



**SOMERVELL  
COUNTY  
MASTER  
GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**SCMGA  
Officers 2008-2010**

President:  
Donna Hagar

Vice President:  
Sandi Stringer

Secretary:  
Merilyn Cranford

Treasurer:  
Barbara Lancaster

Historian:  
Yvonna Brown

**Special Committees**  
EK Rose Gardens:  
Bob Lancaster

Education Chairman  
Greg Marsh

Webmaster:  
Dove Johnson

Newsletter Editor:  
Donna Hagar

# SCMGA NEWS



Volume 2, Issue 6

June 2009

## *Turfgrass Management with Dr. James McAfee*

**Community Horticultural Education Program  
Presented by the Somervell County Master Gardener Association  
June 8, 2009 - 6:30 p.m.  
Somervell County Citizens Center  
Free and Open to the Public**

Dr. James McAfee, Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist for Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will present a program on Turfgrass Management. His area of expertise is developing turfgrass management programs that require fewer inputs of fertilizer, pesticides,

water, and evaluating new turfgrass varieties for use in home lawns, golf courses and sports fields.

Come and learn how to establish and maintain a lush, healthy lawn without using excessive amounts of chemical additives and water.



For additional information visit our website at [somervellmastergardeners.org](http://somervellmastergardeners.org)

## *Everything's Coming Up Roses*

---Earth-Kind® that is! Garey Wylie walked us through the development of the Earth-Kind® Rose Trial Program which started in the early 1990's and explained how Dr. Griffith Buck, a



master rose hybridizer, played an integral part in the Texas program. Garey's power point presentation contained pictures of all the 19 designated Earth-Kind® Roses as well as growing tips which included planting, bed prep and maintenance. The practices used for Earth-Kind® Rose Trial Gardens are things that we



can use in our overall landscaping with the intent of being more responsible stewards of our environment. Think Earth-Kind when you are gardening or creating new landscaping!  
*Submitted by Sandi Stringer*

## SCMGA Members Tour Rhineland Farms



Don Rebstock, foreground, explains how blackberries grow and are trellised for easier picking. Marilyn Cranford, Yvonna Brown, Wade Moore, Donna Hagar, Becky Altonelli and Julie Conner listen intently! Photo by Shirley Smith

Rhineland Farms is a small, family-owned and -operated concern located just outside of Glen Rose, Texas. Samantha and Don Rebstock, have approximately 25 acres in which they raise a variety of edible goodies. The Somervell County Master Gardeners visited this lovely enterprise Friday, May 30. We were met by Samantha and two of their five children. Also greeting us were 4 dogs, two cats, numer-

ous goats, chickens, ducks and a very stone-faced pony. Samantha and Don grow several varieties of blackberries and will sell to the public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday after the berries ripen. Don showed us the ins and outs of blackberry growing, the different types of blackberries, his drip irrigation method, and also shared some of the down-side to growing this type of fruit. After leaving the berry patch, we toured the lavender garden.



Mmmmmm. Nice smell. Samantha and Don also have a large planting of tomatoes. After our tour, we were treated to fresh lavender and mint flavored lemonade and home-made feta goat cheese. If anyone would be interested in visiting Rhineland Farms you can contact the Rebstock's at 254-396-5866. Submitted by Shirley Smith



Instructor Patty Hofer, center, gives instructions to Yvonna Brown and Julie Conner.



Sandi Stringer, Donna Hagar and Julie Conner gather ingredients and tools to make their special hypertufa recipes.

Dianne Allen, Hands-on Workshop Chair, conducted a hypertufa work shop for her committee. The purpose was to teach committee members how to make hypertufa projects. Additionally, it was an opportunity to try different formulas and experiment with the vari-

ous methods for design and techniques. Dianne, a very creative and innovative person stated "If we are going to do workshops, we are going to be well prepared and have all the bugs worked out". The workshop will provide attendees the opportunity to learn the proper technique for making hypertufa plant-

ers from expert instructors and take home a quality product that can be proudly displayed in your garden. Several additional training workshops are planned for committee members prior to the 2011 conference.

## 2011 Conference Update Somervell County Master Gardeners & Partners Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Conduct Workshop in Preparation for 2011 Conference

## *SCMGA Community Horticultural Education Series*

### *Topics remaining for 2009*

All programs will be held at the Somervell County Citizens Center, at 6:30 pm, second Monday of the month. Please visit our website for any changes. [www.somervellmastergardeners.org](http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org) No program in July and December.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
June 8	Turf Grass	Josh/Mcafee
August 10	Butterfly Gardening	Polly Parmer
September 14	Fire Ants	Josh Blane
October 12	Bees	Dwayne Cleveland
November 9	Trees for Somervell County	Carrie Smith

### *June Garden Tips*

*By Sandi Stringer, Somervell County Master Gardener*

O.K. folks, summer is just around the corner and its time to prepare your plants for the sizzling hot and dry weather that lasts into August and often September.

#### **Plant Selection**

Fortunately there are native and adapted plants that thrive in our heat and the following are some examples:

Annuals: Caladium, Coleus, Marigold, Periwinkle, Moss Rose, Purslane, Scaevola, Zinnia



Perennials: Firebush, Gold star esperanza, Hardy hibiscus, Lantana, Petunia, Phlox. Plumbago, Salvias, Sages, and Verbena  
Keep on deadheading and fer-

tilizing your flowerbeds to maintain good health. Use organic or timed-release products. Keep the weed population under control because they rob water from the soil.

#### **Mulch Mulch Mulch!**

It is one of the gardener's mainstays because it is the highest-impact, lowest-tech water conserving practice. A good 3 inches of mulch will help reduce moisture evaporation as well as reduce weed population. Hardwood mulches will actually add nutrients back into your soil



water loving plants next to cactus. Think in terms of 3 plant zones. The regular watering zone requires water once a week or more in the absence of rainfall. The occasional watering zone requires once a month watering in absence of rain, and the Natural Rainfall zone requires only natural rainfall. Consider drip irrigation to plants because there will be less evaporation and try to water between sundown and sunrise, when the wind and temperatures are lower

Now! Sit back, enjoy a glass of tea or lemonade and make occasional checks on your flowerbeds. With the right plants and care, your beds should do well throughout the summer

**Water** Water only when plants need it, they will show signs of wilting or moisture stress. Group your plants based on their water needs, i.e. don't put

Source: Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac

## *Programs of Interest to All Gardeners*



### ***A Morning Walk with the Gardeners***

Join Us! Lake Granbury Master Gardeners share "Proven Techniques for Successful Gardening"

Date: June 15, 2009

Time: 9:00-11:00 AM

Cost \$10

Location: LGMG Demonstration Garden  
1410 W Pearl, Granbury, TX

RSVP Extension Office at (817) 579-3280

By: June 12, 2009

As we walk through the garden, the following hands on demonstrations will be presented:

1. Harvesting Rain-water
2. Installing Drip Irrigation
3. Growing EarthKind™ Roses
4. Improving Soil with Compost
5. Identifying Tough Perennials

Take this opportunity to have your gardening questions answered by Master

Gardeners who have had specialist training in the covered subjects. Each participant will receive a packet of information related to the topics.

### ***Organic Seminars***

Arrow Feed & Ranch Store in Acton is conducting regular free organic seminars for the public. All seminars begin at 6:30 pm at their Acton Location. Future seminar dates are as follows:

June 11, 2009

August 13, 2009

October 8, 2009



## *Specialist Training Opportunity for Master Gardeners*

### ***Texas Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training***



**June 29 - 30th, 2009  
Somervell County  
Expo Center  
Glen Rose, Texas**

Hosted by Somervell County Master Gardeners and AgriLife Extension Service

Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training will include training by experts on the subject of all phases of vegetable growing such as soil prep, garden location

and set up, cultural practices, plant growing, vegetables A-Z, insects and disease control and handling and harvesting vegetables.

This will be two full days of training and will include a workbook, lecture, books, informational files, 2 lunches, snacks, drinks and dinner the first night.

Transportation and lodging is on your own.

Course will be limited to 50 participants. Only 2

Certified Master Gardeners per county.

[Registration information](#) is now available. Please check the SCMGA website or the for more information.





## Howard Garrett Presentation in Hamilton

A group of SCMGA members drove to Hamilton to listen to a presentation by Howard Garrett, also known as "The Dirt Doctor".

Garrett is a landscape architect by training and has devoted more than 25 years establishing a leadership role in the natural organic marketplace.

Garrett provided advice on natural organic gardening, landscaping, pet health, pest control, and natural living. His PowerPoint



included photos of corporate facilities, golf courses, and gardens and parkland areas that have been converted under his guidance to using organic practices for maintenance. He stated that has translated into 40- 50% reduction in water usage. Garrett has also

worked extensively with ranchers in showing them how to apply organic techniques in livestock care and in their pastures.

Molasses, Corn meal, vegetative compost are some of the mainstays of organic gardening. This very interesting program certainly provided food for thought in how we all might be better custodians of our environment.

*Submitted by Sandi Stringer*



**Member American Society of Landscape Architects - ASLA**  
**Certified Arborist - International Society of Arboriculture - ISA**  
**Nationally syndicated radio talk show host - Salem Radio Network**  
**Columnist for the Dallas Morning News - Organic Answers**  
**Author of 14 books**  
**Chairman of Texas Organic Research Center (TORC) a 501 (c)3 corporation**

## Somervell County Master Gardeners BEST KEPT SECRET

*By Marilyn Cranford, Somervell County Master Gardener*

If you haven't heard about the Somervell County Master Gardener Association library, it must be the best kept secret in town. It is waiting for you to come in and browse all the wonderful reading material on plants, trees, wildflowers, landscaping, etc. Our library is a treasure of how-to books, encyclopedias for the beginner, and books on problem-solving for those with questions. To find our library, come to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service building located at

1405 Texas Drive in Glen Rose and ask to browse through our collections. You will find books on annuals and perennials, growing bulbs, roses, organic gardening, as well as vegetable and herb gardening and composting. Also, look for books on native and adaptive plants, such as Jill Nokes book, "How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest" along with "Landscaping with Native Texas Plants" by Sally Wasowski and Julie Ryan.

Additionally, you will find pamphlets published by the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and The Native Plant Society of Texas. Further, there are some back issues of Texas Gardener, and a few compact disks. Now that the best kept secret is out, you are welcome to use the library material in the meeting room at the Extension Office at your convenience. So don't pass up this opportunity ... ITS FREE !!!



**Visit the SCMGA Library located at the Somervell County Extension Office.**



## *Highlight on a Master Gardener SCMGA President - Donna Hagar*



I have loved gardening as long as I can remember. As a child, picking vegetables with my Grandmother on her Minnesota farm or watching my mother tend her roses, gardening has always been with me.

I grew up in the Houston area, went to college at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches, lived in Abilene for a few years right out of college and spent 20 years in the Dallas area. So I have lived and gardened from wet/humid to arid/dry and in between.

I was fortunate to be able to be a stay-at-home mom to my 2 children, Audrey, 26 and Andy, 24. However, staying at home isn't really accurate. I became a very active volunteer, through schools, neighborhood associations, scouts, little league, etc., serving in just about every capacity imaginable.

After emptying the nest 4 years ago, my husband, Richard and I moved away from the big city to rural Somervell County. We live on 50 acres on some of the highest areas of the County and enjoy the scenic beauty of native grasses, wildflowers, trees, and a creek adorned with unique cliffs and waterfalls. Shortly after moving to Somervell County, I got involved with the Master Gardeners and became certified in 2007. I became President of Somervell County Master Gardeners in 2008 and continue to serve in that capacity today. In addition, I am editor for the Texas Master Gardener Association newsletter, as well as serve on the Audit and Awards committees for the TMGA.

Most recently, I took on the exciting and daunting task of Co-Chairing the 2011 TMGA State

Conference, which will be held in Glen Rose in April of 2011. This event should bring upwards of 1000 Texas Master Gardeners to the Glen Rose area for 3 days of education, tours and fun!

I also am a certified Master Naturalist and volunteer weekly at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in the Natural Resources Department, where we are working to preserve and reestablish the native flora and wildlife habitat.

With what time is left in my days, I spend tending my ever increasing herb and vegetable gardens, as my husband, Richard is also quite the avid gardener. He continually suggests, "with one more bed we could grow some...." and I know it's time to don the gloves and get my hands in the dirt! I can't think of a better way to end a busy day!



Donna, center, with Jayla Fry (l), Texas Master Gardener State Coordinator, and Doug Welsh (r), Assoc. Dept Head, Professor and Extension Horticulturalist with Texas AgriLife Ext. Service.

**New Somervell County Master Gardener Interns nervously await the final exam on the last training day.**



### *Recent SCMGA Workday*

Several members of the Somervell County Master Gardeners gathered for the monthly workday.



We began at Heritage Park, re-mulching the beds at the Farr House, then moved to the EarthKind® Rose Trial Gardens for weeding and then on to the Somervell Citizens Center for trimming and tidying.



### **SOMERVELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION**

Josh Blaneck, CEA AG/NR  
Texas AgriLife Extension  
Service  
Somervell County  
P. O. Box 895  
Glen Rose, TX 76043  
<http://somervell-co.tamu.edu>

Phone: 254-897-2809  
Fax: 254-897-9323  
E-mail:  
[somervellmq@gmail.com](mailto:somervellmq@gmail.com)

We're on the web!

<http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org>

The Somervell County Master Gardeners are volunteers who work with the AgriLIFE Extension to improve gardening skills throughout the community. Program objectives are implemented through the training of local volunteers known as Master Gardeners. We collaborate with Extension to conduct youth and community education; establish and maintain demonstration gardens; and provide a speakers bureau. We work with special audiences in the community for youth and community outreach of a horticultural nature. We recruit and educate new Master Gardener candidates for effective volunteering.

The training for Somervell County is held in combination with Hood and Johnson Counties and is currently held only every other odd year. The next training for our area will be held in the spring of 2009. If you are interested in the SCMGA, we would like to invite and encourage you to visit one of our monthly meetings, so that you might learn more about our various projects and activities. Our regular monthly business meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Somervell County Extension Office. For more information, please contact Josh Blaneck, Somervell County Extension agent at 254-897-2809 or [j-blaneck@tamu.edu](mailto:j-blaneck@tamu.edu) or you may email the SCMGA at [somervellmq@gmail.com](mailto:somervellmq@gmail.com).