



SCMGA NEWS



Somervell County Master Gardeners Association

somervellmastergardeners.org

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Volume 2, Issue 3

March 2009

March Community Horticultural Education Program

Monday, March 9, 6:30 pm, Somervell County Citizens Center



Rainwater Harvesting with Greg Marsh

SCMGA'S own Certified Rainwater Specialist, Greg Marsh, will show a power point presentation and follow up with a demonstration on how to make a simple 20-gallon plastic garbage can into a functional rainwater catchment barrel. We all want to be a part of the solution, not the problem, in water usage and rainwater harvesting is an easy thing to add to your own personal water conservation plan. Rainwater is free of salts and other harmful minerals and that makes it ideal for watering plants.

Come join us and you might be the winner of our door prize, your very own rainwater barrel!

For more information: contact the SC Extension Office at 897-2809 or visit our website at www.somervellmastergardeners.org

Don't forget that we have a great library of gardening books at the County Extension Office. You may go there and read them at your leisure.

SCMGA Officers 2008- 2010

President:
Donna Hagar

Vice President:
Sandi Stringer

Secretary:
Marilyn 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

Master Gardeners Participate in 5K Walk



Donna Hagar, Doug Richards, Daphne Lain, Sandi Stringer, Becky Altobelli, Yvonna Brown

On Saturday, February 14, Valentines Day, local Master Gardeners participated in the Sweetheart Run/Walk at the beautiful Ten Triple X Ranch in Glen Rose.

It was an opportunity to observe beautiful native grasses, evaluate the ranch for possible inclusion in the 2011 State Conference, enjoy great company and benefit the leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Everyone survived without incident. It was a great way to see nature up close and talk gardening.



A sample of the beautiful scenery and terrain we experienced at the Ten Triple X Ranch



Left to right—Jim Cheatham, Sandi Stringer, Yvonna Brown, Doug Richards and Shirley Smith, bundled up and ready to go - just past the starting line.

Luminant Makes Donation

A very huge thank you goes out to Luminant for their very generous donation of \$250 to the Somervell County Master Gardeners Association. This money will go a long way in helping to expand our programs for the local community.

2011 Conference Update

Wow, are we excited! Plans are underway for the **Somervell County and Lake Granbury Master Gardeners to BID** on hosting the **2011 Texas Master Gardener Conference**, which will be held at the Expo Center in Glen Rose. With the expectation of having between 800–1,000 Master Gardeners attending, we are already making plans and have appointed committees who are hard at work with all the vast details that a project like this entails. Ever seen a real dinosaur track? How about taking a mini tour of Africa just two miles from Glen Rose? These are just two of the numerous tours we are looking into for all attendees. Within a short drive from Glen Rose are many attractions that will appeal to all gardeners! Wish us luck as we place our bid at the 2009 conference to be held in Marshall. You can visit our 2011 Conference website at: <http://www.2011conference.org>



The original settlers of Somervell County, James Barnard and Juana Cavazos Barnard, await your arrival at the 2011 TMGA Conference in Glen Rose. Nationally known painter and sculptor Robert Summers, who resides in his boyhood home of Glen Rose, created this life-size bronze sculpture.

SCMGA COMMUNITY HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION SERIES TOPICS 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

Date	Topic	Speaker
February 9	Vegetable	Jack Rowland
March 9	Rainwater Harvesting	Greg Marsh
April 13	Container Gardening	Wanda Riley
May 11	Roses	Garey Wylie
June 8	Turf Grass	Josh/Mcafee
July	no program	
August 10	Butterfly Gardening	Polly Parmer
September 14	Fire Ants	Josh Blanek
October 12	Bees	Dwayne Cleveland
November 9	Trees for Somervell County	Carrie Smith
December	no program	

March Garden Tips

By Dove Johnson
Somervell County Master Gardener

Get ready, Get set, Go

Plant vegetables: Beets, chard, collards, leaf lettuce, mustard, peas, radish

EARLY MARCH: Beans, endive

LATE MARCH: Cantaloupe, corn, cucumber, eggplant, black-eyed peas, pumpkin, New Zealand spinach, summer squash, watermelon

Plant vegetable plants. Broccoli, chard, collards, endive, leaf lettuce, mustard, LATE MARCH: Pepper, tomato

Plant herbs and Seeds: All hot-weather herbs, such as basil, chives

Plant perennial plants: Cigar plant, cleome, plumbago, sedum, spiderwort

March is the last reasonably mild month to plant such things as trees and big shrubs. Any later and these plants will encounter too much stress in the summer heat.

Plant bulbs: Caladium, calla, canna, daylily, and elephant ear are the main spring and summer ornamentals that can be planted the second half of this month. Planting these warm-season bulbs while the soil is too cool can cause them to rot.

Aerate the lawn: It is best to aerate after mid-March, when there is less chance of a freeze damaging the opened-up lawn. Add compost before or after aerating for greater benefits. Top dress lawns with compost. This can be done any time of year, except for mid-summer. However, if the lawn is top dressed in spring, the compost can help save water in the summer. Some sources say this one action in your yard can cut your water use on the lawn by half! Throw no more than ½-inch of good manure compost on top of the lawn, rake in, and water.

Clean up debris from winter: Remove the hiding places for bugs and diseases by raking up leaves and gathering fallen limbs and fruits. Put them in your compost pile, and turn regularly to keep pile hot.

Till in winter cover crops: Allow two weeks for the cover crop to decompose in the soil before planting there again.

Find out what your beneficial insects look like. Ladybug larvae and pupae may look like pests when you see them, but they can be your ally against aphids and many other pests! Acquire a good insect identification book, such as the *Texas Bug Book* by Malcolm Beck and Howard Garrett, or *The Organic Gardener's Handbook of Natural Insect*



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and *Disease Control*, published by Rodale Press.

Diseases/Pests to look for: Watch for aphids on new growth, spider mites on older leaves and cut worms on young transplants.

Spray peach and plum trees for curculio weevils when 3/4 of the petals have fallen (repeat three times at two week intervals).

Spray new foliage on crape myrtles with "Cloud Cover." This is a polymer that is a preventative for powdery mildew. If the leaves show powdery mildew before you get to them with Cloud Cover, spray with milk first. Yes, cow's milk is the latest, greatest control for powdery mildew. Use skim milk, or whole milk diluted with water, one part whole milk to nine parts water. Spray milk every 5 7 days until you get control, then spray Cloud Cover. Spray Cloud Cover again whenever there is a new flush of growth.

Check and repair your watering systems now before the heat hits!

Take a hike! Enjoy one of our many beautiful trails around town. See how the Greatest Landscaper --Mother Nature -- designs, plants, and mulches our biggest garden on earth!

Fertilize: Begin monthly feedings of hibiscus after pruning. Start a rose feeding schedule; Fertilize established fruit and nut trees with 1 lb. 15-5-10 per inch of trunk diameter. Berry bushes should receive 1/3 cup per square yard of planting area.



Prune: Prune hibiscus, also spring flowering shrubs and trees, after they bloom. Prune and train vines. Shape spring-blooming shrubs with light pruning after bloom. Allow bulb foliage to yellow and die before removing.

Vegetables: Early—Mid Month: asparagus crowns, Collards, Turnip.

Mid—Late Month: Corn, Cucumber, Eggplant, Peppers, Pumpkin, Squash, Watermelon.

All Month: Beans, Lettuce, Mustard, Radish, Tomato Plants.

Be prepared to protect plants from frosts and freezes. Give transplants a weekly boost the first month with a liquid plant food or "manure tea". For a list of plants and herbs <http://www.klru.org/ctg/tips/march.php>

Courtesy of the *Garden Guide for Austin & Vicinity*, published by the Travis County Master Gardener Association, copyright 2000-2002. Skips Tips

Thanks to Howard Garrett's *Texas Organic Gardening Book*, the Travis County Master Gardener Association's *Garden Guide for Austin and Vicinity*, and the staff of the *Natural Gardener* for some of this month's tips). John Dromgooles *Natural Gardener*

<http://www.naturalgardeneraustin.com/information/monthly/march.html>

<http://www.klru.org/ctg/tips/march.php>

By Dove Johnson



Pruning of Roses

by Bonnah Boyd, Somervell County Master Gardener



With springtime approaching, we are looking forward to longer periods of warmer days and hopefully a few rainy ones. One garden activity we can do at this time is to prune our roses. For the old-fashioned roses (often called old garden roses, heritage roses, or antique roses) general thinning of weak or crowded growth can best be done in February or early March in most of Texas. Shaping the plant and shortening the vigorous canes by one-fourth to one-third of their length can result in more attractive plants. However, prune most climbers and one-time bloomers after they flower in the spring and remove dead or damaged canes, plus one or two of the oldest canes to promote new cane growth. In addition to late-winter pruning, we can cut the plants back moderately in mid-August. This practice, along with a light application of fertilizer and a thorough watering, if needed, can promote a good fall bloom.

Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, and Grandifloras are usually pruned heavily in late winter (down to eighteen to twenty-four inches from the ground). Miniatures are pruned to a few inches above the ground at that time.

For all types of roses, prune to maintain blooming and health:

Remove old blooms (deadhead) as they fade to encourage increased flowering.

Prune off damaged, diseased or dead leaves, twigs, and blooms to encourage new, healthier growth.

Pull off heavily infested or damaged leaves resulting from black spot or insects to curtail current and future disease and insect populations.



List of Some Modern Hybrid Roses

Hybrid tea

Double Delight (red and white)

Mr. Lincoln (red)

Peace (yellow)

Sterling Silver (lavender)

Floribunda

Betty Prior (pink)

Europeana (red)

Iceberg (white)

Sun Flare (yellow)

Grandiflora

Gold Medal (yellow)

Queen Elizabeth (pink)

Climbers

Altissimo (red)

Climbing Peace (yellow)

Don Juan (red)

Dortmond (red)

List of Some Old-Fashioned Roses

Belinda's Dream

Caldwell Pink

Carefree Beauty (Katy Road Pink)

Cecile Brunner

Cramoisi Superieur

Knock Out

La Marne

Lady Banksia

Marie Daly

Marie Pavie

Martha Gonzales

Mrs. B. R. Cant

Mutabilis or Butterfly Rose

Old Blush

Resources: Doug Welsh's *Texas Garden Almanac* & William C. Welch's *Antique Roses for the South*

Highlight on a Master Gardener

Bonnah Boyd



Bonnah Boyd at the Somervell County Extension Office

I became interested in the Master Gardener Program soon after retiring from teaching at the Glen Rose ISD. I had grown up on my family's 160- acre sandy land farm in Somervell County and helped plant and harvest beans, blackeyed peas, corn, potatoes, tomatoes, cantaloupes, and watermelons many times. During the time that I lived in Lubbock, TX, I also had a garden, having grown my first broccoli and asparagus.

But, I wanted more information, especially about soils, fertilizers, pesticides, landscape design, and plants suitable for this area of

Texas, since I was living on the family farm again. I

found the training for the Master Gardener Program very informative and working as a volunteer in the program has been very enjoyable. You know you have found a kindred spirit when you and another Master Gardener can smile while down on your knees, pulling up weeds in a flowerbed.



Bonnah hard at work at Heritage Park Farr House Gardens.



Bonnah (right) with Donna Hagar, planting first rose in Earth-Kind Trial Gardens.

I still consider myself a student, learning new ideas from various educational programs, leading horticulturists, and my fellow Master Gardeners. It is an honor to be a part of a group, which promotes horticultural information and dedicates their time and talents to develop and improve various garden and landscape projects in the community.

Editors Notes: Bonnah served for two terms as President of SCMGA. During her tenure she was instrumental in initiating new projects that have brought the

SCMGA more community visibility—website, Earth-Kind® Trial Garden and Community Horticultural Education Programs. She is truly one of our most beloved members.



In addition to our e-newsletter, the Chamber of Commerce has a monthly calendar that includes our horticultural programs and other special events. You may visit the website at:

www.glenrosechamber.com/calendar.html

2009 Master Gardener Training Classes

The next Tri-County Master Gardener Training Classes will be held in the spring of 2009, beginning March 26th. The classes are once per week, concluding May 28. Class locations will rotate between Somervell, Hood and Johnson Counties. For more information, call Josh Blanek, CEA, 254-897-2809.



Somervell County
Master Gardeners
Association

Visit Our Website
[http://](http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org)

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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 Blanek, Somervell County Extension agent at 254-897-2809 or j-blanek@tamu.edu or you may email the SCMGA at somervellmg@gmail.com.