



**SOMERVELL  
COUNTY  
MASTER  
GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**SCMGA  
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Sandi Stringer

Secretary:  
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Webmaster:  
Dove Johnson

Newsletter Editor:  
Donna Hagar



Donna Hagar, SCMGA and Doug Richard, LGMGA, make bid presentation in Marshall to win 2011 State Conference in Glen Rose

# SCMGA NEWS



Volume 2, Issue 5

May 2009

## Earth-Kind® Roses with Garey Wylie

**SCMGA  
Community Horticultural  
Education Program  
May 11, 2009 6:30 p.m.  
Somervell County  
Citizens Center**

We are very pleased and fortunate to have Garey Wylie as a speaker at our next program. He's been a Master Gardener since 2001, was a charter member of the Johnson County Master Gardener Association, served as president of the JCMGA during 2001-2003, has been a director of the Texas Master Gardener Association as well as president of the state organization during 2008. Because he has a passion for roses, he assisted in the organization of and participated in the first Earth-Kind® Rose Specialist Training Course in 2004. He became a mem-

ber of the Cleburne Parks Board in 2005 and became National coordinator of the Earth-Kind® Rose Program for Parks Departments in 2006. Serving in this capacity led to travels throughout the U.S. with the goal of having Earth-Kind® Roses in city parks nationwide as well as internationally.

Earth-Kind® Roses are among the most thoroughly tested, and environmentally responsible plants for use in Texas Landscapes. The roses do very well in almost any soil type. They are not immune to pest problems but their tolerance to pests is so great that they rarely require the use of chemical pesticides. Only a few roses have received the Earth-Kind® designation.



EarthKind® Rose  
Belinda's Dream

However, the list continues to grow as new selections meet the criteria.

Garey will discuss how the Earth-Kind® Rose program came into existence, the 19 roses that have thus far earned the designation of Earth-Kind® and much more. All of you will want to have some of these beautiful, easy to grow roses in your garden.

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

## Master Gardeners Win State Bid

The Somervell County Master Gardener Association and Lake Granbury Master Gardener Association were selected to host the 2011 State TMGA Conference at the April 2009 Texas Master Gardener Association Conference held in Marshall. The Conference will be held at the Expo Center

in Glen Rose April 27-29, 2011. This was a competitive bidding process between Bexar County (San Antonio) and co-host partners SCMGA and LGMGA. The Conference will bring approximately 1000 attendees to the Glen Rose area for 3 days of educational training, tours,

sightseeing, and shopping at local businesses. We are very excited about welcoming Master Gardeners from around the state to our beautiful area and have already begun planning events for this Conference. We thank the entire community for their support and look forward to 2011!



**Yvonna Brown, Sandi Stringer, Dove Johnson and Donna Hagar show off award plaques at TMGA State Conference in Marshall**

## Master Gardeners Bring Home State Awards

The Somervell County Master Gardener Association was well represented at the 2011 Conference in Marshall with 11 of 23 members attending. This was our first year to enter the Awards Program sponsored by the TMGA in cooperation with the AgriLIFE Extension. A record breaking 157 entries were submitted from the entire

state. SCMGA was awarded 4 awards in the small association category:

1st Place Mass Media: Our website administered by Dove Johnson  
2nd Place: Individual MG Award Donna Hagar, our current President  
3rd Place: Association Award  
3rd Place: Newsletter Award SCMGA News

It was an exciting State Conference for us and we look forward to expanding our presence in Somervell County with educational horticultural programs for the public, demonstration gardens, and much more. We thank the entire community for their continued support!



## 2009 Texas Master Gardener Conference, Marshall Texas, April 23-25



## 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>
May 11	Roses	Garey Wylie
June 8	Turf Grass	Josh/Mcafee
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



foreboding places (a nearby park, downtown flowerbeds, a relative's yard, the median of an interstate highway) and may cause your family to doubt your sanity.

With the onslaught of urbanization, more and more of our native prairie land or otherwise wild places are disappearing. Many of us gardeners (and non-gardeners) love the roadsides of Texas so endowed with a blanket of color and texture – our Texas wildflowers. One cannot drive very far in the spring and not be dazzled by Nature's canvas of living color. A beautiful hillside or meadow may be there one day and the next filled with noisy machinery scraping the entire area leaving only bare soil. One way we can combat this disease of land-clearing is to save the seeds of the once-growing plants.

There are probably as many ways of saving seeds as there are gardeners. One important matter is for the gathered seeds to maintain a high germination percentage. You certainly don't want to go to all the trouble of gathering seeds, drying them and then to have them NOT come up the next spring after planting. So, proper storage is important. But, before we go there, let's discuss how to gather the seeds. Most plants propagate from seeds (although like anything else, there are exceptions). If you want to save seeds from your vegetable garden or seeds from your flower garden, the process is more or less the same. AFTER the plant has flowered and the flower is beginning to look a bit bedraggled, now is the time to act. With many flowers the seeds are easy to spot (if you know what you are looking

## Saving Seeds

### by Shirley Smith, Associate Master Gardener

**Caveat:** Read this article ONLY at your own risk. Seed saving may become habit forming and may lead to surreptitious wanderings into

for). Take a glass jar or paper bag and a pair of scissors. Place the flower head into the container first and then either pull or snip the head off using the scissors. Important: label the container!

Next step: drying and storage. I found this wonderful recipe in a great little book I have called Trowel & Error by Sharon Lovejoy (Workman Publishing-New York): Grandmother's Method of Seed Storage: 1. Clean and thoroughly dry (this is imperative) old plastic or glass jars and lids. 2. Take a stack of four unfolded facial tissues. Into the center of the tissues, scoop 2 tablespoons of powdered milk from a newly opened container. 3. Fold the tissues over the powdered milk into a flat packet and tape the packet closed. 4. Pour the seeds you want to store into a clean envelope, label with the date and the seed variety and seal the flap. 5. Tuck the pouch of powdered milk and the envelope into a covered jar. Keep the jar closed. Replace the milk packet with a fresh one after 6 months. 6. Store the container in the refrig to keep the seeds cold and dry. 7. For storing seeds, the colder the better. Each 10-degree drop in temperature means you double their longevity. Other seed savers recommend using zip-lock storage bags or old medicine bottles (thoroughly washed) with snap-on lids. The powdered milk is to absorb moisture.

**Tip:** Tying a colorful ribbon to a particular flower while it is blooming will make it easy to find when the flower has gone to seed.

Seed swapping is a fun thing to do. So, in order to not get arrested or be thought of as a nut, maybe hitting up your gardening friends for seeds is the way to go. Have fun!





## Highlight on a Master Gardener Our Webmaster, Dove Johnson



*"I met my fellow  
Somervell  
Master  
Gardeners and  
began to think  
of them as  
family."*



Dove accepting 1st Place award for the SCMGA website from TMGA President Doug Quicksall at the TMGA Conference in Marshall, April 25, 2009

My name is Judith Johnson but I've been Dove almost all my life. I have two daughters that I am very proud of. Both have grown up to be the kind of women that I would want to call friend. They were raised almost completely by me and with the good Lords help became who they are. I am very Southern as I was raised mostly in the deep south by Southern parents. Yes I do understand phrases like "in a little bit" and "over yonder", and I certainly know the difference between a conniption fit and a hissy fit. After focusing so completely on my career and Daughters, I met and married the love of my life Keith Johnson. We have been married for ten years.

I learned to love gardening and nature from the most phenomenal woman I have ever known, my Grandmother. I still aspire to be more like her every day. From the time I can remember she would allow me to help her either in the vegetable garden or her flower garden and make me feel indispensable while dropping words of wisdom like dew on the roses. From her I learned life as well as things like plants have two names ,

a first name like Rose and a second name like Rugosas. She went home to be with the Lord twenty-five years ago and I still carry her in my heart and remember fondly Summers in Mississippi with my family there.

I became a Nurse thirty-five years ago and dearly loved the work. I have done everything from Emergency Room to Operating Room and have worked with some wonderful people. I had to retire six years ago when I was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia. I believed my life was over at that point and I cried everyday for two months. Then one day I told myself to get up there is still so much you can and must do. I began to research Fibromyalgia for hours looking for a way to deal with the pain and as I tried new things I discovered I was feeling better both physically and mentally. Now I have occasional bad days but I know what to do to turn them around.

While watching TV I discovered a show that I loved by a Master Gardener named Paul James and that is when I knew I wanted to be a Master Gardener. About two years ago I finished

my Classes and internship and with much pride and a certain knowledge I had still a tremendous amount to learn, started on this path. I met my fellow Somervell Master Gardeners and began to think of them as family. As I got to know them even better I also discovered phenomenal people that I greatly admire. I was chosen to do the Somervell County Master Gardener Website, which to me was a little overwhelming at the time, but after a class with Dianne Mitchell on Centra became clear and much easier. My Husband Keith has worked in Information Technology for thirty years and if I could not understand something he would assist me. It was really enjoyable. Doug Richards saw our site and approached me with doing the TMGA site. He wanted the TMGA to become Grove Site from his HTML site. I thought about it and decided if I can do this it will help Master Gardeners in the future so I did it with help from Doug, Keith, and Dianne. My goal is for every Master Gardener in Texas to open the computer daily and see what's new.

Thank you  
Dove Johnson

## May Garden Tips

By Becky Altobelli Somervell County Master Gardener

Those April showers in Somervell County did indeed bring our May wildflowers into bloom, green up our lawns and increase our vegetable and fruit production. Here are a few garden and landscape tips to help you enjoy the Bounty of May and on into the summer months:

Do harvest most of your vegetables a little prior to full size. Cucumber, beans, eggplant and squash will not taste tough or bitter if picked while small. (Tomatoes and peppers will be sweeter if left on vine to ripen fully.)

Do hand pick garden pests or squirt leaves with blast of water to keep any unwanted bugs under control.

Do plant herbs, keep adequately watered and harvest frequently to stimulate new and fresh tasting growth. (Use basil, oregano, thyme, rosemary, fennel and dill, to name a few, in salads, pastas and grilled dishes)

Do plant okra, southern

peas, winter squash, watermelons, Malabar greens and sweet potatoes in May as they will be able to survive and thrive in the summer garden.

Do replace late winter and spring annuals with summer annuals or perennials. Examples are varieties of salvias, penstemons, verbenas, lantanas and santolinas.

Do wait to trim back spring bulb foliage until it has yellowed or turned brown.

Do prune back spring-flowering shrubs and non-repeating roses once their bloom cycle is completed. Do remove spent flowers on repeating roses and perennials to stimulate new blooms throughout the summer.

Do add organic mulch or material around the base of perennials, shrubs and fruiting vines in May to retain moisture in soil, discourage weed growth and increase organic matter to soil.

Do Not Mow or remove spring wildflowers fields or landscape until the seed pods have dried and opened or seed-heads are dried and seeds released easily. Next spring's wildflower crop is dependent on this season's release of mature seeds. Mow too soon and you will diminish our beautiful Texas spring-time blooms of bluebonnets, paintbrushes, Indian blankets, Mexican hats, coreopsis and many more, as these flowers reproduce and increase in number primarily from seed.

Visit our library at the County Extension Office or [www.somervellmastergardeners.org](http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org) for more information



**Do harvest most of your vegetables a little prior to full size.**

***“Do Not Mow or remove spring wildflowers fields or landscape until the seed pods have dried and opened or seed-heads are dried and seeds released easily.”***



Wanda Riley, LGMG and Greg Marsh, SCMG

## Container Gardening/Drip Irrigation Program

A small wagon, different sizes and shapes of flower-pots, and other whimsical items

filled with colorful plants and flowers were displayed at Wanda Riley's container gardening program. Good soil and drainage can make a myriad of containers appropriate for porches, patios, and lawns. Marty Vahlenkamp followed with

a presentation on how to connect drip irrigation to your containers so that time-consuming hand watering is not needed. We learned that creativity can make container gardening fun and a real asset to your landscaping.



**Even an old child's wagon makes an interesting and appropriate container for a garden!**

## Specialist Training Opportunities for Master Gardeners

### Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training



Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Hood County and the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners are offering a Master Gardener Rainwater Specialist Training in Hood County on **June 1-3, 2009**. The training will take place at the Hood County Annex I, 1410 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. This hands-on training will include the installation of a collection system and drip irrigation at an Extension/Master Gardener demonstration site. Every trainee will make a rain barrel to take home for them-

selves, or to use as a demonstration. Each trainee will receive a shirt, power point and other materials to help them install a rainwater harvesting system demonstration in their counties and teach others about rainwater harvesting. A copy of the tentative schedule is attached with the registration form with some information on hotels and sights to see. Only 30 participant spots are available for this training, so please submit your registration forms in as soon as possible. Registration is on a first come/first serve basis. and forms must

be in our office by May 15, 2009. Contact Marty Vahlenkamp, 817-579-3280, to answer any questions or provide further information.

Once the course is complete, Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialists will be able to set up a rainwater harvesting demonstration and trainings in their counties for other Master Gardeners and for the public.

We are excited to be able to host such a great learning opportunity and look forward to seeing you here in Granbury.

[Registration Packet](#)

### 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.





## Programs of Interest to All Gardeners

### *Growing Green the EarthKind® Way*

Speaker – Mary Lynn Martin

Date: May 18, 2009

Time: 2:00-4:00 PM

Cost: \$10

Location: Texas AgriLIFE Ext Office, 1410 W Pearl St. Granbury

RSVP Extension Office at (817) 579-3280

By: May 15, 2009

Learn the procedure for growing roses and other perennials using the EarthKind® gardening method with Lake Granbury Master Gardener, Mary Lynn Martin. Mary Lynn is an experienced rose grower and EarthKind™ specialist whose gardens were featured on the 2007 International Rose Society

### *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



## Howard Garrett to Speak in Central Texas May 14, 2009

Organic gardening guru and "Dirt Doctor" Howard Garrett, author of 14 books and columnist for The Dallas Morning News, has accepted a 6 p.m. speaking engagement in Hamilton, Texas, for May 14, 2009. Venue is the Hamilton Middle School cafeteria on College Street, just southwest of the courthouse square.

The newly formed Hamilton County Master Gardener Association is hosting the event, which will make two CEUs available to both Private Applicator Licensees and Certified Master Gardeners. Tickets will be \$10 in advance for Master Gardeners, \$12 in advance for others. Tickets are \$2.00 more if purchased after

May 8th, IF THERE ARE ANY. Send a check for tickets to Hamilton County Master Gardener Assoc, 2470 CR513, Hamilton Texas 76531. For more information to contact Michael Langford, HCMGA treasurer and event chairperson, at [bar-nun@htcomp.net](mailto:bar-nun@htcomp.net).



**The Dirt Doctor, Howard Garrett, speaks in Hamilton, May 14, 2009**

## Bonnah Boyd Receives Tiger's Eye Award



Bonnah Boyd, a valued member of the SCMGA, was the recipient of an award presented by Superintendent of Schools Wayne Rotan. A very surprised Bonnah was given the Tiger's Eye Award in recognition of a GRISD graduate and voted on by peers. Mr. Rotan reviewed Bonnah's accomplishments since graduation and

they included teaching numerous years in the GRISD, church organist and bell choir director, and volunteer work with the GRISD after her retirement.

Congratulations Bonnah for a well deserved award.

We are privileged and grateful to have you as a part of our Master Gardener Association.



### SOMERVELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS ASSOCIATION

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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 [somervellmg@gmail.com](mailto:somervellmg@gmail.com).