

# Williamson County Master Gardener

# Journal

VOLUME 4, NO. 3

Dedicated to growing with Williamson County

MARCH 2010

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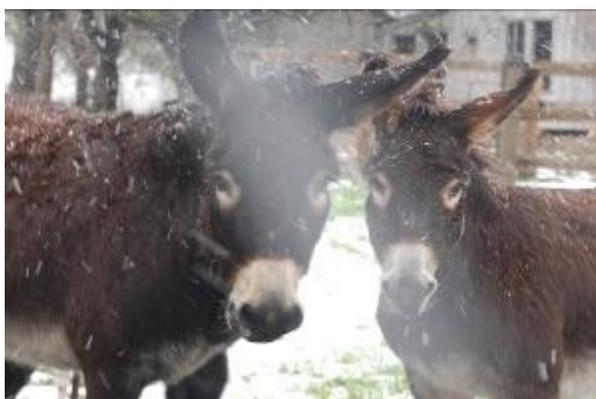
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## Snowy Scenes from Berry Springs



## The President's Corner

### Winola Van Artsdalen



What a beautiful time to be a Master Gardener! Last month went out with a bang with the great clean-up party and potluck lunch at Berry Springs Park. The raised bed vegetable gardens at the Extension Building have expanded, and an Earthkind rose display garden has been added. This month we had two fantastic plants sales: Greenhouse sale on Friday followed by Market Days on the Square on Saturday. Both events were held on days with gorgeous sunshine which brought out the customers and the money!!! Folks, if you are not having fun yet, you'd better jump on the band wagon and have some great experiences with us. Your next opportunity is a grand event, our Spring 2010 Garden Fair at the Extension Building on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss this one! You will love the fellowship, and you are invited. In fact, we need YOU!

For the April 17<sup>th</sup> event, we are asking you to plan to work six hours. We are going to make every effort to give you an opportunity to move around, so that you do not spend all your time in one place. We want to give you an opportunity to enjoy as much of the experience as possible. If you have not signed up yet, send a note to Linda Zazula, [l.szazula@gmail.com](mailto:l.szazula@gmail.com). We have to do more than just our Master Gardener advice. We have to do setup/breakdown, traffic control, etc., etc. At the meeting, April 10, we plan to have a huge chart showing where each person is at what time. That way we can see and correct any conflicts in advance. Hopefully, the slide show of MG activities through the years will be far enough along, so that we can have it showing during the 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. social part of the meeting, which will be fun. Should be almost a party atmosphere! Don't miss it!

*Out in the garden, fellow MG, Marlyn Hooper offers a few tips.*

Wait to prune early blooming shrubs and roses until after they bloom. Most pruning of shrubs and trees should be done by now, but you still might need some training cuts if you become aware of a potential future problem, such as a tree branch hanging over the driveway.

Cool-season bedding plants are gearing up for their grand finale, about May. Feed them now and enjoy for this short time that is left. Let your spent spring bulbs keep growing, so bulbs will gather strength for next year.

Plant warm-season annuals and perennial flowers by seed and transplants. You need to get these in to be established and ready to survive the summer heat! This is your chance for color—lots of it!

Plan for some container plants to add zing to your landscape. Remember to use potting soil for a loose medium so roots can grow as well as for good drainage. If it's a large pot, put it in its permanent resting place, so you do not have to move it later. Also, remember that it needs to be a place where you can water and fertilize often. Plan all one color for a major impact, or try combinations with complimentary or contrasting colors. Just remember the general rule with containers: a tall plant in the center, some mounding plants, and a trailing plant. Then, remember that rules are made to be broken and experiment with some creative ideas of your own!

Keep watch for aphids and caterpillars. Give the aphids a blast of water and pick off or use BT for those caterpillars. This is a good time to fertilize with some extra nutrition for woody ornamentals, shrubs and trees and replenish mulch, as well.

Be vigilant removing those weeds before they have that spring burst of seed production, or you will pay the price next year. With all the rain we are having, this is an easy time to pull weeds. Fertilize your lawn after you have mown it twice. Remember you need mostly nitrogen, as we already have phosphorus in our soil.

And now, it may finally be spring. Enjoy!

## The Discovery Gardeners

### Patsy Bredahl

The "Discovery Gardeners of Hutto" have been busy learning and gardening. The children learned about the lives and habits of honey bees when "The Bee Lady" came to speak. They have learned about lichens and then went outside and found some examples. JoAnne and Charlie Dietrich presented another propagation class for the young gardeners.

In February, Bonnie and LeRoy Sladek brought two apple trees to plant near the garden. LeRoy did a great job teaching the kids about tree planting.

Last Wednesday, Wayne Rhoden entertained the children with his Pioneer Native Plants presentation.

We have three new garden beds to plant at our JMG meeting next week. These beds had been built and waiting for soil since last fall. Thanks to the help of several Master Gardeners and Master Gardener interns, one husband, and a Church member friend, those beds are now filled. Once again, thanks to Gardenville for furnishing the soil.



Wayne Rhoden and students relax after the day's presentation.

## Newsletter Submissions

Thank you to those Master Gardeners who submitted articles, pictures, and ideas for this newsletter issue. If you would like to contribute to the *Williamson County Master Gardener Journal*, please send your submissions to Jane Williamson at [jawilliamson516@yahoo.com](mailto:jawilliamson516@yahoo.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. As you garden, volunteer and learn, take a moment to share with other gardeners.

# Spring Leaf Drop in Live Oaks vs. Oak Wilt

**Grace Bryce**

Many people are caught off guard when they see “autumn” leaves in the spring. Live Oaks (*Quercus virginiana* and *Quercus fusiformis*), do not lose their leaves in the fall but keep green leaves throughout the winter. Since they are not true evergreens, their leaves die off in the spring, just before new leaves bud out. This is normal. Continue to watch the trees and tiny buds will develop, followed by tiny leaves and catkins. For more information see the Fact Sheet “Liveoak.pdf” at <http://sickplants.tamu.edu>

## Leaf Comparison:

Live oak leaves during normal spring leaf drop can have a fairly distinct veinal pattern that can be confused with oak wilt symptoms. In photo 1, the leaves are turning brown and the veins stand out as bright yellow. As the fallen leaves turn completely brown the vein also turns brown but is less noticeable and blends in with the same shade of brown. Sometimes green leaves may have brown veins and may have spots or blotches. This is all normal, although the spots may be from secondary infections (which are not usually life threatening.)



Photo 1



Photo 2

If you compare the normal dropped leaves (first photo) to leaves from an oak wilt infected tree (second photo), you will also see a veinal pattern. The pattern is more diffuse with oak wilt. The pattern is also still visible after the leaves turn brown. The veins are darker. The veins are yellow early on when the leaves are still green (inset) and the pattern is also then diffuse.

From a distance the trees are similar in appearance with the same coloring and leaf drop. Oak wilt symptoms are seen more often in the summer than early spring. A closer look at the leaves is always advisable.



New buds, leaves and catkins on Live oaks in the spring, following leaf drop.

If you have questions or concerns about your oak trees please call the Texas AgriLIFE Extension office for more information at 512-943-3300.

## Field Trip Planned

### Teresa Robinson

The Williamson County Master Gardeners will be taking a trip to the San Antonio Botanical Gardens on Wednesday April 21, 2010. The group will leave the Ag-Life Bldg at 8:00 a.m. and plan to return before 8:00 p.m.

The first 14 people that respond to Teresa Robinson, Trip Coordinator, at [terobin@suddenlink](mailto:terobin@suddenlink) will be able to ride in the van. We can take a total of 20 Master Gardeners. This is a trip for Master Gardeners only and not spouses. Others may wish to car pool. The cost of admission is \$6 (\$5 for Seniors over 65) with an additional \$2 for the cost of a guided tour. We will have a ninety minute tour of the Texas Native Trail. Please wear your name tag, and also remember to silence cell phones during the lecture.

There is a restaurant for lunch, or you may brown bag and eat on their benches, as the Botanical Gardens do not have a picnic Area. After lunch, there will be a self-guided tour of the rest of the gardens and the Conservatory. The Gardens close at 5:00, so there will be lots of free time to explore.

## 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 6:30pm. Master Gardeners and the public are welcome to attend.

## Annual Spring Clean Up at “The Springs”

### Winn Chyme

The annual Master Gardener Spring Clean Up at Berry Springs Park and Preserve was a huge success. A group of over 30 volunteers assisted in prairie restoration, garden restoration, and garden creation. The group's enthusiasm and dedication ensured that the spring clean-up was a success. The appearance of the park was renewed – serenity and beauty reign. Master Gardener friendships were renewed, new friendships were made, delicious food was served, and a wonderful time was had by all.

Berry Springs Park and Preserve is a Master Gardener project. The county park and preserve is one of the best kept secrets in Georgetown. Berry Springs is a beautiful park whose entrance greets visitors with a serene view of mature pecan trees and grassy meadows. The park contains over 1100 mature pecan trees, grassy meadows, and artisan springs whose crystal-clear water powered Berry's original gristmill. The serenity and beauty of the park are a tribute to the skills and dedication of the Williamson County Master Gardeners who assist Williamson County Park Manager Susan Blackledge with the protection of this wonderful asset.



**Winter Pecan Tree Scene at Berry Spring**

Berry Springs' major effort in 2010 is Phase 1 of Prairie Restoration, which is the restoration of 24 farmed-acres to native prairie grasslands and wildflowers. The prairie restoration crew completed the physically challenging chores of burying irrigation lines and creating tree wells around approximately 100 new pecan trees that were previously planted this winter by Williamson County Master Gardeners. The effort by the MG prairie restoration crews enabled Berry Springs Park & Preserve to complete its major 2010 objective. “Hats Off and Kudos” to Williamson Master Gardeners.



**The Prairie Team**

The majority of the Master Gardeners focused on garden restoration at Cemetery Hill. Cemetery Hill contains five foliage gardens and one butterfly garden. The six gardens require extensive pruning and grooming as Cemetery Hill is a major attraction for many of the park's visitors. The Cemetery Hill Master Gardener teams did a "masterful" job in restoring the frequented gardens.



**Garden restoration at Cemetery Hill**

Cactus Star  
Garden

A new Cactus Star garden, designed by Hank Belopavlovich, was created. The garden is located near the park's entry kiosk. Overnight campers will be greeted by a visually appealing cactus garden containing the Texas star.



The annual Master Gardener spring cleanup was a huge success. The appearance of Berry Springs Park & Preserve was renewed – serenity and beauty again reign. At day's end, old friendships had been renewed and new friendships made. A wonderful time was had by all.

The happy crew at  
day's end



# Market Days Plant Sales - A Great Success



## Children's Garden Grows

Jane Williamson

The Children's Garden at St. Richard's Episcopal Church is growing. Volunteers are almost finished with a fence, paths have been laid, and planting is underway. The garden features a center tripod surrounded by a circle of boxwood. The tripod will be planted with vining Morning Glories. The butterfly garden and hummingbird garden are being tilled and will be ready for planting this month. A see-through root garden allows children to view and study root development in seeds. Thanks to Church members, Master Gardeners and their spouses who have worked to complete the Children's Garden.



Church members, Jeff and Nancy Krech, help Master Gardener Janet White in the Children's Garden at St. Richard's.



## Vegetable Garden Progress Report

### Jack Grieder

This past month a hardy and dedicated group of WCMGs renewed our existing vegetable beds, built seven new raised beds and moved six yards of garden soil generously donated by *Gardenville* to get the beds ready for planting. Many thanks to Mike Harper, Hank Belopavlovich, Paul and Sandy Lawrence, Ingrid Langdon, Jane Williamson, Carol Hoke, and Wayne Rhoden.



Hank Belopavlovich prepares a raised bed.

The existing beds include:

- our renewed herb garden;
- winter lettuce bed filled with lots of healthy green butter, oak leaf and red tip varieties;
- a traditional bed with early spinach, beets, radishes and onions and
- another with onions and plenty of space for pole beans and squash.



Mike Harper helps move soil into beds.

New to the garden this year are a freshly planted asparagus bed with crowns just beginning to show, a tomato bed waiting for warmer nights, a large Italian style kitchen bed and four small square foot gardens that will grow a variety of international vegetables and herbs.

And along the way a “4H Club Pizza Garden” built in the shape of a “you know what” has added a little spice to our work!



**Carol Hoke adds soil to the Pizza Garden.**

**Liz Grieder and Ingrid Langdon move soil.**



**Liz Grieder and Sandy Lawrence fill a wheelbarrow.**

## Williamson County Master Gardener Officers for 2010

### Officers:

Winola Van Artsdalen, President	<a href="mailto:jimwin@verizon.net">jimwin@verizon.net</a>	(512) 863-4923
Walter Hoke, Vice-president	<a href="mailto:swhoke@gmail.com">swhoke@gmail.com</a>	(512) 869-1948
Jeanne Barker, Secretary	<a href="mailto:jubarker@yahoo.com">jubarker@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 608-1296
Sandra Lawrence, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:swlawrence@austin.rr.com">swlawrence@austin.rr.com</a>	(512) 351-9678
Wayne Rhoden, Immediate Past President	<a href="mailto:mgardener@suddenlink">mgardener@suddenlink</a>	(512) 869-8016

### Standing Committees/Chairpersons:

Programs/Education	Paul Lawrence	<a href="mailto:pwlawrence@austin.rr.com">pwlawrence@austin.rr.com</a>	(512) 351-9678
Communications	Clyde Adley	<a href="mailto:cadley+mg@gmail.com">cadley+mg@gmail.com</a>	(512) 918-8024
Membership/Volunteer	John Papich	<a href="mailto:texasjayp@hotmail.com">texasjayp@hotmail.com</a>	(512) 863-4098
Awards	Norma Beissner	<a href="mailto:norma@beissner.org">norma@beissner.org</a>	(512) 535-6584
Class Training/ Facilitation	JoAnne Dieterich	<a href="mailto:crdieterich@yahoo.com">crdieterich@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 778-6690
JMG Coordinator	Juanita James	<a href="mailto:jjames20@sbcglobal.net">jjames20@sbcglobal.net</a>	(512) 341-7116
Fund Raising	Annette Banks	<a href="mailto:awbanks@suddenlink.net">awbanks@suddenlink.net</a>	(512) 868-8223
Greenhouse Manager	Brenda McIndoo	<a href="mailto:browndog1986@verizon.net">browndog1986@verizon.net</a>	(512) 868-9212

