

The Latest Dirt

October 2010

Volume 12/No. 10

Jan's Notes



WOW! The latest intern class has finished 17 weeks of classroom hours. Now they need to complete the volunteer hours and we will have new members to add to our wonderful team.

We have many people who have spent "hours and hours" planning and supporting these new interns. Each of these members deserve so much more than just "Thank You" for their faithfulness and dedication for all they have done.

The co-chairmen were Sharon Richardson and Carol Wood. Thank you for doing a great job.

The committee members for planning were Linda Buckner, Ila Jean Carothers, Susan Crawford, Vic DuPart, Terry Irvine, Kris Ford, Jeanette Kelly, Elizabeth Milam, Georgia Peterson, Jan Serface, James Storrs, Dorothy and M.J. Whitehead.

Other members who helped as session coordinators were Art Reinking, Barbara Vance, Grady Bonner, Renee Garrett, Sarah Ortiz, Susan Crawford, Norma Folse, Ann Plasek, Judy Schmeltekopf, and Mark Barnett.

Along with these we had a number of Master Gardener's who taught some of the classes. Those included Ila Jean Carothers, Mark Barnett, Steven Lovecky, Louie McDaniel, Barry Vokes, Jeanette Kelly and Doug Quicksall.

Then there were our 42 interns and most of them have completed the first steps to become Master Gardeners. We hope you all learned and felt that this time was well spent. Congratulations to each of you! Happy gardening.

Jan

Items of interest on the Internet:

Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Junior Master Gardeners are now on Facebook. So are nurseries such as Antique Rose Emporium.

Travis County Master Gardeners' newsletter, *The Compost Bin*, is full of educational information written by members. Two good ones this month: Palms for Austin? and Snakes in the Garden.

<http://tcmastergardeners.org/newsletter>.

Barbara Elmore's Dig and Let Dig bi-monthly column has good hummingbird information.

Sign up for her email:

barbara@digandletdig.com.

NEXT MG MEETING
Wednesday, October 13, 2010
Carleen Bright Arboretum,
12 noon
Program:
Round Table Discussion
and
It's time to pay dues
\$12 per member
for 2011

MCMG Minutes September 8, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met on September 8, 2010 at noon at the Arboretum. President Jan Serface called the meeting to order. The minutes for August were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurers' Report: The ending balance as of Sept. 8, 2010 is \$15,567.50.

Committee Reports: A workday is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 1 at 8:30 am in the superstar bed at the Arboretum. Brenda Golubski announced that a docent tours training will be held Oct. 20 and Nov. 9 at 10 am in the Whitehall Center. The Children's Garden Fair will be held Oct. 17 from 2-5 at the Arboretum. Participants need to wear their master gardener shirts and name tags. A "Day in the Garden" at Cedar Ridge Elementary will be held on Sept. 20 from 8-3:00. "Days in the Garden" are held monthly throughout the school year. If you would like to help, contact Sandy Back at sback@grandecom.net. The JMG classes at Cedar Ridge will begin this month and will be held on Wednesdays after school. Contact Brenda Golubski if you would like to help at brenda1160@yahoo.com. A "Day in the Garden" will be held on Friday, Sept. 17 at Woodway Elementary. Volunteers are needed. Kim Dougherty is the coordinator. Contact Kim at kiminind@yahoo.com. Julia Khoury reported that several MG's met and cleaned up the beds at the Gospel Café in Waco. A sign up sheet was passed around for those wishing to help pass out milk at the milking demo during the HOT Fair on Oct. 11-15 from 8:30-12:30 or

Louie McDaniel has a new phone #:
254-405-4019

Contact Louie if you would like to help at louiemcdaniel@yahoo.com. Sarah McCormick and Kim Dougherty are coordinating classroom arts & sciences with the MG Green Classroom. A planting is scheduled for Sept. 17. Other classes will be planting throughout the year.

New Business: The intern class will be at the Homestead Heritage on Wed., Sept. 15 from 1-5. The class will be on native plants, building the soil, and conserving water.

Announcements: The Extension Office will have a co-op plan available after the first of the year to help with purchasing a new computer for the "Ask a Master Gardener" program. Volunteers are needed to staff "Ask a MG" on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4. Contact Carol Reinking to sign up at 399-0927 or sscarol.24@gmail.com.

The next meeting will be October 13, 2010 at noon at the Arboretum.

Nelda Cooper, Secretary

September Meeting Attendance: 39

Sandy Back, Bonnie Belanger, Dick Belanger, Sandy Bureson, Ila Jean Carothers, Nelda Cooper, Irene Dauphin, Kim Dougherty, Sarah Downs, Victor DuPart, Eva FitzGerald, Norma Folsie, Kris Ford, Xan Foulks, Cindy Geletzke, Brenda Golubski, Thad Hairston, Terry Irvine, Julia Khoury, Sarah McCormick, Louie McDaniel, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Georgia Peterson, Anne Plasek, Art Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Judy Schmeltekopf, Dawn Segrest, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Edrena Smith, Barbara Vance, Barry Vokes, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, MJ Whitehead, Carol Wood.

Intern Attendance: 20

B.L. Barnes, Madge Beazley, John Buchanan, Linda Burchfield, Merle Chapman, Wilda Christie, Richard Evans, Zach Elwell, Everett Harward, Jr., Maragaret Henson, Sherry Henson, Janice Kriegel, Marty Lee, Cindy Mabry, Sherry Matthews, Sujatha Reddy, Valerie Schillaci, Travis Smith, Gale Torbett, Kathy Turlington.

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
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

There is a huge plant sale Saturday, Oct, 2, but we just got the notice. It's at the Holistic Teaching Garden, Department of Horticultural Sciences, at Texas A&M, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Plants include landscape, fall bedding, herbs, fall vegetables and house plants. Take boxes to carry plants.

Location is behind Horticulture Forest Science Building on West Campus.
<http://aggiemap.tamu.edu/>



Sweet autumn clematis – a little jewel for fall

Cascades of fragrant, dainty white blooms drape over posts, fences and walls in late summer and early fall. It's a delightful ornamental to add a vertical plane to your garden. Clematis paniculata, or clematis terniflora, is a vigorous perennial vine for zones 5-8.

It likes good drainage (the one pictured is planted in a raised bed and trained over a metal gate and light post). Part shade or sun are preferred. It is normally deciduous, but this one kept its leaves all winter here. It doesn't want to be very dry.

Most sources recommend severe pruning to about 12" from the ground in early spring when new buds appear to keep a shapely vine where you want it. Flowers bloom on new wood.

The silvery seed heads are also attractive. Some consider sweet autumn invasive in warm climates. Others give away the new plants or just pull them out.



Office volunteers needed for October and November:

Tuesday, 10/12	2
Tuesday, 10/19	2
Thursday, 10/21	1
Tuesday, 10/26	1
Thursday, 10/28	1
Tuesday, 11/2	1
Thursday, 11/4	2
Tuesday, 11/9	2
Thursday, 11/11	2

Note: most intern slots are filled.

Confirm with Chairman Carol Reinking by phone, 399-0927 or email sscarol.24@gmail.com

**Print a copy of the
Children's Garden Fair
Flyer.....see page 6**





From left: John Buchanan, intern, Bonnie Belanger, Ernie Petru, Zack Elwell, intern, and Dick Belanger worked on the cafe's curb appeal in September.

Photo by Don Castello.

Doin' good down at the Gospel Cafe

This crew, and some others not in the picture, have taken on the garden at the Gospel Cafe at 10th and Cleveland in South Waco.

This is a place where some 200 people come for lunch every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Many of them are homeless. Some make a donation, but most cannot. The meals are prepared by volunteers.

The project has been chaired by Judy Tye for several years, but she has been sick so others have stepped in including Julia Khoury. This week they put in metal borders around the beds and spread mulch.

August 2010 Volunteer Hours

Total hours	661 3/4
Education hours	146 1/2
Contacts	733
Contacts/media	855,839
Meetings	56
Arboretum	93 1/4
Trailside gardens	31 1/4
Docent tours	0
Superstar bed	25 1/2
Miscellaneous	36 1/2
(Children's Festival)	4 1/2
Clerical	11
Cactus Garden	21
McGregor Garden	7 1/2
Friends For Life	22 1/4
Ag Office Phone	157 1/4

4th Central Texas Master Gardeners Conference "Urban Farming - The Ultimate Backyard Experience"

Saturday, October 9, 2010

8:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Schertz Civic Center

1400 Schertz Pkwy, Bldg. 5

Schertz, TX

6 continuing education hrs. Fee: \$45

Limit of 250 attendees

Registration info

www.tcmastergardeners.org



I tried to find out if the registration is filled, but could not get an answer before sending out this issue of Latest Dirt. SW, editor



The Intern Class of 2010 with their instructor, week # 11, Propagation

The last class for this year's group of interns was a field trip to view rose trial gardens. First stop was Gussie Field Watterworth Park at the Texas A&M Research Center in Farmers Branch.

In a setting of 300 rose bushes covering two and one half acres, the class learned what is involved in determining an EarthKind rose designation from Dr. Steven George, extension horticulturist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of A&M.

Mulching is an essential ingredient for the beds, and at this location leaves and branches from nearby trees are used for both compost and mulch.

The second stop was the Farmers Branch Historical Park where the group saw more roses and an outstanding park landscape. The design includes paths, arbors, bridges and tunnels. The designer, Pam Smith, noted that Dr. George had promised EarthKind practices would cut water use by 50 percent. The actual results are closer to 90 percent she said.

Last stop was the Les Lacs Linear Park in Addison where Dr. George established the first EarthKind garden.



Class #17 - a trip north to view rose trial gardens and meet Dr. Steven George.

On the bus ride home James Bays did a rose propagation demonstration and then offered to help interns with their own projects.

Intern Sandra Scott commented, "It was the mulch on a perfect EarthKind day."



Content information and some copy provided by Sandra Scott. Photos by Carol Wood.

A rose named Freckles

Children's Garden Fair

October 17th, 2010

2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Carleen Bright Arboretum
8001 Bosque Blvd., Woodway, TX
(254) 399-9204



Bring your camera to take pictures

Live Music

Identify insects & butterflies



Accompany your children for a few fun-filled hours!

Scavenger hunt

Worm composting

Stocking babies that grow

Potting a plant to take home

Popping corn-on-the-cob

Painting rocks

Bird walk

Many new activities!

ALL are FREE !!!



Sponsored by:

McLennan County
Master Gardeners &
Carleen Bright Arboretum

All children must be
accompanied by an adult.

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association