

HOE!
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October 2013

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE X

IN THIS ISSUE

Officers for 2013

President: Jamie Bruns
Vice President: Kathy Laughlin
Secretary: Pat Randall
Treasurer: Cathey Hardeman

Committee Chairs

Administration: Nicky Maddams
Timekeeping: Martha Brogdon
Awards/Social: Scotty Bennett/Phyllis Pollard
Children's Activities: Phyllis Pollard/Marti Luedtke
Communications: Nicky Maddams
Class: Nicky Maddams/Jamie Bruns
Co-op: Fred Vesperman
Anderson Beautification: Janeth Nevill
Publicity: Peggy Sloan
Fundraisers: Phyllis Pollard/Dianna Westmoreland
Go Texan Landscaping: Mike Brame
County Fair Judging: Marti Luedtke
Historian: Sharon Murry

Texas AgriLife Extension

Extension Agent: Kimberly Hall
MG Coordinator: Jayla Fry
Secretary: Sandra Cook

Newsletter

Editor: Nicky Maddams
Article submissions, photos and information due by the 20th of each month. Send to: biplanechik@yahoo.ca

Website: txmg.org/grimes

Email: grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

October 8 6:00pm Fall Social hosted by Dianna Westmoreland

October 25 6:00pm-8:00pm Trunk or Treat event in Anderson

November 12 9:00am Monthly Meeting with Election of New Officers; Speaker: Joe Floyd "Snakes in the Garden & Other Things that Bite & Sting"

December 6 Christmas Party and Installation of New Officers



- October Planting Guide
- Demonstration Gardens
- Fall Seminar Recap
- Field Trip Story and Photos
- Featured Item from our Co-op



Get to Know Your Fellow Master Gardeners!

Chat with newly certified Cheryl Dowdy

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

October Vegetable Planting Guide

Beets	Now-10/20
Broccoli *	Now-11/15
Brussels Sprouts*	Now-11/05
Cabbage*	Now-12/31
Chinese Cabbage	Now-10/15
Carrots	Now-12/31
Cauliflower*	Now-10/31
Kohlrabi	Now-11/30
Lettuce, leaf	Now-11/30
Mustard	Now-11/15
Spinach	Now-10/25
Turnip	Now-11/20
Radish	Now-11/30

*Use plants, not seeds; be sure to provide shade and adequate water.



OCTOBER brings us the following birthdays:

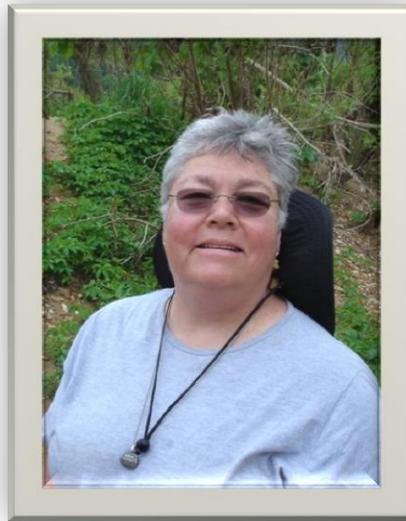
Phyllis Pollard – October 1
 Michael Brame – October 19
 Jamie Bruns – October 19



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Congratulations!

Cheryl Dowdy and Alice Bonds-Kocian are now full-fledged Master Gardeners, having met all the requirements to become certified.



CHERYL DOWDY

Where were you born and how long have you lived in Texas?

I was born in Denison, Texas. My father was with Shell Oil Co., so I grew up in many states. I have been back in Texas for 38 years.

Where is the farthest you have traveled from Texas?

I have traveled from the East coast to the West coast, and as far North as Northern North Dakota.

Where would you go on your dream vacation?

I would go to Ireland. No doubt about it.

What is your favorite flower and tree? Do you grow them?

My favorite flowers are Lilacs. I have two favorite trees, Sycamore and Mimosa. I don't grow any of them, but I would have many Lilacs if they grew well in this area.

Where is the prettiest garden you have ever been to and what made it so?

I haven't been to many gardens. I would say Peckerwood Gardens because I loved all the trees.

What restaurant do you go to more than any other?

I go to most restaurants pretty equally. I love J. Christopher's in Kingwood. Their pizza is to die for.

What is your favorite season?

Fall is my favorite season. I like cooler weather and the feel of the harvest.

Why are you a Master Gardener or Intern?

I took the Master Gardener class so there would be enough people for it to make. I enjoyed it so much and learned tons. I am very excited that I now have enough hours to be considered a Master Gardener.



This Strawberry Blonde Sunflower was Cheryl's assigned plant during class!

What is the closest you have been to a natural disaster?

The closest I have been to a natural disaster was Hurricane Alicia and Hurricane Ike.

When in your life have you needed an alibi?

I am happy to say I have never needed an alibi.

When was the last "back to nature" experience you have had?

Living in the country, I have many nature experiences, but one of the last distant ones was my husband and I floating the Buffalo River in our kayaks.

Where would you like to go that is "off the beaten bath"?

I would really like to visit Big Bend National Park again, even though I have been several times.

What vegetable do you hate?

I have never met a vegetable that I didn't like.

What do you love the smell of?

I love the smell of lilacs, gardenias, honeysuckle, and roasting turkey,

What is your favorite ice cream?

My favorite ice cream is Blue Bell's Homemade in the Shade.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

I do not like cleaning the bathrooms.

What electronic gadget could you not live without?

According to my husband, I could not live without my iPhone.

Are you a social butterfly or do you prefer solitary endeavors?

I am more of a social butterfly, but on occasion I enjoy a solitary endeavor.

Name one wonderful childhood memory involving gardening.

I do not have any childhood gardening memories. My mother was deathly afraid of worms. I do have fond memories of making mud pies with my cousins, when we visited my grandparents. I did have my hands in wet soil. I think that qualifies. Don't you?

What would you say is your garden style? (Country, cottage, formal, sculptural, etc.)

Easy country. I really like what grows naturally.

attention, and in this handbook William Adams has provided a complete, step-by-step guide to success in the tomato patch.

Drawing on more than thirty years of experience, Adams takes readers through the basics of soil preparation, planting, feeding, caging, and watering. He lists the pros and cons of standard, hybrid, heirloom, and cherry varieties, sharing tips about old favorites and suggesting new varieties. After the tomatoes are chosen, planted, and thriving under his tutelage, Adams prepares growers for the insects, diseases, and other visitors they are likely to encounter, warning that "gardeners are not the only ones that love tomatoes." Once readers are armed to meet these challenges, Adams ends by offering a few words about "tomato kin folk" (peppers, eggplants, tomatillos, and potatoes) and a source list of selected suppliers. With patience, humor, and his own excellent photographs, Adams brings to this manuscript all he has learned about tomatoes in Texas to help ensure that the rest of us have a bumper crop.

(Review courtesy Amazon.com)

If you don't already have this book, consider adding it to your garden library. It is a valuable resource and available through our Co-op.

Demonstration Gardens

Have you heard about our exciting venture into local Grimes County communities? Consider getting involved in these rewarding endeavors.



Demonstration Garden Vision

- **Educational** - The Primary role of Master Gardeners is Gardening Education. All of our Demonstration Gardens should teach by example of Best Practices, by providing a location that serves as a teaching forum, by working together with Partners, by simply showing the Possibilities, or by doing trials that distinguish best varieties or Best Practices for our area.
- **Remarkable** - Gardening should be fun and exciting. Our

Demonstration Gardens should help build enthusiasm by having a Wow! Factor about them. They should demonstrate things that people can't wait to get home and implement in their own environment.

- **Sustainable** - Weeding in the Hot Sun is hard work and causes people to lose interest in Gardening. Demonstration Gardens should employ Best Practices which minimize this aspect of Gardening. We also need to remember that our primary role is to educate, not to become a free landscape labor team. We should work with Partners willing to do maintenance.

Demo Garden Strategy

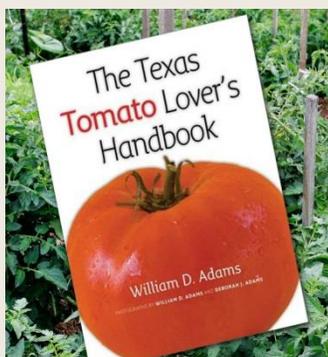
- **Partnerships** - Grimes County Master Gardeners is a small organization with only 10% the number members of several nearby Counties, but our land area is larger than some of them. To leverage our resources and as a means of educating, we should partner with other organizations.
- **Best Practices** - Gardening Education (our primary goal) is simply sharing Best Practices with other Gardeners (and want-to-be Gardeners) in the County. This makes the identity of Best Practices a vital up-front task, not an afterthought.
- **Various Venues** - We want to stimulate thinking by showing a variety of types of Gardens.
- **Various Locations** - We want to have Partners and Demonstration Gardens throughout the County not just in one area, so that every area of the County feels local pride and involvement.

Demonstration Garden Fulfillment

We measure the success of our Demonstration Gardens by:

- Seeing our Vision Materialize
- Enthusiasm about the Gardens
- Enjoyment of those involved
- Pride in what we do
- Recognition for Master Gardeners and Extension
- Personal Growth of our Members and Partners
- Attracting not Demanding Participation
- Being a place where we express our Gardening Passion

IN OUR CO-OP



Perhaps no vegetable makes the mouth water in anticipation more than the perfect tomato--slices sprinkled with salt and pepper or lapped over a burger; sweet cherry tomatoes in a salad; fresh tomato sauce over pasta; tomato soup; tomato salsa. Tired of half-green, hard-but-mushy, store-bought tomatoes, an increasing number of people would like to grow their own. But as anyone who has ever stuck a seedling into the ground anticipating a bush full of luscious homegrown tomatoes in a couple of months knows, it isn't that easy. Tomatoes require a gardener's knowledge and



FALL SEMINAR

Rainwater Harvesting and Landscaping with Natives

Our fall seminar was held at Martha's Bloomers on September 14, 2013. We had a reasonable turnout and it was a great event.

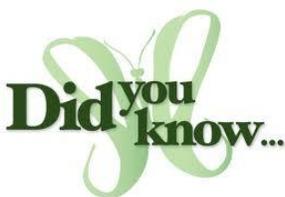
Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival

Members Preview, Oct. 4
Public Sale, Oct. 5 and 6

With good rainfall and milder temperatures, fall is prime planting season and we have nearly 300 native plant species ready for you. They include hard-to-find natives such as escarpment black cherry trees and many Penstemon species, as well as Sandhill plum trees, rock rose, and many fall-blooming mistflower species.

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, enjoy story time for kids in the Little House at 10 a.m., making eco-pots for the garden, and guided garden walks at 11 a.m., 1 and 2 p.m. The Store provides five author signings Receive 20 percent off of all Wildflower Center plants Sunday (discount from vendors at their discretion).

Friday's Members Preview from 1 to 7 p.m. is for members and those who join or renew Center membership. Before Members Preview opens, all visitors can hear owner Scott Roberts talk about his book "The Salt Lick Cookbook" at 11 a.m. in the auditorium and get his book signed from noon to 2 p.m. in The Store, which also has a 1 p.m. demonstration for the Center's native lawn seed mix. The Café offers lunch specials from the cookbook all weekend. Be sure to bring your wagon if you can, and a cup for drinking water provided on site.



The Texas Master Gardeners Association newsletter contains information regarding specialist trainings, plant sales, conference and so much more? Sign up [here](#).



Cheryl Dowdy registering attendees



Master Gardeners Alvie Vesperman and Sharon Murry with presenter Johnny Visor of Nature by Design



Presenter and Master Gardener Ann DeWitt with Master Gardener Janeth Nevill



Alvie Vesperman introducing the speakers



Presenter Johnny Visor



Master Gardener Fred Vesperman illustrates the rain barrels, which were door prizes



Johnny Visor answering questions from an attendee

Thank you to Historian Sharon Murry for the photos of the event.

In many communities throughout Texas, 30 to 50 percent (or more) of the total water is used for landscape irrigation. With droughts putting a strain on public water supplies in 2011 and 2012, rainwater harvesting offers an alternative water source that benefits everyone.

Landscape irrigation is the most common use of rainwater harvested in Texas. It is one of the easiest ways to use stored rainwater because it can be used without pumps and without intense treatment.

Rainwater is good for plants because it is free of salts and other minerals that harm root growth. As rainwater percolates into the soil, it forces salts down and away from root zones, allowing roots to grow better and making plants more drought tolerant.

For more information, click [here](#).

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP PECKERWOOD GARDENS

Peckerwood Garden, the creation of John Fairey, located in Hempstead, Texas, is an outstanding repository of rare and unusual plants from the United States, Mexico, and Asia; and exhibits a unique collection of folk art from Mexico. Balancing artistic expression and scientific discovery, it fosters educational and scientific programs, and encourages greater knowledge and appreciation of horticulture.

The Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation (PGCF) was established to preserve existing collections; support continued plant exploration and trials; and develop, maintain and preserve the land and facilities of Peckerwood Garden. Peckerwood is a preservation project of the Garden Conservancy and is poised to operate as a public garden.

History of Peckerwood Garden by owner John Fairey

Thirty years ago I came to Texas to teach first-year design in the school of Architecture at Texas A&M University and in 1971 purchased the land that forms the nucleus of my garden. The site with its clear, spring-fed brook reminded me of "magical places" in South Carolina where I grew up and what began innocently, as a pursuit of a sense of place, fast evolved into a passion. This enthusiasm continues unchecked, and the garden is still evolving on a site that has grown to almost 40 acres and abounds with new projects and purpose.

There are many ways to describe Peckerwood Garden: it is a collection of more than 3,000 plants including many rarities; it is a conservation garden containing examples of numerous threatened species, many of which are no longer found in the wild; it is a laboratory garden testing a wide range of "new" plants and our Mexican discoveries. It is a garden with a mission to encourage other gardeners to see a beauty in landscape that is consistent with our plants and climate; it is a pioneering garden exploring new plants and cultivation methods and aesthetic concepts for other gardeners. It is a garden that looks to the future, not to the past. Yet, most essential, it is my studio, a place where artistic and horticultural research are fused to create an environment that stimulates all of the senses, including the most elusive of all, our sense of time.

My background and education as a painter have trained me to see the garden as an ever-changing interaction of texture, color, rhythm, and space; it is a series of rooms constructed with a wide variety of plant material in which trees, shrubs, light, shade, paths, steps, and water create and balance the composition...spaces created are arranged so that when walking, one catches glimpses of other spaces; there is not a beginning or ending but a progressive journey of discovery.



A tornado destroyed the high canopy of giant, old trees in 1983. In hindsight, the devastation provided the opportunity to explore new directions in the garden that better reflected my ideas about space and to investigate and experiment with new plant material. At this time I was joined in this enterprise by Carl Schoenfeld, and we started researching native plants and their Mexican and Asian counterparts in the garden. The constant pursuit of new plants for the garden design has kept us aware of the need to evolve the garden continuously. With each addition and change, new problems arise to be solved, resulting in the evolution of the garden both visually and conceptually.

Renowned plantsman and native plant explorer, Lynn Lowrey (whose death was a keenly felt loss) introduced me to my first Texas native plant and for 25 years lent me his support and knowledge. It was Lynn who in 1988 invited us to join him on a botanizing trip in the mountains of northern Mexico.

Now veterans of about 100 expeditions to diverse remote regions of Mexico, we are striving to document and conserve a rapidly vanishing uncatalogued matrix of beautiful and uniquely diversified Mexican plants.

Our goal is to provide a cultural bridge between Mexico and the United States and, we hope, raise awareness on both sides of the border about the richness of this horticultural trove and the threat of its irrevocable loss due to overgrazing and other growing economic pressures. We feel strongly about conservation

work. In order for these extraordinary plants to be fully appreciated, they must be brought to the attention of the public.



The best way to achieve this is to share plant material and information with other public institutions. Germplasm collected from these Mexican expeditions as well as the results of plant testing in the garden were shared with arboreta and interested plant societies. In the early 1990's, Doctor J.C. Raulston, Director, North Carolina State Arboretum (now J.C. Raulston Arboretum) distributed in one year alone over 9,000 plants grown from seed that we shared with him. The best of these plants are beginning to make their way into the nursery trade and individual gardens. The urgency value of the Mexican plant exploration has been a major factor in motivating me to donate my garden to the people of Texas. It is the beginning of a new level of sharing, both the garden and its new plants, with an ever wider constituency. Energy can now be directed to plant research in collaboration with an expanded group of participating institutions. In this way, I hope the garden and the program to seek out and test new plants will continue into the next century. In this world of overemphasized technology in which values are often based on the superficial, gardens are a must for the public. They reacquaint us with the natural world, with our individual and shared past; they bring healing, literally and figuratively, to many of our ills.



For photos of the field trip, see next page!

Peckerwood Gardens



Our Master Gardeners on tour



Pat Randall(recovering from knee surgery – what a trooper) with Cheryl Dowdy

