

**The
Williamson County
Master Gardener Newsletter
Fall 2015**



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President's Message

by Wayne Rhoden



What a strange year we have had! Cool wet spring and then no rain for about 70 days. We are getting questions about trees struggling this year because of all the rain in May and the first part of June and then shutting off the faucet for the next two months. What is a tree to do? When there is plentiful rain, the tree thinks it is going to have the water all year and then puts on more leaves to make food, and then take away the rain and it has to start dropping leaves because it cannot handle the transpiration through the leaves. Maybe El Niño will help even out the moisture later this fall.

Our new class started on August 4th and we have 33 students and one transfer from another state in the class. All of the new students are enjoying the classes and some have begun to volunteer at the various opportunities we have for service hours. Please welcome them when you meet them and encourage them to participate in our projects.

With the cooling of the summer we will have plenty of opportunities to volunteer and it will be a little better to be out in the weather. Please be reminded that the demonstration gardens need volunteers for other things besides just weeding, planting and digging the soil. There are duties such as helping weigh produce and making signs for the gardens. Some of our volunteers have started working on the EarthKind Rose garden, weeding and cutting back some of the roses. There is always plenty of volunteer help needed in the gardens.

I hope all of you got the survey on September 8 from the Texas Master Gardener Association regarding the 2017 Conference. They are asking you to fill out the survey to let them know if you would be interested in taking a four day cruise to C  zumel for the conference. The cost would be comparable to what you would spend if you paid for the conference and had to pay for a room at a hotel. Either way please take the time to voice your opinion to let them know how you feel.

We are drawing close to the end of our reporting hours for certification in 2016. Remember that we count the hours from November 1st to October 31st for our certification. Do not let it slip up on you.

We also are looking for chairs to the various committees each year. The incoming president will be appointing the chairs for all of the committees, some on the board, and some that serve as sub-committees. If you are interested in serving as a Board of Directors Committee Chair or a chair for one of the sub-committees, let the incoming president know. We presented the Nominating Committee's slate of officers at the monthly meeting in September and elections in either October or November depending on how many wish to run as a candidate. For a list of all committee chairs, see pages 15 & 16 of this newsletter, or visit our web site www.txmq.org/williamson and click on the member area on the right side of the home page. Click on chapter information and you will see a list of all committees. I won't be running for president again because I am term limited, however I will be serving as past president on the board. I hope some of you choose to get involved in this process.

From My Garden Gate

By Sandy Watson



Ryan Gainey, Georgia landscape designer, author, and self-described raconteur has designed gardens all over America and Europe but his greatest work, in my opinion, is his own home and garden in Decatur, Georgia. His resume is as eclectic as his personality. He has

designed gardens for Lee Radziwill, a 35-acre French estate, botanical gardens, the Visitor's Center at Clemson University, and private gardens from New York to Florida. I first became aware of Mr. Gainey's work through a House and Garden magazine cover many years ago. I was immediately captivated by the use of rough-cut wood with the bark still on it as a garden gate. This was back before anyone else had done this and I thought, "This man is a kindred spirit!"

His modest turn of the century cottage is on a quiet street not far from downtown Decatur. He bought it in the early '80's and it grew to include the house and yard next door when he began to run out of room for his plants. He expanded his original 150' x 150' lot to 2 acres of "garden rooms." The magic literally begins at the street. No hell strip for Ryan. If you happen to be there at the right season you are greeted by an exuberance of green and a very small sight line to the front door. One visitor to his garden says, "It spills over into the street and trickles down the curb to his neighbors' front yards." You may visit most days year-round for a \$5 donation or at the annual Connoisseurs

Tour sponsored by the Atlanta Botanical Garden Society. The house is completely covered on one side by Boston ivy. The scene is quintessentially southern but also exotic at the same time. Eight different areas make up the named rooms of this cottage garden. Clipped boxwood gives the garden structure and there is something blooming 12 months of the year.

Hydrangeas abound as well as camellias, roses, gladioli, ferns, clematis and honeysuckle. Fragrance is very important to him.



As for the drought much of the U.S. has experienced recently, Gainey says he has altered the way he thinks about the importance of certain plants. "My focus is on finding drought-resistant plants that bloom as late as they can, which is why I have three or four chrysanthemums. I also have fall-blooming asters. You don't have to water them as much and you will have a beautiful garden in the fall.

About his own garden Ryan says, "Basically, there is no plan. There never has been a plan. In fact, that's really true about all my work. I guess what it really amounts to is that I am a garden designer; actually, I think I am more of a garden evolutionary – as opposed to a visionary, because any true garden evolves. You read, you study, you travel and you go see what other people have done, just like anything else. For me it's become the implementation of a lifestyle." *



In thinking about what Mr. Gainey



said about chrysanthemums, and seeing the demise of garden plants in my summer-weary yard, I thought about my own chrysanthemums. I have two pots that have survived our move from the farm and are at least 15-years old. I don't do much to them except water and dead-head occasionally and yet, they are there, blooming constantly year after year, one pink, one orange. I thought if they are good enough for Ryan Gainey, maybe I should look into this a little more! Here's what Dr. Jerry Parsons, former Professor for Texas A&M University and Texas Cooperative Extension Horticulturist has to say, "Garden mums or chrysanthemums don't bloom until fall because they're light sensitive-when days get shorter and nights longer in September, the vegetation stops growing and they begin flowering. However, if you wait until fall to plant, plants will bloom when too small. To develop strong branches and good flowering plants, pinch

off about one inch of the stem tip two or three times during the growing season. Don't pinch after July 15. Start pinching when stems are six to eight inches long and repeat when the new shoots growing from the leaf axils reach four to six inches in length. This will prevent those tall, leggy plants that break over when the flowers start to show color.

Fertilize every three to four weeks with a slow-release fertilizer at the rate of one pound per 100 square feet of planting bed and provide supplemental irrigation during drought periods. If mum plants suffer from lack of moisture, the stems become hard and woody and new growth virtually stops so maintain a thick layer of mulch around the plants at all times. Chrysanthemums seem to be very appreciative of any extra care and attention you give them and will reward you with extra blooms and a longer flowering period.”



Chrysanthemum Ryan Gainey



Aster oblongifolius 'Rachael Jackson'

Fall aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*), one of our Texas native wildflowers, is a smallish, mounding plant, usually staying less than 2' tall and about as wide, although it can get as tall as 3'. It looks great planted in the foreground of other fall flowering plants, and along the edges of planting beds. These little guys are simply covered in flowers in October and November, making them a real show-stopper in the autumn landscape.” *

Linda Lehmusvirta, producer for Central Texas Gardener at KLRU, has Dendranthema X 'Butter Pat' a lovely, soft yellow mum. Another one she grows is Dendranthema x rubellum, Country Girl, aka Clara Curtis, an old-fashioned chrysanthemum that is known for its habit of spreading.*

I'm going to be paying more attention to my faithful and long suffering mums, planting my formerly potted mums in the ground and adding new ones, along with native fall asters and dreaming of Ryan Gainey's Georgia garden!

Sources:

For more information on Ryan Gainey, check out his website. There are also a few videos on Youtube with interviews. The one featuring the Legend of the Cherokee Rose is quite good as is the one on figs.

[Ryangainey.com](http://ryangainey.com)

*<http://clatl.com/atlanta/intown-eden/Content?oid=1274154>

*<http://prettyoldhouses.blogspot.com/2011/05/ryan-gaineys-garden-connoisseurs-garden.html>

* www.plantanswers.com/mums_05.htm

**Fine Gardening*, October 2015 Issue, Awesome Asters by Richard Hawke, pp. 30-37

Cook and Grow Camp 2015

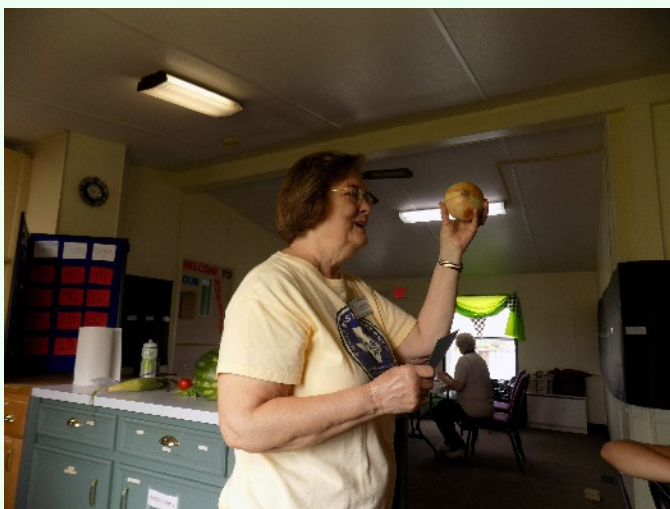
By Arlene Boyer with Patsy Bredahl

Patsy Bredahl, Junior Master Gardener (JMG) committee chair and collaborator extraordinaire, shares details of the 6th Annual JMG Cook & Grow Summer Camp Week.

25 youth, Grades 3 – 6, experienced multi-dimensional learning activities to further develop their knowledge and skills of basic gardening and healthy eating.

Jane Bowman with Sandra Roberson started the week off with an overview of the value of plants, using a rain water simulator to demonstrate how plants prevent erosion.

Patsy Bredahl, JoAnne Dietrich, Sallie Burk, and Brooke Balusek then led the youth in a classic JMG craft: plastic cups + potting soil + rye grass seed in pantyhose results in “Plant People”. The cups were decorated with faces including googly eyes: the JMG version of chia pets!



Throughout the activities of the week, presenters and youth played and learned together. Brooke Balusek’s outdoor games were a hit.

Patsy Bredahl spoke of 3 Sisters: corn, beans, and squash. JoAnne Dietrich spoke about the origins of fruits and vegetables. Then Brooke Balusek led a “Fruits & Veggies” trivia game, dividing the class in two groups, to see how much of the information about the fruits and vegetables the children recalled. Sallie Burk was an all around helper for everyone.

Wayne Rhoden wowed with giant sized projected images of gardening’s friends and foes from the insect world.

Two stories were read from the JMG Wildlife book about toads and frogs, followed by a short quiz comparing the likenesses and differences of the two. That was followed by crafting toad houses from terra cotta pots.



The children are still singing the 'worm' song they learned with Rebecca Caldwell and her worm composting critters.

No summer camp is complete until the chickens arrive! Teenager Rachel Butler and her mother brought 6 feathered friends, including a calm pair that enjoyed the children's cuddling.

The favorite camp day was the last day: all about healthy eating and a yummy lunch. Amber Compton, 4-H member and leader, and Annette Compton, 4-H leader, planned this special day. Amber taught healthy food portions and choices, using the My Plate graphic.

Then it was all about "The Iron Chef" contest conducted by Amber, Annette, and their terrific group of 4-Hers. The volunteers, including Gail Kelley, were impressed with the kitchen skills of our campers!

Each group of chefs made one of the courses of the luncheon, which started with a healthy salad full of lots of chopped veggies. The main entrée was pasta with veggies & pepperoni. The youngest chefs prepared dessert: banana tortilla splits. Everyone went home full of good food and happy memories!

The Junior Master Gardener Committee appreciates and thanks all the presenters, volunteers, and participants for another successful Cook & Grow camp.



Friendship Quilt For Jinna

by Jane Bowman

To show support during a difficult illness and appreciation for Jinna MacLaurin, Williamson County Master Gardeners worked together to make a Friendship Quilt for her. Fellow Master Gardeners (Winola V., Martha B., Annie B., Sallie W., Brenda M., Sandra R., Patsy B. and Jane B.) had two very busy work days to make the quilt top. Cindy Bradford, from Sew Much More in Austin, quilted it for us. Then Sandra bound the edges to finish it off. All the names from the membership for 2015 are written in the white blocks. The printed fabrics are all flowers, fruits and vegetables combined to make a very colorful quilt. When presented with the quilt, Jinna said she was "Overwhelmed". A sincere thank you to everyone who helped, donated fabric and donated funds to make the quilt. Jinna has a very special place in our hearts. She was editor of our Williamson County Master Gardener Newsletter.



Our Lady of the Rosary Cemetery and Prayer Gardens

by Claire Hall

OLOTR is so much more than just a cemetery. In addition to the burial grounds, there are also walking trails, a beautiful pond and a lovely hill with seating to view the surrounding area. It is a quiet place many people visit when looking for a respite from their busy lives.

WCMGA has been involved with the gardens there since 2011. Our team began planning improvements that year and in 2012 put in a Butterfly Garden. What had been a grassy, colorless area is now filled with gorgeous color and hundreds of butterflies!

In addition, several other areas were improved over the last few years. We've planted trees, installed roses, cleared and planted a new burial area for infants, and enhanced existing areas with a variety of grasses and flowering plants. It's truly a lovely spot.

And now we are getting plans together for even MORE gardens. Linda Reed and I are collaborating on landscape designs for three separate areas. Once the plans are approved, we'll be scheduling a work day! Please circle October 14 on your calendars as the tentative date. We could use as many volunteers as possible.

Here are some recent photos from OLOTR. But please visit if you can. It's located on HWY 29 just past the 130 overpass. You can learn more at olotr.com.

Then



Now



New Social Committee- Come Join the Fun!

by Jodie Beach

This year we've started a Social Committee to schedule a monthly get-together as a way for members and interns to get to know each other and enjoy garden-themed outings. We started in April with a tour and shopping at the Hill Country Water Gardens followed by a lunch at Blue Harvest in Cedar Park. In May, we went to Zilker Park Botanical Gardens where we toured their fairy garden display followed by lunch at The Shady Grove in Austin. For June we had a tour of Alicia Johnson's garden along with a tour of a neighbor's aquaponics set-up and of course followed with a sack lunch. In July, we enjoyed a tour of Jodie Beach's garden and we had a fun "Paint in the Garden" craft followed by a buffet lunch. For August, we had a "Wine & Cheese" get together at Marcy & Steve Echols house including a tour of their garden. On Sunday, September 13th, there was a WCMG Garden Tour featuring 6 of our members' gardens.

On Thursday, October 29th, there will be a tour of the American Botanical Council at the Case Mill Homestead in Austin. This nonprofit research and educational organization is dedicated to providing information about living healthier lives through the use of herbs and medicinal plants. Recently featured on Central Texas Gardener, they have amazing demo gardens divided into sections including "antioxidants", "first aid", "human system" and much more. We will have a tour guide with us, so educational hours can be earned.

Join us on these fun and educational outings. It is a great way to meet fellow master gardeners. All events are on the WCMG calendar.





Fire Ant Treatment

by Wizzie Brown



There are numerous ways to manage fire ants, but they are often broken into two categories- broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments are used to treat one mound at a time and can be labor intensive and may result in more pesticide being spread into the environment. Broadcast treatments will spread product (granular or bait) over a large area.

Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules onto the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound or using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. There are also many "home remedies", but be advised that many of these do not kill fire ants. Many home remedies make the fire ants move to a new location (often 1-2 feet away), but do not kill the ants.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the soybean oil is where the active ingredient (what kills the pest) is dissolved. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen. Depending on the active ingredient, the bait may cause the queen to die or be unable to produce viable eggs, which gradually kills off the colony. When using baits, results are often slower to observe when compared to individual mound treatments, but can provide 80-90% suppression for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, *read and follow all label instructions*. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at [512.854.9600](tel:512.854.9600).

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Monthly Gardening Tips Fall 2015

by Winola VanArtsdalen



In Mid-September weather usually changes with it cooling a bit. Blessed relief!

Time to plant spring-blooming wildflower seeds like columbines and poppies. Remember that some seeds such as blue bonnets must be scarified. Clear soil of weeds and dirt clods; loosen soil and spread seeds on top. Press into soil. Do not cover unless you are planting something with directions telling you to do so. Correct depth is important, because seeds have stored nutrients to survive just until germination and leaves have enough growth to produce their needs. If they are too deep, they will run out of their stored supply before they are able to provide for themselves. Soil must be moist for germination, but fall rains usually take care of this for you.

Turf: If using pre-emergent, put it out September 1.

Add an inch of organics for nutrients to beds, then add two inches of organic mulch. Mulch not only keeps out weeds, but retains moisture and will insulate roots from extreme temperature changes. Organic mulch will break down and add nutrients to soil.

If planning to plant any new beds, preparation must begin now. Weeds and turf should be cleared, amendments added, and soil allowed to rest for four to five weeks before planting.

Except for marginally cold hardy plants such as lantana and esperanza, plants are best planted in the fall in Central Texas to have time to strengthen and be prepared to face the stress of Texas summer. Shallow-rooted plants like groundcover, especially, should be planted in the fall.

In October, as we move further into fall, it is time to plant container shrubs, including roses, perennials and trees. Make careful choices of native/adapted plants suited to needed areas of sun/shade.

Shop for bulbs now while nurseries have them in stock and plant when and how directed.

Turf: October 1-15. Fertilize Bermuda, St. Augustine, Buffalograss and Zoysia. Buffalograss can be fertilized spring and fall, but should never have more than 2 lbs. Nitrogen per one thousand sq. ft. in one year. Do not overwater Buffalograss, or you will have more weeds. If you spread top dressing, do not fertilize, as it would be too much nitrogen.

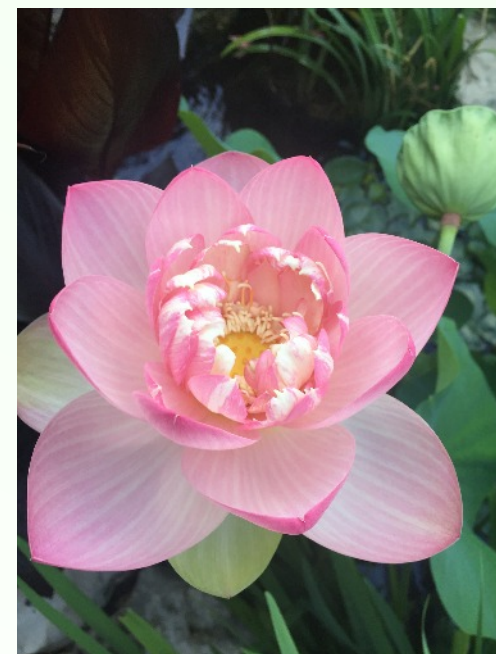
Top dressing: Spread one-half to one inch organics, fine compost, over your turf and water in for better health and moisture retention next season. You can spread top dressing any time except during hot weather, but, again, if you spread top dressing, do not fertilize.

Rake leaves into pile, mow several times to shred, and leave on grass to return nutrients to soil. Remove from flower beds large or slow to decay leaves like Magnolia. Fine leaves can remain as long as air can get through.

Make your “cover plans” for the frosts that are sure to come. Remember that plants you consider cold hardy may need covering their first year. Watch the weather, so you can water before an expected freeze.

We have survived the Texas summer. Enjoy our wonderful fall!

Source: Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service



***Williamson County Master Gardener Association
2015 Board of Directors and Sub-Committee Chairs
County Extension Agent – Fred M. Hall, (who resigned this month)***

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 – Sandra Roberson

Vegetable Gardens – Teresa Wilts

Keyhole Garden – John Clifford

Projects – Steve Echols

Awards – Dana Blair

Training – John Papich and Brenda McIndoo

Membership – Jeanne Barker

Plant Sale – Brenda McIndoo

Joss Growers – Paul Howe

Communications – Catherine Nickle

Publicity – Viki Strauss

Help desk – Kaye Davidson

Speakers' bureau – Val Black

Online Presence – Garry Bowman

Newsletter – Open

Membership – Jeanne Barker

TMGA Directors

- Wayne Rhoden
- Jeanne Barker

Alternates

- Jane Bowman
- Open

A Note from Wayne:

Our nominating committee has slated the following persons for the following offices for 2016:

President: Jane Bowman

Vice President: Mary Sexton

Treasurer: Marcy Echols

Secretary: Catherine Nickle

At the October general meeting, I will be accepting nominations from the floor if anyone else is interested in running for those elected officer positions.

Once the executive board is filled, we will be looking for sub-committee chairs. If you are interested in one of the sub-committees, please email me at mgardener@suddenlink.net, give me a call at 512-869-8016, or wait until mid-October and contact the president-elect. If you wish to see the responsibilities for each committee and sub-committee, visit our web site where the standing rules are posted. The link is <http://txmg.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/williamson/files/WCMGASstandingRules.pdf>. Scroll down to Article IX: Committees.



Save the Date

Williamson County Master Gardener Meetings

Monthly meetings, which are open to the public, are held at the Williamson County Extension Office, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas. Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Social time is held from 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The program (usually an educational speaker) is from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.: Wildroot Organics. David and Theresa Steinbrunner will talk about "Getting to the roots of mycorrhizal and healthy soil" as well as talking about recognizing "sports" (shoots that differ from the mother plant). One hour educational credit.

Monday, November 9, 2015, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.: Gary Bible on bee care. One hour educational credit.

Thursday, December 17, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *Annual Awards Dinner*****

At the Georgetown Country Club - 1500 Country Club Road, 78628. The dinner is \$15 per person, with a cash bar available. Social time starts at 6:00 with dinner served at 6:30. Contact event coordinator Dana Blair at danadblair@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Monday, January 11, 2016, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.: Bill A. Moore, AKA "Wild Bill" will be showing us how to sharpen and care for our gardening tools. One hour educational credit.

Monday, February 8, 2015, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.: "Show and Tell" Multiple brief presentations by fellow gardeners. One hour educational credit.

Monday, March 14, 2015, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.: Judith Craft teaches "24 Unusual Herbs and How to Grow Them". One hour educational credit.

Monday, April 11, 2015, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.: Lorig Hawkins of Farmshare Austin speaking on "Fungi in the Garden". One hour educational credit.

**2016 State Conference, hosted by Collin County in McKinney, TX
Tuesday through Thursday, May 17-19, 2016
Registration costs \$175 until December, when the price goes up!**

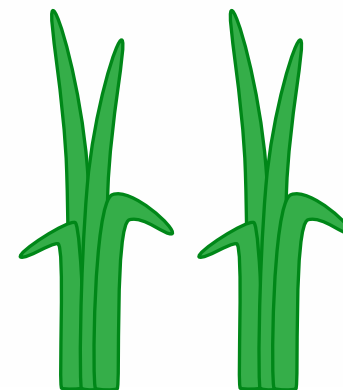
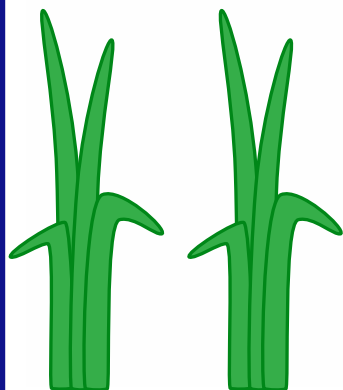
Educational Opportunities for Master Gardeners

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. For more information, see <http://williamson.agrilife.org/>.

Williamson County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Classes

Unless otherwise indicated, classes are held at Williamson County Extension Office, Extension Training Room, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas. Call 512-943-3300 or register online at <http://williamson.agrilife.org/program-registration/>



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 (\$3 for non-Austin-residents), \$1 per child or senior. For more information, call (512) 477-8672. Zilker Park is at 2100 Barton Springs Road, Austin, Texas.

You must register for seminars held at Travis County Extension Office online by phone 979-845-2604. Contact is Sue Carrasco, 512-854-9610 or sacarrasco@ag.tamu.edu. Location and fee for classes is noted in description. Class sizes are limited. The Extension Office is at 1600 Smith Road, Austin, Texas.

October 8, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Backyard Basics - "Plant Propagation." Learn how to make new plants for your yard through propagation methods such as rooting slips and cuttings. Master Gardener Sue King, a Plant Propagation Specialist. Space is limited to 25. Register on-line. No on-site registration available. Cost: \$25 thru 9/28, \$30 starting 9/29. No cash, only credit cards and checks. For more information, see <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>.

November 12, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Backyard Basics - "Bold and Beautiful Edibles." Come join us to learn about edible plants with ornamental potential for Central Texas landscapes. We're talking artichokes, asparagus, rhubarb, strawberries, herbs and more. Some are perennials, some are annuals, but all will beautify your landscape and satisfy your appetite. Master Gardener, Patty Leander is a writer for Texas Gardener magazine and grows vegetables year round in her Oak Hill garden. Cost: \$10 thru 10/2, \$15 starting 11/03 and onsite, NO cash accepted - checks and credit cards only. For more information, see <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty>.

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

No information available on November classes at this time. For more information, call 512-240-4715.

Saturday October 3, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

“October in the Garden” with Michelle. Monthly series where they go over the garden to-do list. Learn what to plant, what to harvest and other timely garden tasks. This class is perfect for the beginning gardening and those new to growing in Central Texas.

Saturday October 10, 2015, 10:30 a.m.

“Growing Lavender” with Cathy Slaughter from Gabriel Valley Farms. Learn how to care for the fragrant herb here in Central Texas.

Saturday October 17, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

“Organic Pest Control” with Michelle. Learn how to control pests in your garden without the use of harsh chemicals.

Saturday October 24, 2015, 2:00 p.m.

“Backyard Composting” with Michelle. Make black gold with your food and your waste.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 LaCrosse Ave., Austin, TX 78739

Native Plant Gardening (NPG) Certificate Series – September 12 – October 3

Planning and installing a beautiful landscape that makes native plants work for you.

Certificate series or individual classes. Fee class. Please see website/registration for details. www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/

Landscape Design Studio 1 and 2 – October 18 & 25

Building upon the introductory class “Native Plant Gardening: Landscape Design,” Applying basic design principles & skills acquired and applying them in a design studio setting. Fee class. Please see website/registration for details.

www.wildflower.org/gonativeu/

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

- Call 512-260-5050 for more information or visit their website at www.hillcountrygardens.com

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>.

Georgetown Garden Club Monthly Meeting

Georgetown Parks and Recreation Community Room 1101 N. College, Georgetown

October 1, 2015 1:30 p.m.

Main Program: Alice Shamblin, “God is Great, Weeds are Bad and Critters are Crazy”

Native plants, soils, climate and less water

Mini-Program: George Shamblin, D.C., “Painless Gardening”

Gardening as a form of exercise.

November 5, 2015 1:30 p.m.

Main Program: Karen Clary, Manager of Plant Conservation, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

“Think Global, Act Local – Saving Seeds of Native Plants in your Community”

January 7, 2016 1:30 p.m.

Main Program: Barbara Wright, owner of Wright’s Nursery in Briggs, TX, “Plants for the Shade”

While knowledgeable about all native plants for our area, in this program the emphasis is on plants for shade.

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 for certification through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.



Garden Tours of Interest to Master Gardeners

5th Annual Tour of Gardens in Highland Lakes Area, Marble Falls

Saturday, October 11th from 9 AM-2 PM The Native Plant Society of Texas, Highland Lakes Chapter will host the 5th Annual Tour of Gardens. Up to three home gardens and several public gardens in Marble Falls will be on the tour, with knowledgeable gardeners on hand to answer questions at the gardens. A sale of native plants will be held at the event's headquarters and a native tree giveaway is also planned. Buy your wristband October 11th at The Falls on the Colorado Museum, 2001 Broadway, Marble Falls, TX. \$5 Per Person - Children Free.

www.yantislakesidegardens.com/npsot

The Travis County Master Gardener Garden Tour

October 17th. Gardens have been chosen with plants that represent those found in the City of Austin Native Plant booklet. Cost is \$19 online, \$20 day of event. If anyone is interested in carpooling to this event please let our social committee chair, Jodie Beach (vbeach1@peoplepc.com) know and she will try to arrange something. More information:

insideaustingarden.org.

October 29th - WilCo MG Social Committee Tours American Botanical Council

An independent, nonprofit, educational organization this group is dedicated to providing information for the public and health care professionals regarding healing through the use of herbs and medicinal plants.

Recently featured on Central Texas Gardener, this garden is divided into areas featuring "human systems", "first aid", "digestive system", etc. Enjoy these very unique plants and beautiful gardens situated in an historic setting. We will have a tour guide so this will count for educational hours.

For those interested, we will be carpooling from the parking lot of Hobby Lobby on 1431 (meeting at 9:30) - or meet us on site. The tour is limited to 18, so please sign up. If you find you are unable to make the tour, please remove your name promptly so another can take your place. This is a great way to get to know some of your fellow MGs and Interns!

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 (honorary editor and layout), articles by Wizzie Brown, Jane Bowman, Arlene Boyer with Patsy Bredahl, Viki Strauss, Winola VanArtsdalen, Sandy Watson, Catherine Nickle (interim editor), Ann Harmon (assistant editor, proofreader), and Wendy Odum & Cathy Reidel (proofreaders).

If you would like to contribute to the Winter 2015 *Williamson County Master Gardener Newsletter*, please send your submission to Catherine Nickle at cathnickle@gmail.com by December 1, 2015. As you garden, volunteer and learn, please take a moment to share your experiences with other gardeners. Thank you!



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WCMGA is a volunteer program of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service.