

# The Latest Dirt

July 2010

Volume 12/No. 7



Photo by Greg Khoury

## Pumpkins love compost

Be careful of what you add to the compost pile. This pile is 15' x 20' and the vine covers it and part of the driveway. It has four pumpkins on it. Last year, we had a pumpkin patch and it did not do anything. I chopped up the remainder of the dead vines and threw them in the compost pile. Now I have a pumpkin patch, but no compost pile!

- Julia Khoury

## Jan's Notes

Summer has arrived bringing friends and family for a visit. We enjoy having them. They come to visit, eat, laugh and play. Then they go home. Everyone had a good time.

The next visitors are called "pests." We have had everything from white flies to grasshoppers to ugly little worms that have me scurrying in the garden inviting them to visit elsewhere. They have a tendency to think that our flowers and vegetables belong to them instead of us.

Gardening is a daily adventure because there is constant change. I delight in the beauty of a butterfly on a rose and listening to a bird's song. I smile at the sight of a new blossom or even a ripe tomato. Then I look at how sad some of my favorite plants look. I call this the "summer blahs."

Yet, change is around the corner. We hope for a rain and cooler weather. Now it's time to plan for our fall garden with its beauty of new life in the garden.

Then comes a request from a member of our community who needs help with her landscape.

Sometimes we are reluctant to reach out to someone who needs our help because we aren't supposed to "work" in an individual's garden or we don't feel qualified.

Let's think about how much we know that we can share with someone. We know that nature doesn't grow in a straight line and that a small square of grass is difficult to mow. We know how to prepare the ground to enhance the soil. We know to group plants together with similar needs like sun and water. We know about plants that grow well in McLennan County. We know about available brochures that may be helpful. Then we know about websites where they can obtain all kinds of good information. We all have education and knowledge that we don't realize is a useful resource for someone who doesn't know where to go or what to do. We can ask them questions and help find the answers for them.

While you are busy with your invited guests plus your uninvited "pests," do you have time to share just a little bit of knowledge with someone in our community? Let me know if you are willing to share some of your knowledge with others. Happy Gardening!

Jan

## MCMG Minutes June 9, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met June 9, 2010. Meeting was called to order by President Jan Serface at 12:00. May minutes were approved as written.

Sherrie Prather, Spring Valley Beautification Coordinator, is working at the "Panther Patch" and is in need of volunteers. Please contact her at 732-2532 or [jprat13247@aol.com](mailto:jprat13247@aol.com) to volunteer your time.

Julia Khoury is in charge of all hours for interns as well as Master Gardeners. Please be honest when submitting your hours. Travel time is NOT allowed for education unless you are traveling from out of town. Julia has sent everyone an e-mail with hours submitted to-date. Please review your hours for accuracy and be sure to submit your hours in a timely manner.

Ann Plasek would like everyone to see the progress in the Superstar Bed. It is looking great.

Jan Serface – Black eyed peas were planted on a Thursday and began to sprout on Sunday at the H.O.T Urban Garden. Fences, gates and pillar signs are coming soon. More nutrients will be added. Roses will be planted in October or November. They are in need of a trellis. Twenty-one (21) varieties of EarthKind Roses will be planted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Irene Dauphin passed out the report showing an ending balance of \$21,498.25 June 9. Balance includes intern registration fees.

Sonia Warriner has a new feature in the newsletter called "Summer Blahs". Please submit pictures of what's happening in your garden.

Julia Khoury has a 10x10 compost pile that is completely covered with a pumpkin vine.

Plant sale went well. Plants went fast and were almost sold out by 1:00. We had a great turnout.

Linda Buckner - Background checks are due. If you are on the list, please complete the form and submit to Linda as soon as possible.

Rainwater Harvesting event at the HOT Urban Gardening Coalition was cancelled.

Volunteers are still needed for Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Master Gardener's office.

A motion was made by Art Reinking to change the meeting time of the July meeting to 11:30. Motion was seconded by Ann Plasek. Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:25.

Della Setser for Nelda Cooper

### June Meeting Attendance: 32

Jane Anderson, Cynthia Bach, Linda Buckner, Sandy Burleson, Ila Jean Carothers, Mark Clark, Jean Cunningham, Irene Dauphin, Kim Dougherty, Victor DuPart, Melody Fitzgerald, Kris Ford, Brenda Golubski, Terry Irvine, Randy Kemp, Julia Khoury, Donna Lindsey, Elizabeth Milam, Sarah Ortiz, Anne Plasek, Sherry Prather, Doug Quicksall, Art Reinking, Jan Serface, Della Setser, James Storrs, Barbara Vance, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, MJ Whitehead, Carol Wood.

**Interns:** Trace Bowen, Emily Davidson, Richard Evans, Judy Hahn, Marty Lee, Kathy Turlington

**'Ask a Master Gardener' is going well.** We have had a few sudden cancellations by members, but the other volunteer felt confident to handle that day's questions. A special "thank you" to all who do help with this project.

We need volunteers to work from July 13 and the rest of July into August on Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. We really would like two people there each day to assist whoever takes the call. If there is a special day you wish to volunteer and gain 3 hours plus travel of working time, please email me at [sscarol.24@gmail.com](mailto:sscarol.24@gmail.com) or call me at 399-0927.

Thanks... Carol Reinking

### 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@hot.rr.com](mailto:tkhoury@hot.rr.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



*Dr. Doug Welsh and Sharon Richardson - 6/23/10*

**Carol and Sharon are coordinators of the 2010 MG Intern Program.** They and their team have lined up some of the finest speakers available for this year. Larry Stein is a renowned specialist on fruit and nut production and has an encyclopedic memory for all sorts of data in his field.

Doug Welsh spoke on the EarthKind® program, which incorporates many of the concepts of xeriscaping, but is replacing the term partly because some people think a typical xeriscape consists of big rocks, gravel, cow skulls and a few cacti.

Welsh said the June 23 lecture was one of his last since he has moved into the AgriLife Extension administration department at A&M as associate department head for extension horticulture. The popular and humorous speaker has spent 20 years with the Texas Master Gardener program, the largest in the nation.

He calls himself a sociologist tied to the economic impact of water and land conservation. His goal has been to show how EarthKind education can increase the level of understanding and the adoption of conservative gardening practices.

## Fruit, nuts and EarthKind landscaping gathering in a “perfect storm era. . .”



*Dr. Larry Stein and Carol Wood - 6/9/10*

“Our stuff gets copied,” he said, referring to his MG training manual. He praised the efforts of the Texas volunteers who contributed over 540,000 hours of service valued as a \$10 million benefit to the state in 2009.

*Welsh believes we are now in “a perfect storm era” in terms of gardening, current interests and the economy. “We are sharing our knowledge as environmental stewards and we are starting in our own back yards.”*

More wars start over water than any other issue he told the interns, MG member and public participants. Twenty-five percent of urban water goes toward landscape use he said. In Bryan College Station the average home uses 6000 gal. in January and 16,000 gal. in June.

Welsh shared his concerns on using expanded shale since it is a mined product, but he also said he plans to eliminate 100 sq. ft. of turf per year in his own yard to conserve water.

- Photos and partial copy by James Storrs



*Sandy Back works in the garden with her students at Cedar Ridge Elementary School. It was one of the last work days in May and Jeanette Kelly was there with her camera. And, there she found the perfect remembrance for everyone to share in their wonderful school garden.*



*Above photos by Jeanette Kelly*

**NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010**

**Carleen Bright Arboretum, 11:30 a.m.**

**Program: Great Gardens  
by Steve Chamblee, 1 p.m.**

**Open to the public; 4 hours education credit**

Pick up shirts at next meeting or call Bonnie Belanger, 772-0986: Anita Dawson, Kim Dougherty, Norma Folsie, Xan Foulks, Cindy Geletzke, Penny Gifford, Clara Henderson, Donna Lindsey, Maureen Moulden, James Prause, Dawn Segrest, Mary Lou Trice.

**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.

**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 Folsie, 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.

**8/4 - Rainwater Harvesting**, Steven Lovecky; Dorothy and MJ Whitehead, coordinators.

**8/11 - Propagation**, Ila Jean Carothers; Carol Wood, Sharon Richardson, coordinators, **MG meeting.**

**8/18 - Lawn Care**, Jim McAfee; Sarah Ortiz, Judy Schmeltekopf, coordinators.

**8/25 - Plant Growth & Development**, Lisa Whittlesey; Ila Jean Carothers, Judy Schmeltekopf, coordinators.



*Agave americana - century plant - blooming at the Arboretum next to our Super Star garden June 30, 2010*

---

# Volunteer opportunities for everyone - in the garden or at a desk

---

## **Carleen Bright Arboretum**

Superstar Bed Anne Plasek 772-4422 or [eplasek@grandecom.net](mailto:eplasek@grandecom.net) 8:00 a.m., **July 9** is scheduled for the Superstar Bed workday at the Arboretum.

Trailside Gardens Barbara Vance 741-0000 or [barbara@bvance.com](mailto:barbara@bvance.com)

Docents, tours Brenda Golubski 714-0344 or [brenda1160@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda1160@yahoo.com)

Children's Garden Fair, October 17, 2010 Jeanette Kelly 776-2178 or [jkelly46@aol.com](mailto:jkelly46@aol.com)

## **Schools**

Cedar Ridge Elementary Green Classroom Sandy Back 857-9736 or [sback@grandecom.net](mailto:sback@grandecom.net)

Cedar Ridge Elementary After School JMG class (Wednesdays) . Begins September Brenda Golubski , 714-0344 or [brenda1160@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda1160@yahoo.com)

Woodway Elementary Green Classroom. Fall schedule to be announced. Kim Dougherty, 399-8316 or [kiminind@yahoo.com](mailto:kiminind@yahoo.com)

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

## **Other Opportunities**

AgriLife Extension Office Activities (examples: spring BIG conference, fall milking demo)

Shane McLelland, Sarah Chadulla, David Groschke

Gospel Café Judy Tye 754-6954 or [tye.judy@gmail.com](mailto:tye.judy@gmail.com)

Habitat for Humanity Melba Waldrop 848-9283 or [mdwal03@hotmail.com](mailto:mdwal03@hotmail.com)

HOT Demonstration Rose Garden Jo vonRosenberg 848-2144 or [jovr@gmail.com](mailto:jovr@gmail.com)

on Bosque Blvd.

HOT Urban Gardening Coalition Grady Bonner 876-2070

McGregor Demonstration Garden Jene Hering 840-2459 or [jhering@att.net](mailto:jhering@att.net)

MCMG Monthly Newsletter Sonia Warriner 732-0811 or [jwarriner@hotmail.com](mailto:jwarriner@hotmail.com)

Submit articles or photos Deadlines are the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

MCMG Plant Sale in May of each year. (Grow your own plants, prepare for sale and work at the sale)

MCMG Telephone Answer Line on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Extension Office. Help is needed to cover phone inquiries Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Master Gardener's Office from 1-4 pm each day during the month of July.

Contact Carol Reinking at 399-0927 or [sscarol.24@gmail.com](mailto:sscarol.24@gmail.com) for information.

Openings include:

Tuesday, July 6      Tuesday, July 13      Tuesday, July 20      Tuesday, July 27

Thursday, July 8      Thursday, July 15      Thursday, July 22      Thursday, July 29

MCMG Quarterly Horticulture Newsletter Missy Kinder, Mark Barnett, Sonia Warriner  
Write articles

MCMG Web Site [www.mclennanmastergardeners.org](http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org). Mary Wood, webmaster  
Send photos or ideas

MCMG Publicity for MG Activities - Della Setzer, Edrena Smith  
Distributing flyers, writing or designing flyers

MCMG Speakers' Bureau - Susan Crawford

Speak to local groups on variety of topics. Contact Susan Crawford @ 829-1884 or [susanr30@aol.com](mailto:susanr30@aol.com)  
for more details.

MHMR Garden on S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Ila Jean Carothers 848-4321 or [ilcarothers@juno.com](mailto:ilcarothers@juno.com)

MLK Day in January, In April (Earth Day at the Zoo, Gardener's Gathering at CBA)

Future announcements will be made.

Most of the above projects could use volunteers at some point. If any sound interesting to you, contact the chairperson to ask questions or volunteer. Other activities arise during the year which will be presented at regular monthly meetings. You may wish to submit your own project for approval (remember the emphasis is education). To submit a project contact Jan Serface for the procedure to follow. If you are interested in serving on specific committees, please let the president know.  
Brenda Golubski, chairman