



Wood County Master Gardeners

**Wood County Master Gardeners
Trainee Graduation and Service
Recognition Ceremony
2016**

Edited by: Sylvia Johnson



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

Graduation Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 4:45 PM

By: Linda Bradley

At this year's celebration Clint Perkins, the Wood County Texas A&M AgriLife Agent, presented Texas Master Gardener Service Awards, which mark mile stone volunteer years, to the following Wood County Master Gardener Associates:

- **10 Year Service Pins:** Jerrie Suptin and Sandra Patrick
- **5 Year Service Pins:** Linda Cowan, Mike Ferguson, John Fox, and Jan Whitlock.



Congratulations to all the above. These Associates deserve a great "Thank You" for all the volunteer hours spent helping the Wood County Master Gardener's Gardening and Educational Projects. Projects which beautify, enhance and inform Wood County, its residents and its visitors. As dedicated Associates they are truly part of the "corps of talented and highly trained volunteers who help people and communities through horticultural education"¹. They set a great example for the new Graduates concerning the benefits of belonging to and engaging in our chapter of the Texas A&M Master Gardeners Program.

At this year's ceremony, we were honored to welcome three Wood County Commissioners who attend to congratulate the new Graduates. We appreciate the help and support we have received from the Commissioners' Court throughout the years. They in turn appreciate all the work our Association dedicates to Wood County. Attending this year were:

Precinct #1, Virgil "Junior" Holland

Precinct #2, Jerry Gaskil

Precinct #4, Russell Acker



This year we were please to have 15 interns graduate our training class. Classes consisted of classroom instruction following the Texas AgriLife Extension's Texas Master Gardener Handbook, videos, hands on gardening and landscaping projects, and field trips. The following students passed all phases:





Melodee Eishen*	Tracie Justice*	Sally Hopkinsh
Leo Fisher*	Tracey Snow Murphy*	Joyce Tullis
Laurie Fisher*	Marcia Upton*	Richard "Red" Henderson
Gwenda Fleishman*	Gayle Mullinax*	Brandi Patterson
Larry Fleishman*	Shirley Chadwick*	Suzette Neal

* completed their 50 volunteer hours and are full-fledged Wood County Master Gardeners.

During the Luncheon, the Graduates presented a special award to Shirley Chadwick as their fellow trainee who most exemplified all the lessons and all the skills which were taught during their classes. She represented “gardening at its best” to them.



Shirley Chadwick



Melodee Eishen



Leo Fisher



Lori Fisher



Gwenda Fleishman



Richard Henderson



Tracie Justice



Gayle Mullinax



Tracy Snow Murphy



Joyce Tullis



Brandie Patterson



Marcia Upton

The students also thanked Clint Perkins, Linda Bradley, Robin Sanchez, Gloria Jean Rosewall, Debbie Quadracchi and Kimberly Mason for all their support and lessons during the weeks of training.

A sincere thank you goes out to all Master Gardeners Associates who brought the abundance of good food. The wonderful "Tablescapes", also hand crafted by Associates, always add beauty and wonder to our meeting.



We had around 72 people attend the Luncheon this year; one of our biggest turn-outs to date.



Great turnout for the 2016 Wood County Master Gardener gr... See More



We offer a special thank you to St. Dunstan's Church for such a great place to hold the celebration. Kudos to those Associates who arrived early to help set up and to those who stayed afterwards to help clean up.

Another year has passed in which we all learned by sharing and participating in these classes. Every year we experience different weather and what to do during it, learn of new gardening methods, discover exciting and sometimes dire new plant disease and insect infestations in the Texas horticulture world. We learn of all these things and make it our passion to educate the county through our Master Gardener Association. We are already looking forward to next year's class; Clint has already signed up 18 people for our 2017 Master Gardener Training Class. We may have to find a bigger classroom!

1-Texas Master Gardener Handbook

Photos contributed by: Peggy Rogers, Clint Perkins, Petra Jones

WCMG 2016 Class Project

Final Report

By: Tracie Justice

As this year's class ends, Master Gardner Interns worked hard to finish our landscape projects in front of the Ag-Life office. It won't be easy to see all we've done driving by the office for awhile, as most of the plants are still too young to be seen from the road. But if you can take a moment to take a closer peek, we hope you'll enjoy our simple yet elegant landscape designs as much as we enjoyed creating them. The project is split into three sections surrounding the front parking lot...



The first section is a narrow 3 ft. wide by 40ft long garden space in front of the building's entire street-facing wall. Keeping this narrow space in mind, Gwen Fleishman's team (Larry Fleishman, Laurie Fisher, Melodee Eishen and Yours Truly) was committed to choosing partial shade perennial plants that not only fit the limited space criteria but would also bloom or change color in all four Seasons, providing a colorful contrast to that long windowed brick wall throughout the year. The main focal point stealing the show thus far are the Evergreen Pencil plants (from the Holly family) planted on each side of the middle window. Between them is an "olla irrigation" demonstration which will have a sign (Coming Soon!) directing those interested in more information to pick up an informational packet inside the Ag-Life Office. On each end of the garden we'll find red Dwarf Camellias in bloom during Winter Season, while Spring, Summer and Fall will host an

array of colors in both native and adaptive plants: White Oxeye Daisies and bluish-purple Prairie Verberna from Melody's garden, Wood Violets and soft pink Oxalis from Gwen's garden, some Mother Thyme, purple Dwarf Mexican Petunias and Shasta Daisies are in the mix, as well. Laurie added Burgundy Glow Ajuga for Fall Season colors bordering the bricks and, perhaps best of all, a lovely pedestal birdbath water feature with ceramic tile designs of butterflies and dragonflies to supply water for all our little garden friends.

The second section is the circular stone garden at the corner near the intersection, making the goal for Gayle Mullinax's team (Tracey Snow Murphy, Joyce Tullis, Leo Fisher, and Marcia Upton) to provide an attractive, low maintenance area that does not impede drivers' views. Various Perennials



were planted including succulents, native and adaptive plants such as: Pursalane; Moss Rose; Red Creeping Thyme; Creeping Jenny; Soft Touch Holly... and more! We wish to thank Shirley Chadwick for sharing Monkey Grass from her own beautiful garden, and also Karen Anderson for donating some cactus from the Mineola Nature Preserve. They also added rock around the entire bed. This team has done a spectacular job of incorporating lovely low-growing, multi-type plants that flow and work together perfectly in magnifying the rich earthly color and shapes of the existing rocks. And, to our utter surprise, it was especially inspiring and touching

to see The Laws of Nature join in the team's endeavors of beautifying the rock garden by causing the tiniest little plant to escape from a crack in one of the rocks, revealing its glory just in time to be displayed together with their design.



The third section is more of a square-shaped garden around the Ag-Life sign on the NW property line. Brandi Patterson's team, consisting of her and Suzette Neal, were greatly challenged with revamping a badly overgrown and neglected garden plot, also having to contend with a sloping area dividing Ag-Life's property from the adjoining neighbor's yard. Brandi stated their plan was to create a design that didn't scream "Government Building" using typical plants and basic layouts of such. And from this writer's point of view, they succeeded smashingly! The front area incorporates Trailing Rosemary, Lantana, Fiber Optic Grass, and an amazing cute little shrub called, Euphorbia 'Tiny Tim' (with busy little worker bees buzzing all over it!), finishing with Dusty Miller to contrast the bordering rocks. And off to the side facing traffic is a creative focal point I truly love, made from a wash tub-type pot donated by Laurie Fisher. They tipped the little wash tub a bit and planted Hot Lips Salvina, Mondo Grass, and Spreading Angelonia in dark purple, white and pink. Then, on the back side, they trimmed and shaped the Box Woods adding Oxalis and Hot Pink Dianthus in front of them, then planted Hosta 'Paul's Glory' off to the side. The end result is absolute excellence and the other teams are so very proud of how masterfully they tackled that challenge! They added shredded wood compost for the finishing touch.

In closing, I'd like to thank all my classmates for working so hard to pull together a landscape in such perfect harmony and balance with one another. I am so proud of all of you and so genuinely pleased to be part of WCMG Class of 2016, formed by some of the most creative, innovative, giving and caring people I've ever known. My gardeners' hat is off to each and every one of you!



Photos by: Linda K Bradley