

The Latest Dirt

June 2011

McLennan County Master Gardener Association



Barbara Vance, center, describes the virtues of selected native specimens in the Trailside Garden.



Sherry Matthews, center right, was our signing translator for hearing impaired participants. Here, she points to the display of rose hips on Belinda's Dream shrubs at Trailside.

**Next MCMG Meeting:
June 8, 12 noon
Carleen Bright Arboretum**

A delightful evening in May

Nearly 100 people came to hear about Texas native and adaptive plants at the "Evening in the Garden" program presented by MCMG May 19 at the Carleen Bright Arboretum.

Barbara Vance was in charge of the event. She listed the benefits of growing plants which do well here and added tips on fertilizing, pruning, and mulching.

A tour of the Trailside and Texas Superstar gardens followed with MGs as guides.

The Plant Groom here June 8

Dale Groom, the popular author, radio/tv host, speaker and columnist, will be our guest for a public lecture, "Texas Tough Plants," Wednesday, June 8, at the Arboretum from 9 a.m. until noon. The fee is \$5 for non-master gardeners. Education credits will be given.

Known for his syndicated column "Ask the Plant Groom," he is an Extension horticulturist and a certified professional nurseryman.

He is also author of the popular *Texas Gardening Guide* first published in 2002.

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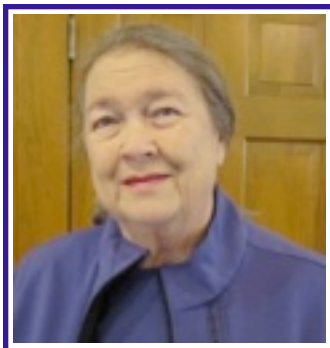
April 2011 Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours	559
Education hours	109
Contacts	10,665
Media	38,000
Meetings	52
<i>(Hours below are included in Volunteer Hours)</i>	
Arboretum	87
<i>Trailside Garden</i>	35
<i>Superstar Garden</i>	5
<i>Rose Garden</i>	3
<i>Herb Garden</i>	2
<i>Clerical</i>	4
McGregor Demo Garden	11
Phone time - Ag office	46
Misc. time - Ag office	22
Hewitt Methodist Church	4
Cedar Ridge Elementary	9
BIG Conference	14
Woodway Elementary	40
MHMR	38
Mountainview Elementary	10
Spring Valley Elementary	2
Zoo Beasts 'N Blooms	67
St. Paul's Church	11
Children's Fair	14
Gardeners' Gathering	24
MG Plant Sale	4
Wal-Mart Children Project	4

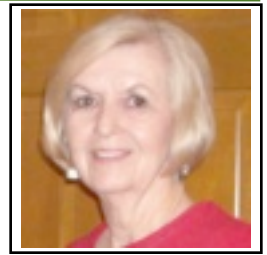
Julia Khoury is one of the most important volunteers in MCMG. She works "backstage" tabulating the volunteer reports we send each month. These reports go to Shane McLellan, McLennan County extension agent, and then to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in College Station. They show the value of our volunteer contributions.

She has to make sense of our numbers, activities, locations and often, our handwriting. It's also her job to verify our hours to satisfy membership requirements.

Julia has been a member since 2001.



Jan's Notes



It seems that there is always something happening in our Master Gardener's group. We had an Evening in the Garden plus a plant sale, but the most significant happening was the loss of one of our Master Gardeners.

Although she had been ill for some time, we really weren't prepared to lose Judy Tye. Judy was a lovely lady who always had kind words of encouragement for everyone. She was a talented artist and prolific writer. Judy loved her cats and gardening. Although her only daughter lived in Israel, I never heard her complain about missing her. Instead, she used her help via e-mail to edit her articles for Waco Today.

The memorial service was fitting for the occasion and her daughter wrote a loving article for her Mom.

We will miss Judy and her free spirit she exhibited.

Meanwhile have a wonderful day in your garden and enjoy each day you are given.

Jan

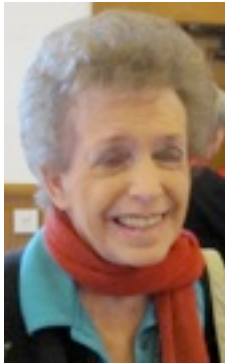
They "walked" 1300 miles

Sandra Bingham, office manager for the McLennan County AgriLife Extension Service, reports our team - MCMG and Friends - ranked 39th among the participants in Walk Across Texas 2011.

Seven McLennan County Master Gardeners joined the walk: Irene Dauphin, Susan Crawford, Linda Buckner, Sarah Downs, Louie McDaniel, Sharon Richardson and Jeanette Kelly.

Started 15 years ago, the eight-week program has attracted thousands of Texans to start and continue physical activities on a regular basis.

Progress is calculated by all sorts of methods based on weight, time and type of activity.



Judy Tye
February 8, 1940 - May 16, 2011

Photo by Carol Wood taken at the 2010 Christmas lunch.

“The many friends that she leaves behind ... the gardens she planned and planted, the countless lives she touched – all testify to the loving care with which she cultivated the patch of time that God entrusted to her care.”

– *Yael Shahar Radlauer,*
Judy's daughter at her memorial service

Judy's last article for *Waco Today* is in the June Issue: *Battling The Annoying Bugs Of Summer*, page 94. It seems fitting for someone who spent years giving advice on fire ant control.

For this issue of *The Latest Dirt* we talked about a few topics to consider and a few MGs she might interview. I didn't know she was going to write about insects, but I had told her Lynn DeMuyneck was an expert on chiggers. I learned this as Lynn's mentor during her internship. Lynn's expertise is a result of first hand experience living in the country.

I didn't get to know Judy until she started writing for *The Latest Dirt*. What fun we had sharing interests and ideas for this newsletter. We were just getting started.

Those of you who knew her a long time are so fortunate. Her daughter wrote, “Truly my mother was a master of the art of injecting an element of sanctity into the most mundane event.”

In her *Waco Today* insect article Judy referred to chiggers as the “real scourge of the South.” Quoting columnist Calvin Trillin she wrote, “the itch of a chigger bite lasts just sort of eternity and the only thing that can stop it ... sometimes ... is amputation.”

Judy Tye left a timely memory for me. You see, as I write this I am itching and scratching from chiggers! (I got them at the Arboretum working in the herb garden.) SW



Sherry Henson, left, and Margaret Henson were welcomed as new members by Jan Serface after completing their required service hours. They were among the 22 people who drove through the rain to the last meeting May 11 at Eva and Barry Vokes' home.

Sixteen of the 2010 Interns have now completed their hours and received certificates.

(Photo by Edrena Smith)

Watching the Decorah Eagles

The three Decorah eaglets, hatched in April, are still hanging out in the nest in northeast Iowa for all the world to see (123,000 were watching when I looked on 5/29/11 at noon.)

If by some remote chance you don't know about them, they are photographed with a live cam 24/7 on private land near a fish hatchery operated by the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources. The filming is by the Raptor Resource Project whose goal is to educate people and protect the birds.

Their nest, built in 2007, is 80' high, 6' across, 4' deep and weighs about 1000 lbs. Checking on them can be addictive, but often better than tv.

When you first click the video button a brief (but annoying) commercial comes on. Wait.

Go to: <http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles>.

Minutes: May 11, 2011

The MCMG met at Barry Vokes' residence for its monthly meeting and a tour of his property with 23 members in attendance. It was unusual with extreme weather which prohibited members from touring his property. Jan Serface called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.

The treasurer, Irene Dauphin, updated the membership with financial information since April.

Jan turned the meeting over to Barbara Vance to give us a briefing about the garden seminar that will be given at the Arboretum Thursday the 19th of May. She also asked if anyone knew a person who could sign for the deaf, which is required by law. There was some discussion about who and how much it would cost. Barbara has more flyers that can be given out to the public. The seminar is at 5:30 pm. Barbara will talk about easy care plants on the two gardens at the Arboretum. She will begin by speaking about soil preparation and planting. Information will be provided about Texas best plants and a follow up with a tour given by Master Gardeners. She will need help with guides.

Jan presented us with two new Master Gardeners. They are Sherry and Margaret Henson. Let's give them a hearty welcome aboard.

Gene Hering reminds us that the work day in McGregor is Friday the 20th. Volunteers will be replacing plants that have died over the winter. The time is 9:00 a.m.

Barbara Mersinger updated us on the plant sale Saturday the 21st. The newsletter provides everything that we need to know. Workers are reminded to sign up ahead of time for the sale. We have flyers for the sale.

Della Setser says the McGregor Plant Club has plants left over from their sale and is willing to give them to us. She needs help to get them to our sale.

Dick Belanger has brought Cindy Neal to help distribute Master Gardener shirts. Let folks know that their shirts are here and to pick them up. Contact Bonnie Belanger at 772-0986.

Jan has been to the office and has seen the lovely new rug in our office.

With no other business pending, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Belanger, Secretary

May 11 Meeting Attendance Members: 22

Dick Belanger, Irene Dauphin, Anita Dawson, Vic Dupart, Eva FitzGerald, Margaret Henson, Sherry Henson, Gene Hering, Jeanette Kelly, Sherry Mathews, Barbara Mersinger, Andrea Moore, Anne Plasek, Sherry Prather, Carol Reinking, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Edrena Smith, Mary Lou Trice, Judy Tye, Barbara Vance, Barry Vokes,

Interns: 1
Melody High

MG Office Staff Schedule - June 2011

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

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

Rock, blues, country, soul, jazz and swing coming for Midsummer Nights concerts

June 1 - is the kickoff for the 2011 Midsummer Nights annual concert series. This year we will begin with **The Morticians**. This group has been a mainstay in the Central Texas area for many years, and plays classic rock from the '50's, '60's and '70's. The pop and rock music that was so much a part of the American culture then remains popular today with people of all age groups.



June 8 - is the big event to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the new pavilion.



Happy Hour starts at 7:00 p.m. followed by the *ceremony at 7:30 p.m.* and **The Elephants Concert** at 8:00 p.m. The Elephants – “They Got a Trunk Full of Funk, Baby!” They play it all:

'70's and '80's dance music, rock, pop, soul, funk, R&B, country, jazz and swing.

June 15 - After Midnight comes to the stage with R&B, funk, Texas shuffle, today's hits, rock & roll and show bands.

The group has an enormous (and constantly expanding) repertoire of the most dance-able songs from the 1960's through today's radio and iPod hits.

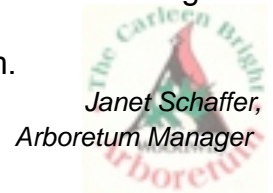


June 22 - we end our series with **Lorna Willhem**, the Female Vocalist of the Year according to the Music Association of Central Texas. The Waco up-and-coming vocalist interprets jazz and blues favorites and defines new standards. But the blues are always in the thread of every song. If you love your music red hot; if you love your music blue, come and hear Lorna perform.



The concerts are sponsored by the Woodway Foundation and the City of Woodway. There is no admission fee. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

All concerts begin at 8:00 p.m.



MG Speakers On The Road . . .

Nelda Cooper chairs our Speakers' Committee and reports the following activity for May:

May 5 - Jan Serface spoke to the Sesame Club in Hillsboro about EK roses. 37 present.

May 7 - Jeanette Kelly had a Butterflies & Bugs booth at the Wetlands Open House. Approximately 120 attended.

May 12 - Jan Serface spoke to the Brown Bag

Garden Club at the Arboretum about Spring Gardening Using EK Methods. 14 present.

May 24 - Emily Davidson did a program on Poisonous Plants at the Farm Safety Day. Approximately 335 youth and teachers attended.

Talks scheduled for June:

June 3 - Barry Vokes will do a program on Rainwater Harvesting at the AgriLife Lawn & Garden Show in Fairfield, TX.

