

The Latest Dirt

September 2012

The Keyhole Garden Gang



With temperatures over 100 degrees on August 10, this hearty bunch – Louie McDaniel, Eva FitzGerald, Sherry Matthews, Barry Vokes and Lynn De-Muynck – built what may be McLennan County’s first Keyhole Garden. It took them six hours. It’s a simple, but unique approach to composting which Barry wrote about last month. On September 5 the intern class will return to finish the job at Barry’s Childress Creek Ranch. That’s when the cardboard, phone books and kitchen wastes will be added.

Barry wrote about this “hot composting” method in last month’s *Latest Dirt*. Folks in

neighboring Bosque County have built over 60 of them under the direction of Dr. Deb Tolman who grows her vegetables in keyhole beds at the Star-nater Ranch.

No one has said what the first garden will grow, but there should be great interest from fellow Master Gardeners.

Along with educational talks, we could consider lots of fund raising projects: making and selling keyhole kits, patented blueprints, by-the-hour laborers, demos at Farmers’ Market

(More photos on page 2)

Next MG Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2012
at the Carleen Bright Arboretum
Noon

What do Master Gardeners do?

Grow ... see Janet’s containers, page 7

Educate ... see Speakers Schedule, page 4

Lead ... see Sandy’s column, page 3

Give ... Volunteer Needs, pg. 6,
Volunteer Hours, pg. 3



Keyhole
Garden
est.
August 10
2012
Childress
Creek
Ranch



First, Barry draws a circle with a hoe –

Next, he puts a stone on the circle –



Louie adds his stones and “cuts” the pie –



Eva knows stones and where they should go –



“Cement Mixer Put-Ti Put-Ti” –



Sherry critiques the masonry work –

And, Lynn and Eva opt for photo credits!

from
Sandy Back
to you



At the end of a hot, dry summer, fall is my favorite season. After a cold and dreary winter, spring is my favorite season. We don't really have four seasons here in Central Texas. We just have sweaty times and less sweaty times.

Here, fall is the best time to plant. Fall plantings do so much better than spring plantings. Plant roots grow when the soil temperature is above 40 degrees, which is most of the winter here in Central Texas.

In fall we plant wildflower seeds, fertilize flower beds, divide perennials and order spring bulbs. Gently till in old mulch to break down and feed your plants. If fall rains come, give your sprinkler system a break. Consider applying a pre-emergent herbicide in fall to take out weeds. Deadhead roses to help ensure a flush of blooms before the November killing frost. Plant trees and shrubs in fall. Let's not forget our furry and feathered friends, who depend on us to provide food for them during the cold weather season. We can share our bounty with them.

We have many volunteer opportunities scheduled this fall. Please select several and take part enthusiastically. There will be special days at the Cameron Park Zoo, the Downtown Farmers Market, lots of opportunities working with eager children at our sponsored school gardens and the Superstar and Trailside Gardens at the Arboretum. Don't forget the delightful McGregor demonstration garden.

There are so many opportunities, but the biggest one of all is the annual Children's Garden Fair at the Arboretum. That's when we enlist dozens of our members to make this event a roaring success. We count on you.

Our Intern Class will complete their training in September. We will eagerly welcome them at our approved projects as they work toward earning their Texas Master Gardener certificates. Interns: Please attend our regular meetings so we can all get to know you. We think yours is a terrific intern class! I hope I have convinced everyone to "fall into gardening" – so get out there and dig!

Sandy

July 2012 Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours	311
Education hours	161
Intern Education hours	436
Contacts	1,186
Media	98,000
Meetings	43
<i>(Hours below are included in Volunteer Hours)</i>	
Arboretum	20
Rose Garden	4
Herb Garden	2
SuperStar Garden	3
Trailside Garden	5
Gardeners Gathering	3
Cactus Garden	4
Downtown Farmers' Market	20
News prep./publishing	13
Speakers Bureau	6
Master Gardener clerical	39
Phone, misc. time - Ag office	45
Cedar Ridge Elementary	14
Woodway Elementary	8
MG new class 2012	12
Plant Sale	36
Hewitt Community Garden	2
Habitat for Humanity	11
Travel	63
BIG Conference	4
McGregor Community Garden	13
Club speakers	3
Urban Coalition	1
Rapaport Academy	1

Interesting numbers from Julia's report:

To Date:

No hours - 16 members

15 and under hours - 31 members

25 and under hours - 20

50 and under hours - 20

75 and under hours - 5

100 and under hours - 3

125 and over - 3

150 and over - 4

Hours are now due by the 25th of each month in order for Julia Khoury to compile reports for Shane McLellan.

Editor's Note: My apology to Julia for being unable to get the month of the hours reports straight. The report runs two months behind the date of *The Latest Dirt*. Last month was the **June** Report and this one (above) is for **July** as it says. Seems easy enough doesn't it? SW

A guide to the MG Library Reference Collection

The MG office library now has 143 titles according to Ila Jean Carothers, office chairman. Of these, 22 are designated reference books and may not be removed from the office, but used for research at the office.

The reference list includes:

Texas Tomato Lover's Handbook, Adams, William
Rodale's Landscape Problem Solver, Ball, Jeff & Liz
Perennial Combinations, Burrell, Colston
The Vegetable Garden, Cotner, Sam
Illustrated Guide to Gardening, Reader's Digest
Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, Dirr, Michael A.
Turfgrasses - Management, Use in Southern Zone, Duple, Richard
The Essential Gardener, Fell, Derek
Texas Trees, Garrett, Howard
Flowering Plants of the World, Heywood, V.H.
Field Guide for Identification of Invasive Plants, Miller, James
How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and Southwest, Nokes, Jill
Home Gardener's Problem Solver, Ortho's
Controlling Turfgrass Pests, Shurtleff, Malcom
Diseases of Trees and Shrubs, Sinclaire, Wayne
Rodale's Garden Insect, Disease & Weed ID Guide, Smith, M. & Carr, A.
Complete Guide to Texas Gardening, Sperry, Neil
Taylor's Master Guide to Gardening, Taylor's
Native Texas Plants Landscaping, Wasowski, Andy & Sally
Heirloom Gardening in the South, Welch, WC & Grant, G
Texas Garden Almanac, Welsh, Doug
Southern Forests

Intern Training Session Schedule

Training for the 2012 Intern Class began June 6. Classes are at the Arboretum from 1 to 5 p.m. unless noted. The schedule includes 68 hours of training. Two sessions will be open to the public; three will be field trips.

9/5 Rainwater, Hydroponics, Hugelkultur, Louie McDaniel & Barry Vokes, field trip

912 - Earthkind, Native & Fire-wise Plants, MCMG specialists in each field

9/19 - Choosing Your Volunteer Projects, MCMG members

August 8, 2012, Meeting Attendance Members: 35

Back, Sandy; Belanger, Bonnie; Belanger, Dick; Bonner, Grady; Buckner, Linda; Carothers, Ila Jean; Clark, Mark; Dauphin, Irene; Dougherty, Kim; FitzGerald, Eva; Folse, Norma; Ford, Kris; Clifford, Penny; Golubski, Brenda; High, Melody; Kelly, Jeanette; Lovecky, Steve; Matthews, Sherry; Moore, Andrea; Newton, Kai; Peterson, Georgia; Plasek, Anne; Powers, Robert; Reinking, Art; Reinking, Carol; Rich, Jennifer; Richardson, Sharon; Romano, Sharon; Schaffer, Janet; Schillaci, Valerie; Schmeltekopf, Judy; Segrest, Dawn; Serface, Jan; Setser, Della; Vokes, Barry.

Interns: Calhoon, Ralph; Kruse, Linda Deal; Magee, Rianna
Guests: Serface, Eddie; DuPart, Vic and friend.

Speakers' Bureau Report - Nelda Cooper

August 9 - Jene Hering spoke to the Lorena AARP about Fall Gardening

Sept. 4 - Melody Fitzgerald will present a new program on Art in the Garden to the Steel Magnolia Garden Club in Lorena

Sept. 19 - Jo VonRosenberg will present Cultivating the Mind and Spirit While Gardening to the Mexia Garden Club

Sept. 20 - Jeanette Kelly will talk to the Morning Glory Garden Club in Lorena about Butterflies

Minutes: August 8, 2012

The membership was called to order by President Sandy Back at 6:50 p.m., guests and interns were welcomed. Vic DuPart and his friend, Elizabeth, along with Eddie Serface, husband of member Jan Serface joined the meeting as guests. Interns attending were Ralph Calhoun, Linda Deal Kruse and Rianna Magee.

The July 2012 meeting minutes were published in *The Latest Dirt* and would stand approved as corrected. The corrections were to insert the correct spellings of the scholarship awardees names.

Barry Vokes distributed the budget and benevolence fund report by email and in *The Latest Dirt*. Barry's oral report was, "We're good."

Upcoming projects were reported upon orally:

On Aug. 16 the team to work on the McGregor Demo Garden will meet at 8 a.m.

On Aug. 17 members will meet at Cedar Ridge Elementary School at 8 a.m. for clean up.

Carol Reinking passed around the signup sheet for working in the MG office on the "Ask a Master Gardener" telephone line.

Jeanette Kelly announced the Children's Garden Fair on Oct. 14 at the Arboretum. She expressed a need for 20 oz. Coke or Dr. Pepper soft drink plastic bottles for converting into watering spouts for birds. She also mentioned that Jan Serface's granddaughters will present a program of Highlands Dancing. Additionally, Rhino Day will be held at the Cameron Park Zoo on Sept. 22 and master gardeners will be making newspaper sombreros for children. Interns will be able to use the hours as volunteer hours since class meetings have concluded.

Ila Jean Carothers attended the state board meeting on Aug. 4. Announced at the meeting was the name change of Texas Agrilife Extension to Texas A & M Agrilife Extension. No timeline was given for signage changes. Our association name-tags will remain the same for the time being. All specialist training certificates will be held and distributed at the state

conference. The 2013 state conference will be held in McAllen in Sept. or Oct. The 2014 conference will be held in the Midland-Odessa Area and hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners. The 2015 conference is planned for the central Texas area. Plans are for a 3 day event at the Mayborn Conference Bldg. in Temple with 6-8 tours. Bell County has asked McLennan County if we, along with Milam County, would be interested in hosting the 2015 meeting in our area. There will be more communication between our organizations and it would be voted upon by the membership. Personnel changes at the state level include Dr. Larry Stein's move to replace Dr. Doug Welsh. Dr. Welsh is now in charge of new gardening organizations.

Locally, Ila Jean announced that a scholarship at TSTC was returned and there is now a \$1500 balance in the fund for future scholarships.

President Sandy Back reminded members of the gardening books available for checkout at the office. A reception for Irene Dauphin will be held after the meeting. Irene and her family are relocating to another area. Sandy thanked her for her loyalty to the organization and the many volunteer hours she completed with a cheery smile and upbeat attitude. Sandy also asked all to remember Nelda Cooper in the recent loss of her stepmother.

President Back adjourned the regular meeting at 7:20. Member and Director of the Arboretum Janet Schaffer then presented the Arboretum docent program which includes a slide show shown to visitors as an overview of the plants and grounds at the Arboretum. After the slideshow is presented, groups are invited to visit specific areas as they wish. Member Barbara Vance assisted with the pictures for the show.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Golubski, recording secretary

McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2012

President - Sandy Back • Vice President - Jeanette Kelly • Secretary - Brenda Golubski
Treasurer - Barry Vokes



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

WANTED:
Scarecrow Designers, Builders
for 2nd Annual Scarecrow Contest
Must be
CHALLENGED TO WIN
THE GOLD FOR MASTER GARDENERS!!
 Skills with PVC pipe very helpful.
 Hours count toward your requirements
 Grab a fellow intern or MG member
 and build our entry.
 Get rules from Arboretum
 It's REALLY FUN

See rules on Page 9

Last year's 1st place
 scarecrows were:
 Deer Warrior
 Buster the Rock Star
 Man On The Hammock

- Entry forms available at Arboretum
- Miss Rose Bush is available to re-new or re-do

For more information, contact
 Sonia Warriner, jwarriner@hot.rr.com

Plug Into These Volunteer "Opps"

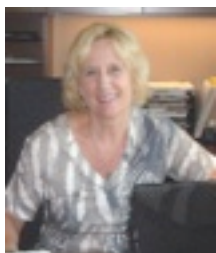
Volunteer Opportunities
 September & October 2012



Date	Activity	Contact
Sept. 8	Downtown Waco Farmers' Market 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Penny Gifford
Sept. 14	Cedar Ridge Elementary work day 8 a.m.	Sandy Back
Sept. 28	Cedar Ridge Day in the Garden 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Sandy Back
Oct. 12	Cedar Ridge Elementary work day 9 a.m.	Sandy Back
Oct. 19	Woodway Elementary, 3rd, 4th grades 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Kim Dougherty
Oct. 26	Cedar Ridge Day in the Garden 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Sandy Back

MCMG Office openings: 9/4, 9/11 - check with Carol Reinking - sscarol.24@gmail.com

from the
cardinal's corner



The staff here at the Carleen Bright Arboretum has certainly enjoyed this year's intern classes as well as the interns. We are looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

Thanks to the classes this summer, we have been inspired.

We are having so much fun "Container Gardening." As I am sure most of you remember, one of my all time favorite gardeners, came to one of your classes and spoke on this very subject. Yes, I am talking about Sandra Killough over at Bonnie's Greenhouse. I don't know how anybody could not be inspired after listening to Sandra. She is so knowledgeable and full of energy. When I am around her, I want to soak up all of the fun facts that so easily pour out of her.

Well, I have been very busy on the weekends visiting flea markets, garage sales and antique stores looking for cool containers to plant fun things in. Succulents have become one of my new best friends! I was in Rockport at a little out of the way "junk store" and found a set of four brass bowls. We put a few holes in the bottom, talked to Sandra about what fun plants to use and "Voila" we now have instant container gardening!

Gardening is so expressive. There is always someone who inspires you, always something new to learn, and always a way be creative! Most importantly, plants don't talk back. It is the perfect hobby!

*Janet Schaffer, Director
Arboretum, Tourism & Recreational Services*



Save the Date:
5th Annual Arboretum & Master Gardener
Children's Garden Fair
Sunday, October 14, 2012
2 to 5 p.m.
See flyer page 8

Sunday
October 14, 2012

Children's Garden Fair

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Carleen Bright Arboretum
9001 Bosque Blvd. Woodway, TX
(254) 399-9284



ALL FREE!!!

Scarecrow Contest



- Birds & Beaks**
- Rock painting**
- Popping corn-on-the-cob**
- Potting a plant**
- Scavenger hunt**
- Sombrero hat**
- Worm composting**
- Identify insects**



Children must be accompanied by adult!



**Music & Entertainment
in the Garden**



*Sponsored by:
McLennan County
Master Gardeners &
Carleen Bright Arboretum*

2012 Scarecrow Contest Guidelines

- Reserve your space by calling Taylor at 254-399-9204 now! Scarecrows may be delivered anytime from October 1-13.
- Scarecrows can be picked up October 15-31. Any scarecrows left after October 31 become property of the City of Woodway.
- Scarecrows will be displayed along the Todd Willis Memorial Nature Trail by reservation of space.
- Judging will take place during the Children's Garden Fair (October 14). There will be a pre-selected group of judges and winners will be announced before 5:00 p.m. at the Fair. Winners will be awarded a blue ribbon for each of the following categories:
 - Best in Show
 - Most Creative
 - Most Lifelike
- All scarecrows must be no shorter than 4ft. and no taller than 8ft.
- Scarecrows must be made of durable materials and held together in such a way as to withstand potential wind, rain, and other outdoor elements.
- **The Carleen Bright Arboretum and the City of Woodway are not responsible for any damage to the scarecrows or theft of scarecrows and/or signage.**
- The scarecrows must be child and family friendly - no blood or gore, please.
- You are allowed to make and place a sign in front of your scarecrow saying who created it. No profanity or vulgar language is allowed.
- Only the first 30 entries will be accepted, so hurry and reserve your spot today!
(254) 399-9204