

The Latest Dirt

September 2010

Volume 12/No. 9



“A NEW HOUSE FROM GOD”

Robin Glasco received her new house from Waco Habitat for Humanity at a dedication and blessing ceremony on a hot Monday afternoon, August 19.

As a cappella hymns, prayers and praise blended with the official presentations in the living room of her new three bedroom house, Mrs. Glasco thanked the organizations that funded and built the energy-efficient dwelling at 822 Dawson Ave. off E. Waco Dr. She called it “a new house from God.” It was the first of ten to be built with funds from a Wal-Mart Foundation grant.

Melba Waldrop, MG chairman of the Habitat for Humanity garden project, gave Robin Glasco garden tools, a new hose and a list of the plants she placed in the front bed at 822 Dawson Ave.

John Alexander, director of Habitat, led the ceremony which included words from Carlos Lopez, manager of Wal-Mart #76, Buddy Edwards, Caritas director, Leon Ivory and Dalton Gooden, ministers at Hood Street Church of Christ, and Diane Mason, Family Support Committee.



Our new McGregor “star” garden earned first prize in the state for Community Landscape Design at the Texas State Convention. The award went to both the McGregor Garden Club and MCMG who worked with the Texas Dept. of Transportation and the city of McGregor to develop the star-shaped flower bed at the corner of Highways 84 and 317. Gene Hering is chairman of the project and Della Setzer is 1st vice-president of the garden club.



Melba Waldrop at the Dawson Street garden

Jan's Notes will be back next month.

MCMG Minutes August 11, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met on August 11, 2010 at noon at the Arboretum. President Jan Serface called the meeting to order. Secretary Nelda Cooper made a correction to the minutes for July. The minutes were then approved.

Treasurers' Report: Irene Dauphin reported the ending balance as of July 31, 2010 is \$17,904.01.

Reports: Jo Von Rosenberg reported that the H.O.T. Rose Garden is on hold until the board decides if a hotel will be built on the site.

Jeanette Kelly reported that plans are being made for the Children's Garden Fair on October 17 at the Arboretum. Jeanette and Judy Schmeltekopf are co-chairmen. Contact Jeanette or Judy if you would like to help or have an idea for an activity. An organizational meeting will be held at noon on September 1 at the Arboretum.

Opportunities: Jeanette Kelly gave the report in the absence of Brenda Golubski.

A "tidy-up" day will be held on Friday, Aug. 20 at 8 am in the Super-Star Bed and the Trailside Garden. A workday will be held at Cedar Ridge Elementary on Thursday, Aug. 12 at 7 am. Also, a workday is scheduled at Midway Elementary on Saturday, Aug. 21 at 7:30 am. MG's and interns will be working in the Cactus and Rose Garden at the Arboretum on Saturday, Aug. 21 at 8 am. MG's will teach how to plant cactus and trim roses. A decision was not made at this time as to whether this will count as education hours for interns. The "Ask a Master Gardener" program needs volunteers to answer the phone on several Tuesdays and Thursdays in August. Jan asked that if you are signed up to work and cannot go, please contact Carol Reinking or ask someone to take your place.

Louie McDaniel spoke about the new MG volunteer opportunities at the VA Hospital. It is called "Vets Helping Vets." MG's will assist the VA coordinator and staff with gardening activities for vets in rehabilitation. More information will follow.

Ila Jean Carothers gave a report about the TMGA Board meeting. New officers were elected and the 2011 State MG Conference will be held April 27-29 in Glen Rose, TX. Cost is \$155. Paul James, "The Gardening Guy," will be the keynote speaker. Ila Jean asked that all MG's turn in their hours to Julia monthly. The Extension Service needs to submit reports.

New Business: The nominating committee for next year's officers consists of Jeanette Kelly, Doug Quicksall, and Jo Von Rosenberg. This committee will provide a slate of officers at the Oct. meeting to be voted on at the Nov. meeting.

Members of the audit committee are Chris Ford, Dick Belanger and Jo Ann Clafferty. This committee will audit the books in Nov. in the presence of the treasurer and president.

Louie McDaniel suggested that we put an ad on the Friday gardening page in the Waco Tribune telling readers to pick up the free seed packets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Extension Office. Master Gardeners will be available to answer questions about planting.

After discussion, Steven Lovecky made a motion that payment be taken from the general funds to pay for the rainwater harvesting booklets that were given to the interns. MJ Whitehead seconded the motion and the motion passed. Master gardeners can purchase a booklet for \$35.00. Interns who do not want to keep the booklet can return it to the organization.

The next meeting will be September 8, 2010 at noon at the arboretum. The meeting was adjourned.

Nelda Cooper
Secretary

August Meeting Attendance: 42

Jane Anderson, Sandy Back, James Bays, Grady Bonner, Ila Jean Carothers, Nelda Cooper, Jean Cunningham, Irene Dauphin, Victor DuPart, Eva FitzGerald, Jene Hering, Jeanette Kelly, Julia Khoury, Donna Lindsay, Steven Lovecky, Sarah McCormick, Louie McDaniel, Barbara Mersinger, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Maureen Moulden, Georgia Peterson, Anne Plasek, Sherry Prather, James Prause, Art Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Janet Schaffer, Judy Schmeltekopf, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Mary Lou Trice, Judy Tye, Barry Vokes, Jo Von Rosenberg, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, MJ Whitehead, Carol Wood.

Interns at 8/8/10 meeting: 14

Madge Beazley, Carleen Buchanan, John Buchanan, Zach Ewell, Margaret Henson, Janice Kriegel, Marty Lee, Sherry Matthews, Sujatha Reddy, Valerie Schillaci, Sandra Scott, Travis Smith, Gale Torbett, Patricia Whitley.

Interns at 7/14/10 meeting: 15

Edie Avery, Carlene Buchanan, John Buchanan, Linda Burchfield, Wilda Christie, Everett Harsaard, Jr., Sherry Henson, Marty Lee, Sherry Matthews, Sujatha Reddy, Sharon Romano, James Seale, Jr., Gale Torbett, Patricia Whitley, Joyce Williams.

A chat with Carol and Art Reinking

Carol and Art Reinking are among four couples who are current members of MCMG and each shares different skills with the organization. Art trained in 2006 and Carol followed in 2008. Both are retired teachers and both went back to teaching after they retired.

They agree that the most important training MCMG offers to members and to the community is how to garden in central Texas - a true challenge with our climate and soil.

Carol, an Ohio native and nurse, says she retired last year after 25 years with the nursing school at Temple College where she was department chairman of surgical technology. Then a call came from MCC which led to her current part time job teaching surgical technology on line and in the classroom to more than 100 students this fall.

Her big job with MG right now is recruiting members and interns to staff the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Because it's a new commitment for MCMG, it means making sure members are there when scheduled. Interns are a helpful bonus, but AgriLife Extension requires that a member always be with them.

Carol also produces promotional flyers to advertise MG events.

Her favorite form of gardening is tending to houseplants and potted plants. Art jokes that their deck is a maze of watering hoses leading to the pots.

Some of Carol's plants have survived moves from other states several years ago. Her secret to tomatoes - start early, grow in a container and select hardy cherry varieties.

Art spent 26 years at TSTC teaching technical illustration



Art spent 26 years at TSTC teaching technical illustration and drafting, plus another six teaching computer networking part time after he officially retired. His career followed a path from California to Waco working with rocket engine companies. He also has an associate degree from TSTC in turf management.

One of Art's favorite places to volunteer is with Cedar Ridge Elementary School since his own children went there when they lived in the neighborhood. But, he also shows up at our other MG sites when the calls go out for garden assistance.

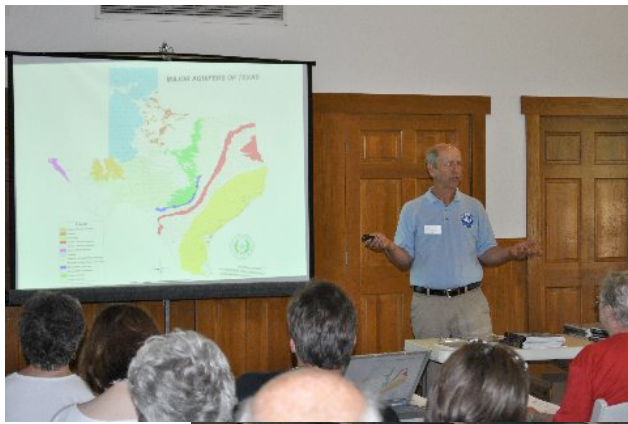
A long time activity for Art is singing tenor with area vocal groups. He has been a member of Brazos Knights barbershop quartet for 18 years. The group recently sang at a talent show at Hillcrest Hospital. He also sings with the Texas Country Gentlemen Chorus, a 24-member group from Temple.

Art also serves on the Woodway Beautiful Commission.

Many know Carol and Art because of their enthusiasm for sailing on Lake Waco. Art just bought his fourth boat, a 17' O'Day day sailor. They are still active in the Waco Sailing Club.

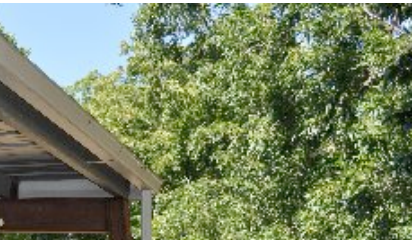


Carol s huge fern is watered 20 minutes twice each day.



Steven Lovecky, above

From lecture to field trip, from charts to textbooks, interns see the real thing at the McDaniel and Vokes water harvesting sites in August.



Photos by Jeanette Kelly

Louie McDaniel, right, with book and tank



Barry Vokes's water collection system which supplies his house, above and left.



Fresh, homegrown food now available

A huge variety of locally grown and made food products will be available in Waco starting in September. The first pick-up of pre-ordered items will be Thursday, Sept. 2, from 5 to 7 pm at Yowell's Boat Yard, 3500 Franklin Ave.

Called Waco's Local Food Movement, the program is different from a farmers' market as it requires pre-ordering from the numerous suppliers and then picking up on a two week schedule.

Baked goods, artisan cheeses, organic produce, pasture-fed lamb and beef, farm-fresh eggs, organic milk, butter and yogurt and natural honey are among the many foods available.

For a list of vendors, products and prices, call 254-230-9920 or email ulljasbakery@gmail.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.

9/1 - Native Plants, Mark Barnett; Steven Lovecky, Mark Barnett, coordinators.

9/8 - Composting/Wetlands Class and trip; Jeanette Kelly, Kris Ford. **MG meeting.**

9/15 - Homestead Heritage; Kris Ford, Terry Irvine, coordinators - **Day Trip.**

9/22 - EarthKind Field Trip; Elizabeth Milam, Jan Serface - **Bus Trip.**

NEXT MG MEETING
Wednesday, September 8, 2010
Carleen Bright Arboretum, 12 noon

For those who don't get email, requests have gone out for two coming events. The first is the Sept. 8 Intern Training Class on Composting at the Wetlands. Leaves, kitchen scraps (no meat; veggies, egg shells, fruit), yard/grass clippings, and miscellaneous stuff such as coffee grounds and filters, clothes dryer lint, sawdust, pine cones and needles, hairbrush hair, etc.

People who already make compost are asked to bring a sample to share. Above items should be brought to the meeting.

The training follows the MG meeting. Those attending should take their own snack and cold drinks.

Contact Jeanette Kelly: jkelly46@aol.com, or 776-2178 or 722-3355.

Composting materials needed



The Children's Garden Fair, Oct. 17, at the Arboretum is fast approaching and many volunteers are needed! Here's the list from Jeanette Kelly and Judy Schmeltekopf, co-chairs.

Set Up, 12 noon - 1:30 (putting up tables, tents, pumpkin patch, and decorating, Everything needs to be ready by 1:30 for any early arrivals).

Decorating committee leaders: Sara Ortiz, Rene Garret

Take Down 5-5:30 pm

Activities 2-5 pm (to date) 2 - 5 volunteers each

Scavenger Hunt, Carol Wood; **Potting Plants**, Ila Jean Carothers,

Popping Corn on Cob, Terry Irvine; **Rock Painting**, Sandy Burlison;

Making Bug Suckers, Brenda Golubski; **Making Stocking Babies**, Nelda Cooper;

Leaf Rubbing, Sharon Richardson; **Making Pollinator Wands**, Sarah McCormick;

Insect Identification, Grady Bonner; **Bee Keeping**, Margaret Henson; **Rainwater**

Harvesting for Children, Louie McDaniel; **After Dinner Gardening**, Judy Hahn; **Worm Composting**, Master Composter LeeAnne O;

Native Fish Activity, Master Naturalist Janet Wallace; **Junior Birdwalk/Nature Trail**,

Audubon Society; other activities such as **Shake, Rattle and Roll**, **Origami seed packets**, **Rock Identification**, Gem and Mineral Society; **Paper Sombreros**.

Volunteers also needed to **distribute flyers** throughout Waco and surrounding areas.

Let Jeanette or Judy know where you want to work.

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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