

The Latest Dirt

July 2011

McLennan County Master Gardener Association



cardinal's corner

A special place to ponder, reflect, meditate, listen... and heal...



As fellow gardeners I know you all have such a place. It is the place we go when we are happy, when we are sad, when we are tired, when we are exhilarated, when we need to think, when we are trying to get away from what we are thinking, when we feel connected and when we feel unconnected.

Our newest garden at the Arboretum is that place for some. Off the beaten path, less showy than some of the blooming gardens, this space is full of texture and provides a shady, quiet place that makes you feel as though you are somehow hidden from the rest of the public places in the Arboretum. It's a place to bring a child, a parent, or just to swing your worries away.



Photos by Janet Schaffer

After touring the Superstar Bed and walking through Trailside Gardens take the time to stop and swing. You will be glad you did.

Janet Schaffer

See a special feature on England's famous gardens by Eva Fitzgerald, page 3

Next MCMG Meeting:
July 13, 12 noon
Carleen Bright Arboretum

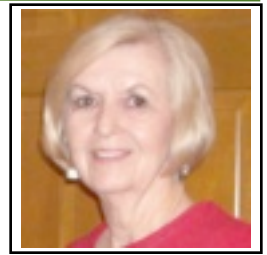
In this issue:

Notes from Jan . . . page 2
Volunteer Hours Report . . . page 2
June minutes . . . page 4
Office Staff schedule . . . page 5
Photos of Sandy Burleson's ceilings . . page 6

May 2011 Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours	498
Education hours	51
Contacts	3,652
Media	35,000
Meetings	23
<i>(Hours below are included in Volunteer Hours)</i>	
Arboretum	51
<i>Trailside Garden</i>	5
<i>Superstar Garden</i>	14
<i>Evening in the Garden</i>	13
<i>Gathering</i>	1
<i>Herb Garden</i>	8
<i>Children s Fair</i>	5
<i>Tours</i>	7
McGregor Demo Garden	13
Phone time - Ag office	40
Misc. time - Ag office	9
Hewitt Community Garden	4
Cedar Ridge Elementary	55
BIG Conference	3
Woodway Elementary	17
MHMR	31
Mountainview Elementary	6
Spring Valley Elementary	1
Rapaport Academy	11
Gospel Cafe	4
St. Paul's Church	4
Plant Sale	95
Zoo	9

Jan's Notes



You don't stop laughing
because you grow old,
You grow old because
you stop laughing.

Jan

Have a safe, fun holiday



June 8 Meeting Attendance

Members: 60

Sandy Back, B.L. Barnes, James Bays, Bonnie Belanger, Dick Belanger, Grady Bonner, Ila Jean Carothers, Jo Ann Clafferty, Mark Clark, Nelda Cooper, Susan Crawford, Irene Dauphin, Lynn DeMuynck, Vic Dupart, Eva FitzGerald, Melody Fitzgerald, Norma Folse, Kris Ford, Xan Foulks, Brenda Golubski, Jane Herndon, Terrance Irvine, Marilyn Johnson, Jeanette Kelly, Rachelle Kemp, Randy Kemp, Julia Khoury, Donna Lindsey, Steven Lovecky, Lori Lutz, Sherry Mathews, Louie McDaniel, Barbara Mersinger, Elizabeth Milam, Andrea Moore, Georgia Peterson, Ernie Petru, Anne Plasek, Robert Powers, Sherry Prather, Doug Quicksall, Sharon Richardson, Jennifer Rich, Sharon Romano, Jim Seale, Dawn Segrest, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Mary Lou Trice, Kathryn Turlington, Barbara Vance, Jo vonRosenberg, Barry Vokes, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, M.J. Whitehead, Susan Widaski, Carol Wood

Interns: 3

Judy Hahn, Cindy Mabry, Linda Moore,

Landscape Design Course 9/26-27

The next Landscape Design Study Course will be presented by William C. Welch, professor and landscape horticulturist, at Texas A&M in Bryan-College Station Sept. 26-27, 2011.

This will be the third course in a four-part series but a person may begin with any of the four sessions.

This program is nationally accredited by the National Council of State Garden Clubs. It is co-sponsored by Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Texas Cooperative Extension.

Twelve hours of continuing education will be given and the course is considered more in-depth than in a normal master gardeners curriculum.

The schedule and application may be downloaded at

<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSEP2011>.

exploring England's Gardens

by Eva FitzGerald

The last week of May, my daughter and I went to England. During our stay we visited five different English gardens and spent one day at the Chelsea Flower Show. This is the world's most famous flower show and attracts visitors from all over the world.

The first Royal Horticultural Society "Great Spring Show" was held in 1862. It started in Kensington, but moved to Chelsea almost every year from 1912 onwards. The Queen visits the Chelsea Flower Show before it officially opens to members or the public and chats with exhibitors.

There are several categories for show garden awards; there are so many entrants that it would be hard to pick a winner. The Irish Sky Garden was the Royal Horticultural Society's People's Choice show garden winner.

The Restaurant in the Sky is lifted by a crane and people dine sitting around a table and enjoy the view of the landscape below. The ground below is landscaped with grasses, pine, yew, boxwood, bamboo and trees that screen the crane that helps them fly. There are 25 pools on the ground either flowing or reflecting the garden above.



In the Great Pavilion the sight was awesome; there were so many beautiful flowers in competition for Florist of the Year and Young Florist of the Year for exhibitors under 25. All of the exhibits were a work of art with so many different flowers and plants. Chelsea exhibitors were really complaining about the weather this year and the effect it has had on the plants they had planned to show. It has been warmer than usual and not a drop of rain for months. The English people have had to water to keep things alive, so they have been in a drought just like we have here. Due to the warmer temperatures, they didn't have the plants they usually show in the spring.

There were three rose nurseries showing this year. David Austin Roses was showing their new variety, William and Catherine (one of five new English roses), a very full petalled, pretty white rose with a soft myrrh fragrance which grows to four feet, making it nice for small areas. (Photo at right.)

The most outstanding garden for me was Kew at Wakehurst Place in West Sussex. The gardens cover 465 acres and include walled and water gardens and an Elizabethan Mansion. (Photo above right.)



Elizabethan Mansion, Wakehurst Place

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, was created in 1759 by Princess Augusta. She wanted a garden to contain 'all the plants known on Earth' on her estate and had a collection of 30,000 plants. Through the years seeds were collected and stored and exchanged with botanical gardens around the world. In 1974 the seed collection moved to cold storage in the chapel at Wakehurst. In the 1980's seed research and banking was done at Wakehurst Place in the mansion. On November 20, 2000, His Royal Highness Prince Charles

opened the Millennium Building.

A storm in 1987 did major damage to the gardens and downed 20,000 trees. Since then, Kew has redesigned the gardens. New plants have been added in recent years from Tasmania, New Zealand, Chili, and Australia adding to the seed collections and bank. Wakehurst is five years into a 10-year project, funded by Natural England, to clear all the Rhododendron from the estate.

This invasive plant is thought to have been introduced in the late 18th century and has no benefits for wildlife; it actually is so aggressive that it prevents the native plant growth.

Seeds linked to Texas

(continued on page 5)



Minutes: June 8, 2011

The Master Gardeners met at the Carleen Bright Arboretum to conduct the monthly meeting. Jan Serface called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the monthly news letter. Irene Dauphin presented the treasurer's report, which was approved by the membership.

Jan Serface notified the Master Gardeners that Irene Dauphin will be leaving the area when Irene's house sells. Jan has asked Jo Ann Clafferty to replace Irene the beginning of July. Jo Ann has graciously accepted the position. In order for the change to take place an audit of the treasurer's books will be needed. Jan has appointed Barry Vokes, Vic DuPart, and Susan Crawford to audit the books. The membership gave Irene a hearty applause for her work.

Jan called on Ila Jean Carothers to update us on the MHMR project on 3rd and Jackson. Ila Jean reported that most of the mulch has been taken out of the plant boxes, which had mulch put into the planters rather than the potting soil. The planters have had good soil placed in them. This leaves a large pile of mulch that is left over. Master Gardeners have the opportunity to take whatever they need. For those that want a pickup load there is a front end loader available. The week of the 13th would be a better time to pick the mulch up. The planters that are complete have vegetables and flowers in them.

Ila Jean representing Carol Reinking has had a signup sheet for volunteers to man the phones next quarter. She's working to get the dates filled. If you signed up for a date and can't attend then please get a replacement for that day. Taking calls gives people a place to call with their gardening and other problems. We'll get answers for them.

Julia Khoury reported that Shane's office likes to have the hourly reports in by the 6th or 7th of the month. Knowing this it would be nice if we can have our hours in to Julia by the 3rd. Julia is designing a new form to submit our hours. There has been a lot of duplication when the hours have been emailed. It has created a trash problem with a lot of extra paper.

Carol Wood handed out additional picture pages to the master gardeners that have not received them.

Barbara Mersinger would like to give thanks to all the people that participated in the plant sale. The final take is

listed in the treasurer's report. The report contains the net profit not the gross income.

Grady Bonner was nominated for and received an award from Keep Waco Beautiful.

James Bays has brought some yellow columbine, which he had planned to bring to the plant sale, and had a problem. The plants are available on a first come basis.

Sherry Prather is putting in a butterfly bed at school and needs volunteers to help this Saturday.

Julia Khoury says that the Gospel Café needs help.

Janet Schaffer has the architect's drawing of the new pavilion at the arboretum. We are the first people to see the drawing. It will be unveiled at a ceremony this evening at 7:00 p.m. with a ground-breaking ceremony.

The Master Gardeners would like to do a memorial for Judy Tye. We can't do it from the organization, however, we can do it individually. We will need ideas for the memorial. Barry Vokes will chair the committee. One idea is to have a garden called Judy's Garden at the Gospel Café.

There was a comment about the office. We have photos and other items in the office and it looks great.

Ila Jean is doing a power point presentation on square foot gardening. She needs pictures.

A background check is due for the class of 2008.

Three hours of education will be given for those who attended the Dale Groom seminar this morning.

Bonnie Belanger presented that Paul Farney, who did an educational class for our group, would like to do a class on flower arranging and design for anyone that has an interest. Let Bonnie know.

No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Submitted by,
Dick Belanger, Secretary

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2011

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

Treasurer - JoAnn Clafferty

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

Kew Millennium Seed Bank

(continued from page 3)

I had read about the Kew Millennium Seed Bank, but I never dreamed that I would get to actually visit there. Kew's Millennium Seed Bank Partnership is the largest off-site plant conservation project in the world and was opened in 2000.

Their focus is on global plant life faced with the threat of extinction and plants of most use for the future, such as plants to find treatments for cancer and many other diseases, to protect rain forests and for food supply. In its underground vaults there are over one and a half billion seeds, representing approximately 30,000 wild plant species (one in ten of the world's plants) are safely stored including essentially all of the United Kingdom's plant life. By the year 2020 the target is to collect 25% of the world's plant species threatened by human development and climate change.

The herbarium at Kew is estimated to have seven million plant specimens and includes information as to where the plants were found and when seeds can be collected. This has been done by working with a network of partners across 50 countries. Kew works closely with the Bureau of Land Management in the USA coordinating with the Seeds of Success program and also with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The herbarium and seed material collected goes to the Wakehurst Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) by Fed Ex where the data is compiled, the seeds are cleaned and half of each sample collected is sent back to the United States.

Seeds are usually sent to MSB in cotton bags and are placed in a holding room; they are unpacked in an isolation room and checked for insects or damage. Most seeds go to the dry room for several months before cleaning. The cleaning process removes twigs, leaves, flowers and other debris. Samples of the seed go to the x-ray room where they are checked for quality. Seeds that are too small are cut in half and inspected under a microscope. The seeds' progress is connected to the herbarium sample to record the progress. The seeds are tested to see if they are viable. If they germinate the balance of the seeds are put in the drying room and then packed in air tight glass containers and put into the cold room.

The exhibition area is between two research wings with glass walls and visitors can see into the laboratories where seeds are cleaned, processed and tested. Beneath your feet is the seed storage vault designed to last 500 years and has thick concrete walls underground and is safe from dust and radioactivity. EF

You can play Tweet & Grow on Kew's web page: <http://www.kew.org/visit-wakehurst/>

Campers are coming

Educational tours for summer campers are on the Arboretum schedule for three days in July. (8, 11, 13 - 9 to 11 a.m.)

First Baptist Church of Waco will be bringing some 150 kids in their Summer Camp Program to the gardens and Master Gardener guides will lead the way.

Brenda Golubski has organized a plan with learning stations at the Nature Trail, Superstar Bed, Allison's Garden and the Butterfly Garden.

Students will be from grades one through six and their counselors will be on hand to keep order and maybe learn how to make "people plants."

The August issue of *Latest Dirt* will report results.

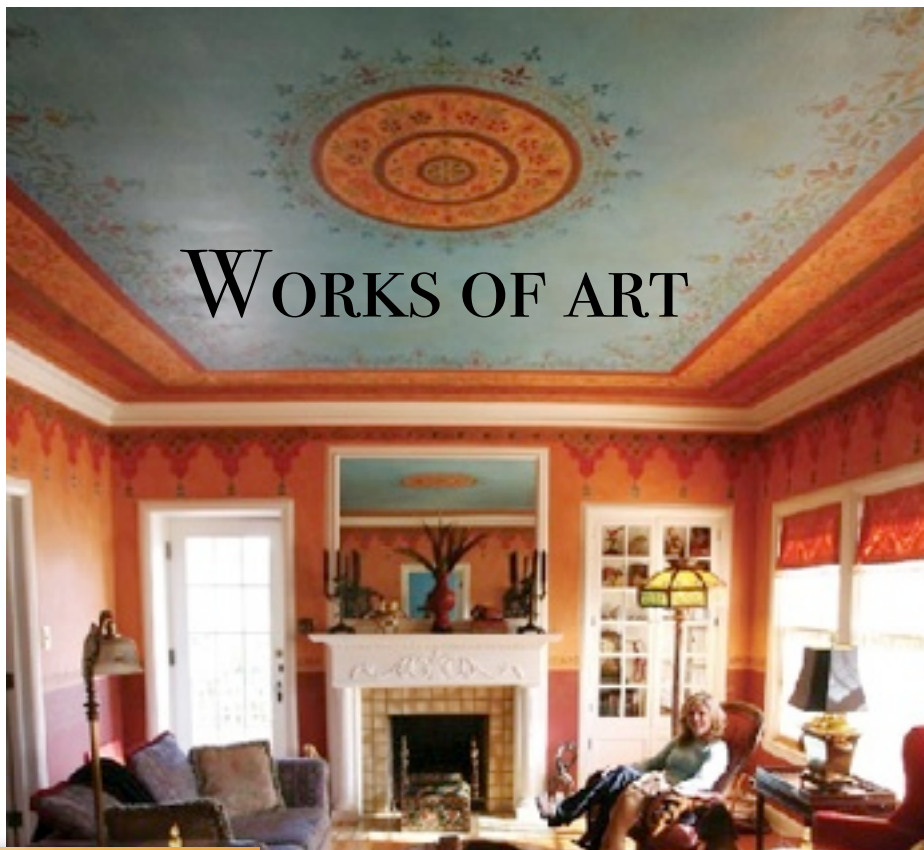
Office Staff Schedule

July - August 2011

July 5: Ila Jean Carothers, Jo vonRosenberg
July 7: Irene Dauphin, Sarah Ortiz
July 12: Robert Powers, Richard Evans
July 14: Brenda Golubski, Georgia Peterson
July 19: Vic DuPart, Steve Lovecky
July 21: B.L. Barnes, Jane Herndon
July 26: Melba Waldrop, Mark Clark
July 28: Linda Moore, Nelda Cooper

Aug. 2: Terry Irvine, Jim Seale
Aug. 4: Terry Irvine, Brenda Golubski
Aug. 9: Jo vonRosenberg, Elizabeth Milam
Aug. 11: Ila Jean Carothers, Marilyn Johnson
Aug. 16: Sandy Back, Barbara Mersinger
Aug. 18: Sharon Romano, _____
Aug. 23: Kris Ford, Mark Clark
Aug. 25: Rachelle Kemp, Elizabeth Milam
Aug. 30: Vic DuPart, _____

Meet another of our talented Master Gardeners



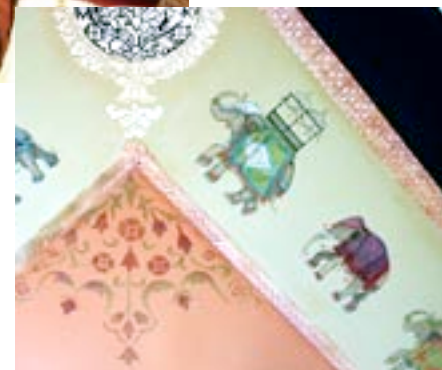
WORKS OF ART



"Her work is vivid and varied; each room is unique. Sandy has mastered the technique artists call trompe l'oeil or "fool the eye."



Sandy Burlison is an "extremely talented artist with a penchant for rich bold colors and a deep reserve of quiet self-confidence."



"Her designs tend to have a Moroccan influence and they are intricately detailed with touches of humor here and there."

Text by Judy Tye
Photos by Duane A. Laverty

From the June 23 issue of *Waco Today*.
Printed here with permission from Jeff Osborne, editor, *Waco Today*