



MG Wood Works

Wood County Master Gardeners

May/June 2011 Newsletter

President's Message



**Congratulations to all the 2011
Training Class Graduates.
Welcome new Master Gardeners.**



*Mary, Mary quite contrary,
How does your garden grow?*

We have all heard the nursery rhyme. How would you complete the rhyme pertaining to your own vegetable garden? It is the time of year when backyard gardeners ache to till the soil then plant fruits and veggies they can munch on all summer. Most of you have years of experience and many successful harvests. This year is Pat and my very first one. It is so exciting to decide the location, choose the vegetables, prepare the soil, place the plants or seeds, fertilize, mulch, water, and more. Wow! The anticipation of it all! The hard part is waiting through the growth process. It is all worth it when you gather your harvest and serve it to your family.

Spring and Summer are often the busiest for gardening activities. Providing the right care at the right time is the secret to healthy, productive plants and an attractive, enjoyable garden. Choose plants recommended for East Texas. They require the least maintenance. Remember that mulch is one of the best tools for simplifying your garden.

Garden Tip: a garden journal. Making a journal about your garden can help you plan for the future. Use a pocket notebook to keep seed packets, plant labels/info, your landscape plans and garden layouts. Record which varieties you plant and their performance, plant care guides, planting dates, fertilizations schedules, weed and pest control measures, and any other helpful notes. Your notes can help you build on past successes (and disappointments) as you plan each season's garden and landscape expansions.



WCMG monthly meetings....May 19 and June 16

begins June 21

Have you ever had a Hot Potato? What is a Hot Potato? My research found the following:

A hardy plant that yielded big red tubers was discovered by early explorers of North America. It was taken to England but attracted little attention except among botanists. Regarded as a curiosity, it had only one known use: when dried and powdered, a tuber provided an abundant supply of what was thought to be an aphrodisiac.

Wood County Master Gardeners website: www.wcmgtx.org

Vision

To be the premier 21st Century outreach and continuing education organization in Texas responding to the needs of the people.

Mission

To improve the lives of people, business and communities across Texas and Beyond through high quality, relevant Education

2011 MG Officers

**Connie Amsden—President
Jim Willis—Vice President
Shirley Boles—Secretary
Karen Anderson—Treasurer**



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While English gentry dropped powder into their drinks, frontiersmen began experimenting with the plant. They found the tuber to be wholesome and appetizing and began to call it a *sweet potato*.

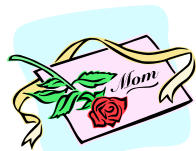
As the sweet potato was easily baked, it gradually became a staple of farm life. Impatient boys and girls seemed never to learn that a potato hot from the ashes must be left to cool.

Erupting from speech of rural households, *hot potato* came to stand for any problem too hot to handle.

~ from "Why You Say It" by Webb Garrison

May your garden always flourish....And your weeds always wither

Happy Gardening,
Connie Amsden
President



Happy Mother's Day
May 8



Happy Father's Day
June 19



Armed Forces Day – May 21
Memorial Day – May 30
Flag Day – June 14

May and June programs by: Jim Willis

In May we will hear a report on the annual Texas State Master Gardeners' meeting from Karen and Peggy. We always get a lot of good information from this program and Karen manages to inject a little humor in it too. It's a good chance to find out what's going on statewide and to find out more about how we did in the competitions.



In June our speaker will be Rich Jaynes. Rich is an environmental scientist with a passion for native grasses and that will be the subject of his presentation.

Rich spends a lot of time working at the Connemara Conservancy Meadow Preserve in Allen and he has led the restoration efforts there organizing planting events and leading guided walks on habitat, plants, wildflowers, and prairie restoration. He's conducted native grass identification workshops for the Native Plant Society of Texas. At this point, we plan to have Rich speak at the end of our program rather than at the beginning and he will then join us at the Mineola Nature Preserve where we hope to gain some insights from him as he learns about our wildscape garden there.

Congratulations Wood Works Subscribers

on your new editor, Sylvia Johnson. Sylvia is the entire package; competence, professionalism and creativity. We have enjoyed editing Wood Works this past year and working with all who have contributed content. We leave you in the best of hands and wish Sylvia well in her new endeavor. ~ Lynn and Terrell AronSpeer



Thanks to Terrell and Lynn for such high praise. I wish you good luck in your new endeavors. You have made *Wood Works* a great and expanded publication. I know I have a huge job ahead of me. I have assurance that Terrell will continue to mentor me in this learning experience. I will turn to the readers and regular contributors to help and advise me as well. As with any Newsletter change in staff, I will try to remain true to the vision and mission of *Wood Works*.

Please submit articles and news to the following email: mgnewsletter@hotmail.com

Sylvia Johnson



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Red Imported Fire Ants

When the ground temperatures stay above 65 degrees for several days, fire ants begin to build up mounds, produce young, and forage for food. During this stage is the best time to manage populations.



The best way to control the red imported fire ant is the “Texas Two-Step Method.” This method incorporates organic products into the overall management plan. This plan follows an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach that involves minimal risk to people, pets, and overall environment.

The first step is to let them eat the bait. Apply a broadcast bait, which is a product containing a food source and an insecticide. The bait should be broadcast over the entire yard in the fall and spring. The bait is carried by the workers to the rest of the colony, where it becomes a shared food source. This product kills the whole fire ant colony, which prevents new mounds from forming and treats unseen mounds.

Some of the organic baits on the market that are listed by the Organic Material Review Institute are Safer Brand Fire Ant Bait and Green Light Fire Ant Control with Conserve. These products contain the active ingredient spinosad.

Spinosad is a product formed from a common bacteria found in nature. Once ingested by the fire ant, spinosad attacks the nervous system causing paralysis and death.

To work correctly, baits must be applied at the right time and used with patience. Baits are only effective when the fire ants are actively foraging for food. Fire ants will forage for food when the soil surface temperature is between 70 and 90 degrees, which is usually between May and September. To check to see if the fire ants are actively foraging for food, place a small amount of bait or food, such as a hot dog or potato chips by the mound. Also, only fresh bait products should be used. Fire ants will not pick up the bait if it smells rancid.

The second step is to treat the individual mound. The mound treatment is the fastest way to get rid of the fire ant mound. Apply a mound drench to provide immediate control of large mounds. However, step two should be limited to those mounds found around the foundation and in high traffic areas.



Some organic mound drenches that are listed by the Organic Materials Review Institute are Safer Brand Fire Ant Mound Drench and Citrex Fire Ant Killer, both containing the active ingredient “d-limonene.”

D-limonene is an extract of orange oil released from crushed or grated orange peels. When the citrus fruits are juiced, the oil is pressed out of the rind. D-limonene is the oil left behind and collected.

There are several insecticides that are on the market to kill fire ants. Some products are but not limited to, Amdro, Logic, Extinguish, Distance, Talstar, and Over’N Out. Some of these products provide short term control and some state that they give season long control. My recommendation is to read the label and pick an insecticide that fits into your control strategy. If you follow the Texas Two Step Method, it will offer a control strategy that will fit your need and have a less harmful effect on the environment. Remember, always read and follow the label direction when applying any pesticide

Happy Gardening!!



Wood County TX AgriLife Extension Service

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Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

~ *Destiny and the Art of Exterior Design* ~

Inspiring Story by Peggy Rogers

&

Commentary by Lynn AronSpeer



~Here stands the initial project, complete with plants, water and the brotherhood of unsuspecting goldfish.~

One year on a warm winter day, I decided my garden needed a fish pond. This phase is 'the plan.' So, off to the store to buy one of those black plastic liners sold for fish ponds, 8' x 5' and holding about 200 gallons of water--just right for an oasis in my garden.

So for weeks through the winter as weather allowed, I dug and dug and dug until I had this large hole. I consider digging to be gardening and Peggy deserves a LOT of credit to garden in the winter. (Did I mention that I'm not a very good digger and it took me a lot longer than I thought it would and it was now approaching spring?) Peggy has 'worked her plan.'

Next I was on to the pond. I did it all just like the easy-to-follow directions: lining the hole with some old carpet pad, then putting in the sand and inserting the plastic pond. Now, wouldn't you know it?! My hole was only half deep enough and my black pond was not ground level as I had planned. And after all that digging, Peg?! Should I improvise or take it apart and dig some more? More digging? Nah ... Back to the store to buy landscape stones to place around the pond. OK, this was good--not in the plans but maybe it would look better to have a 12" flower bed around the pond. Peggy may be a secret U.S. Army Corp Engineer. Plan your work and work your plan, Peg.

I was in business, all I had to do was fill with water, wait for it to get a little warmer and let the water settle out; then I could purchase fish and put plants around the pond. Now I needed a few rocks around the rim of the black pond to make it look more natural. Peggy seems to be a natural exterior decorator.

Things were looking swell; time to purchase fish.....5 little gold fish went into the pond. Every day, I would go out and watch as the sedum plants were growing and covering the planting area and the little fish were swimming--wait! There are only 3 fish today and there are a couple of frogs. Where did my fish go?

Next day, there was only one fish and then there were none! Karmically speaking, I hope I'm never a gold fish-- everyone seems to float a few...Back to the bait store to buy 5 more goldfish.

These lived until the summer when the hot summer sun shown down on the water and the water got too hot for them to survive. I had murdered the goldfish by letting them get too hot. **Those goldfish must carry a horrible karma—a slow boil? What do you suppose they did in a former life-time?**

Back to the bait store to buy 5 more fish. The weather was cooler and these 5 lived all winter. Spring came, time to clean the dead plants and remove leaves in and around the pond. Black and smelly, green slime was a mess. Little grass snakes had decided it was a good home, frogs loved their home and again one by one the gold fish were disappearing. **I can't help but wonder if raccoons aren't a common element of transition to usher goldfish into Fishy Heaven.**

Time to rethink this fish pond thing, I only wanted fish, not frogs and snakes!!! Out came the pond, wheel barrowing and shoveling soil into the hole; reshaping flower bed from oblong to round meant lifting those heavy landscape edgings and replanting, but it was all worth it when I finished.

I think my flower garden is prettier with the birdbath than with the fish pond. So now I enjoy the birds that come to bathe and so far no frogs or snakes.

Doesn't Peggy's project inspire you to envision a project of your own? Remember: plan your work and work your plan...or... "The best laid plans of mice and men..."

Note: Gold may not be the investment of the future, but silverfish? Hmmm...



~ This is Peggy's final masterpiece of serenity minus gold fish, grass snakes and frogs. Oh my! ~

If I knew then what I know now!

by Linda Timmons

If I knew then what I know now I would never have planted a whole row of pampas grass-12 plants.

They started out as 2 plants on either side of the drive way when we first moved here to our little place we affectionately call "Sweetgum Acres". I had dreams of beautifully landscaped welcoming beds and pampas grass had no place in the design. After several unsuccessful attempts at digging the clumps out, my handy enterprising husband figured out to wrap a heavy gauge chain around each clump, attached it to the back of his pick up truck and yank them out. Back then, before I knew what I know now, I couldn't stand throwing away a plant. So I got out the chain saw (don't you think at some point here I should have realized this wasn't a plant I really wanted) and cut one of the clumps into a multitude of sections. We ran out of gas so I put the other clump on the burn pile-it took three (3) years to burn it up completely! The plants are now 10 feet tall and 10 feet wide and are even too big for the professional equipment to handle. I'm seriously considering setting them on fire. My neighbor, who in 1999 told me he didn't like pampas grass while he watched me plant them, has volunteered to help. I've got good neighbors.



Possible uses for pampas grass:

Makes a good weather forecaster —expect rain within 1 week of the time it sends up those fluffy beautiful blooms. The rain ruins them.

Makes an effective deer hedge-or hog or anything else. It's the one truly deer resistant plant I know.

If you can think of any other great uses for pampas grass, let me know. I'm awarding the winner with the best idea all the pampas grass you want.



May and June 2011: Iced Herbal Teas and other Refreshing and Different Drinks



By: Sylvia Johnson, MG

I decided to take advantage of all the snow this February, and pre-write a few articles. So as I sit and watch my cats watch the winter birds, with my heater turned to high, I am thinking about June and July! It suddenly occurred to me that in those months of unbearable heat I am usually sitting inside, watching my cats watch the summer birds, with the air conditioner on high! Let's face it; most of us do little gardening in the heat of July and early August. Ok, maybe some tomatoes plants and if we are lucky a few flowers that depend on being in the shade are still hanging on but for the most part we just let things go until mid to late August when we can actually breath outside without searing our lungs. What about gardening? I will do the same as I am doing in February, plan my next garden. I plant a spring garden and a fall garden. This saves me a lot of heartache, water, heat stroke and time. I mean gardening is supposed to be fun so why garden when only "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the noonday sun", so to speak.

Pick a few mint leaves, herbs or flowers from your spring garden, make your ice cold beverage of choice and sit in the air conditioning or under a nice fan on the porch. Put your feet up and dream of all those nice winter vegetables and fall flowers that are in your future. These are a few great recipes for teas and drinks that you can make using herbs and flowers from you spring garden. You did plant a lot of herbs didn't you?

Herbal Tea: **Fresh Leaves:** 3 teaspoons worth per cup of water. Depends on leaf size.

Dry Leaves: 1 teaspoon per cup of water

Basic Recipe: Boil water. Put in tea, flowers and/or herbs. Steep for 15 minutes.

Strain. Pour over ice. Sweeten as desired.

Or, make Sun Tea but double the herbs/flowers.

Do not use a metal container for herbal tea it can interfere with the herbal properties.

Mint: Consider mint species with subtle flavors including apple, chocolate, orange, ginger, pineapple or lemon in addition to spearmint. Any of these added to a glass of iced tea or fresh lemonade enhances the flavor. Or skip the tea bag and just use your fresh herbs. Fresh spearmint makes a very nice Mohito or Mint Julep too. Mohito Ingredients: 10 fresh mint leaves, ½ lime cut into 4 wedges, 2 tbs of sugar, 1 ½ ounces of white rum, ½ cup club soda. Place mint leaves and 1 lime wedge into a sturdy glass. Use a muddler, to crush the mint and lime to release the mint oils and juice. Add 2 more lime wedges and the sugar, and muddle again. Do not strain. Fill the glass with ice. Add rum. Fill the glass with club soda. Garnish with the remaining lime wedge.

Flowers: **Chamomile** is not just for winter sore throats but can be drunk chilled alone or in combination with other herbs. The resulting soothing beverage, maybe with a hint of lemongrass or lavender, will relax your muscles after a hard day gardening. Make a tea of chamomile flowers, honey, and a dash of vanilla extract. Pour over ice. **Organic Rose** petal tea is full of vitamin C. **Hibiscus** buds also make a sweet tangy red tea.



Lavender: A delicious recipe from Ellen Atkins: Make a simple syrup of sugar and water. Add sprigs of fresh lavender to cooling syrup. You want to steep the lavender but not cook it. Add a spoon of lavender syrup to each serving of tea and garnished with a lemon slice and a sprig of fresh mint or lavender. Or, if you do not like sweet tea just add the lavender to the steeping tea. Another herb to use with lavender is lemon verbena. Talk about a different refreshing combinations! Both of these are great.

Sage: Another unique herb for tea is sage. Steep pineapple sage and lemon verbena. Add honey (optional). Add pineapple juice or pour tea over frozen pineapple juice ice cubes. Garnish with piece of pineapple and a sprig of sage.

Fruit: Adding fruit juice to your tea, regular or herbal, gives it a punch like taste. It is a delicious way to get extra vitamins into your diet. This makes a wonderful tea: 2 cups of boiling water, 4 tea bags, 3 spearmint sprigs, a few lemon verbena leaves, and 2 cups of juice or nectar of your choice (I like peach). Most fruit juice has a tea it will enhance. Experiment and develop your own favorite tea. Garnish your tea with a piece of the fruit.

Drying Herbs and Flowers: Put herbs or flowers in a small paper sack. One sack per plant type. Leave sack top open. Place the bag inside your car. On a hot summer day park your car in the sun and crack a window. Who knew you could dry herbs and be shopping at the mall at the same time! You will be surprised at the speed the herbs/flowers will come to the dried, crunchy, and ready to store state. Plus, it makes the inside of you car smell wonderful. Store dried herbs/flowers in an airtight container and enjoy your teas hot or cold all through the year.



Ahh, now where did I put that fall garden seed catalogue?



Joan Morgan
Wood County Master Gardener



Spring is bringing green growth to the Wildscape at the Mineola Nature Preserve. The blue bonnets are in full bloom and are just beautiful. We have several other native wildflowers in bloom and more showing up every day. The Preserve has agreed to delay mowing of the grass below the Wildscape until the wildflowers have bloomed and matured to drop their seeds for next year. It will truly look like a Wildscape when that occurs. Some of the trees have taken a spurt of growth and will offer a little shade in some areas. Jim Willis has set a display area at the Wildscape for the "thank you" bricks located in the circular granite walk area in the Butterfly bed area.

Jim Willis is also moving along with the construction of the Rainwater Retrieval System near the storage shed, and photos attached show his progress. The water tank should be delivered soon, and then the gutter system on the roof of the cover will be installed. We are excited to have the structure and system complete so that we can schedule some educational events to share the information reflecting the ease of using such a system to collect sufficient rainwater to maintain gardens, etc. Jim did a lot of research on this system and visited with a fellow near Mineola who is using the water from his system for everything at his residence except for drinking water. With so many water demands in the state of Texas, we would all be wise in considering such a system for much of our water needs. We now have a new tank installed at the wildscape thanks to Jim.

We invite everyone out to walk the area and view the flowers and plants growing as well as butterflies already busy checking out their sources for nectar. Nature is in full bloom, so come on out and enjoy.



Tyler Area Home Garden Tour

Cecil Wallace



For those who are interested, here is a PDF copy from Smith County Master Gardeners regarding the upcoming home garden tour. This is an annual event that showcases a variety of home gardens in the Tyler area.

I have attended every tour since 2004, and have enjoyed them all.

One garden on the tour is the Kindig garden near New Harmony, west of Tyler. I have been there a number of times. It is a delightful place.

See the announcement at: <http://scmg.tamu.edu/files/2010/04/2011-Home-Tour-Color.pdf>

Anyone Interested in a Personalized Car Tag?

Peggy Rogers

The license plate is usually in addition to fee. Of the \$30.00 returned to the

Program for scholarships. You can or-



available for \$30.00 and your vehicle registration Plate fee, \$22.00 will be Texas Master Gardener ships and associated ac-

der from the Texas DMV online, by fax or by mail. Personalization is an additional \$40.00.

Souvenir plates are also available for purchase by individuals or organizations. These plates are not street legal or insignias of vehicle registration, but they can serve many unique purposes. Individuals have purchased souvenir plates as fun and quirky gifts, mementos, decorations or to put on bicycles or non-street-legal vehicles.

The fee for a single souvenir plate is \$20. Personalization is \$20. For each souvenir plate ordered, we deposit \$10 into the fund (\$20 if personalized) and \$10 to the credit of the state high-



way fund.



Friends of the Arboretum

By Pam Riley



April 9 was the 4th Annual Spring Plant Sale at the Arboretum. We again enjoyed the opportunity to share our plants and knowledge with the Wood County public. Sales of flowers, trees, herbs and tomatoes went very well and we almost sold out. Master Gardeners did a wonderful job selling plants and educating the buyers. Once again we put our training to practical purpose for the good of the county.



The Arboretum will benefit from this sale as we continue to maintain and expand the grounds and wooded pathways. Our latest project, headed by Ann, will be the Sensory Garden for children. Stop by often as she and fellow gardeners finish this exciting project. Master Gardeners are encouraged to stop by and help on Arboretum work days. This unique project is to encourage our future gardeners.

Aaah Spring!

By Peggy Rogers



Dark and dreary, dead and brown that is what we have been looking at in our gardens for the last few months. But now the early blooming paperwhites, yellow and white daffodils, pastel colored Hyacinths, a rainbow of tulips, coral to pink flowering quince and yellow forsythia gives our gardens and road sides splashes of color.

Crab apple, Bradford pear and Mexican plum covered in white blooms set against the cold gray of bark and limbs, without leaves, sets me back in time like I 'm looking at a black and white photo. But, looking at them warms my heart knowing that spring is nearly here and the cycle of life continues.

This brings me to my own personal best liked shrub. It magically waves in the air, wispy and twiggy covered in little white flowers. Baby's breath will bloom profusely in cooler climates. Baby's breath (*Spirea thunbergii*) is a fast-growing shrub providing an attractive hedge or screen. This wiry shrub features multiple twiggy branches forming a mound from 5 to 6 feet tall and equally as wide. The pale-green leaves are wispy and thin. Of the 90 species of spirea, Baby's breath will flower first in the spring. Clusters of dainty five-petaled blossoms emerge in late winter or early spring wrapping the shrub in white. Native to China and Japan, Baby's breath performs best in USDA hardiness zones 4 to 8. This semi-deciduous shrub prefers full sun but will thrive in partial shade in warmer climates. In addition, Baby's breath can maintain its foliage during mild winters. Baby's breath should be planted in average well-drained soil and keep the soil adequately moist. Planted in a row or with other shrubs it can provide an privacy hedge. In some areas baby's breath has been known to become invasive.



baby's breath image by

Barbara Helgason

SERENITY CORNER

Eileen Bartlett



Thinking about the "Serenity Corner" message this morning on my daily walk with my dogs, I realized that I was right in the midst of the message as I am every day. Walking every morning and evening on our many trails is our ritual that is the most peaceful moments I have. Dogs in nature are so busy quietly sniffing and watering every bush and grazing on all the young grass. When they pick up their heads to stop and listen, I am called to do the same. They have pointed out bunnies and deer in the distance that I would miss if I did not have them. I get a chance to see the changes in wildflowers as the seasons progress. There are not so much thoughts that come into my head, but feelings of acceptance, peacefulness and a small part of my day when I am grateful for this opportunity in my life.



I would love to hear from anyone that would like to share their Serenity corners for the

"Wood Works" newsletter.

Please send to: ebartlett3@yahoo.com

Mineola Nature Preserve Fest

Saturday, May 28, 2011

The Wood County Master Gardeners will raffle this lovely collage birdbath at the Nature Fest.



It was designed, created and donated by our own Nancy Weaver. All funds will benefit the Wildscape established by the Master Gardeners at the Preserve. Thanks Nancy!

Pre- Purchase raffle tickets from Joan Morgan [\(903\) 878-2606](tel:9038782606)

Cost: \$1 each or 6 for \$5

DIRECTORS MEETING, 1ST QUARTER 2011



Friday, February 18th dawned cloudy and misty, but it did not diminish these two Master Gardener's attitude. We were as excited as if the sun was shining brightly. Ready to begin our trip to College Station for the Texas Master Gardeners director's meeting. Karen's third meeting as a director, but my first meeting and my first time to College Station.

Two hours down the road, we had read and discussed the minutes from the December, 2010 director's meeting, solved all the problems facing Master Gardeners Associations, discussed all the world problems, and enjoying just visiting with each other. Yes, it is time for a rest stop, when out of no where in a small town store front what did we see but boxes and boxes of yellow boxes which means Yellow Box Shoes! Of course, we had to stop and check them out and of course, we both bought Shoes! Now our trip was really getting from every nation. Loud parties going on at all the College Centers, sounds of joy and fun. Oh, yes, College Station was alive and well.

Arrived, College Station and motel with having time left for a little sight seeing and shopping before dinner. Quilt and fabric shops for Karen and bead stores for me were only our first stops.

Friday night in a college town!!!! I had forgotten what it was like. Young people everywhere. Every restaurant filled with waiting lines outside, anywhere from 1 to 2 hour waits with restaurants Karen and I retired early after finding a quiet little family Mexican Restaurant with great food. We were tired after the drive and shopping and I think went to sleep still talking to each other.

Saturday, February 19th before the meeting, we toured the Holistic Gardens at the college. The first sign we saw in the gardens stated "maintained by volunteers". Were we surprised? Not! This garden is planted and maintained by the Aggie Master Gardeners. The garden acts as a scene for beautiful photo opportunities as well as an endless symbol of aggie pride. This garden is planned and overseen by an appointed representative from the TAMU Horticulture Club. Do I hear a Whoop? Most of the different garden areas were in raised beds, some in need of care and some newly planted, just like our own projects for this time of year. The Handicap Garden area, with paved walkways for wheel chairs and higher raised beds, was inspirational. Signs with questions and answers, some geared for children and used for a teaching tool, was very informative.

More directors from the Associations than planned for meant a quick change of meeting room and building. Forty one Associations were represented at this first quarter meeting, more than the usual attendance.

Welcome and meeting called to order by President, Homer Babbit, introducing the new slate of officers for 2011.

Who Are We? Repeat after me. WE ARE EXTENSION! WE ARE EXTENSION! We must get the message over that Master Gardeners represent Texas AgriLife Extension. All our actions, service and words must always exemplify that We are Extension!

Texas Master Gardeners is a volunteer program designed to grow horticultural information throughout the state, town by town. To become a Texas Master Gardener, a participant attends 50 hours of instruction and then shares this knowledge by donation of 50 hours of volunteer service back to the community in the first year. Each year thereafter continuing education (CEU's) and continuing volunteer hours must be completed. We Are Extension!

We were alerted of budgetary concerns for County agents and Texas A&M with some suggested increases that might be coming to the local Associations. Higher State Dues and paying fees to Texas A&M, none confirmed at this time. It was stated that there are 6,000 Master Gardeners in Texas and Texas is the largest and finest Master Gardeners' Program in the United States. This may have had a little Texas Brag to it.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, GINGER BASON – DIRECTOR'S TRAINING:

Each local association elects two directors to carry out State and local Association business. Each Association has 2 votes.

WHAT ARE THE DIRECTORS DUTIES? Why do you send directors to State meetings?

- Ψ Make sure roster of members with emails and addresses are sent to TMGA secretary
- Ψ Report information from state back to the local association.
- Ψ Promote State Awards Program.
- Ψ Vote regarding TMGA business.
- Ψ ATTEND director's meetings.
- Ψ Liaison between TMGA and local association.

TMGA dues are due, March 01 of each year. That means the TMGA treasurer must have received in hand the dues by March 01 and if not paid on time then the local association is not eligible to enter that years Awards Program. (Dues received by the treasurer by deadline of March 01, 2011 make us eligible to enter our projects that we do now in the year 2011)

WHEN ARE TMGA DUES DUE? Must be received by TMGA treasurer by March 01.

SHARING IDEAS! We were asked to encourage our association to submit and contribute information to TMGA Newsletter. Member information password is "*sunset*".

NEW COMMITTEE: State Conference Planning Committee. Dudley Hargrove will chair this year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2012: Elaine Bell stated that she and her committee were ready to accept names of nominees for 2012 TMGA officers.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: George Ammerman stated they would be suggesting a By-Law change to divide the 12 Texas Districts into 4 regions and have a liaison person represent each of the 4 regions.

121 awards in all are to be given. Awards eligibility figured on previous years dues received

AWARDS: 38 eligible county associations submitted awards by January 28, 9 exhibits, and other events. Report filing date May 20, 2011.

WEB MASTER: New volunteer web master stated that he had spent many more hours than he had planned on, but wanted to have the best and easiest to use WEB page completely revamped shortly. Almost there.

2011 STATE CONFERENCE, GLENN ROSE: Donna Hagar and Doug Richards. Early Registration ends March 15, still have time to take this opportunity of value! Relive the ol' west and find out if Squirrel Tooth Alice and Texas Billy can keep out the "Painted Ladies". It'll be better than the Gunfight at the OK-Corral! And they ain't kiddin!!!

2012 TMGA STATE CONFERENCE: Barbara Lux and Lou Kellog, May 3-5, 2012, San Antonio, Junction of I-10 and 410, one location, free parking, Tours and classes being planned and confirmed "Painted Ladies". It'll be better than the Gunfight at the OK-Corral! And they ain't kiddin!!!

2012 TMGA STATE CONFERENCE: Barbara Lux and Lou Kellog, May 3-5, 2012, San Antonio, Junction of I-10 and 410, one location, free parking, Tours and classes being planned and confirmed.

SPECIALIST TRAINING: Several special training classes announced. All are listed on the TMGA website at txmg.org.

3:00 pm MEETING OVER. For four hours we've sat and listened to lots of information, time went by fast and didn't seem that the meeting was that long. But we were ready to get the heck out of Dodge, uhhhhh College Station.

Tired and hungry, we headed home and being the true East Texas Southern ladies that we are, chicken fried chicken with sweet ice tea was on our menu. Arrived home around 9pm, very tired from a long day, but much more knowledgeable than when we left.

Thank you, for letting us represent Wood County Master Gardeners' Association as your directors.

Karen Anderson & Peggy Rogers, Directors



The 2011 Master Gardeners Master Gardeners Graduation will be:

April 26, 2011 at the Stinson House starting at 10:45.

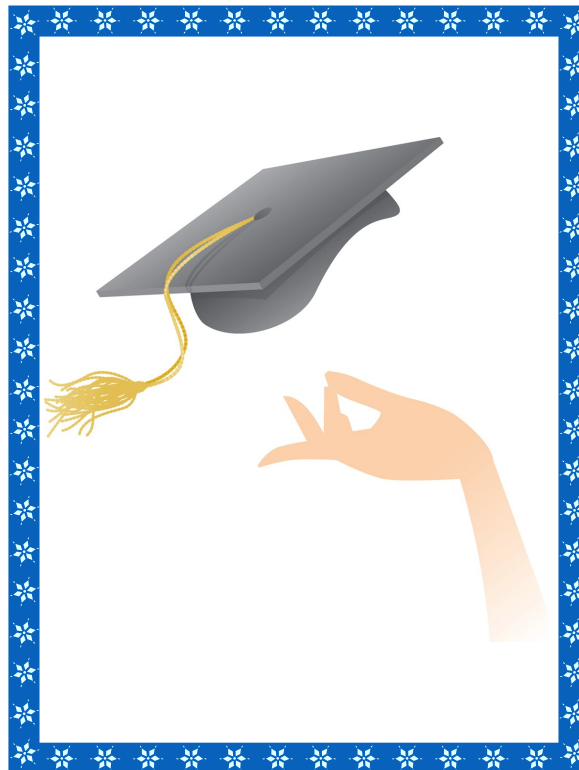
Everyone invited & family also. Help us welcome our New Master Gardeners to the group. They've put in a lot of time and effort to become Master Gardeners. This is a great class.

We will be having a meal like usual. Clint & I are not sure what meat we will have this year, but we will **need side dishes & of course deserts**. Please email me back so we will know how many to get meat for.

Also need volunteers for set up & volunteers for clean up.

I need this information emailed back to me by Friday Apr. 22 at the latest.

Thanks,
Gail Newman



Contact List

Wood County Master Gardener Projects 2011

Project	Chair	Email
Quitman Arboretum & Botanical Garden	Pam Riley	pam_riley2003@yahoo.com
Junior Master Gardeners	Linda Avant	linavant@peoplescom.net
Quitman Special Ed Greenhouse	Fran McKinney	mckfran@gmail.com
	Clyde McKinney	mckclyde@gmail.com
Quitman Library	Becky Watts	jbwatts@escapees.com
Mineola Nature Preserve Wildscape	Joan Morgan	cdmorgan@peoplescom.net
Mineola Nature Preserve Sensory Garden	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Hawkins Helping Hands	Lucy Germany	lgermany@etex.net
Winnsboro Garden Club	Eluria Holland	cutter66ems@aol.com
Winnsboro Morgan Mercy Mission	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Depot	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Winnsboro Library	Jerrie Sutphin	granfarm@peoplescom.net
	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Wood Co. Airport Landscape	Connie Amsden	amsdentx@yahoo.com
WCMG Cookbook	Linda Timmons	lindtmms@aol.com
WCMG Training Class	Gail Newman	travlinnewman@aol.com
Spring Conference	Karen Anderson	kkjta@aol.com
WCMG Library	Anita Baker	ldandanita@hughes.net
Historian	Peggy Rogers	peggyrogersc21@gmail.com
Newsletter	Terrell AronSpeer	terrellaronsppeer@peoplescom.net
WCMG Website	Linda Timmons	lindtmms@aol.com
Website Email	Ruth Allen	ruth_allen1@msn.com
Facebook	Kathleen Denmon	krdenmon@peoplescom.net
Sunshine	Sandra Patrick	sppat57@suddenlink.net
Email Communicator	Sally Houk	sahouk@etex.net
Festival Coordinator	Willie Kay Paredez	jwkpared@peoplescom.net
Volunteer Hours Coordinator (Hrs/CEUs)	Ellen Atkins	ellen.atkins@hotmail.com

KEEP AS PERMANENT

Stop the Press. Breaking News!



Yantis Junior Master Gardeners making models of Texas Poisonous Snakes. Good to know about this time of year.



Wild Fires burn West Texas. Over 1 Million acres as of publication.



Pet Fair

SATURDAY APRIL 30th
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

QuitmanAnimalClinic.net

Quitman Animal Clinic
1142 E. Goode Street, Quitman, Texas 75783 903.763.2315

I will try to acknowledge articles or news submissions that arrive after the monthly deadline. If you see your submission on this page you have the option of resubmitting a full article to be published in the next issue. If you do not see a submitted article it really arrived late! Send your articles and pictures to me at mgnewsletter@hotmail.com.

Sylvia Johnson, editor

May 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1

Smith County
Garden Home
Tour

2

Jr. MG Broccoli
Busters Meet-
ing

3

4

5

6

National Public
Gardens Day

7

Winnsboro
Farmers Market
Every Saturday
April–October

8

Mother's Day



9

10

11

12

13

Mineola May
Days Weekend

14

15

16

17

18

19

Master Gardener
Monthly Meeting

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

Mineola Nature
Fest
27-28

28

29

30

31

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Winnsboro Farmers Market Every Saturday April–October
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Master Gardener Monthly Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		