

The Latest Dirt

February 2011

McLennan County Master Gardener Association

The Kemps are linked to Texas dirt



Randy and Rachelle Kemp at home in China Spring

A few years ago the Waco Tribune Herald did a feature about Rachelle and Randy Kemp. They have a good story.

Their paths crossed in a Fruit and Nut class at A&M, and they began dating in Dirt (properly called pedology and edaphology, the study of soils). They have been involved with growing things ever since. Tomatoes, trees, peas, kids (their own two) and other people's (TSTC Golf and Landscape Management students.) At A&M she majored in horticulture and he focused on arboriculture.

After they married in 1991 they lived in Asa, east of Waco. One year they planted huge beds of tulips, snapdragons and pansies and won "Yard of the Month." For a time Rachelle worked for a local nursery and was

garden manager for Keith's Hardware in Hewitt. They bought five acres in Cedar Springs and Randy grew bushels of peas and tomatoes in the sandy soil of Falls County.

Two of his lawn care customers urged him to look at the HOT Fairgrounds as a place to sell his prolific crop of tomatoes. This led to the start of the summer farmers market there and he became very involved.

Next came the idea of starting their own landscaping business. "It was a business grown from necessity," said Rachelle as things had changed at the hardware, a baby was on the way and they didn't have health insurance.

Randy became more involved with his father who owns tree farms in Falls County. Then, ten years ago TSTC asked Rachelle to develop a program which is now the Golf and Landscape Management Program. Profit from our annual plant sale has provided scholarships to some of these students.

A native of Tyler, Rachelle has many contacts there through her family and these have led to jobs for some of her students.

About 80 percent graduate and open their own businesses she said. She stresses leadership skills, honesty, ethics and values in her classes. And, how to do a business plan.

This past summer Rachelle received her master's degree in science and management making her eligible to teach classes in business and leadership skills. She is now an associate professor.

At the urging of the local Extension Agent at the time, the couple joined Master Gardeners with the first class in 1996. With their jobs and schedules it has been difficult to attend most of the noon meetings, but they have been loyal members.

On the way home from work one day Rachelle spotted an empty church and got the idea to blend her interests in healthy food with fitness. This was the start of a new business, their fitness center on China Spring Road. That was six years ago. Open 24/7, she sees it as a good community service.

Between landscape jobs Randy's sideline is working for a local beer distributor. A tour of their garden is evidence of their strong love of family life in the backyard. There is a new pool (pg. 5) Rachelle designed, lots of new roses waiting for spring and a hoop greenhouse they are trying out.

"I'm a real high energy person," said Rachelle.

In this issue:

Notes from Jan.....	Page 2
Minutes.....	Page 4
BIG Conference.....	Page 2
Volunteer Hours Report.....	Page 2
2011 Budget.....	Page 3

Next MG Meeting: Feb. 9, noon,
Carleen Bright Arboretum

BIG event boosts MG budget

The 49th Annual Blackland Income Growth (BIG) Conference will be Feb. 8 and 9 at the Extraco Events Center on Bosque Blvd.

The agricultural event is significant to our MCMG association because it provides an estimated \$500 to our treasury through the recertification program for those who attend.

Our role is to help with registration and general information assistance. Jene Herring is coordinating MG volunteers.

The conference sessions will cover grain, horticulture, beef, forage, cotton, horse and wildlife plus training and testing for private applicators.

Doug Quicksall is current president of the BIG Executive Board. The event is sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.

Jan's Notes



2011 has begun.

It's already February with much needed rain and cold weather keeping us inside more than out.

As I reminisce while I'm inside I'm faced with the reality that -- yesterday is already a dream and tomorrow is only a vision.

What is your vision for MCMG for this year? Have you thought about what your role will be? Are you willing to step up and lead us into new challenges and opportunities? Do you have new ideas for us to consider doing? Think about these things. Let me know about your vision.

Just remember today well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

My hope for each of you is that you will joyfully enjoy gardening and making new friends this year. I also hope you will share your ideas.

Appreciate and enjoy every day!
Smile! Today is the oldest you've ever been; yet the youngest you'll ever be so enjoy this day while it lasts.

Jan



Three more interns receive their certification letters at the January 2011 meeting. From left: Robert Powers, Jennifer Rich and Marilyn Johnson with Jan Serface.

December 2010 Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours	811 3/4
Education hours	272 1/2
Contacts	6,531
Media	232,950
Meetings	64
<i>(Hours below included in Volunteer Hours)</i>	
Arboretum	125
<i>Trailside Garden</i>	41 3/4
<i>Superstar Bed</i>	21 1/2
<i>Children s Garden Fair</i>	52 3/4
<i>Cactus Garden</i>	3
<i>Docent Tour</i>	4
<i>Gardeners Gathering</i>	2
<i>McGregor Garden</i>	31
<i>MHMR</i>	16
<i>Office Phone Line</i>	68 1/4

Budget for 2011 projects 23% increase

The 2011 MCMG budget projects a 23 percent growth over 2010. This is due to increases in income from member dues, the 2010 intern class fees, the annual plant sale, and the Blackland Income Growth (BIG) Recertification Program.

Treasurer Irene Dauphin and the board anticipate a jump in revenue from \$11,785 last year to \$14,500 in 2011. The budget is based on an active membership of 120.

Line item expenditures show modest changes in normal operating expenses, but the addition of a new expense of \$1500 for special events. Our on-going scholarship expense remains the same at \$1500 for TSTI landscape students, but that is due to a \$500 carry-over from unspent money given to the school last year. A \$2,000 gift has been approved for 2011.

Supplies include a \$2,700 increase to buy two new computers, a line item approved by the membership at the January meeting.

Receipts:

Membership dues (120)	\$1,440
Plant Sale	4,000
BIG/Recertification Program	6,000
MCMG Class Fund (2010)	3,060
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,500

Disbursements:

Member dues to State @\$2x120	\$ 240
Plant Sale (tent, etc)	400
BIG Recertification	4,000
Donations: Scholarships	1,500
Speakers	500
Projects (Habitat, HOT)	2,500
Service Pins	200
Supplies (office, computers)	3,000
Internet (web page)	70
License	75
Refreshments	200
Special Events	1,500
Miscellaneous	315
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$14,500



January Meeting Attendance: Members: 41

Sandy Back, B.L. Barnes, Mark Barnett, Bonnie Belanger, Dick Belanger, John Buchanan, Linda Burchfield, Ila Jean Carothers, Nelda Cooper, Irene Dauphin, Vic Dupart, Kris Ford, Xan Foulks, Penny Gifford, Brenda Golubski, Jene Hering, Jeanette Kelly, Julia Khoury, Missy Kinder, Donna Lindsey, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Anne Plasek, Robert Powers, Doug Quicksall, Art Reinking, Sharon Richardson, James Seale, Janet Schaffer, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Gale Torbett, Kathryn Turlington, Barbara Vance, Barry Vokes, Susan Widaski, Melda Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, M.J. Whitehead, Carol Wood

Interns: 9

Merle Chapman, Wilda Christie, Lynn Demuyneck, Zack Elwell, Judy Hahn, Marilyn Johnson, Jennifer Rich, Sharon Romano, Valerie Schillaci

We're growing bigger and bigger

Membership in the McLennan County Master Gardeners Association took a huge leap in 2010 when 42 people were accepted into the spring intern class. By the January 2011 meeting 12 had earned their hours for certification and another 25 were working toward completion. Our new directory compiled by Eva FitzGerald lists 112 people:

This includes:

Active	86
On Leave	1
Interns	25

Of these, 58 are women, 28 are men and there are four couples. Since last year's directory, one moved and six dropped out. There were 79 listed in the last directory. That's a 42 percent increase!

Minutes: January 12, 2011

The Master Gardeners met at the Carleen Bright Arboretum for the January 12 meeting. President Jan Serface called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. The minutes of the December meeting were approved as were printed in The Latest Dirt.

Treasurer's Report: Irene Dauphin presented the treasurer's report for the month of December. She also presented a proposed budget for 2011. The budget as proposed is \$14,000, increased from \$11,000. A motion to accept was made by Barbara Vance then seconded. The motion passed. Irene mentioned that any dues that haven't been paid are considered late.

Jan Serface introduced Shane McLellan, our Texas AgriLife extension agent, to talk with our group. Shane gave a history of the Master Gardeners organization, its mission and purpose. He also shared the challenges facing the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. The primary mission is education. We are under the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the State of Texas. Shane indicated that there are cuts coming to AgriLife. There were cuts in the year 2010 and there will be more cuts in 2011. He doesn't know where as yet.

The Master Gardener program's primary purpose is education, and there is a substantial monetary value for the state and local groups. It is important to turn in our statistics for Julia to compile. The information is forwarded to the state from the local agent. This justifies its existence. Shane discussed Master Gardener's responsibilities and other items that we need to know. He touched on rules, contacts, extension office, Ask a Master Gardener, and newspapers. Ila Jean Carothers will coordinate the office.

Secretary Report: The Secretary's report for December was approved as printed in the newsletter. There were no corrections or additions.

Old Business: Office – Ila Jean presented information on the development and use of the office. The executive committee recommends that every master gardener work in the office at least one day a year for three hours. She passed a list around and recommends we track the calls when we are taking calls.

Computers – We have been researching computers for a number of months and are proposing a Dell Optiplex 780 and a Dell Latitude 6510 for purchase. One is a desk top for the office and one is a lap top for use in presentations and power point. A motion was made by Doug Quicksall to pur-

chase and it was seconded by Art Reinking. *The motion was discussed, voted, and passed.*

Scholarships – There is \$500 left over from our commitment to offer scholarships for the year 2010 to students at TSTC. It is recommended that we add \$1500 to it and provide five scholarships for \$400 each. Irene Dauphin moved and it was seconded. *The motion passed.*

Website – Carol Wood indicated the website is out of space. We can have more space for an additional \$14. Sonia Warriner moved and it was seconded. *The motion passed.*

New Business: TMGA directors - Texas Master Gardener association needs members from MCMG to attend four meetings. We need two members and two alternates to attend the meetings. Linda Buckner, Jeanette Kelly, Ila Jean Carothers, and Jan Serface. A motion and second was given. *The motion passed.*

BIG Conference – Doug Quicksall and Jene Hering gave a presentation about BIG. The conference needs manpower. It's Feb. 8 & 9. The first day it's education and the second is re-certification program. It's a huge moneymaker for MCMG. Jene is heading up manpower for the conference. He'll pass around a sign-up sheet. Put your telephone number on the sheet and he will assign you a time and location. You'll work for two hours. We need at least 20 volunteers. You'll be credited two hours volunteer work.

New members – Marilyn Johnson, Robert Powers, and Jennifer Rich. We also welcome Susan Widaski, who moved here from Omaha, NB.

Texas Master Gardener Conference – A video presentation was given promoting the upcoming event in April at Glen Rose.

Eva Fitzgerald needs two volunteers to help assemble the 2011 membership booklet.

Sandy Back's program will be presented in February instead of this month.

With no other business this meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Belanger, Secretary

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2011

President - Jan Serface • Vice President - Sandy Back • Secretary - Dick Belanger

Treasurer - Irene Dauphin

AgriLife Sponsor - Shane McLellan, County Agent

Newsletter - Sonia Warriner jwarriner@hotmail.com

Our web site: www.mclennanmastergardeners.org



Send volunteer hours to Julia Khoury, 8512 Bosque Blvd., Waco 76712 or tkhoury@hotmail.com

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

Make new look old with quick patina techniques

Concrete garden ornaments and planters often look tempting, but, well - they look like concrete. Several years ago I bought a concrete bunny to be the central focal point of my new herb garden. I put him on an upturned pot, planted lambs ears around the base, and stood back. He didn't have the right look.

Then I found a recipe in an old *Southern Living* magazine to create the "look of lead" with a little paint and a nice afternoon.

Before you buy the ornament or container, look for one that might fool the eye and look like lead. A smooth surface and a graceful or classical shape work best. You will need: a warm, sunny and very dry day, two colors of *flat exterior latex* paint, bristle and sponge brushes, sponge, wiping cloths. For the paint, you need one can of an earthy, putty, yellow-gray color and one can of dark, charcoal gray.

Step 1: Mix half putty-colored paint with half water. Liberally paint this on the concrete ornament. Allow it to drip, then dry.

Step 2: Mix half dark gray and half water. Paint this on, letting it puddle and run down. Let it dry.

Step 3: Mix equal parts putty, gray and water. Paint and sponge this on, but before it dries completely, wipe it off. Let paint stay in cracks and crevices. If the paint doesn't wipe off easily, use a moist rag.

Step 4: Continue to enhance the finish by retouching with putty or gray on a damp rag. This step refines the finish and lets you play with the light and dark contrasts. After it is dry, use a soft cloth to polish. The ornament will "age" as it weathers.



This 20 inch rabbit was done about 20 years ago and "touched up" about ten years ago. The brown stains are part of the weathering process. SW



For more ornate concrete objects that you want to look really old (like those in old cemeteries) try the *latex stain* method.

Step 1: With a clean, cotton rag, rub a dark ebony latex stain on the piece. Thoroughly cover the object and go down about one-third into a container or planter.

Step 2: Use a small artist brush to darken cracks and crevices in any relief areas.

Step 3: Sand the stain off on convex or protruding areas and along random edges and flat surfaces with a sanding block.

Note: I would not try to age the inside of a bird bath.

Rachelle Kemp beside the new pool she designed and they installed last summer at their home in China Spring.