

The Latest Dirt

November 2010

Volume 12/No. 11



Patrick
Dougherty's
'River
Vessels'
watching
over
Lake
Brazos

Go to Cameron Park, linger in the twigs, smell the willows and look up.

Everyone must visit these living sculptures which mark the 100th birthday of Cameron Park. With their nest-like forms, they take the idea of recycling to another level. They grew from the hands of many volunteers. And they serve as an educational project that you can snuggle up in. Doesn't that fit the Master Gardener mission?

Before coming to Waco Mr. Dougherty finished another stick art project at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens called 'Natural History.' It is described as "a twist in the line between architecture, landscape and art." Mr. Dougherty said his dwellings there are "wooly lairs for feral children or wayward adults." (New York Times, Oct. 7, 2010).

There is a new collection of his organic pieces called "Stickwork". It features 38 profiles of his sculptures and is published by Princeton Architectural Press.



Next MG Meeting
November 10, 2010
Carleen Bright Arboretum
12 noon

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association

MCMG Minutes October 13, 2010

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met on October 13, 2010 at noon at the Arboretum. President Jan Serface called the meeting to order. The minutes for September were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: The ending balance as of October 13, 2010 is \$14,311.52.

Reports: Jeanette Kelly reported that the Children's Garden Fair will be Sunday, October 17. Booths will be set up between 12:30-1:30.

Ila Jean Carothers gave a report on the MHMR garden beds. A planting is scheduled for Saturday, October 23 from 8-2. Master Gardeners are supplying the plants. The garden is between Mary & Jackson Streets. T-shirts will be given to workers. Grant money will pay for a new gazebo. All other supplies have been donated.

Volunteer Hours: Julia Khoury needs to receive education and volunteer hours by the 6th of each month. Please email or mail your hours to Julia.

New Business: The December meeting will be the Christmas party. It will be at noon at the Arboretum for Master Gardeners and interns only. Gerry Milnor is the chairman. Call her at 254-694-4468 or email milnorg@aol.com to sign up for the meal or table decorations.

Master Gardeners welcomed new transfer member, **Susan Widaski**. Her phone number is 402-957-8867/ email: mowl@cox.net.

New Members: Three interns have completed their requirements to become Master Gardeners. Congratulations to John Buchanan, Travis Smith, and Gail Torbett.

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee submitted the following for 2011 officers: President- Jan Serface; Vice-President- Sandy Back; Secretary- Dick Belanger; and Treasurer- Irene Dauphin. The nominees will be voted on at the November meeting.

Program: Members gathered for a roundtable discussion. Ideas and concerns were collected to help the officers plan for 2011.

The next meeting will be November 10, 2010 at noon at the Arboretum.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nelda Cooper
Secretary

October Meeting Attendance: 44

Cynthia Bach, Sandy Back, Mark Barnett, Bonnie Belanger, Dick Belanger, Grady Bonner, John Buchanan, Sandy Bureson, Ila Jean Carothers, Jo Ann Clafferty, Mark Clark, Nelda Cooper, Susan Crawford, Kim Dougherty, Victor DuPart, Eva FitzGerald, Melody Fitzgerald, Norma Folse, Kris Ford, Cindy Geletzke, Brenda Golubski, Jene Hering, Jeanette Kelly, Donna Lindsey, Steven Lovecky, Lori Lutz, Barbara Mersinger, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Maureen Moulden, Georgia Peterson, Art Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Janet Schaffer, Jan Serface, Della Setser, James Storrs, Barbara Vance, Barry Vokes, Susan Wadaski, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Carol Wood.

Interns: 14

B.L. Barnes, Madge Beazley, John Buchanan, Linda Burchfield, Wilda Christie, Emily Davidson, Margaret Henson, Janice Kriegel, Marty Lee, Cindy Mabry, Linda Moore, Robert Powers, Kathryn Turlington, Amber Wilhite.

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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Jan's Notes



What an awesome group of members and interns we have! You are all so wonderful and talented and energetic. Thank you for everything you have all done this past month. WOW!

Some activities were planned and had been on the calendar for a year and then a new opportunity popped up and you just jumped right in and got the job done.

Yes, I'm talking about the new Garlic Test Garden for Texas A&M. Linda Burchfield and Margaret Henson have volunteered to oversee this new project. If they need help, I hope you will say yes. They will be keeping us informed on what is happening. Thank you!

The Children's Garden Fair was a great success. We counted 902 people there. Thank you Jeanette Kelly and Judy Schmeltekopf for all your planning and preparation. It was a beautiful day and everyone had a great time. There were 20 different activities for the children and not a negative comment about anything even though we ran out of water. Thank you for all that you did. If you were unable to help this year maybe you can help in 2011.

The next thing that happened was the MHMR people finally decided it was time to plant their vegetable garden. Ila Jean Carothers organized this activity with Jon's help.

It was so easy for us as helpers because Ila Jean had every bed labeled and the plants or seeds were waiting to be planted. We had 15 people who worked along with the Alcoa and MHMR volunteers. Their clients also participated, so there were about 65 people helping while it was threatening to rain. Thank you Ila Jean for all the hours you spend making it so easy for the rest of us. There will continue to be help needed in this garden also.

THANK YOU FOR BEING THE GREATEST GROUP EVER! With this kind of participation we will have continued success. You are the reason this organization is great.

Have a great day!

Jan

NOTE: Head Start has requested a program for three-year-olds on gardening. Not on a Monday or Wednesday. Contact Jan Serface if you would like to do this one.

A reminder -

Annual Membership Requirements

Volunteer hours.	12
Education hours.	6
Member meetings.	3
Dues.	\$12

Mail dues to:

*Irene Dauphin, Treasurer
308 N. Cedar Ridge Circle
Robinson, TX 76706*

A day in the garden at Cedar Ridge Elementary School

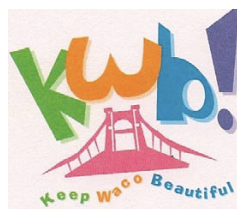


Wilda Christie shares her ah-hah moments from training classes

I have always loved gardening. The 2010 Master Gardener program was my first formal garden training. The program was exceptional and time spent with other master gardeners and interns who are so knowledgeable made the experience one of a kind. There were many “ah-hah” moments when I thought to myself, “Wow,” that really makes sense! Such moments as:

- ✓ Weed & Feeds don’t work. Herbicides (weed) should be applied in February and Fertilizer (feed) applied in April. They don’t work at the same time.
- ✓ Equipment used by landscape services can spread diseases and pests from one property to another.
- ✓ Never work wet soil. It damages the composition of the soil permanently
- ✓ Soil testing makes sense. Why add implements the soil doesn’t need?
- ✓ Only 5% of insects are harmful. 95% are either beneficial or neutral.
- ✓ Organic activity is in the top 3-4 inches of soil. Microorganisms need oxygen, so work compost in lightly

- ✓ Mow frequently. The more you mow the healthier the grass.
- ✓ Don’t run sprinkler systems on automatic. Use the manual setting and check the system for problems and water coverage
- ✓ Disinfect pruning tools between plants to prevent spread of disease.
- ✓ Don’t over seed existing lawns. The cover crop will take nutrients away from grass trying to store feed and makes it harder for plant growth.
- ✓ Oak wilt is spread by roots grafting together from tree to tree.
- ✓ Prune live oaks in July and August when the insect population is in decline.
- ✓ Don’t use weed block in garden beds. The mulch and organic matter can’t work through it.



**Fall mulch sale
Sat., Nov. 6
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Cameron Park Zoo
overflow parking lot**

Mulch 2 cf bags: \$3.50
Compost/topsoil 40 lb: \$3.00
Call 750-2758 or go online to pre-order
www.keepwacobeautiful.com