

The Latest Dirt

March 2010

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Jan's Notes

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JoAnn Clafferty and I attended a Landscape Design Class in College Station on February 23. I have always wondered about the sanity of gardeners because they actually like to "dig in the dirt."

This was confirmed yesterday when about 80 of us actually treaded through the sleet and huge snow flakes to tour several beautiful gardens as part of our class. You could hardly see across the street. It was beautiful!

But I promise that spring is coming!

This is a good time to start prepping our gardens for the upcoming flowering season. Did you remember to prune your roses on Valentines Day? Mike Shoup (Rose Emporium) says this will be a glorious spring for roses.

It is also time to think about plants for our May Plant Sale. What am I going to do this year?

Have a beautiful day.

Jan



February snow 2/23/10 • Photo by Van Smith, Woodway

*The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow
And what will poor robin do then,
Poor thing?*

*He'll sit in a barn,
And keep himself warm,
And hide his head under his wing,
Poor thing.*

- old nursery rhyme

(Area bird watchers say the robins have gone north.)

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association

MCMG Minutes
February 10, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met February 10, 2010, at noon at the arboretum. The meeting was called to order by President Jan Serface. The minutes for the January meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer Irene Dauphin reported that the balance as of January 29, 2010 is \$11,445.27.

Old Business: The TSTC scholarship fund has a balance of \$900. Ila Jean Carothers recommended that we give \$1,100 to the fund to bring the balance to \$2000. Five- \$400 scholarships will be given to deserving students. The motion was approved.

New Business: Jene Hering was approved as the new Vice-President. He will take the place of Louie McDaniel, who will be inactive this year. Eva FitzGerald gave members their 2010 Master Gardener handbooks.

Committees: Carol Wood updated members on the intern classes. Final speakers have been selected. An intern committee meeting will be held March 3.

Announcements: Janet Schaffer reported that a Design Seminar will be held at the arboretum on February 17 at 6 pm. The Landscape Design Study Course will be held in College Station on February 22-23. The TMGA Convention will be April 8-10 in Dallas.

The program was given by Peggy Cathey of the Waco Iris Society. She discussed the many different types of iris.

The next meeting will be held March 10 at noon at the arboretum.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nelda Cooper
Secretary

Unique, original and dramatic...

...is how Paul Farney describes his approach to floral design and presentation.

Owner of Paul Farney Floral Productions on Lake Air, he will be our speaker on March 10 following the business meeting.

Jo Ann Clafferty says his presentation will show how to incorporate flowers and foliage we have in our landscape or find along the roadside into unusual arrangements.

His talks and on-the-spot creations are a big hit with area garden club members.

Go to: www.paulfarney.com for more about Farney's approach to design

Meeting Attendance: 49

Jane Anderson, Sandy Back, Mark Barnett, James Bays, Bonnie Belanger, Dick Belanger, Delores Black, Ila Jean Carothers, Jo Ann Clafferty, Nelda Cooper, Susan Crawford, Jean Cunningham, Irene Dauphin, Kim Dougherty, Eva FitzGerald, Melody Fitzgerald, Xan Foulks, Cindy Geletzke, Brenda Golubski, Thad Hairston, Jene Hering, Terry Irvine, Rachelle Kemp, Randy Kemp, Missy Kinder, Steven Lovecky, Barbara Mersinger, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Maureen Moulden, Georgia Peterson, Sherry Prather, James Prause, Doug Quicksall, Art Reinking, Carol Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Janet Schaffer, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Mary Lou Trice, Judy Tye, Barbara Vance, Jo Von Rosenberg, Melba Waldrop, Dorothy Whitehead, MJ Whitehead, Carol Wood.

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2010

President - Jan Serface • Vice President - Jene Hering • 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
www.mclennanmastergardeners.org

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Designers put dreams on paper

as **T**he first draft of a master site plan for **Woodway's Carleen Bright Arboretum was met with awe and praise** by the workshop participants who were there for the "unveiling" Feb. 18.

garden Every part of the 16-acre site was tweaked, nudged, expanded, and enhanced to blend in major improvements without losing the focus or intent of the original founders.

steps It was as though the young MESA team of talented landscape architects from Dallas, led by Tres Fromme, had been hanging around the corner of Bosque and Estates since the first shovel full of dirt was turned over ten years ago.

into Their plan wove together the existing natural elements, structures and gardens into a public botanical setting that has the potential to become a major shining star for Waco. A superbly enhanced and more user friendly shining star.

second They turned problems into assets. Imagine a water feature (creek and pond) to utilize and re-cycle rain run-off from the hill, shade gardens near the entry, children's educational areas, a grand new event pavilion, an entrance cottage for visitors, unique ways to accommodate weddings, photographers and garden visitors all at the same time.

decade The firm relies on "a heavy dose of client communication" and that has been evident by the people at the two workshops. Motel managers, caterers, wedding planners sat with city staff, council and board members and area garden club representatives to share ideas.

Each person was asked to rate their priorities for the site plan and the results turned out to be very similar. The group even quickly agreed on a mission and vision statement, something that rarely happens.

MESA has a timeline to present the final plan in October. Master Gardeners were represented by Barbara Vance, Dawn Segrest, Steven Lovecky, Ernie Petru, Elizabeth Milam and Sonia Warriner. Janet Schaffer, manager of the arboretum, is also a member of Master Gardeners.

Go to www.mesadesigngroup.com for more about this award-winning company and the exciting things they do from Dallas to Dubai.



Coming soon . . .

Look for a new lawn and garden section in the Waco Tribune-Herald due on March 26 and the Trib will launch a regular lawn and garden page on Fridays starting in April.

Among the contributors will be Mark Barnett with an article on spring lawn care. Barbara Vance and Judy Tye will present "Superstars," Carol Wood is covering tomatoes, Melody Fitzgerald will do butterfly gardening and Jan Serface is scheduled for the Earthkind garden/flower bed.

WATER - Where are we going in McLennan County? This will be explored in a public seminar April 28 sponsored by the McLennan County AgriLife Extension Service. Cost will be \$10 including lunch; 3 CEU's. Place to be announced.

Did you know?

When you attend a program following a meeting, you may only claim *one hour of education credit*?

Big often-asked question. If we speak at a nursery, does it mean we endorse the plants and products the nursery sells?

Big Answer from Dr. Doug Welsh: “Master Gardeners speaking at retail nurseries has gone on for years and has been very positive.

It must be communicated to the nursery owner/manager that the MGs are not there to endorse a nursery or product(s), but simply to educate the gardening public.

Another important concept to convey to the owner/manager is that this will not be an exclusive arrangement. MGs will make themselves available to educate at any nursery.

For any nursery that complains that the MGs are at XYZ nursery and not his/hers, the response needs to be, “We would be happy to schedule a presentation at your nursery. When would be a good date?”

If a nursery wants to put up a banner that the MGs will be there, great. Again, just be prepared to respond to any nursery that complains.

Bottomline: “we are here to educate the public (not promote or sell), and that is tough to criticize. Particularly when we are prepared to provide the same educational opportunity at any nursery.”

Dr. Doug Welsh

I now have 79 email addresses in my MG address book. Be sure to let me know about any changes or errors. Contact: jwarriner@hotmail.com



OLD ROSES PASS TEST

Two beautiful old roses have been designated Earth-Kind by a team of horticulturists with Texas AgriLife Extension.

Reve d’Or and Cecile Brunner are now among 21 roses with this distinction. “It is the highest distinction a rose can achieve,” said Dr. Steve George of the Dallas Extension Service.

Reve d’Or, (pronounced rehv dohr) originally released in 1869, has also been named 2010 Rose of the Year.

“Both roses are gorgeous,” said Dr. George. Cecile Brunner, introduced in 1881, is light pink and the bush grows to about 4 ft. by 3 ft. It’s a repeat bloomer, fragrant and tolerates some light-dappled shade in the afternoon.



Reve d’Or is medium-yellow, fragrant, nearly thornless and also a repeat bloomer. It is a vigorous climber that will grow 10 ft. to 18 ft. tall and about 8 ft. wide. The name means “dream of gold.” They are adapted to all of Texas except the upper Panhandle.

“Roses for busy people” is how the Earth-Kind varieties are viewed since they require little maintenance and grow under tough conditions. They are also grown on their own roots rather than grafted. A list of all Earth-Kind Roses and descriptions can be found at:

www.earthkindroses.tamu.edu

Sources: copy and photos from Mike Jackson and Mark Chamblee at www.agnews.tamu.edu



Gardening Tips



Move roses in early spring says Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium. Whatever the age or reason, you can cut back bushes or climbers to 18” from the ground. Dig 1 - 1 1/2 ft. around crown of plant; it won’t hurt if you slice through roots. Quickly move to the new spot and water. And add compost.

Judy Tye says forget the club-soda-for-fire-ants tip posted here last month. She has taken several courses at A&M on fire ant control and it doesn’t work. Listen to our experts!