



The Grapevine

The newsletter of the Lubbock County Master Gardeners Association
May 2018

Master Gardeners at the Arts Festival



Frank Schalles, Judith Hardin, and Marcia Abbott at our Master Gardener booth.

Photo by Rick Vanderpool

Lubbock Master Gardeners had a very successful booth at the Lubbock Arts Festival on April 14th and 15th. Master Gardener volunteers were kept busy answering questions from the public and distributing information. **Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with this project: Bonnie MacLean, Frank Schalles, Paige Kohout, Angie Gregg, Marcia Abbott, Judith Hardin, Audrey Hogan, Mary Caffey, Maxine Asmah, and Judy McEachern.**



May Calendar

Tuesday, 5-1

May General Meeting

6:30 pm

Covenant Presbyterian Church

Topic: Roses

Presenter: Master Gardener Nell Raines

This Program Counts as 1 CEU.

Saturday, 5-12

Second Saturday at the Arboretum

10:00 am

Keeping Your Trees Alive During Drought

Presenter: Jonathon Motsinger

Texas A&M Forest Service

This program counts as 1 CEU.

Saturday, 5-19

Master's Touch Program

10:00-11:00 at the Arboretum

Topic: Composting: Recipe for Success

Presenter: Master Gardener Arla Loter

Fee: \$10 payable at the door

This program counts as 1 CEU.

***The ground's generosity takes in
our compost and grows beauty! Try
to be more like the ground.***



RUMI

Roscoe Wilson's Magic Garden

article and photo by Dennis Howard



The parents and children at Roscoe Wilson Elementary have been busy in their "Magic Garden." The kindergartners have planted potatoes. Earlier in the school year, the students planted a small stand of oats, barley and wheat so that they could see and learn about the different kinds of grains and grasses. Trellises have been installed and the students will be planting gourds of several varieties to produce loofa's, pumpkins and other ornamental gourds, cucumbers, and cantaloupe. We took a number of plants from our greenhouse and presented them to the group to get them a start on the vegetable area of their garden.

The Parents and Teachers at Roscoe Wilson are doing a great job with their garden. It is an integral part of many of the teachers' curriculum, not just for biology but also in many other areas. When we assisted the first grade in planting potatoes, they all had their rulers and were learning about measurements as they worked in the soil.

If You Build It, They Will Come

Article and photo by Jean Anne Stratton

At least this time they did, PURPLE MARTINS that is. Here's my story...



About 15 years ago I bought a purple martin house from Roberta Davis at The Garden Patch. However, last year was my first time to be a purple martin landlord. I don't know if this lapse in time was due to poor placement of the martin house or lack of interest on the martins' part. At any rate I was ecstatic. That was my motivation to do better in the future.

A few weeks ago, I purchased a new martin house that resembles a barn from Tractor Supply. After much consideration of the information gained from the Internet, a location was selected. Martins like to live in the open away from trees and structures. More study suggested early spring for installation. My son and grandson installed it on Wednesday, and behold on Saturday, April 7, in moved the new residents: purple martins, grand and glorious.

The martins are welcome and encouraged to dine on any and all mosquitoes they want this summer but I'm anxious to learn if I will be giving up my dragonflies and butterflies as well.

Thanks to **Maxine Asmah** for this photo of **Lilla Jones** teaching a Master's Touch class on pollinator gardens at the Garden and Arts Center in April. Lilla has taught this class several times, including a session at the Science Spectrum as part of a special butterfly exhibition that featured an indoor garden and live butterflies.



Meet the Founder of Master Gardeners

photo and information by Kimberly Copeland



The Master Gardener Program was initiated in 1972 in Seattle, Washington in response to the intense public demand for information about plant problems. Dr. David Gibby and Bill Scheer, area Extension Agents in King and Pierce Counties, met to explore avenues to most effectively address the needs of the backyard gardener.

Among approaches considered was the concept of recruiting and training volunteers to serve the urban audience. This appeared to be the most feasible option as it would free Gibby and Scheer from constantly reacting to public demand and allow them to be proactive in fulfilling educational needs.

An appropriate and distinguished title would also be necessary. As both Gibby and Scheer had worked in Germany acquiring language proficiency and understanding of culture, they knew that Germans bestow titles for hard-earned proficiency levels in various crafts. The top proficiency level in horticulture is denoted by "Gartenmeister," which they anglicized as "Master Gardener." This title would be appropriate for volunteers who had received extensive training.

The Master Gardener program was so successful in the state of Washington that it was adopted by many other states within a few years. Today, the program is active in all 50 States, Korea, and three Canadian provinces. The horticulture "Master" volunteer concept is so effective that it has been adopted by various other disciplines of Extension such as food preservation, well drillers, and watershed stewards.

Editor's note: The picture of Kimberly and Dr. Gibby was taken on April 5th at the Texas Master Gardeners Conference where Dr. Gibby was the keynote speaker. The information about Dr. Gibby came from an Extension website.



From Our April Gardens



It's Iris season, and here is a beauty from Janis Campbell's garden.



Another lovely group of Iris grown by Anjali Rohra,



Columbines in John Wallis' garden.



John Wallis' Indian Hawthorne. These beautiful shrubs are blooming all over town right now.

The Grapevine is published monthly except December. Send articles and photos to Editor Cecilia George, cfgeorge64@gmail.com Articles should be in Word with photos attached.