

# The Latest Dirt

June 2010

Volume 12/No. 6

## Jan's Notes

There are always so many of you wonderful Master Gardeners who need special thanks every month. Isn't that wonderful news! This month we need to especially say "**Congratulations**" to Sandy Back at Cedar Ridge Elementary School.

"Congratulations to the Master Gardeners who received a golden apple award in Science and Math for all the work they've done this year integrating the garden and classroom. Thank you for all that you do to partner with Cedar Ridge. We could not do it without you."

Allison Hutchinson  
Program Manager at Cedar Ridge

### These words came from Sandy:

"**Art Reinking** and **Nelda Cooper** faithfully help me at Cedar Ridge. **Irene Dauphin** helps when her schedule allows and so does **Jene Hering** and **Brenda Golubski**. Losing Louie was a HUGE loss for me! I would be so grateful for more helpers as I really feel passionate about the program. The teachers are beginning to take "ownership" of the garden and really using it with their classes. Beginning the JMG program over there this year has been wonderful and gone really well.

"These children at Cedar Ridge are very low income and love coming out to the garden. It is such a life skill that they are learning, even those who cannot do well in the classroom can succeed with growing and learning about plants. The principal, Mrs. Nolan, is very supportive and appreciative of our time and effort there.

Mrs. Nolan was just given a grant by the Waco Foundation for us to begin a whole new garden area, plus moving the greenhouse to a more convenient spot on campus, creating additional

outdoor learning areas for the children and new areas to landscape. It will need lots of attention at first. The school district will do almost all of the initial labor, but then it will need to be kept up and utilized to its potential.

Thanks for any future help."

Wow! More new opportunities for MCMG at this school! Do you have any extra time next year?

Then we need to support and thank **Sharon Richardson** and **Carol Wood** for guiding their team during the process of organizing the new class. Each member of that committee has spent many hours getting ready for our interns. We have 42! Thank you to those of you who have chosen to be a "mentor" for this class. Be sure to contact them, introduce yourself, take time to get acquainted, and welcome them.

I feel blessed to work with so many talented, wonderful people in our organization. Thanks to every one of you for all your special talents and sharing with others. You are special!

Jan

*Editor's notes: Nelda Cooper accepted the award for Sandy; her comments are on page 3.*

*The names of our 42 new interns are on page 3.*

And another big star for **Sarah McCormick**, recent recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award for "plant-based education and beautification efforts" at Woodway Elementary School from Keep McLennan County Beautiful.

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 9, 2010

Carleen Bright Arboretum, 12 noon

Program: Fruit & Nuts by Dr. Larry Stein

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association

## MCMG Minutes May 11, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met May 11, 2010 at the home of President, Jan Serface. Members enjoyed sandwiches and cookies in Jan's beautiful garden. After lunch, the business meeting was called to order by Jan.

**Treasurer's Report:** Irene Dauphin passed out the report showing an ending balance of \$12,815.41 as of April 30th.

**Old Business:** Ila Jean Carothers reported that the executive board approved a motion at the May 6, 2010 meeting to give three TSTC Horticulture students \$500.00 each for tuition, books and supplies. Bonnie Belanger distributed the new MG T-shirts.

**New Business:** Barbara Vance made a budget request for up to \$200.00 for additional plantings in the Trailside Garden at the Arboretum. Irene Dauphin made a motion that we accept the request. Motion was seconded and approved. All new MG projects must be approved by the executive board. This can be done by email.

Present MG's are encouraged to volunteer a minimum of 3 hours per year answering phones for the "Ask a Master Gardener" project at the extension office. New members will be required to answer the phones a minimum of 3 hours per year. Carol Reinking is the new coordinator for this project. Contact Carol to volunteer.

All MG's, except for the class of '08 must complete a form for a new background check. A new background check is required every three years. Linda Buckner made a motion and Victor DuPart seconded that the cost will be taken out of budget funds. A decision will be made later as to whether dues will need to be increased to cover the cost. Linda Buckner will contact members to fill out the form.

Jan also requested that all officers and committee chairmen write down the duties of their position. This will be compiled in a booklet.

Carol Wood reported that 43 new interns will be starting classes on June 2. Contact Jeanette Kelly if you would like to mentor an intern. Carol needs yards to be featured in the "Ask a Master Gardener" column in the Waco Tribune. Contact Carol to have your yard featured. Barbara Mersinger reminded members that the annual Plant Sale is Sat., May 15 from 9-3. Members should have plants at the site by 7-7:30 a.m.. Plants need to be watered and labeled.

### May Meeting Attendance: 36

Bonnie Belanger, Dick Belanger, Delores Black, Linda Buckner, Sandy Burleson, Ila Jean Carothers, Jo Ann Clafferty, Mark Clark, Nelda Cooper, Irene Dauphin, Sarah Downs, Victor DuPart, Eva FitzGerald, Kris Ford, Thad Hairston, Jeanette Kelly, Steven Lovecky, Lori Lutz, Barbara Mersinger, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Georgia Peterson, Anne Plasek, Art Reinking, Carol Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Judy Schmeltekopf, Jan Serface, Edrena Smith, Barbara Vance, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, MJ Whitehead, Carol Wood.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Kim Dougherty needs help at Woodway Elementary on Friday May 14 from 8:15-11:20 for the spring gardening with kid's project. An appreciation luncheon is at 11:45. A workday is scheduled for Friday, June 4 at 8:30 in the Superstar Beds at the Arboretum. Contact Ann Plasek to help. Sarah Chadula, 4-H extension agent needs 5 MG's to help with a 4-H project at the HOT fairgrounds. A MG is needed to speak on Poisonous Plants. A new docent training class will be held after the intern classes have begun. Contact Brenda Golubski if you would like to be a docent. The meeting was adjourned.

Nelda Cooper  
Secretary



**Julia's April Report:**  
**Volunteer Hours - 235**  
**Education Hours - 42**  
**Contacts - 1495**  
**Contacts Media - 115,167**

### 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](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

## Cedar Ridge MG's earn Golden Apple at 25th Community Partners in Education event

I attended the Waco Partners in Education Banquet last night (May 20) at Ferrell Center to represent Master Gardeners and Cedar Ridge Elementary in their Adopt-a-School Program. We were awarded a Golden Apple Award for Math & Science as Master Gardeners who work with the children in educating them about gardening. Sandy Back is the coordinator for Master Gardeners and has done a fabulous job for several years at Cedar Ridge. She is the "work horse/designer" who started the gardens at Cedar Ridge. There are many MG's who help keep the gardens looking beautiful and enjoy "Days in the Garden" with the children.

- Nelda Cooper



### Welcome New Interns

Training started June 3 for 42 interns:

Edie Avery, B.L. Barnes, Madge Beazley, Trace Bowen, Carlene Buchanan, John Buchanan, Linda Burchfield, Merle Chapman, Wilda Christie, Emily Davidson, Lynn DeMuynck, Richard Evans, Zach Ewell, Patricia Goaley, Steven Goldman, Judy Hahn, L. Everett Harward, Jr.,

Margaret Henson, Sherry Henson, Jane C. Herndon, Melody High, Marilyn Johnson, Janice Kriegel, Martha Lee, Cindy Mabry, Sherry Matthews, Linda Moore, Kai Newton, Sharon Parsons, Robert Powers, Sujantha Reddy, Jennifer Rich, Sharon Romano, Valerie Schillaci, Sandra Scott, James Seale, Jr., Travis Smith, Gale Torbitt, Kathy Turlington, Patricia Whitley, Amber Wilhite, and Joyce Williams.

### Post scripts . . . .

Great advice for tomato growers was given by Mark Barnett in our May 28 Q&A column of the Trib. Help for early blight and spider mites was the focus.

Then, Norma Folse e-mailed in-depth information on early blight on tomatoes. Request a copy if you didn't get it - [jwarriner@hotmail.com](mailto:jwarriner@hotmail.com).

### And then there were none ... ... well, almost none

as afternoon plant sale shoppers found their choices were limited by 1 p.m.

The day was perfect for our eighth annual sale and people turned out in large numbers to buy most of this year's inventory by noon on Saturday, May 15. There was an inviting assortment again this year including a huge table of cacti, hanging baskets, perennials, herbs and annuals.

### Plant sale nets \$3000

Receipts at end of sale	\$3,642.25
<i>Expenses:</i>	
Cash for change	100.00
Rental fee for 2 tents	200.00
Shale sold (to Steven Lovecky)	84.00
Compost sold (to Birome Gin)	<u>166.50</u>
	550.50
Sale permit fee (pd. in 2009)	75.00
Total expenses	625.50
<b>Net profit</b>	<b>\$3,016.75</b>

(submitted by Ila Jean Carothers)



Mary Lou Trice volunteers for her “Ask A Master Gardener” shift in May. The new office is furnished, has a variety of resource materials and even gets “drop-ins.” Reggie Silva came to see if we have any 15 gallon pots for his sweet potato project. If you do, his phone is 717-9326.

## Your shirts are waiting

For those members who do not yet have their new MG shirts, you may pick them up at the June 9 meeting. If you cannot wait, just give Dick or Bonnie Belanger a call (772-0986) and arrange a pick-up time at 5215 Pine Avenue.

The following folks have shirts awaiting them: Cynthia Bach, Sandy Back, Mark Barnett, James Bays, Susan Crawford, Anita Dawson, Kim Dougherty, Melody Fitzgerald, Norma Folse, Xan Foulks, Renee Garrett, Cindy Geletzke, Penny Gifford, Brenda Golubski, Clara Henderson, Terry Irvine, Donna Lindsey, Maureen Moulden, Sarah Ortiz, Ernie Petru, Sherry Prather, James Prause, Janet Schaffer, Dawn Segrest, Mary Lou Trice, Judy Tye, and Jo vonRosenberg.

Many thanks to all who supported this project by purchasing a shirt (or two) or by helping at the last meeting.

- Bonnie Belanger

NOTE: Sherrie Prather needs garden help at Spring Valley Elementary School in Hewitt. Call 732-2532 or [jprat13247@aol.com](mailto:jprat13247@aol.com)

## Intern Training Session Schedule

Training for the 2010 Intern Class began June 2. Classes are at the arboretum from 1 to 5 p.m unless noted.

**6/9 - Fruit and Nuts**, Dr. Larry Stein; Vic DuPart, Art Reinking, coordinators. **MG meeting.**

**6/16 - EK Landscaping**, Dr. Doug Welsh; Georgia Peterson, Barbara Vance, coordinators. **Open to public, \$5 fee.**

**6/23 - Entomology**, Dr. Sonja Swigar; Terry Irvine, Grady Bonner, coordinators.

**6/30 - Soils**, Dr. Mark McFarland; Elizabeth Milam, Steven Lovecky, coordinators.

**7/7 - Oak Wilt and Trees**, Renee Burks; Ila Jean Carothers, Renee Garrett, coordinators. **Open to public, \$5 fee.**

**7/14 - Great Gardens**, Steve Chamblee; Sarah Ortiz, Norma Folse, coordinators. **MG meeting, open to public, \$5 fee.**

**7/21 - Landscape Design**, Rachelle Kemp; Susan Crawford, Ann Plasek, coordinators - **at TSTC.**

**7/28 - Vegetables**, Patty Leander; Jeanette Kelly, Linda Buckner, coordinators.

## More post scripts . . . .

Susan Crawford needs an MG to speak on Rainwater Harvesting for the HOT Urban Gardening Coalition meeting, Sat., June 26, 9 - 12. Location TBA. Call or email Susan at 829-1884, or [susanr30@aol.com](mailto:susanr30@aol.com).

Did anyone spot Jo vonRosenberg, Georgia Peterson, Elizabeth Milam and Jan Serface mingling black-eyed peas with the roses at the HOT rose garden? They say they are out there watering daily.

Judy Tye's article on summer herbs in the current issue of Waco Today was full of ideas and resources.

Did you all see that Neil Sperry has Take All Root Rot? Photos to prove it are in his current email newsletter. [www.neilsperry.com](http://www.neilsperry.com); e-garden newsletter.

We used the fungicide and peat moss treatment for TARR and the improvement is remarkable.