

# The Latest Dirt

February 2010

Volume 12/No. 1

## Jan's Notes

February 2010



Just some updates from last month:

Our new office was scrubbed and cleaned by Ila Jean and Barbara V. The blinds are up and the county sent chairs. The filing cabinet and other things were moved from the storage closet.

Baseboards are to be installed on Feb. 9.

Other office needs: two waste baskets, a telephone (preferably with answering machine), several good gardening reference books, a stapler, tape and dispenser, paper clips, and volunteers to answer the phone (more about this later).

This month the membership booklets will be ready and most of the committee chairmen are listed. We still need someone to chair these committees: Docent Program, JMG coordinator, pot recycling. Would you like to volunteer?

There will be sign up sheets at the Feb. meeting if you want to volunteer to help on any of the committees. We need everyone to feel wanted and to volunteer for something you like to do. What do you like to do? I know you like to work in your garden every day that you can get outside. We just need you to be committed to helping MCMG and our community, too.

Remember that friends are your flowers in the garden of life!

Take thyme to smell the roses.

*Jan*

### **"Forget Plants - Dream of Design"**

See page 4 for an exciting program with education hours...plus other events and education opportunities.



January 22, 2010

## THE TRAILSIDE GARDEN

WAITS,  
RESTS,  
AND  
RECOVERS

"**Brown and crisp**" is how Barbara Vance described the Variegated Dianella (above) planted last fall. MG volunteers trimmed back lavender, pink skullcap, yellow columbine and Walker's Low Catmint in the new beds. After the record December/January lows, the waiting begins to see what spring brings.

**Meanwhile**, the City of Woodway and the Arboretum Board have contracted with MESA, a Dallas architectural firm, to create a Master Site Plan for the 16-acre Arboretum plot. About 30 people representing various interests and components of the facility and gardens were involved in the first planning workshop in January; another will be in February.

Barbara Vance, Dawn Segrest, Elizabeth Milam, and Sonia Warriner represented MG, the Rose Society and the Waco Herb Society.

**McLennan County Master Gardeners Association**

## MCMG Minutes

January 13, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met January 13, 2010 at noon at the arboretum. President: Jan Serface called the meeting to order. The minutes for December 2009 were approved as written in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Irene Dauphin passed out a purposed budget for 2010. The balance as of 1/5/10 is \$11,445.27.

**Old Business:** Julia Khoury reported on volunteer hours. We had 4331 volunteer hours, 1049 education hrs, and 36,057 contacts for 2009.

Doug Quicksall reported that the financial records were reviewed for 2009 by the audit committee and approved.

**New Business:** Irene reminded members that they need to pay dues for 2010. If you have not paid, please send \$12.00 to Irene Dauphin. Eva FitzGerald passed around the membership roster for members present to update. Jeanette Kelly and Doug Quicksall reported on the BIG Conference. It will be held February 9-10 at the H.O.T. Complex. Volunteers are needed to assist in registration and information. The horticulture program will be on "Lawns" on February 10. MLK Day of Service is January 18. Contact Penny Gifford at p to help. A motion was made and seconded to increase the scholarship amount for horticulture students at TSTC to \$2,000.00. Also, a motion was made and seconded to increase the number of students receiving scholarships to five. Ila Jean Carothers talked about a new gardening opportunity. The Family Abuse Center needs help designing a "Meditation Garden." If you would like to help, contact Ila Jean..

Sharon Richardson reported that plans are progressing well for the intern class for 2010.

**Other Announcements:** A workday is scheduled at Cedar Ridge Elementary on January 19 at 8:30 am.

The Day in the Greenhouse with the children is January 26, 8:30-2:30. Contact Sandy Back. Woodway Elementary Green Classroom Garden Day is scheduled for January 16 and MLK Day at WWE will be January 19, 11:00-2:20. Contact Kim Dougherty.

### **Other Educational Opportunities in 2010:**

January 23- "Get Your Earth-Kind Garden Growing" – College Station \$25.00.

February 13 – Grow Your Own Potatoes – Travis Co. Agri-Life Extension 512-854-9600.

February 22-23 – Landscape Design Study Course IV – College Station \$115.00

March 27 – Ellis Co. MG's annual Lawn & Garden Expo with Neil Sperry, speaker.

April 8-10 TXMG Conference will be in Dallas. Visit the TXMG web site for more information.

May 15 – Plant Sale

**Our February meeting will be at noon at the Arboretum on February 10, 2010.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Nelda Cooper, Secretary

### **Attendance: 45**

James Bays, Delores Black, Linda Buckner, Ila Jean Carothers, Nelda Cooper, Susan Crawford, Irene Dauphin, Anita Dawson, Kim Dougherty, Victor DuPart, Eva FitzGerald, Melody Fitzgerald, Kris Ford, Xan Foulks, Penny Gifford, Thad Hairston, Jene Hering, Jeanette Kelly, Rachelle Kemp, Julia Khoury, Missy Kinder, Steven Lovecky, Lori Lutz, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Georgia Peterson, Ernie Petru, Anne Plasek, James Prause, Doug Quicksall, Art Reinking, Carol Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Janet Schaffer, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Edrena Smith, Mary Lou Trice, Barbara Vance, Jo Von Rosenberg, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, MJ Whitehead, and Carol Wood.

### **McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2010**

President - Jan Serface • Vice President - Louie McDaniel • Secretary - Nelda Cooper  
Treasurer - Irene Dauphin • Sponsor - Shane McLellan • Newsletter - Sonia Warriner

Send volunteer hours to Julia Khoury, 8512 Bosque Blvd., Waco 76712 or [tkhoury@hotmail.com](mailto:tkhoury@hotmail.com)  
[www.mclennanmastergardeners.org](http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org)

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service 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

## Dauphin presents 2010 budget as planning guide for growth

An \$11,785.00 operating budget was proposed at the January 13 membership meeting (to be approved by board)

### Receipts:

Member dues	\$ 960.00
Plant Sale	3,000.00
BIG Recertification	3,300.00
New Member class (based on \$150 @25)	4,525.00

**Total Revenues** **\$11,785.00**

### Disbursements:

Member dues to state @\$2.00	160.00
Plant Sale (tent, food, compost)	380.00
BIG Recertification program	2,800.00
Donations (TSTC scholarships)	1,500.00*
Speakers	200.00
Projects (Habitat, HOT)	2,000.00
New MC0G Class	3,970.00
Service Pins	100.00
Supplies (mailing, office, etc.)	250.00
Internet (web page)	70.00
License	75.00
Refreshments	200.00
Miscellaneous	80.00

**Total Expenses** **\$11,785.00**

\*Note: members voted to increase scholarships to \$2,000  
Fund balance as of 1/1/2010: \$11,573

### MG increases TSTC scholarships

Nine TSTC students in the Landscape Horticulture program have received \$200 MG scholarships since we started the project in 2007 reports Ila Jean Carothers who coordinates the project. We started with \$600 contributions in 2007 and 2008. In 2009 we increased the amount to \$1500 for a total \$2700. In Jan. 2010 we voted to raise the contribution to \$2000. Funds are earmarked for textbooks. Students are selected by staff.

## Down the road



The juices were flowing at the December MG potluck dinner (and they weren't alcoholic) when Barbara Vance asked for ideas for future projects. The suggestions reflected members' and guests' thoughts ranging from vegetable gardens for low-income neighborhoods to an MG Rainforest Cruise "with gardening venues."

More examples of what runs through the minds of people who care for the soil....

**MG Yards of the Month.... a booth at the Home and Garden Show....**

**pocket gardens along I-35.... classes on proper watering methods....**

**gardening advice column in the Tribune Herald.... a garden at the Wetlands**

**annual get-together with area garden clubs.... Power Point training....**

**booth at the Farmer's Market with educational materials....**

**assist with garden outreach projects at VA hospital, Church Under the Bridge....**

**tours of members' gardens, fire ant control education....**

*and finally,*

**monthly barbecue picnics at James Bays's home!**

The Arboretum has a new brochure inviting visitors to "the perfect place where exploration meets relaxation." Photographs include our Super Star Garden and the bridge. Check it out.

## Did you know

- We contributed over 4,000 volunteer hours in 2009 in McLennan County? Using 2008 wage figures of \$20.25 per hour, that translates to \$74,580\* worth of assistance to the McLennan County AgriLife Extension Service.  
\*Independent Sector Research site.  
*Be diligent in reporting your volunteer hours. They make a big difference to our community.*
- We had our first plant sale in May 2003 with \$768 in profits - all from our own showcase plants. Profits from the 2009 sale were over \$3,000 in spite of pouring rain and chilly temperatures.
- You can get a Master Gardener license plate. Profits go toward a scholarship fund for future Master Gardener coordinators. The special plate is \$30 plus the regular registration fee. Check <http://rts.texasonline.state.tx.us> Go to Organizations, then Texas Master Gardeners.
- Sharon Richardson keeps a scrapbook of our photos and clippings. Ask to see this great historical record.
- We were one of the first TMG groups to do a four-year rose trial to determine which roses meet the requirements for the EarthKind designation. A new demonstration garden is underway at the HOT fairgrounds to showcase EarthKind roses.

## Forget Plants - Dream of Design

**D**o we have your attention? Come to the Arboretum Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. for an entertaining and very educational (yes, education credit hours) program on landscape design.

Tres Fromme, who is with the MESA design firm from Dallas working with the Arboretum on a long range plan (referred to on Page 1), will present this very popular topic. He spent several years with the famous Longwood Gardens near Philadelphia and has extensive teaching and design experience with gardens around the country.

Having seen Fromme lead the first planning session for the Arboretum, we are convinced his design program will be worth your while as he is one of the best speakers and facilitators we have seen.

And did we mention it's FREE? Come join us. This event is open to the public so invite friends and garden club members.

### More education hours . . .

**Earn 3 education credit hours** at the horticulture session on Lawns at the Blackland Income Growth (BIG) conference Feb. 9 at the HOT Fairgrounds. The session is from 9 a.m. to 12 at the Back Porch Club. Conference registration is \$15 and includes lunch. The luncheon speaker will be Jerry Patterson, Texas Land Commissioner.

**Peggy Cathey, president of the Waco Iris Society** will speak on "Colors and Patterns of Irises" at the Feb. 10 MG meeting. There will be a test after the program.

**"SucSeeding in Being Green"** is the theme of the 2010 TMG state conference April 8 - 10 at the Omni Mandalay Hotel in Las Colinas, Dallas. Register before March 1 for discount.

<http://2010mgaconference.org>

## Gardening Tips

*Club soda* dumped on a fire ant mound will kill the ants because of the carbon dioxide. It's heavier than air and displaces oxygen - so it suffocates the queen and other ants. Takes about 2 days to work. One bottle works for 2 - 3 mounds.



Walter Reeves, U. of GA Ag Dept.

This came in an email. Snopes did not verify. Worth a try.