

# Williamson County Master Gardener Journal

Award Winning

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## Master Gardener's At Work

### WCMGA Demonstration Gardens

From the photo right, it may look like little has been done toward the demonstration gardens during the past month; however, just as some vegetables in a garden often grow unseen, much as been accomplished "behind the scenes." So far, the steps taken to es-

tablish the gardens have included building the wooden frames for two 5 foot by 10 foot garden beds and two 5 foot by 20 foot garden beds. Soil donated by Gardenville was added to the beds on May 13. Jane Williamson and Sandy Lawrence, Co-Chairs of the Demonstration Gardens Committee, launched the first meeting of the group on June 16. WCMGA members who responded to the invitation for this kick-off meeting were Lisa LaPaso, Tommy Wray, Margaret Seals, Janet White, Ingrid Langdon, Joanne and Charlie Dieterich, Teresa Robinson, Ruth Olmsted, Jeanne Holms, Grace Bulgarian, Paul Lawrence, Brenda McIndoo, George Whiting, Lisa Quintero, Nancy Edison, Wayne Rhoden, and, of course, Jane Williamson and Sandy Lawrence.

Short term and long term goals for the gardens were proposed, and several specialty groups were established within the Committee. In the short term, a drip irrigation system will be installed in the garden beds so that planting for fall can proceed. A soil test will be ordered, and soil amendments will be added before planting if



necessary. A frame will be built for one garden bed so that Square Foot Gardening can be demonstrated there. Long term goals include building a potting shed with roof designed for rainwater catchment, and the addition of a greenhouse. A fifth garden bed will be built and maintained by the 2009 WCMGA Class as part of their learning experience. Various special interest groups were formed within the Committee to plan for fall planting of herbs and vegetables, and to document the progress of the gardens for scientific and educational purposes. Two field trips are planned by the Committee to visit local community gardens to learn what varieties of vegetables are being grown successfully in Williamson County and glean other information pertinent to fall planting.

A second meeting of the Demonstration Gardens Committee is planned for Monday, July 13, immediately following the regular monthly meeting of the WCMGA. Membership in this committee is open to all WCMGA members who are interested in vegetable gardening.

*Text and image by Margaret Seals*



## Master Gardeners at Work

# News and Notes

### MG Speaks at Hutto

Interest in creating a wildlife habitat motivated many of those attending the Market Day at the Hutto Gin on June 13, 2009. Williamson County Master Gardener Christine Powell could not tell them how to attract more hippos, but she did provide valuable tips on drawing hummingbirds and butterflies. A steady stream of both adults and children patronized her booth, getting literature and plant lists, viewing informational posters from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, and asking cogent questions.

Plants in the booth provided examples of yellow composite flowers with a platform for butterflies to rest on while sampling the nectar, as well as the red trumpets preferred by hummingbirds. There were also host plants for the caterpillars that grow into adult butterflies. The children were fascinated to learn that butterflies eat through a proboscis that looks like a nose and smell through sensors on their feet. The adults learned that native plants could provide food and shelter for the native wildlife while conserving our scarce water resources. Reducing the use of chemicals allows caterpillars and butterflies to prosper, while protecting other aspects of the environment as well. Clearly, many of the hearers were determined to head home and set up a home for butterflies and hummingbirds.

### City Contemplates Changes to Tree Ordinances

The City of Georgetown Uniform Development Code Task Force team for Landscape and Tree Preservation is planning to consider changes to the city Protected Tree and Heritage Tree ordinances. These regulate the impact of development on existing tree stocks as well as the efforts required for planting new trees in these areas. Under consideration, for example, are changes that would increase the size required for designation as a heritage tree (currently 26 inches at 4.5 feet). This would, of course, reduce the number of large trees eligible for protection while making clear-cutting for development less expensive.

Task Force meetings are open to the public, usually on Wednesday afternoons, and feature roundtable discussions between city staff and other interested parties. They genuinely want to hear you.

Those who cannot attend may make their views known by posting them at <http://www.udc.georgetown.org>. This site also tracks meeting dates and Task Force progress. The recommendations will eventually be presented at two public workshops and sent to the City Council within a few months for action. The Council sessions will provide the last opportunity for public input.

For the full text of a letter from Heather Brewer, the Georgetown Urban Forester, describing this process in more detail, go to <http://grovesite.com/page.asp?o=mg&s=wcmg&p=391374> on the Master Gardener website.

### "If You Build it, They Will Come!"

We tried and tried without success to get a picture of our fountain with birds on it for last month's article, "Building My Disappearing Fountain." As soon as it was too late for the newsletter, we managed to get this picture taken through the window. Hopefully, sharing it with you will encourage you to try this project for your wildlife habitat. (See June MG Newsletter for instructions.)



### News from the Awards Committee, Margaret Seals, Chairperson

Heads up out there, if you have not been turning in your volunteer hours! The Awards Committee will again be rewarding those with 100 volunteer hours (or over) this year at our Awards Banquet to be held on December 14. Last year's recipients received denim shirts with the Master Gardener Logo embroidered on them. WCMGA member Norma Bessiner, owner of the Angel Springs Event Center in Leander, has again graciously invited us to her beautiful venue for our Awards Dinner. WCMGA member Sally Todd has also agreed to make table arrangements. Last year, the beautiful table arrangements that Sally and her committee made went home with lucky members as door prizes, and the plan is to award the centerpieces as door prizes again this year. So get those volunteer hours in (because John Papich has to record them for you to be eligible for an award), get the date on your calendar, and join the happy volunteers who will win shirts this year.

### Join Us July 13th for our Monthly Meeting

This month's meeting will be presented by Jeffery Knight of the Ewing company, Cedar Park. He will be talking about drip irrigation and its application in our back yard landscapes. Additionally, the RWH Team will be putting on a short presentation demonstrating how a drip irrigation system can be fed by a rainwater collection system as simple as a rainbarrel.

## Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting

## Native Bees

On June 8, the Williamson County Master Gardeners invited Master Naturalist Kim Bacon to tell them about native bees, among the most important pollinators in Texas. Without these insects, a wide range of crops would never bear fruit or reproduce. They may become even more important in the future, as the population of European honeybees has been under stress from hive collapse and other dangers (including hybridization with more aggressive African strains). Unlike most other pollinators such as butterflies, wasps, and hummingbirds, bees eat pollen in addition to nectar and combine them into “bee loaf” to feed their larvae. They therefore visit, and pollinate, different plant species than the other animals do. That gives the bees an irreplaceable role in sustaining their ecological systems.

Our native bees are mostly solitary. Only the honeybees descended from European stock lead social lives in large hives. However, native bees are often found living together in large aggregations if the conditions are favorable for them. Many Texan solitary bees live in tunnels in sandy soil. That means that they cannot settle in areas where the soil is covered by turf or mulch or underlain by black plastic or other weed barriers. Plants relying on bees for pollination may therefore not do well in such surroundings. Other native bees live in holes dug by rodents or in narrow tunnels in trees and other wood objects. “Bee houses” of wood with various size holes drilled into it can provide a home for many bees.

For animals that play such a huge role in nature, horticulture, and agriculture, native bees are surprisingly unknown and unstudied. There are probably only twenty-five experts on American bees in the entire country. Kim has organized a group of Texas Bee Watchers ([www.bee watchers.com](http://www.bee watchers.com)) to collect data on the prevalence, diet, and behavior of the various species in our state. Of the 20,000 bee species known worldwide, about 800 to 900 are native to Texas. These vary from huge carpenter bees to tiny species, in a wide range of colors and markings.

Bee populations, both native and imported, are in trouble. Development has restricted their habitat, just as it has for other native species. Diverse natural environments have been replaced by farms or subdivisions with a very limited repertoire of bee-friendly species such as clover. A special risk is the much higher loadings of chemicals in the modern environment, including insecticides in addition to other agricultural and industrial agents. Native bumblebee populations are in particular decline, both from the general risks shared by other bees and by competition from imported greenhouse bumblebees. This is a worldwide problem: 2 of the 27 species of native bumblebees in the United Kingdom have become extinct in recent years. As the bees decline, so do the plant species that rely on them for pollination.

Gardeners who wish to promote healthy bee communities can plant “bee gardens” with species that provide a year-round variety of bee-friendly flowers. Some are listed on the Bee Watcher web site. Large patches with ten or more plants tend to attract and support larger populations. Bare ground for nests and wooden bee houses also help in building prospering communities of these irreplaceable pollinators. As Master Gardeners, we particularly need to be aware of the role of pollinators in sustaining food and decorative plants. Like water and soil, these insects are essential to our efforts.



*A cuckoo bumblebee (Psithyrus insularis) searching for pollen and nectar on sneezeweed (Dugaldia hoopsii). Photo by Dr. David Inouye, University of Maryland*

Scientists at England’s Cambridge University have answered a question about the structure of flower petals that had been troubling botanists for years—what is the purpose of the cone-shaped surface cells that cover most flowers pollinated by insects, in contrast to the smooth surface cells on flowers pollinated by other means? It turns out that these match tiny claws on the insects’ feet to work much like the two sides of a velcro fastener. Insects prefer these flowers because they can hang on easily to gather nectar and pollen even if the flower is vertical or tossed by wind. According to the BBC, experiments with bees showed that insects on the “bumpy” flowers could rest under conditions that forced those on the “smooth” flowers to move their wings and feet constantly to stay in place. The plants that the insects preferred were much more likely to be pollinated and transmit the characteristic to future generations.

## From Bob's Blog

*Some Williamson County Master Gardeners may not know that our County Extension Agent, Bob Whitney, has a web log ("blog," sort of an internet diary) at*

<http://theagriculturalist.blogspot.com>  
/ Here are some recent highlights:

Monday, June 8, 2009

### **Brown Patch and Take-All Root Rot Diseases on St. Augustine grass Lawns**

Rhizoctonia Brown Patch and the Take-All Root Rot fungus are common problems on St. Augustine grass lawns in Texas. The activity of both diseases is influenced by weather conditions and by turfgrass management practices that encourage disease activities. For some reason we have had perfect conditions for both diseases to start the last couple of weeks.

Brown Patch is active in fall and spring, but is primarily a problem in the fall. Take-All Root Rot (TARR) disease on St Augustine grass is becoming more and more familiar to homeowners because in the last decade it has grown to be our number one problem. The TARR disease is also active during the transition seasons when soil temperatures are in the 60 to 65 degree range.

The fungi causing Rhizoctonia blight primarily attacks the base of the leaf blade causing roughly circular patches with symptoms of yellowing and wilting turf to appear. An easy test to determine the presence of this disease is to pull on affected leaf blades in areas of lawns

that display symptoms and determine if the leaves are diseased. When Rhizoctonia blight is active, leaf blades can easily be pulled away from the St. Augustine grass stolons and display a basal rot of the leaf sheath at the point of attachment to the stolons.

Brown patch symptoms usually appear as circular patterns on lawns when night-time temperatures drop below 70 and soil moisture levels are high. Very rarely will brown patch actually kill the affected turfgrass plants. The disease generally only attacks the leaf blades and the stems (stolons) remain green and roots will remain white and active.

The fungi causing Take-All Root Rot initially attacks the root system of the affected turfgrass plants and eventually works its way into the stolons and crown (growing points) of the plant. Symptoms for this disease include: stems (stolons) that pull up from the ground easily, similar to grub damage, brown to black roots, and small dark spots on the stems. Unlike white grubworm damage where roots are cut off by insect chewing, the TARR disease causes roots to remain attached to stolons and become withered and brown.

Unlike Brown patch, the Take-All Root Rot fungi can commonly destroy large areas of turfgrass. Although this disease is primarily active when soil temperatures are cool, effects of the fungus activity can extend into the summer period where turf becomes yellow, thinned and weak growing during the hot periods of the year.

While both of these diseases attack most turfgrasses, they are primarily a problem on St. Augustinegrass. The real key to controlling

these two diseases, especially Take-All Root Rot, is to prevent stress in the turfgrass plants. Common stress problems found in turfgrass sites include: Excess shade; Thatch; Soil compaction; Poor drainage; improper use of herbicides; Over fertilization; Excess supplemental irrigation.

Cultural Controls: Aerate to prevent soil compaction problems. Avoid excess stimulation of excess top growth with too much nitrogen fertilizer. Water deeply and infrequently. Use herbicides carefully and sparingly. Provide for good drainage.

Topdressing with peat: For Take-All Root Rot Control, research at the Texas A&M Research Experiment Station in Dallas showed that topdressing at a rate of 1 bale (bag) of peat moss (approximately 3.8 cu. ft.) per 1000 sq. ft. of turf area was sufficient to protect turf for 2 years. The acidity in the peat moss (pH = 4.4) was shown to suppress the fungi causing the take-all root rot.

Fungicide Control: Take All Root Rot (timing of application critical) - Spectracide immunox (contains myclobutanil), Ferti-lome Systemic or Ortho Lawn Disease Control (contains propiconazole). Brown Patch - Turfcide (PCNB), Spectracide immunox, Ferti-lome Systemic or Ortho Lawn Disease Control (Propiconazole), Hi-Yield Maneb (Mancozeb), Green Light Broad Spectrum (Bayleton), Fung-Away

Product names and labels change constantly so be sure to follow all label directions and water in chemicals when label directs.

## Submissions?

If you would like to contribute to the award winning *Williamson County Master Gardeners Journal* please send your articles, items, and photographs to Christine Powell at [xtinepowell@verizon.net](mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net) by the 25th of the month. Remember to include captions and attribution details. The Editor is grateful to all those who have submitted items in the past and would like to thank those who would like to send things in the future. Thank you!

Master Gardener Education

# Advanced Training Ideas

We are choosing from an interesting list of subjects for meeting speakers during the remainder of the year. Some of the subject areas include landscape and plant photography, selection, use and care of hand and power gardening tools, rainwater harvesting system applications, oak wilt macro infusion demonstration and instruction, research and trial garden protocol development, landscape design workshop, greenhouse planning, utilization, and management and composting. The main difference is that these classes will be presented mainly by members from our own ranks. It's amazing how much talent we have under our WCMGA roof!

## Native Plant Society of Texas presents An Introduction to Botany

7/18/2009 1:00 PM

Steve Bostic (Austin Community College botany professor) will present an interactive lecture describing "big picture" evolutionary relationships among organisms starting with flowering plants and working backward through non-flowering seed plants, non-seed plants, non-vascular plants, and photosynthetic non-plants. Texas examples will be emphasized and experimentation with the horticultural uses of non-flowering natives (mosses, ferns, liverworts, etc.) will be discussed. Registration is required: contact Kathy McCormack ([VEFL21@yahoo.com](mailto:VEFL21@yahoo.com), 698-9880) to register or if you have any questions.

Location: REI Round Rock Community Space

Contact: Kathy McCormack ([VEFL21@yahoo.com](mailto:VEFL21@yahoo.com), (c) 698-9880) to register (required) or if you have any questions.

Cost: Free

## Rainwater Harvesting

7/16/2009 7:00 PM

The Central Texas area averages 32 inches of rain per year. However, that average includes several years of drought punctuated by floods and rainfall that comes in either a dribble or a drenching. Add an ever-increasing population and ever-tightening watering restrictions, and it is easy to see why water is becoming the most important issue of the future. It is time to take advantage of the free water that lands on every inch of your home and put it to good use. Come to an introduction to the various ways to preserve the fresh cloud-juice to both restore? and save? some green!

Join ACC Professor and Round Rock Community Garden Project Member Jeff Ferris for this free clinic!

Location: REI Round Rock Community Space

Contact: Daniel Grillo

Cost: Free

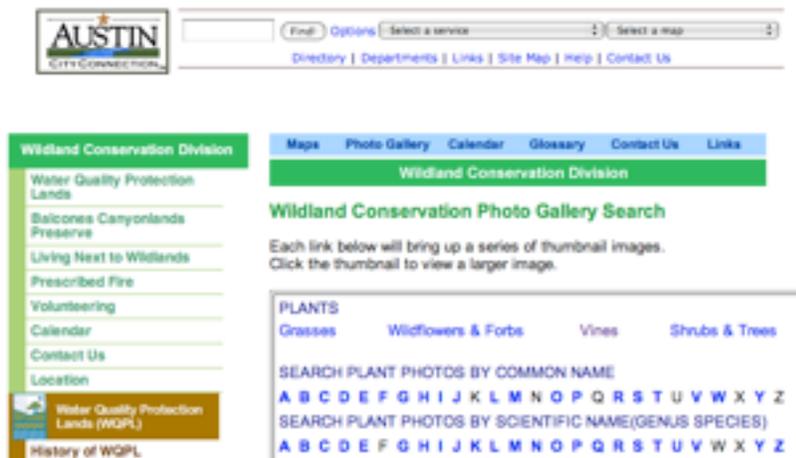
No Registration Required.

<http://rrcommunitygardens.ning.com/>

Master Gardener Favorites

## Favorite Websites Christine Powell

Our website this month was sent to me by Annette Banks. Annette writes our wonderful "...along the trails" articles and she has found this particular site very useful. She says, "just today I discovered a website new to me that will be very useful in the future as I learn about native Texas plants. It is: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildland/photogallery/gallerysearch.cfm>. If you have not used it, I feel sure you will enjoy it." Well, of course I went straight there and, yes, it really is a wonderful site with some wonderful images—and it's not just about plants. Check it out!



## A Master Gardener Walks

## ...along the trails

Annette Banks

The lake is low, the streams struggling, the wildflowers withering; but the trails are the coolest spots in Georgetown outdoors...that is, the ones along the river. Look closely and you may see the perched blue heron adjacent to the Georgetown Country Club course. He/she has found the coolest spot!

The Berry Springs trails, which seem to be a second bedding project for many of our master gardeners, show a bit more color than the untended areas. This month I'll review the wafer ash and the purple leatherflower, which are designated by the tasteful signs at Berry Springs..

The wafer ash is in the family of *rutaceae*, the genus of *ptelea*, and the species *trifoliata*. This deciduous small tree or bush is trifoliate with each alternate, oval leaflet showing a pointed tip. The silken silvery buds appear in April but are often hidden by the leaf base. They produce pale green, almost reflected white, blossoms that emit an unpleasant

odor, particularly when leaves and branches are crushed...hence common name stinking ash. The small unisexual and bisexual flowers

mature into fruit in the early fall. The samara fruit has broad wings and a bitter taste. Native American Indians began the practice of using it as a substitute for hops in brewing beer...hence common name hoptree. A member of the Rue or citrus family, it has bitter root bark; and, as with other aromatic barks, it has been a source of home remedies throughout our American history.

The tree rarely reaches twenty feet high, has a span of 5 to 10 feet wide, and is supported by a slender trunk of 6 to 8 inches. The bark is light and smooth; it becomes a reddish-brown after a year of maturity. It is an understory tree which grows in full sun, shade, or partial shade. It tolerates a wide range of soil ph, and it is also rather tolerant of moisture conditions, but prefers moist...hence common name water ash. This perennial will survive in sun, but sun plus drought is hard on it. Right now the non-understudy ones in full sun plus our drought conditions are looking very drained.

One may propagate the tree by budding, grafting, or layering. Softer wood cuttings can be taken from midsummer to late fall. Better results are usually realized from harvesting the fruit in late summer or early fall when the seeds begin to dry; they may be planted directly into the soil without removing the wings. Its usual seed viability is about 16 months. The emerging seedlings will develop better in partial shade.

The nectar of the tree draws birds, Eastern and giant swallowtail butterflies; yet it is deer-resistant.

The purple leatherflower, *clematis pitcheri*, belongs to the *ranunculaceae* (buttercup family). It is also referred to as bluebell. This herbaceous and perennial vine climbs to about 10 feet by twining petioles. It has an cup-shaped nodding blossom on long, petite stems from the axil of the leaf. The sweet flowers are varying shades of purple and reds on the outside to deep reds and purples to a greenish white on the inside. There are four urn-shaped sepals, which look like petals; they are united and curl up at the base of the flower. They have no petals, but many stamens and pistils. The vine produces one-inch flowers from May to



July within our locale. The dark green leaves are opposite and divided into 3 to 5 pairs of leaflets. On the underside, there is a raised network of veins. For an effective show, the plant should be tied to fences or trellises as the vines are brittle. The achene fruit has fluffy tails with small hairs. Some birds feed on them.

The plant can grow in sun or part shade in well-drained soils of limestone-base, sand, sandy and clay loams, and clay. It is rather tolerant of the heat and drought, but favors moist areas. The small, but showy flowers are long-lasting. The deciduous vine dies back to the ground each fall.

To propagate: Single, internodal softwood cuttings should be taken in summer and rooted. You can propagate by late summer layering, or gather the seeds when they have lost their green color but before the achene cluster are completely dry and the seeds drop. Seed viability is up to two years. Stratification is suggested.



### Master Gardener Basics

## Back to the Basics

### Winola VanArtsdalen

*The "Back to the Basics" series continues this month, not with a gardening technique, but a suggestion for how to share important information with your fellow gardeners and neighbors.*

#### INFORMING THE PUBLIC

In the June Master Gardener Newsletter an excellent article by Grace Byce summarized the information given at the Master Gardener Specialist Training Class May 14, 2009. If you have not taken time to fully study this article, please do so, as this information is most important and timely for you both personally and as a Master Gardener. Oak wilt is a lethal disease threatening our beautiful oaks. Not only does losing these trees affect the beauty of our area, but it is a definite environmental threat, as well. We need to do everything in our power to get this information to all citizens in our area!

Those taking this course, as listed in the newsletter article, are available and looking for opportunities to make presentations to clubs, churches, and anyone else who will listen. If you know of any such openings, please advise one of us. All of you, however, are asked to spread the information whenever possible to your neighbors. Below I am giving an example of a short flyer that could be published in neighborhood newsletters and even posted in laundromats, grocery stores, churches, or any place at your disposal. You certainly have permission to change it in any way to make it fit your needs using your name or the name of any Master Gardener Oak Wilt Specialist, with their permission, of course.

This short notice shown below began with two full type-written pages of information, but I kept working to make it more and more concise. What is the most important point? In my opinion, the most important issue is convincing people how and when to paint the wounds. That is why it is given in detail with the other information reduced to a few words. In putting this information out now, I may leave out the information about avoiding pruning in spring, as it has been my experience that people, especially tree trimmers, take advise to avoid pruning in the spring as license to do it without painting other times of the year. I plan to put the same information in our neighborhood newsletter next spring emphasizing avoiding trimming January to June.

May I suggest that all of you begin now exploring the possibility of having signs put up in your neighborhood to advise avoiding pruning in the spring to avoid oak wilt. This is something that will take multiple approvals and a period of time to get in place, so you need to begin early. If you have further information of ways to positively inform the public to stop oak wilt, please contact me or any other oak wilt specialist.

Shown below is a possible news bulletin in case it might be helpful to you.

# STOP THE SPREAD OF OAK WILT!

**Oak Wilt: a deadly tree disease with no known cure,  
caused by a fungus,  
transmitted by tiny beetles and through root grafts,  
a community problem,  
threatens our beautiful oak trees. What can we do?**

**Avoid: pruning, trimming, cutting, etc. from February 1 to June 1 when beetles are most active.**

**Seal all wounds.** Because the fungus can be spread by a sap feeding beetle the size of a gnat, **seal all wounds ANY SIZE, ANY SEASON**, with pruning paint or any latex paint **IMMEDIATELY!** Beetles have been photographed on a fresh wound within fifteen minutes! Do not let a tree trimmer paint only the large cuts or trim the whole tree and then go back to paint the cuts. It is too late, and he will miss some of the cuts. **RULE #1: Cut, paint; cut, paint! RULE #2: If you can't paint it, don't cut it!**

**Be vigilant.** As well as spread by beetles, oak wilt is also transmitted through grafted underground root systems. Your oak tree problem is your neighbors' and vice versa. Joint action may be necessary.

Symptoms to watch are:

Red oaks — In summer, flagging or flaring where part of tree turns bright red.  
In spring, new leaves look wilted, or may drop light green leaves, or mature leaves “bronze” from edges inward.  
Often dead leaves stay attached since it dies so quickly, within 4-6 weeks.

If a red oak becomes infected, it must be immediately removed to avoid forming of fungal mats. **NEVER** save wood from red oak for firewood.

(The fungal mats grow on dead wood.)

Live oaks -- Veinal necrosis, veins yellow or orange or brown veins in a green leaf, or tips may turn brown, or veins may be dark green while other parts are light green or pale yellow.

Pattern of mortality, dead trees in pattern coming from a diseased tree.

White oaks -- Extremely rare for a white oak to develop oak wilt in Texas.

No cure. Prevention by sealing all wounds as described above is best line of resistance.

If infected trees are near by, timely injection of Alamo can increase tree's resistance.

Alamo does not protect any tree except the one treated.

Trenching can prevent underground transmission through common root system.

For more information regarding trimming, trenching, and/or tree treatment: [texasoakwilt.org](http://texasoakwilt.org)

Winola VanArtsdalen, Texas Master Gardener, Oak Wilt Specialist.

Phone: 512-863-4923, e-mail [jimwin@verizon.net](mailto:jimwin@verizon.net)

I serve as a volunteer for Texas AgriLIFE Extension and Texas Forest Service and am available for small or large group presentations on request.

Master Gardener Project

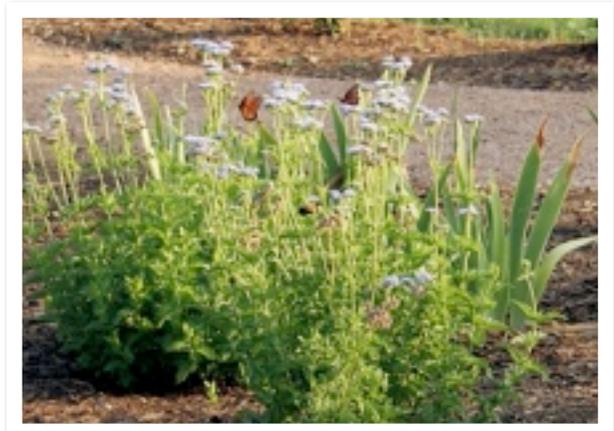
# St Richard's Church Round Rock Janet White

St. Richard's church landscape continues to grow and change after almost two years since the inception of the volunteer effort. Master Gardeners led by Walt Krueger meet early on Thursdays to maintain the gardens at this Episcopal church in Round Rock.

The establishment of a memorial garden was an initial focus of Master Gardeners. The garden is dramatically focused by three crosses and engraved headstones of loved ones passed. Pathways were built this year leading the visitor to graceful teak benches where one might feel invited to rest or meditate. The gardens are colored with Earthkind roses as well as many varieties of Texas native plants.

Landscape plantings line the church building offering bright colors along with ease of maintenance.

Recently the church approved plans for a children's church school garden to begin this fall. Master Gardeners Jane Williamson and Janet White will coordinate plans with the church school for children to have gardening experiences as part of their curriculum.



Master Gardener Specialist Training

# What's in Your Rain Barrel?

Grace Bryce

We are faced with a combination of problems resulting overall in less water and growing concerns about the quality of the water we do have. It is becoming increasingly important to educate others about Rainwater Harvesting and good stewardship practices when it comes to our water supply and the future.

Central Texas is in a severe drought, the worst ever recorded. Many springs have dried up and will not run again. There are three reasons this has happened. First of all, we have an increase in population and the water usage rate is higher than the recharge rate. Not only are peo-



Above, Justin Mechell showed us around the County Extensions rainwater harvesting system. Below, Billy Kniffen demonstrates various ground covers and how they absorb rainwater.



ple using too much water, agriculture and industry also take their toll on the water supply. Secondly, there is a lack of fire. Throughout history, fire has moved through the land stimulating grasses to grow and eliminating and/or suppressing understory vegetation in the forests. What used to be predominantly grassland, is now covered in way too many cedar trees. The cedar trees, because of their structure, keep most of the rainwater for themselves, so the rain doesn't get a chance to soak into the ground to become ground water. The third cause is related to grass management. The buffalo used to graze the open prairie. They would eat everything and break up the soil and move on. The vegetation had a chance to recover. Over time, land became fenced and cattle overgrazed the land. Overgrazing and runoff are responsible for soil erosion. Although weeds and wildflowers offer some protection from soil erosion, several inches of soil have been lost from the state of Texas to the Gulf of Mexico.

There are many ways to help counteract the drain on our water supply. Rainwater Harvesting, conservation, and xeriscaping with drought tolerant plants, particularly native grasses, are three ways to give some relief. In an effort to learn more about these problems and solutions, and how to share the information with others, six Master Gardeners from Williamson County attended the Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialist training class in Granbury, TX, June 1-3, 2009. The training was presented by Billy Kniffen, Water Resource Specialist with the Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, and Justin Mechell, Extension Assistant, Biological and Agricultural Engineering (both pictured above). The program was hosted by Marty Vahlenkamp, County Extension Agent for Hood County.

In some states, the rain from the cloud to the ground already belongs to someone else. In Texas, we are fortunate to retain the right to capture as much as we can capture from our roofs. Rainwater can be used for indoor self-sufficient systems as well as outdoor gardening purposes. It is useful to know how much water is needed and how much can be collected. In class we learned to calculate the amount of



*Grace Bryce, Paul Lawrence, Sally Todd, Kris Stanley, Clyde Adley and Ed Myatt made rain barrels and wildlife waterers during the class.*

rainwater we could catch on our own roofs, how much we needed for our usage plans and how to track whether we had a surplus or deficit in our rainwater tanks, based on monthly rainfall amounts. This information is also important for planning a rainwater harvesting system. So, yes, we had homework! You can catch 0.6 gallons of rainwater per square foot of roof, per 1 inch of rain. We calculated for our whole class, that we could catch 1.3 million gallons of rainwater in a year!

During the training, it was explained how to set up rainwater collection systems. The Hood County Extension office has two rainwater collection tanks set up in the demonstration gardens area and drip irrigation systems set up in the beds, which could switch from rainwater to city water if needed. We also learned a little about watering vegetable gardens and assembling drip irrigation systems and how easy it is to set them up.



*The demonstration gardens were an inspiration to us all.*



*One of the Hood County Master Gardeners lead a tour at her home, where the rainwater collection tanks were actually stored under her back deck area. She said this design was more acceptable to her homeowner association. She had a beautifully landscaped yard, which looked out over Lake Granbury.*



Several demonstrations and hands-on activities were presented, including how to design and build a raingarden or a series of raingardens. A raingarden is an artificial depression in the landscape that collects and stores stormwater runoff until it can infiltrate the soil. Raingardens are usually planted with native plants which are also drought tolerant. The native grasses do a fantastic job of channeling



water into the ground because their root systems are several inches long. We were fortunate to have rain each day, so we could see the path of the runoff water and how to plan where to build the raingarden. Raingardens are a form of rainwater harvesting which helps prevent erosion and flooding. A properly designed raingarden will only contain standing water for a few hours after a storm, so mosquitos are not an issue.



A wildlife presentation was given by Jim Cathey, Wildlife Specialist with Texas AgriLIFE Extension Services. We made wildlife waterers with drip emitters that can be connected to rain barrels. The drip attracts birds and is slow enough to use only one gallon of water per day. There are also many demonstrations and activities that could be shared with Junior Master Gardener classes to help explain how rainwater moves in the watershed, how vegetation helps keep soil in place and reduces erosion, and how rainwater can be caught and then used for many things like wildlife habitats and gardening. What an investment in the future to teach this to children!



An additional twelve hours of Rainwater Harvesting oriented public outreach is required to become Master Gardener Specialists in Rainwater Harvesting. Our Rainwater Harvesting team is “pumped” to utilize and share the information we’ve learned with fellow gardeners and the public, so we can all make better use of our rainwater and resources.

## “Bug” of the month



Our insect this month is the tersa moth. You may not have heard of this moth but I am sure you have probably seen it flying around your garden. They are called hawk moths, sphinx moths or hummingbird moths and usually are out late in the afternoon or evening around dusk. The moth itself does not do damage and may help in propagation of plants but the caterpillar can do serious damage to some of your plants. The photograph with two caterpillars in it shows different stages of the same larva. The plant they are feeding on is a penta which they seem to really like. Some times you have to plant more plants than you need to feed these larvae. Good luck.

Wayne Rhoden  
Entomologist Specialist



### September 28 – October 2, 2009 Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training

#### Texas AgriLife Extension Service Montgomery County Office, Conroe, TX

Hosted by Dr. Paul R. Nester, Extension Program Specialist, Houston/Metro area, and the Montgomery County Master Gardeners.

- Registration fee of \$300.00 includes collecting kit with lots of goodies; lectures; Extension bulletins; 3 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks & drinks
- Transportation and lodging is on your own
- Course is limited to 25 applicants; deadline is July 18, 2009

Contact Paul Nester at [PNester@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:PNester@ag.tamu.edu) or 281-855-5639 with any questions.

[Registration material](#)



A Junior Master Gardener Project

# Discovery Gardeners

**Patsy Bredahl**

Hutto United Methodist Church was generous in letting us use their facilities in the Discovery Center for our JMG Program for four weeks. We named our group "Discovery Gardeners." A quite fitting name for new gardeners having class in "The Discovery Center!"

We are quite fortunate to have ten acres of land at our Church. This group of JMG'ers planted the first garden bed of the future community garden. This bed will be used by future JMG'ers with programs at the Church.

Master Gardener Intern Tommy Wray and my husband, Ken, hauled the cinder blocks from a Church member's business who had donated the blocks. On June 5th, Tommy Wray, Master Gardener Juanita James, myself and three Church members put the cinder block bed together. No, we didn't really obtain the Blue Print from Dr. Seuss, though that might be your first guess. The ground is extremely uneven and is more like concrete than soil. We'll just have to live with a little less than a level garden bed. Because the native grass growing on the land wants to go international with its roots trying to reach China, we covered the area with weed cloth and about sixteen layers of newspaper.

Master Gardener Wayne Rhoden and Tommy Wray brought in the soil donated by Gardenville on June 10th. Juanita James, myself and Church member Dianne Capron spread the soil in the bed as they unloaded it.

Finally June 16 arrived, our first day of our JMG program. Our group will meet each Monday morning from 10:00 AM-12:00PM through July 6. What a great group of 16 kids! Even though the age span is large—ages 8-13—they are all attentive and learning from each other as well as us.

Our first session on June 16, we spent the first 40 minutes planting our garden. It was already hot outside so we passed out water bottles to all. The children planted jalapeno peppers, okra, cilantro, basil, and rosemary from transplants. They also planted some swiss chard from seeds. Then they put marigold seeds in soil that was added to the holes in the cinder blocks.



We have a great group of Master Gardeners helping with our program. Along with myself in helping with our "Discovery Gardeners" Master Gardeners Juanita James, Grace Bulgerin, Walter Hoke, and Janes Williamson. Also helping are Brigid Mejia, 4-H agent, and Church member Dianne Capron.

On our first day after we came in from the garden, Master Gardener Paul Lawrence talked to the children about the water cycle which really held the JMG'ers attention. Then he took them outside to show them where gutters could be placed on the building and rain barrels placed for water collection.

We then talked about the many uses of plants. The children made some lotion from an aloe vera plant to take home. They were all given a small aloe vera plant to take home. How fast our two hours went!





On June 22 our second session began. Juanita James did an activity discussing monocots and dicots. Then we were honored with two speakers.

Master Gardener Jeanne Barker (above) gave a great talk about worm composting. And yes, her worms were present! The kids loved it!

Next Jeff Sveboda (below), the Chair Person from the "Keep Hutto Beautiful" Commission gave a talk on recycling. He brought along an abundance of recyclable materials to demonstrate. Some of the children recognized him because he has given talks at several of the Hutto Schools.



Next Monday, June 29, we look forward to hearing Wayne Rhoden speak on insects. The children will be in for a treat.



Junior Master Gardeners

# “Green Team” receives JMG certification

Grace Bulgerin

There is no doubt about it, there are seventeen new certified Junior Master Gardeners in the Taylor area. Under the direction of Master Gardeners Juanita James, Patsy Bredahl, Bonnie Sladek and Grace Bulgerin, the students met weekly to study each of the eight chapters in their books. Wayne Rhoden thrilled the group by teaching about beneficial insects (and the boys are still talking about the fire ant eradication research). The third and fourth graders (plus one fifth grader) were part of St. Paul’s child development center after school program and accepted the motto “Making the Best Better.”



During their studies they planted a garden, designed and planted a flower bed, planted a tree on Arbor Day, took a fruit basket to an elderly couple, and participated in group projects as required.





The certification on June 14th was very special. Bob Whitney gave the certificates as Wayne called the names. Grace and Juanita presented each with a cool blue mantis t-shirt. Parents, friends and church members enjoyed the student made peanut butter and JMG strawberry jam served on crackers by the GREEN TEAM after the service.

These student wear their shirts with pride and I'm convinced they have only just begun!

Go Green Team!



Would you like to help out with one of these fabulous Junior Master Gardener programs? Then contact Juanita James or Patsy Bredahl, who would love to have your help.

## Meet Your Master Gardeners

# Nancy Blansett

*Each month we will spotlight one of the Master Gardeners in our group. Getting to know each other is something that we don't really seem to have time to do, so hopefully this will be a way to make some more "connections" with the people in our group.*

**Sandra Rosen**

After you notice the pretty smile, one of the next things you notice about Nancy Blansett is the way she dresses. Tall and slim, she looks great, and she may be wearing cowboys boots, jeans, and a fancy baseball cap. Whatever, it won't be your "run of the mill" outfit. Nancy says her mom was a unique, "artsy" person and early on, by her actions and encouragements, she gave Nancy permission to be different. Nancy's parents were both college graduates and both were also teachers.

Nancy started college in Minnesota, but after working in Yellowstone National Park one summer, she found she loved the west and graduated from

Montana State College. From there she moved to Santa Maria, California, and then to Japan. She worked for the Air Force teaching school at various Air Force bases around the world. After Japan she taught in Germany and, of course, was able to travel extensively during this time to Japan, Southern Asia, and Europe.

It was during these years that Nancy developed such an appreciation for the beauty of the land and the out of doors. Beginning with the West and its rugged, awesome beauty and then being mesmerized by the simplicity and the tranquility of the Japanese gardens, Nancy became a nature lover. Then there was the tropical splendor of Indonesia and Malaysia, and on to Europe with its gardens - so formal and cultured. Although Nancy remembers that her parents had a Victory Garden during World War II, it is not those memories that triggered her desire to garden herself, but rather these scenes of beauty and serenity that she discovered as a young adult.

During this time, she also developed a great love for art - visiting every famous museum she could. When she returned to California, she continued to teach school and trained as an art docent at the Museum of California. She went on many extended art guild trips all over the U.S. and Europe.

Nancy's daughter and two grandchildren live in Austin, so she and her husband, Wayne, moved to Texas and Sun City to begin a new episode in their lives. She needed to learn how to tend the land in the harshest environment she had ever encountered, so she first began by volunteering at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center.

Next she became a Bell County Master Gardener. Then came, and continues to come, the "hands on" learning by working in her own backyard. Nancy has pulled out all of the turf in their backyard and is creating paths and beds. Gardening in Texas with the heat, the bugs, deer, and the limestone put any gardener to the test on a daily basis, but because health issues have limited her travel options,



Nancy is determined to develop her small world as a sanctuary.

The Sun City Horticulture Garden's herb gardens are an example of what Nancy can do to create beauty and tranquility. She is the chairperson of this area and besides being so lovely, it is also quite a resource and very functional. And if you have noticed the interesting art gallery at the Georgetown Hospital, that is also Nancy's doing. While on the board, she encouraged and directed the efforts to get this done. Nancy is beauty and tranquility with a bit of zest thrown in for fun!

Treats from the Master Garden

# Corn is never “corny”!

Margaret Seals

Corn arrived in the USA from Mexico just like a lot of our produce does today. But back when it first made the trip, there was no border to cross; indeed no USA had been formed. Cave excavations have shown that the Aztecs and Mayans were growing corn in Mexico 5600 years before Columbus arrived in the Caribbean in 1492. He was given some corn by the Indians there, and took it back to Europe where it became popular almost immediately. From its beginnings as a native grass in Latin America, domesticated corn was under cultivation in the “New World” from the Andes to the Canadian Rockies by the time the Italians showed up.

Corn is a very low sodium food (unless you add salt to it!) and gets high marks for being low in cholesterol. An ear of corn contains magnesium, phosphorus, thiamin, and vitamins B6 and C. It also provides a good amount of dietary fiber.

The corn in Williamson County is never, as the saying goes, “knee high by the 4th of July”. On Independence Day here, it should be “as high as an elephant’s eye.” At least in my garden this year it was pachyderm level. I have a limited space for corn, but never-the-less grow a few stalks just to see if I can beat the raccoons to the ripe ears each year.

My corn was planted this year on March 15, and covered by a row cloth for several weeks since we had some little freezes the last couple of weeks in March. It came up well, and started stretching out as soon as the row cover was removed. The average planting dates in Williamson County are March 16-April 27 for spring corn crops. Corn has a 60-90 day maturity rate depending on the variety, and the recommended varieties for Williamson County are Golden Queen and Guadalupe Gold for the yellow varieties and Sweet G-90, Honey and Pearls, and Kandy Corn for the Bi-colors. Silver Queen and Frontier are the recommended varieties for white corn.

Corn needs a large space in the garden, lots of sun, medium soil with an acid ph of 5.5 to 7.0. Seeding depth is 1-2 inches and planting space is about 9-12 inches apart in the row. It will take about a week to germinate. Sweet corn is best planted in several short rows instead of one long one. The ears have to be pollinated by the corn’s tassel as it blows in the wind, so planting corn in short, close-proximity rows is best. You will need about 1-2 ounces of seed for each 100 foot row. Don’t let your corn beg for water when the kernels are forming in the ears. Water as needed to get the best results. Keep the corn cultivated and weed free as it matures. For organic gardening, work some compost into the soil and add an application of compost tea before planting to improve yield. Apply more compost tea as a side dressing when the corn is about two feet tall.

The corn earworm is the worst pest. Laid by a night-flying moth on young corn silk, the eggs of this pest are yellowish, but not easily seen. Bt (*bacillus thuringiensis*) can help to control this pest if applied when the corn is just beginning to silk every day for about five days.

The time to pick your corn is, of course, just before the raccoons think it is ready! The silk on the ears will have turned dark brown and the ears should be firm to the touch. It usually takes around 20 days to maturity from the time the first silks appear. If the juice of the kernels is watery, the corn is not ready yet. To harvest, use two hands grabbing the ear in one hand and holding the stalk just below the ear with the other hand, and twist the silky tip of the ear toward the ground until the ear breaks off. Get to the kitchen as fast as you can, and follow Martha Stewart’s tip below on removing those silky threads from your corn kernels:

Corn, yellow, cooked 1.00 cup, 164.00 grams, 177.12 calories				
Nutrient Amount	DV %	Nutrient	Density	Worlds Healthiest Food Rating
vitamin B1 (thiamin)	0.36 mg	24	2.4	good
folate	76.10 mcg	19	1.9	good
dietary fiber	4.60 g	18.4	1.9	good
vitamin C	10.16 mg	16.9	1.7	good
phosphorus	168.92 mg	16.9	1.7	good
manganese	0.32 mg	16	1.6	good
vit. B5 (pantothenic acid)	1.44 mg	14.4	1.5	good



“With the husk still on, rinse the corn and then microwave it for about 45 seconds. The silk should peel off easily along with the husk.”

### Corn in the Microwave

It takes a single ear of corn about 3 minutes to cook in the microwave oven, and is a great alternative to boiling corn in water for “corn on the cob.” To microwave fresh corn, remove the tough outer husks, leaving two layers of light green husk and silks intact. If microwaving more than 2 ears of corn at a time, arrange wagon-wheel fashion with the silk tip of the ears at the hub and the base of the cob to the outside. Microwave on high for 2 ½ to 3 minutes for one ear, 4-6 minutes for 2 ears, 7-9 minutes for 4 ears, and 10-12 minutes for 6 ears. As you learned in the tip above, the silks will come right off with the husks when you microwave corn.

### Corn Relish

From *Simply Organic Cookbook* by Jesse Ziff Cool

- 1 ½ C fresh corn kernels
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced
- 3 T chopped, fresh, sweet basil
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 ½ t ground cumin
- 1 ½ T light brown sugar
- ½ t salt
- ½ t red pepper flakes or chopped chile pepper to taste

Bring a small pot of water to boil over a high heat and blanch the corn in the water for 3 minutes. Drain, and immediately pour the corn into an ice bath to cool. In about a minute, after corn is cooled, drain and put in a medium sized serving bowl. Add garlic, green onions, basil, lime juice, cumin, brown sugar, salt and red pepper or chopped chile pepper to taste. This corn relish is good as an appetizer served atop Ritz crackers to which a slice of Muenster or Monterrey Jack cheese has been added or as a condiment to sandwiches, etc. Refrigerate any leftovers in a container with an air tight lid.

This tip really works! Try it and you will wonder why someone didn't show you this years ago! Now, here is another tip on cooking corn and three new recipes for you to try:

### Fresh Corn Salad

From Carol Franklin of Albuquerque, N. M.

- 8-10 Ears of Sweet Corn, cooked, with corn cut from the cob
- 2 C grated Cheddar Cheese
- 1 C mayonnaise
- 1 C green bell pepper, chopped
- ½ C red onion, chopped
- 1 10.5 oz bag coarsely crushed chili-cheese corn chips

Mix the first 5 ingredients and chill. Stir in the corn chips just before serving.

### Corn Chowder

From *Cook's Country Magazine*, June/July 2009

- 6 ears of sweet corn
- 2 (15 oz) cans whole kernel corn, drained
- 5 C. low-sodium chicken broth
- 3 slices bacon, chopped fine
- 1 onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 lb. red potatoes, scrubbed and cut into ½ dice
- 1 C heavy cream
- 4 scallions, sliced thin

Prepare the corn by cutting the kernels from the ears of corn. Reserve the kernels and the cobs separately. Puree the canned corn with 2 C broth and blend until smooth.

Sauté the vegetables by cooking the bacon in a Dutch oven over medium heat until crisp, about 8 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer the bacon to a paper towel lined plate and reserve. Cook onion, corn kernels, ½ t salt and ¼ t pepper in bacon fat until vegetables are softened and golden brown, about 6-8 minutes.

Finish the soup by adding potatoes, corn puree, remaining broth and the reserved corn cobs to the Dutch oven and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium low and simmer until the potatoes are tender, about 15 minutes. Discard cobs, and stir in heavy cream, scallions and reserved bacon. Season to taste.

This chowder can be refrigerated for up to 3 days in a container with an airtight lid.



President's Column  
**Wayne Rhoden**



Hello Master Gardeners!

It is hard to believe that we will be starting another class next month. Another group of interns ready to have their heads crammed full of knowledge and eager to volunteer for projects. Hopefully it will not continue to be as hot as it is now and we can get into the greenhouse to start propagating plants. I know we will have plenty of JMG projects so that should not be a problem.

As I mentioned last month, the Nominating Committee is now formed and ready to take your application for an officer of the association. All officers are elected each year so all positions are up for grabs. The elected officers are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested, contact JoAnne Dieterich at [crdieterich@yahoo.com](mailto:crdieterich@yahoo.com) to be considered for office. Remember, only certified members are eligible to run for office.

Happy gardening,  
 Wayne

## Texas Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist Training

July 31 – August 1, 2009

Texas AgriLife Extension Office and the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners

1402 Band Road, Suite 100, Rosenberg, TX 77471

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. Fort Bend County is hosting the first part of the program, the in class training July 31 – August 1, 2009. The second part of the training is the commitment to complete 30 hours of volunteer service coordinated through your County Agent. Course will be limited to 50 participants. Registration opens to Master Gardeners in all counties on July 1. Application and fees must be received at the Fort Bend County Extension Office by Friday July 17, 2009. Late registrations are accepted if seats are still available. No refunds are given for cancellations after 5:00 pm July 17, 2009.

Lodging is not included in the application fee. However, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn Express and La Quinta Inn (contact information attached). These rooms are available on a first come first serve basis. Additionally, contact information for other closely located hotels is included. For more information contact the Fort Bend County Extension Office at 281/342-3034 or the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners at 281/341-7068



# Williamson County Master Gardener Association Officers for 2008

## Officers:

Wayne Rhoden, President:	<a href="mailto:mgardener@suddenlink.net">mgardener@suddenlink.net</a>	(512) 869-8016
Juanita James, Vice-President	<a href="mailto:jjames20@sbcglobal.net">jjames20@sbcglobal.net</a>	(512) 341-7116
Nancy Moore, Treasurer:	<a href="mailto:nancy3610@att.net">nancy3610@att.net</a>	(512) 215-9697
Jeanne Barker, Secretary:	<a href="mailto:jubarker@yahoo.com">jubarker@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 608-1296

## Standing Committees/Chairpersons:

Programs/Education:	Paul Lawrence	<a href="mailto:pwlawrence@austin.rr.com">pwlawrence@austin.rr.com</a>	
Communications: (Newsletter, Website & Publicity)			
	Christine Powell	<a href="mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net">xtinepowell@verizon.net</a>	(512) 863-8250
Membership/Volunteer Opportunities:			
	John Papich	<a href="mailto:texasjays@yahoo.com">texasjays@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 863-4098
Awards:	Margaret Seals	<a href="mailto:marjim@suddenlink.net">marjim@suddenlink.net</a>	(512) 863-4127
Class Training/Facilitation:			
	John Papich	<a href="mailto:texasjays@yahoo.com">texasjays@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 863-4098
Jr. Master Gardener Coordinator:			
	Patsy Bredhal	<a href="mailto:pbredahl@austin.rr.com">pbredahl@austin.rr.com</a>	(512) 217-0693
	Juanita James	<a href="mailto:jjames20@sbcglobal.net">jjames20@sbcglobal.net</a>	(512) 341-7116
Fundraising:			
Greenhouse Manager:	Duffy Banfield	<a href="mailto:villaparkcats@sbcglobal.net">villaparkcats@sbcglobal.net</a>	

## Ad Hoc Committees:

New Class:	John Papich	<a href="mailto:texasjays@yahoo.com">texasjays@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 863-4098
Newsletter Editor:	Christine Powell	<a href="mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net">xtinepowell@verizon.net</a>	(512) 863-8250
Newsletter Layout:	Christine Powell	<a href="mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net">xtinepowell@verizon.net</a>	(512) 863-8250
Webmaster:	Christine Powell	<a href="mailto:xtinepowell@verizon.net">xtinepowell@verizon.net</a>	(512) 863-8250

WCMG Website: <http://grovesite.com/mg/wcmg>  
 Mailing address: 3151 Inner Loop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, TX 78626

## Monthly Meetings

Williamson County Master Gardeners hold monthly meetings at the Williamson County Extension Office, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown on the second Monday of each month at 6:00pm. Master Gardeners and the public are welcome to attend.