

The Latest Dirt

May 2011

McLennan County Master Gardener Association

Happiness is a day at the zoo

Earth Day April 16 drew 2,850 people to Cameron Park for Beasts N' Blooms 2011. Hundreds left wearing our festive paper hats, metamorphosis bracelets and priceless smiles. MG volunteers had as much fun as the kids.

Chairman Jeanette Kelly reports, "Everyone was so cheerful, so positive and so hard working helping this day be such a success."



Photo by J. Kelly



A black swallowtail emerges from its chrysalis in Jeanette Kelly's garden, dries its wings and is "coaxed" onto the zinnia for this fitting spring photo for The Latest Dirt.

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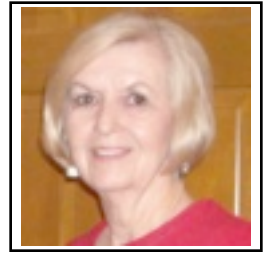
Next Meeting:
May 11, 6 p.m.
homes of Barry & Eva Vokes,
Louie & Hillary McDaniel
see page 6

March 2011 Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours	377
Education hours	109
Contacts	1946
Media	6000
Meetings	57
<i>(Hours below are included in Volunteer Hours)</i>	
Arboretum	19
<i>Trailside Garden</i>	17
<i>Herb Garden</i>	2
McGregor Demo Garden	10
Clerical time - Ag office	10
Hewitt Methodist Community	22
Office Phone Line	16
Cedar Ridge Elementary	23
BIG Conference	21
Woodway Elementary	5
MHMR	25
Mountainview School	5
Day Spring School	12
Walk America	6

These are just some of the projects that the Master Gardeners participated in.

Jan's Notes



Wow! Spring has come and gone or at least it seems like it. No rain, but lots of wind and heat. This never deters a master gardener in the garden. It only presents new challenges.

This is what life is: new challenges daily and how we handle them. Some us forge ahead with fortitude and courage and kindness. Others lag behind with complaints and impatience. Perhaps we need to look inward to self before we lose patience with others. We don't know what kind of day they had in their garden or their physical situation. Perhaps they stubbed a toe or they got tangled in a rose bush. Maybe the wind blew over their favorite plant.

My challenge to each of us is: "Treat others as we would have them treat us." Although I try to do this, I oftentimes get caught in that thorny rose bush and then I need to apologize. Does this ever happen to you?

If you have MG concerns, you may express them through the proper channels: extension agent, president, executive committee. Please don't email them to the entire membership.

Now, I have to share a few things about the Master Gardener Conference:

- 14 MG members plus two interns attended from MCMG
- 765 people were registered.
- This conference was planned and implemented by 80 members from two counties who worked for two years.
- Great meetings and information
- Eventually, we will need to host a conference
- Read the state newsletter. Do you want to participate in any awards?
- Now is time to think about the future

Have a happy day in your garden!

Jan

April 13 Meeting Attendance

Members 48:

Eva FitzGerald, Susan Crawford, Barbara Vance, Marilyn Johnson, Vic Dupart, Mark Clark, Jo Ann Clafferty, Barbara Mersinger, Anne Plasek, Sherry Prather, Brenda Golubski, Robert Powers, Lynn DeMuynck, Judy Schmeltekopf, Steven Lovecky, Mary Lou Trice, Jan Serface, Emily Davidson, James Bay, Ernie Petru, Kathryn Turlington, Carol Reinking, Dick Belanger, Randy Kemp, Rachelle Kemp, Carol Wood, Dick Evans, Sherry Henson, Merle Chapman, Valerie Schilaci, Della Setser, Andrea Moore, Ila Jean Carothers, Elizabeth Milam, Sujatha Reddy, Jennifer Rich, Sonia Warriner, Sherry Matthews, Sharon Richardson, Missy Kinder, Louie McDaniel, Judy Tye, Sandy Burleson, Dawn Segrest, Irene Dauphin, Jeanette Kelly, Jane Herndon, Zachary Elwell

Interns 3:

Kai Newton, Margaret Henson, Pat Goaley

Springing into the future

**Join Us for the Groundbreaking Ceremony
of "The Pavilion" at the
Carleen Bright Arboretum June 8, 2011
Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres and our
Mid Summer Night Concert Series featuring
"The Elephants"
Happy Hour: 7:00 PM
Ground Breaking Ceremony: 7:30 PM
The Elephants Concert: 8:00 PM**

We prepared the ground and the seeds were planted. Just as our gardens are beginning to bloom so is "The Pavilion" at the Carleen Bright Arboretum. The new Pavilion is a collective vision of a diverse group of people including staff, council members, residents and master gardeners. Through this process we have renewed our commitment to the Carleen Bright Arboretum and its future.

The Pavilion will house events for approximately 450 people; it will have soaring ceilings and five sets of double doors at each end to encourage activities to spill into the surrounding gardens.

You are such an important part of the Arboretum. Please join us for this wonderful celebration. -Janet Schaffer



MCMG presents
"An Evening in the Gardens"
Thursday, May 19, 2011
a free public seminar
5:30 pm
Carleen Bright Arboretum

We'll talk about showy, easy care plants for the Waco area and tour our two Master Gardener-sponsored gardens, Texas Superstars and Trailside Gardens, featuring native and adapted plants. This is a good opportunity to log education hours and refresh your options for excellent plant choices.

Volunteers will greet the public and share plant information in the gardens. Contact Barbara Vance: barbara@bvance.com

A workday will be Tuesday, May 17, 8:30 a.m. for light weeding and tidying.

PLANT SALE May 21, 9 am - 3 pm
4605 W. Waco Drive (vacant lot beside
Mocek's TV)

Remember:

- Bring plants by 7:30 a.m. We will also need folding tables. Once unloaded, park cars on the bowling alley parking lot across the creek.
- Have plants in clean pots, with correct name on label along with helpful information such as "sun, shade, perennial, herb, growth size, drought tolerant," etc.
- Pre-price pots in even amounts of 50 cents or dollar increments. (Use labels, stickers, etc.)
- Organize plants by sun, shade, herbs, cacti, natives, etc. prior to sale.
- Pot plants before May 1 to have time to be well established.
- Price plants less than nursery prices unless you want to take them back home.
- Plants purchased by MG members must be put in cars or taken home - no "holding" or marking "sold" and put back where they can be seen by public. They want first choice of our merchandise.

Meet Vic DuPart - a master of many skills

By Judy Tye

It seems like the more you know about Vic DuPart, the more there is to know: he is a man of many interests, and everything he does, he does extremely well. He's a teacher, a carpenter, an engineer, an inventor, a gardener, a restorer of classic cars, and that's just for openers.

Originally from Detroit, Vic came to Waco with Huck Manufacturing in 1973; in fact, he drew up the plans and oversaw the building of the Waco plant as the Manager of Engineering. He retired from there in 1997, which leaves him free to pursue all his other interests.

His favorite hobby is restoring old cars. Many of us remember his fine old 1952 white Dodge that he drove from 1974 until 2000. Then there's a '65 Buick Electra, a '64 Buick Wildcat ("That car could lay rubber for a city block!") among many others, and Vic has a calendar with photos of them all.

His current love is a bright red '55 Dodge pickup, which is almost finished. He sews all the upholstery for his restorations himself. He explains that as an Eagle Scout, "You learn how to do all kinds of things." (His grandsons are Eagle Scouts, as well.) He does all this in a beautifully organized shop which he built and equipped with heat and air.

Vic and his wife Anneliese live in an elegant home in Castle Heights. He has enhanced the house considerably with his carpentry skills, and has built much of its beautiful furniture. Their shaded yard is lovely, with more than a hundred red and white impatiens and begonias decorating the beds.

Then there is the fence, a remarkable structure that Vic built from 2,000 concrete cylinders. It has to be seen to be believed. These cylinders are each about a foot long; they were test cores, and Vic got them free, but considering that they weigh 30 pounds each, and there were 2,000 of them... well, now you know how Vic stays so fit and trim. (That's one reason: the other is that he works out three times a week at Providence Hospital's cardiac rehab unit.)

Vic had a heart attack in 1997, which he says didn't do much damage, but he heeded the warning. Those workouts keep him from gaining weight, which he might otherwise do considering that Anneliese bakes bread several times a week from starter she's been using since



Vic DuPart (class of '98) on the porch he added to their 1941 colonial house.

1982. She says that she hasn't bought a loaf of bread in years.

Besides all this, Vic spends half a day each week teaching third graders their multiplication tables at Providence Heights Elementary School. He gives each child an abacus that he makes from wood scraps, coat hangers and colorful beads. He has also devised a clever tic-tac-toe chart that makes multiplying numbers easier. The children respond to Vic's charm. "You'd think they would hate to see me coming," he says, "but no, they're all eager. They say, 'pick me, pick me!'"

Lately, Vic is helping the students start a chess club. Why not? After all he had Tuesday afternoons free.

Minutes: April 13, 2011

President Jan Serface called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm. Jan turned the meeting over to Irene Dauphin to give the treasurer's report. Irene updated us regarding the income and expenditures up to April 13, 2011.

Jan presented 3 new certificates of membership as new master gardeners. Welcome aboard Sharon Romano, Lynn DeMuynck, and Jane Herndon. A hearty welcome was given by all master gardeners and friends.

Brenda Golubski, our volunteer coordinator, introduced Barbara Vance to update us on the demonstration garden. A seminar, free to the public, will be held on May 19th in the evening. There will be a work day May 17th to freshen up our gardens in preparation for the seminar. Barbara has flyers for the event.

Carol Reinking is filling in for Bonnie Belanger taking shirt orders. She will be taking orders for anyone who has an interest in purchasing a MCMG shirt.

Jan introduced Ila Jean Carothers, office coordinator, to talk about the office and telephones. A signup sheet is being handed out for sign up. It is recommended that everyone work at least 3 hours this year. We're trying to fill in the time slots a quarter at a time. We'll put it in the newsletter and have a copy at the office.

Barbara Mersinger updated us on the plant sale. She will send a signup sheet for tables. The extension office will provide some tables, but someone will need to pick them up. There is a sign up for morning and afternoon workers. We will need cashiers. Please do what you can do. We will need lots of volunteers. Flyers are available to pass out. We can arrive around 7:30 am.

Jan updated us on the cutback state is mandating to the extension office. In addition to the cutback the office has to take, we will have to charge the public more for public sessions. The cost will increase from \$5.00 to \$15.00 which will allow us to make our \$5.00. The \$10.00 goes to the state. It is a decision that has already been made. We will learn more as time goes on.

Jeanette Kelly indicated that Beasts and Blooms is this coming weekend at the Zoo. She has name tags, cards, and wristbands and will be in touch with you before the weekend for those that have signed up.

Sharon Richardson needs 4 dozen cookies for teacher appreciation in McGregor. There is a sign-up sheet.

MG Office Staff Schedule - May, June 2011

Tuesday, May 3	Jene Hering, Kai Newton
Thursday, May 5	Sharon Romano, Pat Goaley
Tuesday, May 10	Brenda Golubski, Merle Chapman
Thursday, May 12	Irene Dauphin, Sherry Matthews
Tuesday, May 17	Madge Beasley, Carol Wood
Thursday, May 19	Madge Beasley, Melody High
Tuesday, May 24	Madge Beasley, Pat Goaley
Thursday, May 26	Linda Moore, Pat Goaley
Tuesday, May 31	Sandy Burleson, Judy Tye
Tuesday, June 7	Judy Hahn, Vic DuPart
Thursday, June 9	Melody High, Sherry Henson
Tuesday, June 14	Brenda Golubski, Judy Hahn
Thursday, June 16	Steven Lovecky, Ernie Petru
Tuesday, June 21	Judy Hahn, Kai Newton
Thursday, June 23	Melody High, Kai Newton
Tuesday, June 28	Richard Evans, Kai Newton
Thursday, June 30	Kai Newton, Vic Dupart

Sherry Prather needs 2 volunteers at Spring Valley Elementary School tomorrow the 14th from 8:30 to 10:00 am.

Carol Wood has picture directories available. Register so that she knows who has a directory.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

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

Water system tours, food, fun on tap for next meeting

Barry Vokes and his wife Eva will host our May 11 meeting at their Childress Creek Ranch at 6 p.m.

First, Louie and Hilary McDaniel (Barry's sister and brother-in-law who live next door) will give a tour of their rain harvesting systems.

Then we'll go back to Vokes' for the business meeting and food and beverage time. Everyone should bring a folding chair. Guests or spouses are welcome, but we need to RSVP by Monday, May 9, to Barry.

Note: MG logo shirts ordered at the April meeting will be distributed at the May meeting

New Job: Post Blogs for MCMG website

Our webmaster Mary Wood needs help managing a blog she has attached to our website <http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org>. She will train the person who volunteers for this job to add new posts using software called WordPress. The program provides a template which determines graphics, colors and layout.

It also allows for an RSS feed which means anyone who likes our blog can set it up to email it as new posts arrive rather than frequently checking the site. Go to the blog at: <http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org/gardeningblog>.

Mary is Carol Wood's daughter and does our site as a volunteer while in school in Colorado.

To learn more about this job, contact Carol Wood, cmwood@aggienetwork.com or Jan Serface, ljsurfac@swbell.net.

All MGs are invited to tour the new Golf Course/
Landscape Management building at TSTC, May 3,
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - Rachele Kemp.

The Childress Creek Ranch - May 11 HOW TO GET THERE:

Take 19th Street, which becomes China Spring Road when it crosses Lake Shore Drive. Or take Lake Shore Drive and turn on to China Spring Road. Stay on China Spring Road until you come to the intersection of China Spring Road and Wortham Bend Road (FM 2490). You make a half right turn on to Wortham Bend Road and set your odometer on zero at that point.

Proceed 6.2 miles on Wortham Bend Road. At about 6 miles, on your right you will see an exotic game ranch (it says "Tottie's Exotics" on the gate). That's when you slow down and proceed down the hill toward the Childress Creek Bridge. At the bottom of the hill and on your right before you get to the bridge, is Childress Creek Ranch. There is an 88 foot long concrete block wall, which is terra cotta colored. That's the place. The street address is 16752 Wortham Bend Road, China Spring. If you have a GPS system, you can simply key in that address and follow the directions.

Either Louie McDaniel (my brother in law) or I will be stationed at the front gate to let you in and give you further directions. If you are running late, here is the gate code: It is the pound symbol (#) followed by 2 4 6 8. The pound symbol must be entered first. The gate stays fully open for three seconds so don't dawdle or it will go "clanggggggg" as it reconfigures your vehicle and sweeps you into the ditch. If you get lost, just give us a call at 836-1336 and we'll rescue you.

Barry Vokes



Three new members earn certification - Lynn DeMuynck, Jane Herndon and Sharon Romano. Pictured here with Jan Serface (right) are Lynn (left) and Jane.