmark participated in the fun talking about Plant Parts that we eat. Children were asked to identify the six edible parts of plants and did a great job with just a little coaching (root, stem, leaf, seed, fruit and flower). Each child was given a card with a picture of a plant/fruit/vegetable and asked to match the picture to the plant part. Some were

easier than others and we had great fun introducing new plants and fun facts. The children really enjoyed themselves. This is a wonderful opportunity to interact with youngsters – even the adults learned something new. Did you know that Irish potatoes are really part of the stem but yams are roots?

Louella Iliff teaching



Specialist Training Offerings in 2018

Composter –December 5 – 7, 2018 hosted by Fort Bend County in Rosenberg, TX.

Further Information and Registration is available for all these classes on the Texas Master Gardener Website - www.Txmg.org, then Specialist Training

Carter Hallmark teaching





President's Message

Greetings All -

Well I believe this will be the last of my messages as President and I want to thank you all for the support you have shown to me and the current board of officers. It has been a pleasure and fun to serve this organization for the past two years. Certainly it's time for a change. My hat is off to those on the current board who have agreed to serve another year on the board; I think the membership will be well represented. I'm proud of our accomplishments both last year's and this year's, especially the Library Series, updating the By-Laws and seeing more members attend "advanced" training. I hope you all have a great Holiday season and see ya next year!

Robert Williams, President
713-628-6936



The Children's Garden

By Jan Graham

Children four to fourteen years old and with a parent will visit Miss Jan's garden that slopes downward to the lower section. Area artist Bob Coffee drew up plans for the chapel with open walls, a tin roof and steeple atop with a bell for children to ring. No child should miss ringing the bell by pulling the long chain coming from the steeple once your group is inside.

Crushed granite areas have curved benches. Walkways are granite. Take those pathways to seating areas or to the chapel with just two benches. Azaleas go from the upper garden gate around a sun porch and deck. Last a raised bed touches the wall of the house. Little succulents have their own unique spots.

Vitex trees show off for months. A 10 foot tall hay bale will be buried only two feet deep with climbing vines that also bloom. You will walk through and hope to come again. Wear your shoes and bring nothing to eat. Never feed the ants. Last enjoy the surprises that you find and consider making your own special spot at home to meditate.



Santa's Workshop

November 6th 6:00pm
Silver Spur Resort 13785 Hwy. 19
Canton, TX
Tickets \$5.00
Call the Extension Office 903-567-4149
Melisa Rhodes,
VZ Family & Community Health Agent
melisa.rhodes@ag.tamu.edu

REMINDER

**Please turn in your time
on the Master Gardener
website:
texas.volunteersystem.org**

**Work Day
at Butterfly Garden
Canton Jr. High
Friday November 9
9:00 am**

Philosophy of Gardening

By Joan Driver



Gardeners are motivated by a variety of factors, often a combination of cultural, vocational, and esthetic. Some, having grown up in a rural culture, are interested in producing fruits and vegetables for their own consumption or for profit. Others, more interested in the visual effects of landscape beds or flower gardens, admire the effects of varieties of heights, colors, forms, and textures in combination and seek to produce their own masterpieces. All gardeners take pleasure in the healthy growth of their plantings.

My own interests are somewhat like a child in a candy store, feverishly tempted from one display to another of every sugary combination of colors and flavors. Any successful presentation, whether

an orchard in bloom, a well-kept vegetable garden, or the visual overload of seasonal display in the Dallas Arboretum, makes me long to duplicate that beauty on my own scale. Sometimes I'm like the character Ado Annie in the musical "Oklahoma," when asked which of her



beaux she preferred, answered, "Whichever one I'm with." I've also fallen prey to the pied pipers of vermiculture and pollinator gardening.

I tend to regard those who produce unblemished fruits and vegetables as the elite, beyond my level of accomplishment. Somehow I feel safer with floral and landscape plants, especially day lilies. When I learned that the plebian orange day lilies of my childhood had somehow morphed into thousands of combinations of colors and designs both fanciful and exotic, I fell forever in love. My own take on Will Rogers' famous comment is that "I never met a day lily I didn't like." The assorted blooming styles of the daffodil family (and practically anything that produces early spring bloom at a time the world is starved for green and growth) also lift my spirits. My favorite mixed plantings are the cottage garden variety, and drifts of mixed grasses and multi-colored flowers, arranged tall to petite and falling over the edges of a rustic border take my breath away.

Of all the things I have learned about working with soil, three stand out more than any other. The first is that digging in soil and getting my hands dirty makes me feel good. The second is that watching plants that I have placed in the ground grow and bear flowers that attract butterflies and hummingbirds makes me feel close to whatever divine powers turn the wheels of the universe. The third is that whenever anyone looks at me with wide eyes and says, "Wow! You're a Master Gardener, you must know a lot," I usually laugh out loud. While I undoubtedly know more than I used to, I have observed enough true experts in two units of Master Gardeners to be aware of how much more there is to learn. I am blessed to glean bits of knowledge from those true Master Gardeners of my acquaintance and appreciate opportunities to serve by their sides.



April Trekell and Pat Taylor doing wardrobe.

SCARECROWS!!!!

By Paula Marshall

Connie Tramel, Nancy Szabo, Sharon Palmer, April Trekell, Pat Taylor, Jimmie Pierce, Bob Williams and three guests met at my house on Tuesday morning, October 9th to make Scarecrows for the Canton Main Street Program/EDC Contest held at the Canton Fall Festival the following Saturday.

Although the festival was a complete rainout, our scarecrows took 2nd place and earned \$75 and an Applebee's gift card for being such good sports!

Thanks to all of the master gardeners who helped with this fun project, and be sure to go by our gardens and look at our new residents who are watching over them.



Giving support Connie Tramel and Nancy Szabo.

Landscape Design Program

By Paula Marshall

John Womack, MG, Landscaping Design, NGC*, gave an informative presentation on Landscape Design at the VZ County Library, Thursday morning, September 20th.

38 people attended the program and learned that much thought, planning and research should be done before a landscape project begins.

John has many years of hands-on experience in landscape design and is currently helping his son with the landscape at his new home in the Houston area. "One of the most important things to remember is to work with nature, not against it," he said. He suggested using natural elements already on the property in the design, i.e. trees, rock outcroppings, ponds and other interesting natural features, and to use berms and swells to block noise and/or direct water flow.

One of the first steps, John emphasized, is that a person determine the purpose of the landscaping, while keeping the future in mind. Does the homeowner want the landscape to provide privacy, do they want it to include a kid's play area today, but adapt it to a more adult



space that will provide serenity and relaxation later on? Other important considerations are to determine the size of the area and draw the plan on graph paper; study drainage, sun exposure throughout the day, maintenance requirements, year-round views from inside the home and from the street, types of plants to use keeping in mind their nutrient and water needs and size at maturity. Thoughts on safety measures are important too, such as smooth walking surfaces and plantings that don't block a driver's view when pulling onto the street. Making walkways and paths a minimum of 4 feet wide will

allow plenty of room for two people to walk side by side, and using edging along beds and paths provides definition. "The house should be the focal point" he said - complemented by the landscaping, not overwhelmed by it.

John showed great slides with pictures showing what to do, as well as what not to do, giving all of us who attended some things to think about when planning our own landscapes and gardens at home.

What does NGC in John's title mean? National Garden Club.

So You Want to Build a Greenhouse??

By Sandra Rosen

Well, some of us do, and so Master Gardeners Don and Pat Taylor, Sandra Rosen, and John Womack attended the Advanced Training – Greenhouse Management Workshop in Fort Worth last week. The amount of information we received was incredible, and yes, we could build a hoop or hobby greenhouse now. We received many hours of great instruction, and we toured commercial greenhouses and small hobby or hoop greenhouses. Listening to talks by the staff at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens was fun and informative and the greenhouses there were amazing. There were two greenhouses just for begonias. The last morning, in just a couple of hours, we built a hoop greenhouse. Being a Master Gardener opens some wonderful doors, some amazing opportunities to learn and this one was just great.



ELECTION TIME for FSMG

Please plan to attend the Thursday, November 8th meeting for the Election of Officers.

Invite anyone you know to become a new Free State Master Gardener! Deadline for applying has been extended to Nov. 15th. Call the Extension Office at 903-567-4149 for information.

*Free State Master Gardeners
2018 Awards Dinner
Friday evening, December 14th
Van Zandt Country Club
6:30 pm*

Please RSVP to: Louella Iliff by December 10th
lmiliff@gmail.com or 903-235-3253

Spouses and/or guests are invited to attend but will be asked to pay for their meal.

**Earth-Kind Roses Library Series
Beauty That's Hard to Beat**

By Anna Baker

John Clark gave a very informed report on Earth-Kind Roses including the names of the current roses in this group. He has planted and grown most of these at his home and had samples of several of them.

The three main requirements of these rose are:

Full Sun - 8 hours of direct sun pH 6.5

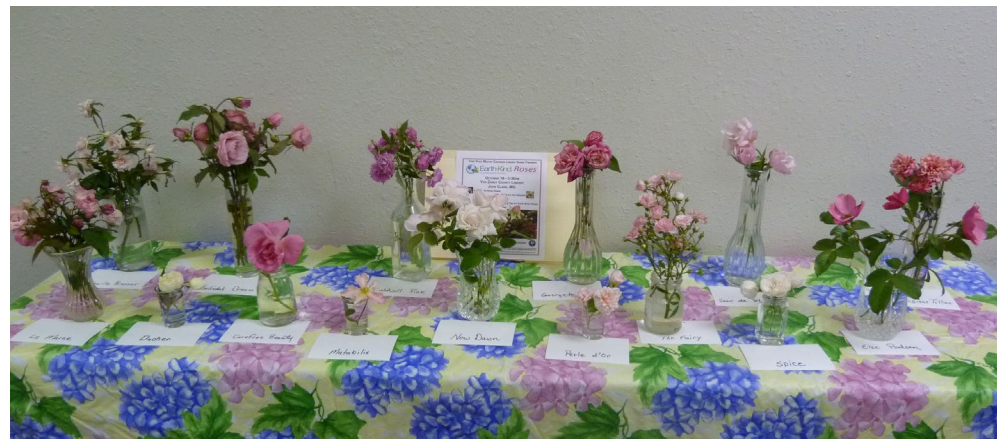
Air Circulation - complete air flow around the plant

Drainage - almost perfect, 4 inches of mulch

Roses in this group: Marie Daly, Souvenir de St. Anne's, The Fairy, Caldwell Pink, Cecile Brunner, Perle d' Or, Belinda's Dream, Carefree Beauty, Ducher, Duchesse de Brabant, Else Paulsen, Georgetown Tea, Knock Out, La Marne, Madame Antoine Mari, Monsieur Tellier, Mrs. Dudley Cross, Mutabilis, Spice, Climbing Pinkie, Sea Foam, New Dawn, Reve d'Or.

References and places to purchase Earth-Kind Roses:

Chamblee's Nursery, Antique Rose Emporium, Dallas Rose Society, Collin County Rose Society, Aggie Horticulture

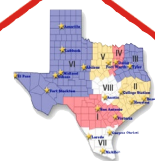


FREE STATE MASTER GARDENER LIBRARY SERIES PRESENTS



NOVEMBER 15—10:30 AM
VAN ZANDT COUNTY LIBRARY
LOUELLA ILIFF, FSMG

TEXAS SUPER
STARS
IN YOUR GARDEN



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Free Public Seminar, Everyone Invited!



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If you need auxiliary aids to attend this or any Extension Program please contact the Extension office at 903-567-4149 one week prior to event.