

***Williamson County  
Master Gardener Newsletter  
November 2014***



*Contents*

<b>President's Message</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introducing!</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mystery Tree</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>United Way Day of Caring</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>There's an App for That!</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Bug-Friendly Backyard</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Congratulations to our Newly Certified Master Gardeners!</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Officers for 2015</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>2015 Board of Directors and Sub-Committee Chairs</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2014 Board Positions</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Save the Date</b>	<b>21</b>

## ***President's Message***

***by Wayne Rhoden***



If you attended the Master Gardener Monthly Meeting on October 13<sup>th</sup>, you know that the slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee was elected. No nominations were presented from the floor, so by acclamation, the slate was elected. We are excited to start a new year with a partially new board of directors to help guide you for the year 2015. There are some board positions available if you are interested in being a part of the Board of Directors for 2015.

Specifically, we need someone to be the chair of the Awards Committee and the Speaker's Bureau. Both of these chairs are critical to our association and we need dynamic leaders in these positions. We would like to build a Speaker's Bureau so we can give more educational programs to the community. This is the goal of Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service, our sponsors and mentors.

We also need to be more active in promoting our association by submitting some of our projects for competition in the yearly awards program sponsored by the Texas Master Gardener Association. We submitted a project in 2013 and won first place for that one. We also submitted one this year and did not win. However we think we have many good projects to submit for these awards. This is also the committee that handles the awards program for our association and we know that recognizing our members is a way to show our appreciation for the volunteer hours each of you perform each year. And, our yearly awards program in December is a great time for all of us to get together and visit about the good times we have each year working side by side with great people.

Please email me or call me if you are interested in serving. See page 19 for a list (including current openings) of committee chairs. Even if you do not wish to be a committee chair I urge you to become part of a committee. You will be rewarded with a good feeling of helping your fellow volunteers and making our association one of the best in Texas.

# Introducing!

Introducing! is a monthly feature facilitated by AJ Senchack. We invite all Interns and Master Gardeners to participate. Sample biographies and a questionnaire (use either one) are available at <http://www.txmg.org/williamson/files/samplebioB.pdf>. Please send your bio to AJ Senchack at [senchack@southwestern.edu](mailto:senchack@southwestern.edu) or contact him at his email address or 512-630-6288 for more information.



## Jody Knight

My name is Jody Knight and I have just completed my first year as a “full-fledged” Master Gardener. I started this journey in 2012 and have met some wonderful friends along the way. I continue to be a student in the garden and I learn something new whenever I spend time with other Master Gardeners.

I was born and raised in Southern California where I met and married my husband Jay, a native Texan. We just celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past summer. We have two teenage daughters, Erin and Emily, and our family dog, Rita.

I love to garden (including weeding), read and scrapbook, when I have time, but most of all I love spending time with my family. Our girls are a constant source of joy, with a little irritation mixed in! I am a “manager-in-training” for HEB and I love, love, love my job. I started working full-time last

November, which doesn't leave much time for other activities as of right now. When our family is together, we love to go camping and we love to travel. We also like to sample local restaurants, as well as cook together at home.

This past summer we hosted a foreign exchange student from France. It was a wonderful experience for all of us, and one that we will always cherish.

I have recently been spending most of my MG time at the Round Rock Serving Center gardens.

I had the privilege of working with several groups of young adults this summer that were traveling around Texas doing volunteer work. I have the utmost respect for any teenager that is willing to do gardening, of any kind, in Central Texas in July! They were some great kids and were eager to help.

# Mystery Tree

by Val Black



In early September this year while visiting Kerrville, Texas, we decided to have dinner at a local seafood restaurant. It was a casual, cozy place right on the Guadalupe River. I decided to take a stroll on their veranda to check out the scenic views of the river. It was a beautiful day, and since I had just started the Master Gardener Course, I was checking out all the trees and plants. I saw a huge tree probably 30-40 feet tall with huge heart shaped leaves, bigger than my hand. The leaves were smooth and not waxy in appearance. The tree had finished blooming, but was covered in dried blooms. It also had the most fascinating seed pods, which were slightly tacky and yellowish in color. Each pod had many seeds within its fibrous segmented capsule. There were numerous dried pods on the tree as well. Well, I tried to look inconspicuous as I took a few pictures of the interesting tree. I decided to take some seed pods home to investigate it further and maybe propagate the species.

Much to my surprise, after an exhaustive search on the internet, I decided the tree must not be native to the area. It was located close to the river, which alludes that a bird could have dropped seeds in the river which traveled for miles to this spot. I decided not to propagate seeds until I could decide for sure that it was not an invasive species. I did not see any other trees of its kind in the area. I decided to call a local tree horticulturist that deals with native trees in that area. I emailed him the pictures I had taken, and I was disappointed he had no answers to the mystery.



I decided to make it my mission to find out what it was. I asked every Master Gardener I saw, classmates, professors, botanists, and native plant experts. Several folks thought it could be a Golden Rain Tree, or a Tung Oil Tree, or a Catalpa. I checked with local plant nurseries near and far, and just when I was almost ready to give up, finally an answer. The answer came while visiting the Natural Gardener with my friend Kaye. While talking with the manager who was working in the tree area, I explained to him about my mystery tree, and how I couldn't identify the ornamental specimen. He thought it was a challenge, so we took the pictures and pulled up heart shaped leaved trees on the internet. Several employees started looking at the pictures I had taken, and came up with some suggested names. After about 10 minutes of searching with no luck, a young lady, Rosina, walked up and they asked her if she knew the species. She knew instantly it was a Paulownia!! We pulled up pictures that had exactly the same seed pods, and I knew immediately it had to be the same tree. I couldn't believe it, finally the answer I had been looking for! I thanked them profusely for the effort they made. It made my trip worth while, just to have the answer to my mystery tree. I did some research on the tree. The Paulownia or Royal Princess tree is native to North America not Texas. It can grow 50 feet tall. It blooms in early Spring with purple flowers, even before any leaves appear on the tree. It has a tropical look with very large Catalpa-like leaves. The two species are not related. The tree is a prodigious seeder and grows extremely fast. Unfortunately, because of the ability to grow nearly anywhere and at a rapid rate, it is now considered an invasive exotic tree species in some states, but not in Texas.



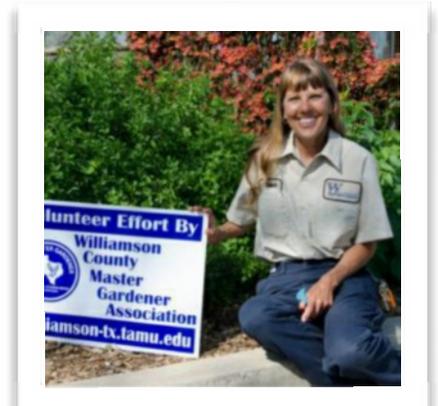
Needless to say, this has been a real learning experience for me. I have learned that next time I will take many pictures, and get specimens. I have decided that the old saying must be true, that ornamentals are usually seedy or weedy!!! I don't think I will try to propagate this species. I will try to stick to Texas natives!!!!

Happy Gardening,  
Val Black



## United Way Day of Caring

by Susan Blackledge



United Way of Williamson County's "Day of Caring" was Friday September 26, 2014 at Berry Springs Park and Preserve, at which time the Nature Trail continued to receive it's truly deserved tender loving care. This year's United Way Day of Caring had 32 volunteers roll up their shirt sleeve's and get busy with the ongoing development of the 1/3 of a mile loop Nature Trail.

The group consisted of Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and individuals such as Precinct 3 Commissioner Valerie Covey. Work included the removal of Chinaberry saplings and other invasive species. In addition, mulching of sections of the trail, planting of wildflower seeds, weeding of the native plant garden, dead tree, limb, brush and trash removal were all on the to do list. The weather was picture perfect. Volunteers received United Way t-shirts for their efforts. Everyone did an outstanding job sprucing up the trail.

The Berry Springs Park and Preserve Nature Trail is home to a diverse population of native trees, shrubs, plants and flowers. The Native Plant Society of Williamson County has been conducting a plant survey throughout 2014 within the park and have come up with a substantial list of native plants along the trail as well as in the park. Plant enthusiasts and birders alike are constantly surprised at what they see throughout the seasons along the trail. The next scheduled United Way of Williamson County "Day of Service" work day will be Monday January 19, 2015, Martin Luther King Holiday from 8:30 a.m. to noon. A sign up announcement will be sent out prior to the work day.

With the recent rains we have had, we can look forward to a beautiful spring at Berry Springs. Thank you to all who participated and we look forward to seeing you again in January!



Gail Williams, Inez Vance, Colleen Sweeney, JoAnn Beneat, Carolyn Olivent, Commissioner Covey's assistant, Susan Gates



*Pictured are Mike Molleur and Commissioner Valerie Covey*

# *There's an App for That!*

By Jinna MacLaurin



## Apps for Plant Identification

Summary: This article takes a quick look at *Garden Compass*, an app for plant identification, and an even quicker look at several other apps which can be used for plant identification

*Garden Compass* allows the user to take a photo of a plant or a problem (disease or pest damage) and submit it for identification to a panel of horticulturalists. The app also has an area called “Essentials”, which includes a store selling garden implements and nutrients. The “Notifications” area contains all answers which have been received.

I submitted a picture of Bush Morning Glory\* which I had taken at Zilker Park earlier that day. I included the following description “Bush like plant” and the app automatically included my geolocation and device ID. I immediately

\* If you are interested in learning more about Bush Morning Glory or even obtaining some seeds, please see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/00promotions/morningglory/morningglory.html>.



received the acknowledgement shown on page 12, and less than one day later received the identification on page 13.

Garden Compass tentatively identified the plant as Sweet Potato Vine (*Ipomoea Batatas*). The plant is indeed a member of the Sweet Potato Vine Family. I would have liked to get the more specific answer of Bush Morning Glory (*Ipomoea fistulosa* Mart. ex Choisy). It was clear that the horticulturist who answered my question was not absolutely certain of the identification because the identification title was followed by a question mark and the answer was clearly written specifically for my submission. I could have pursued further attempts at identification by checking for tubers, as the answer suggested, or by sending photos of other parts of the plants.

I also submitted three other photos to *Garden Compass*. One photo showed flowering fall aster, which was properly identified as fall aster, and one showed the leaves of Texas Ash and this photo was identified as Ash. I also submitted a photo of a salvia with a fungus and the problem was correctly identified as a fungus.

*Garden Compass* is a free application available for both iPhone and Android phones. I do recommend it! It compares very favorably to a few of other apps I tried.

For instance, *Plantifier* (free, for iPhone and Android) is a crowd sourced app, where, scarily enough, anyone can identify any submitted photo. I submitted photos of both the Bush Morning Glory and Texas Ash and neither plant has been identified.

*iPflanzen* (free, for iPhone) is a flow chart type app which attempts to help identify a plant by leading the user through a number of identifying characteristics such as plant type, leaf arrangement, leaf edge, leaf shape and narrowing down the scope as the user selects specific characteristics. With *iPflanzen*, I did not come close to a correct identification of the plants I had in mind. However, to be fair, other users might be more successful at plant identification with this app than I was.

*Leafsnap* (free, for iPhone) is an promising electronic field guide database which currently includes trees of the northeastern United States, but which is growing to include trees of the continental United States. *Leafsnap* allows a user to take a photo of a leaf and then uses visual identification software to display identified photos of similar looking leaves so that the user can compare and correctly identify the plant. *Leafsnap* also allows a user to build a collection of identified photos of leaves.

*Audubon Wildflowers* (\$3.99 - \$4.99, for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Android, Kindle Fire, HP Touchpad, and Nook Tablet) is an electronic database of North American Wildflowers complete with range maps and advanced search functions. It includes a journal in which the user can store sightings, locations and photos.



**Garden Compass** noreply@gardencompassapp.appspotmail.com via m3kw2wvrç  
to me, photos ▾

Oct 20 (5 days ago) ☆



### PHOTO RECEIVED

Thank you for your submission and for joining the Garden Compass family! Due to demand, not just in the United States, but all over the world, response time has slowed a bit. We will respond to you as soon as possible. Our experts are doing their best to keep our response time to less than 24 hours.

You are position 174 in queue. You have 14 submission(s) remaining. Photo submissions are limited to 20 per month.



## SWEET POTATO VINE? (IPOMOEA BATATAS)



ANSWER:

*October 20, 2014*

Your plant may be a Sweet Potato Vine. This is an annual for full sun and regular moisture. An excellent foliage plant. If it has thick fleshy underground tubers this ID may be correct. We never recommend ingesting plants we ID. We could never be absolutely sure of an ID from a picture and many plants are poisonous if eaten.

QUESTION:

Please identify this plant

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

## Bug-Friendly Backyard

by Wizzie Brown



Leaf beetles are a common group of beetles that attack a variety of landscape and garden plants. They come in a range of colors and sizes, but are usually oval in shape. These beetles eat foliage in the adult and larval stage.

Damage may or may not be problematic in the landscape and the level of damage is based upon size of the population and characteristics of the plant the beetles are feeding upon. If it is a smaller plant or a recently planted item, there may be more stress caused to the plant by feeding which may lead to problems or even death. With large, healthy plants (i.e trees), heavy populations of beetles defoliating the tree year after year can lead to stress. Usually damage is aesthetic on landscape plantings, but can cause issues if the beetles are feeding on food crops where they are in direct competition with us for the food item.

To manage leaf beetles, you can try active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis*, spinosad, azadirachtin,

pyrethrins, pyrethroids, carbaryl, imidacloprid or acephate. Make sure to read the label to make sure it can be used on the type of plant you are treating; some of the active ingredients may not be usable on food crops.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at <http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com>.

*The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.*

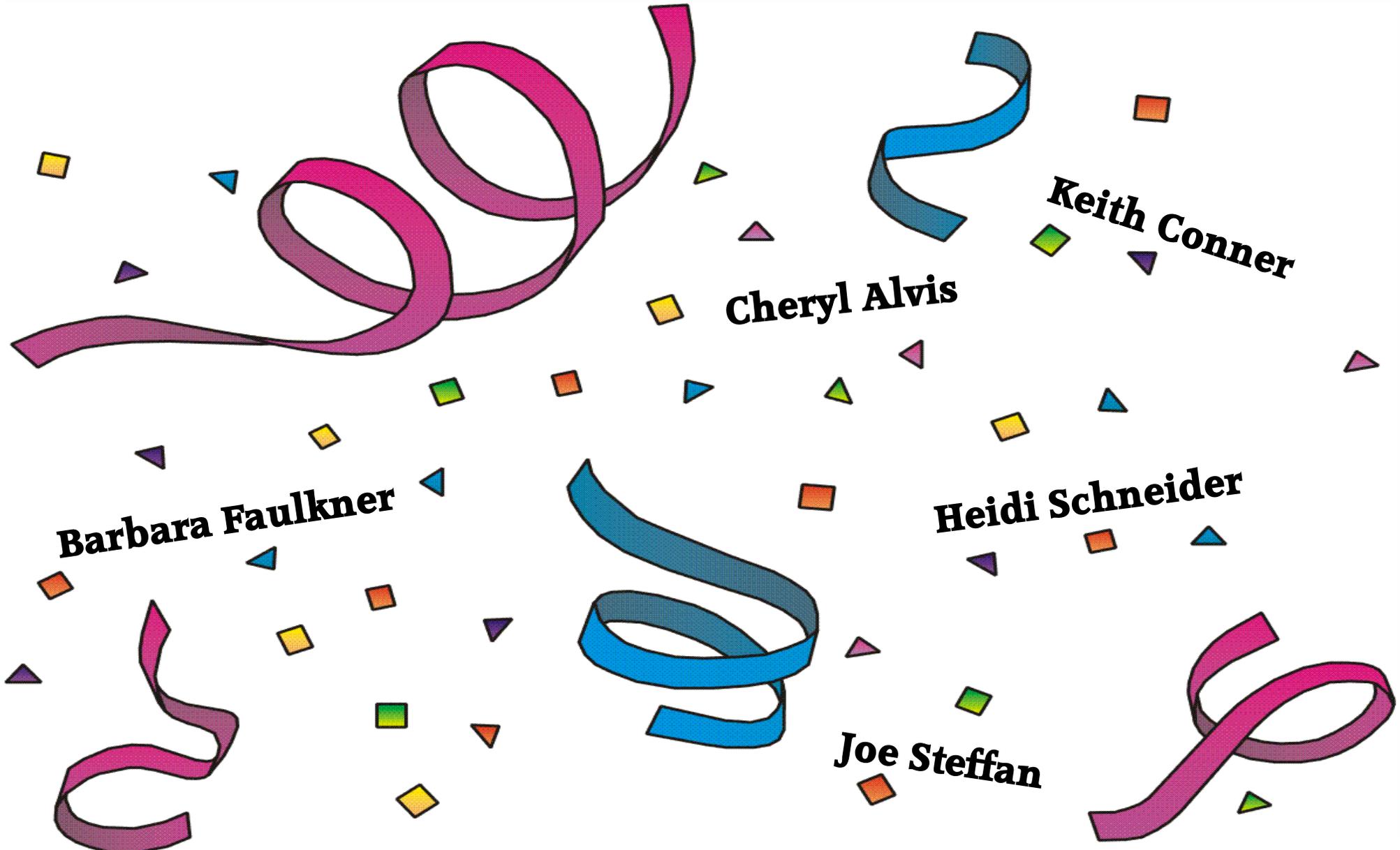
## *Monthly Gardening Tips November 2014*

*by Winola VanArtsdalen*



- The average frost date for Williamson County is November 15.
- Top-dress lawn with compost.
- Replenish mulch for winter, but be sure it is not against the stems of plants.
- Crowded perennials should be divided and replanted before cold weather.
- Plant shrubs and trees. Except for semi-tropicals like Pride of Barbados and lantana, you can still plant perennials, but be prepared to protect if we have an early freeze. Plant cilantro, dill, fennel, parsley and all perennial herbs such as chives and oregano now, but not basil. Spring-flowering bulbs such as daffodils can go into the ground now. Best make a map of your yard, so you know where everything is planted.
- Success of your landscape begins with soil. Soil amended with organic matter, ideally at least one-third of final soil mix, will grow better plants and better retain moisture. It is better to add more compost than to bring in soil from another place. If you cannot adequately amend soil, you may have to build raised beds.
- Water as needed. You should be able to water only once a week or less. Continue monthly irrigation check of sprinkler systems and watch temperatures.

***Congratulations to our Newly Certified Master Gardeners!***



***Barbara Faulkner***

***Cheryl Alvis***

***Keith Conner***

***Heidi Schneider***

***Joe Steffan***

## ***Officers for 2015***

The following officers were elected for the year 2015:



**Wayne Rhoden**  
**President**



**Jane Bowman**  
**Vice President**



**Marcy Echols**  
**Treasurer**



**JoAnn Beneat**  
**Secretary**

***Williamson County Master Gardener Association***  
***2015 Board of Directors and Sub-Committee Chairs***  
***County Extension Agent – Fred M. Hall***

**President** – Wayne Rhoden

**Vice President** – Jane Bowman

**Secretary** – JoAnn Beneat

**Treasurer** – Marcy Echols

**Past President** – Jeanne Barker

**Programs** – Alicia Johnson

**JMG** – Patsy Bredahl

**Landscape** – George Prall

**Rose Garden** – Liz and Jack Grieder

**Drought Tolerant Garden** – Janet White

**Water Conservation** – ?

**Vegetable Gardens** – ?

**Butterfly Garden** – ?

**Keyhole Garden** – Roseanne Martine

**Projects** – Steve Echols

**Awards** – ?

**Training** – John Papich and Brenda McIndoo

**Membership** – Jeanne Barker

**Plant Sale** – Brenda McIndoo

**Joss Growers** – Paul Howe

**Communications** – Catherine Nickle

**Publicity** – Vicki Strauss

**Help desk** – ?

**Speaker's bureau** – ?

**Online Presence** – Gary Bowman

**Newsletter** – Jinna MacLaurin

**TMGA Directors**

- Wayne Rhoden
- Open

**Alternates**

- Jeanne Barker
- Open

## ***2014 Board Positions***

**President** – Wayne Rhoden

**Vice President** – Cat McGrath-Farmer

**Secretary** – Annie Bowersox

**Treasurer** – Sandra Lawrence

**Past President** – Jeanne Barker

**Programs** – Alicia Johnson

**JMG** – Jane Bowman

**Landscape** – Chuck McKelley, Janet White

**Rose Garden** – JoAnne Dieterich

**Drought Tolerant Garden** – Janet White,  
Sandra Lawrence

**Water Conservation** – Carol Parsonage

**Vegetable Gardens** – George Prall

**Projects** – Steve Echols

**Awards** – Claire Hall

**Training** – John Papich

**Communications** – Catherine Nickle

**Publicity** – Betty Jo Phillips

**Help desk** – Martha Baddour

**Speaker's bureau** – Open

**Online Presence** – Diana Kowalska-Somerville

**Newsletter** – Jinna MacLaurin

### **TMGA Directors**

1. Wayne Rhoden
2. Cat McGrath-Farmer

### **Alternates**

1. Jeanne Barker
2. Claire Hall

# *Save the Date*

## **Williamson County Master Gardener Meetings**

Monthly meetings are held at the Williamson County Extension Office, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas.

### **November 10, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

6:30 p.m.: Social Time

7:00 p.m.: ***Bromeliads*** with Dr. Steve. One hour educational credit.

### **December 15, 2014**

Annual Awards Dinner at the San Gabriel Community Center in Georgetown. Please see the next page!



## Master Gardener Awards Dinner and Holiday Party

Monday, December 15, 2014

6 p.m. Social Time (bring an adult beverage if you would like)

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

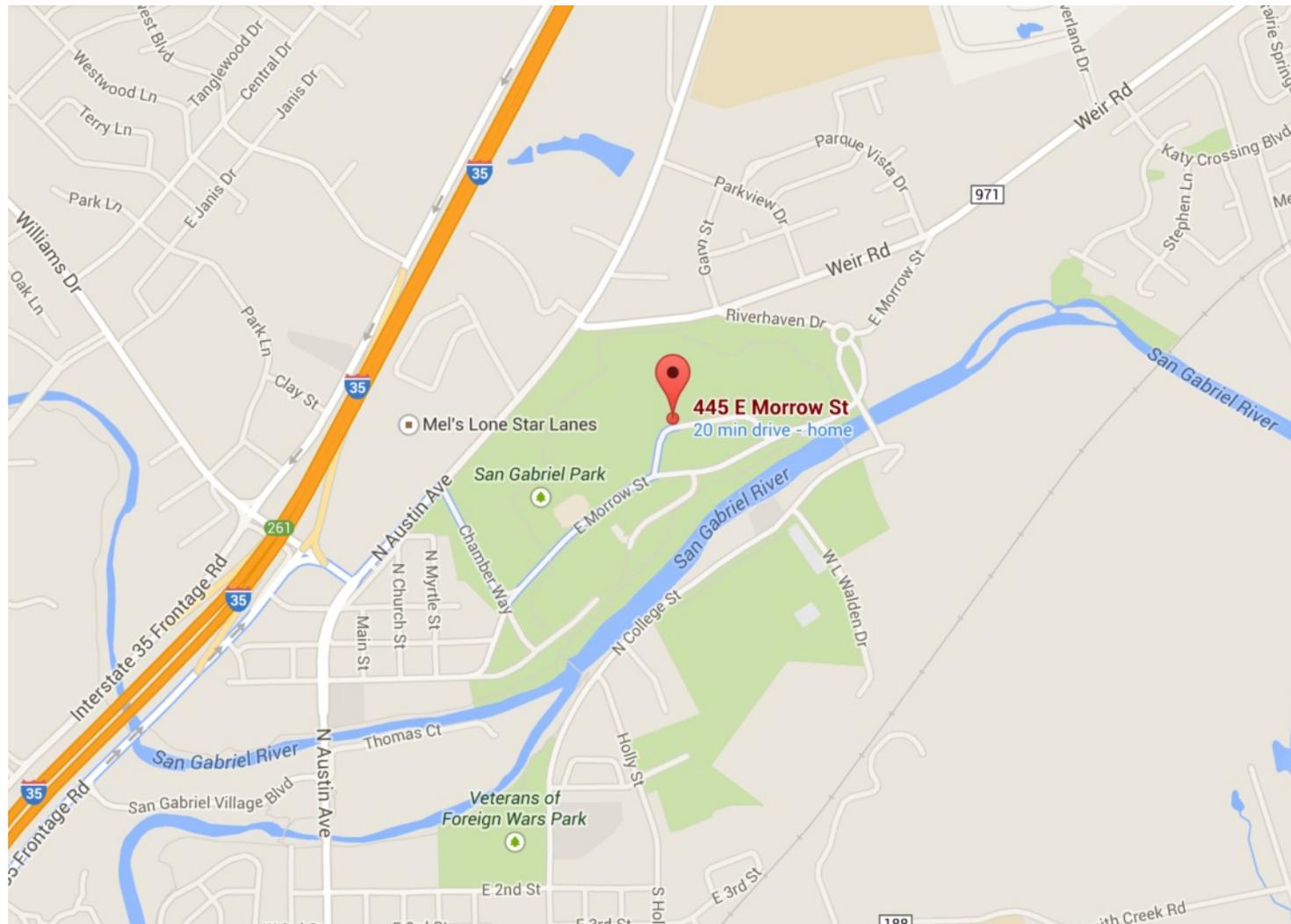
Menu includes turkey, gravy, potato casserole, green bean casserole, cornbread stuffing, cranberry relish, rolls and butter, ice tea or coffee and cherry or peach cobbler.

San Gabriel Park Community Center  
445 East Morrow Street, Georgetown  
(see map on next page)

Price per person: \$12

Barbara Faulkner and Marcy Echols will have a table  
at our November Master Gardener meeting to take your check.

For more info: [clairevhall@gmail.com](mailto:clairevhall@gmail.com)



*The Awards Dinner will be at the San Gabriel Park Community Center at 445 East Morrow Street, Georgetown.*

## Educational Opportunities for Master Gardeners

### **Williamson County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Webinars and Patio Series**

Webinars and patio lectures are held at the Williamson County Extension Office, Extension Training Room, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas. Webinars and patio lectures are free. Call 512-943-3300 to register by noon on the Thursday before the class.

### **All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series**

For more information, see <http://williamson.agrilife.org/event/all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-minimize-mosquito-problems/>.

**Friday, November 7, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

***Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future***

Dr. John Skinner

### **Williamson County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classes**

Williamson County Extension Office, Extension Training Room, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas.

**Friday, November 21, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.**

***Central Texas Turf and Tree Seminar***

\$25 fee includes lunch. Registration deadline is Friday, November 14.

For more information, call 512-943-3300.

## **Bexar County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Master Gardener Classes**

**Tuesday, November 4 through Thursday, November 6, 2014**

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

\$250 fee includes all materials.

For more information, see <http://txmq.org/event/vegetable-specialist-bexar-county/>.

## **City of Cedar Park Gardening Classes**

In partnership with the Williamson County Master Gardeners, The City of Cedar Park, Parks & Recreation will host the following free gardening classes. Classes are held at the Cedar Park Recreation Center Community Rooms, 1435 Main St, Cedar Park, Texas. For more information, call (512) 401-5500, or see <http://www.cedarparktexas.gov/index.aspx?page=444>.

**Tuesday, November 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

### ***How to Grow and Propagate Tough-as-Nails Roses and Perennials***

## **Travis County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Master Gardener Classes**

Seminars held at Zilker Botanical Garden are free; Zilker Park entrance fee is \$2 per adult, \$1 per child or senior. For more information, call (512) 477-8672. You must register for seminars held at Travis County Extension Office <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty> or by phone 979-845-2604. Location and fee for classes is noted in description. Class sizes are limited.

- See page 29 for events.

**Monument Cafe Market Gardening Classes, 500 S Austin Ave, Georgetown, Texas**

For more information, call 512-240-4715.

**Saturday, November 8, 2014, 10:30 a.m.**

***Preparing your Soil for a New Garden*** with Michelle Akindiya!

Welcome Michelle back with her first Saturday class! She'll be giving an informative presentation on preparing a healthy soil for a new seasonal garden! Our gardens health, the quality of life for our plants, depends upon the health of the soils it lives in. Jump in Saturday for a great talk on soil health and a warm welcome back!

**Saturday, November 15, 2014, 10:30 a.m.**

***Backyard Chicken Coops*** with Pattie Myers.

Join Pattie Myers of Redbird Farm as she gives another great talk on Backyard Chicken Coops. Imagine having farm fresh eggs right in your own backyard! Learn how to design and build a functional hen house for a variety of different backyard settings. Whether farm or neighborhood, join us for a great talk!

**Saturday, November 22, 2014, 10:30 a.m.**

***Texas Tips*** with Leslie Keller.

Join Leslie Keller for a discussion on helpful Texas Tips for using everyday objects to grow simple and cost effective gardens. Some times the best garden design come from the simplest ideas that create a cost effective means to grow food! Follow Leslie from idea to design, as you'll learn insightful ways to create garden spaces. Swing into the Market and pickup informative tips on gardening in Central Texas!

**Hill Country Water Gardens and Nursery, 1407 North Bell Blvd, (Hwy 183), Cedar Park, Texas.**

- No seminars planned until late winter or early spring.

**Natural Gardener Gardening Classes, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd, Austin, Texas**

Classes are subject to change so please call first to confirm. Classes are held outdoors under an open air canopy – be sure to dress for the weather. Arrive early for best seating. You are welcome to bring your own chair. Classes last about an hour. For more information, call 512-288-6113 or see <http://www.naturalgardeneraustin.com>.

**Saturday, November 8, 2014, 10:00 a.m.**

***Why Central Texans Should Love Cedar Trees***

Don Gardner, Registered Consulting Arborist discusses why Ashe Juniper trees, commonly called "cedar" trees, are important to the ecology and the environment of the Texas Hill Country. They are a pioneer species that builds soil and restores land. These native trees are not the water-thirsty plants you have been led to believe.

**Saturday, December 13, 2014, 10:00 a.m.**

***Honey Bees and Beekeeping***

Tanya Phillips, beekeeper with Bee Friendly Austin (<http://www.BeeFriendlyAustin.com>), discusses honey bees' job as pollinator, the causes of colony collapse disorder, and several ways we can help bees and other pollinators. Tanya Phillips is a beekeeper and owner of a registered and Certified Naturally Grown apiary in southwest Austin. She teaches beginning and hands-on natural beekeeping classes and sells raw honey and other bee products. She started a non-profit, <http://www.BeeFriendlyFoundation.org>, and the annual Tour de Hives (<http://www.AustinTourDeHives.weebly.com>) to further help out our little flying friends. She is currently in the Master's Beekeeper program at Montana State University and loves sharing her passion and fascination of bees with everyone.

## Online Classes

The state Texas Master Gardener Association allows only three recorded (static) online educational hours per year from the 12 different free online EarthKind Modules. The link for these classes is:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>.

WCMGA also has approved the webinars from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, <http://www.wildflower.org>. There is a small fee associated with their webinars.

A total of three online educational hours per year is allowed towards certification, whether they are all through A&M or a combination of EarthKind and Wildflower.

There is no limit on live online educational hours per year allowed through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

## Events of Interest to Master Gardeners

**November 6, 2014, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

***Backyard Basics: Backyard Chickens***

Fee: \$10 (\$15 late and onsite). Address: 1600B Smith Road, Austin, TX. For our final course on Backyard Basics, Master Gardener and blogger Ally Stresing will share her love of backyard chickens in this informative talk on the care and maintenance of the home flock. From constructing a predator-proof coop, to choosing proper feed, to handling boredom and the pecking order, Ally will guide you through the ins and outs of caring for happy, healthy hens. Part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Backyard Basics Series. Register by phone 979-845-2604.

**December 11, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

***Business Planning for the Small Acreage Producer***

Fee: \$15.00. Address: 6011 Blue Bluff Road, Austin, TX. Are you a small-acreage producer interested in learning more about business planning? Are you thinking about starting a small acreage production business? Join us for this seminar to learn more! AgriLife Extension specialists in College Station will be joining us via web video to present this program. Register by phone 979-845-2604.

This issue of the *Williamson County Master Gardener Newsletter* was made possible because of the contributions of the following Williamson County Master Gardeners and Interns: Wayne Rhoden (president), Jinna MacLaurin (editor), Keith Conner (cover photo), Jody Knight, Catherine Nickle (proofreader), AJ Senchack (feature writer), Val Black, Wizzie Brown, and Winola VanArtsdalen.

If you would like to contribute to the December 2014 *Williamson County Master Gardener Newsletter*, please send your submission to Jinna MacLaurin at [austindadamama@gmail.com](mailto:austindadamama@gmail.com) by November 16, 2014. As you garden, volunteer and learn, please take a moment to share your experiences with other gardeners. Thank you!



Copyright 2014 Williamson County Master Gardeners Association.  
WCMGA is a volunteer program of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service.