

The Latest Dirt

October 2012

McLennan County Master Gardener Association

She was hooked as soon as she learned Master Gardeners was for those who love gardening *and* volunteering. Add to that a professional career in land use planning, a degree in park administration and natural skills with organizational coordination, and you have **Barbara Vance – a founding member of our McLennan County Master Gardeners.**

Of the original 16 people in that 1996 class, seven are still active and all have made significant contributions through their skills in horticulture and landscape design. They are Mark Barnett, Ila Jean Carothers, Susan Crawford, Jean Cunningham, Rachelle and Randy Kemp and Barbara. She is quick to say she was the last person in the class to complete the required volunteer hours.

She quickly made up for the slow start. Some of us met her as a coordinator with the 2008 and 2012 intern classes. She was president in 2008 and has also filled the other executive offices. Her vision and leadership have contributed to our highly visible gardens at the Arboretum - the Superstar garden developed in '04 and the Trailside Garden finished in '09.

"It's wonderful to have gardens like these," she explained. "They are places to educate people about the variety of beautiful plants that do well here. They represent my kind of gardening: hard work to get them established, but then relatively easy to maintain."



These gardens also link MCMG to the community through the Arboretum. She named the Children's Garden Fair coming up this month as one of our most successful projects. In just four years attendance jumped to 1000 kids and adults who came to have fun and enjoy learning about worms, bees, butterflies, plant growth, water conservation and a potpourri of other delightful activities on a Sunday afternoon.



A strong advocate for education, Barbara took two specialist training classes from Texas A&M, Firewise Landscaping and Earthkind Roses, and now shares this knowledge through talks to other groups with our speakers' bureau.

Those of us who were just getting started with MCMG probably didn't grasp the entire significance of the development of Trailside. The original Arboretum design was by Bernard Ott, an architect, who designed plans for four of the 16 acres. He came back and added Trailside to include pocket gardens and walking paths to the nature trails behind Whitehall Center.

Barbara coordinated the project. Funds to build Trailside were donated by Anita and Jerry Dawson in memory of their fathers. Rachelle Kemp and Jean Cunningham designed the beds. Tad Ledbetter designed and installed the stone fountain and Eva FitzGerald donated the teak observation bench in memory of her mother.

In May 2011 Barbara was a guide for the grand opening of Trailside side – "An Evening in the Garden."

Next MG Meeting
Wednesday, October 10, 2012
at the Carleen Bright Arboretum
Noon
Program: Job Fair/MG projects

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from
Sandy Back
to you



Do you remember when you were a child and your mother told you that if you didn't follow certain rules, there would be consequences to follow? Well, I recently felt this way when I noticed my grass kept turning more and more brown no matter the amount of water and fertilizer I applied. I am certainly not implying here that Della Setser looks or acts like my mother, but I firmly remember her reminding us at a meeting this past summer that it was time to treat for grub worms in our area. My thought at that time was that I needed to think about that, but didn't take it too seriously. Do I hear her saying, "I told you so?"

After trying everything else and still brown areas in my lawn, I decided to get down on my hands and knees (for more than one reason!) and investigate. Sure enough, I could pull the grass right up as if it had no roots at all. Now, if you only knew how OCD I am about my grass, you would begin to understand the panic I was having. Thank goodness, there were only three small areas of my lawn affected. I pulled up all the dead grass and began to dig down in the dirt. There were the disgusting, nasty little varmints just as fat and happy as ever! YUCK! I pulled out everyone I could find and had a stomping party on the driveway. I feel quite sure the neighbors were either laughing or ready to call the authorities. Knowing I had only eased my stress level by the act of stomping, I also knew I had certainly not solved the problem. After removing the dead grass, I applied a Take All grub control product and watered it in deeply. I then put out some top soil on the bare areas while crossing my fingers that the healthy grass around the area will fill in.

White grubs are the larvae of beetles such as the common June beetle. The adults emerge from the soil in the spring to mate and lay eggs. The eggs hatch in about two weeks and the small white grubs

August 2012 Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours	340
Education hours	141
Intern Education hours	573
Contacts	813
Media	67,058
Meetings	35
<i>(Hours below are included in Volunteer Hours)</i>	
Arboretum	17
<i>SuperStar Garden</i>	3
<i>Trailside Garden</i>	14
News prep./publishing	13
Master Gardner clerical	74
Phone, misc. time - Ag office	49
Cedar Ridge Elementary	15
Woodway Elementary	2
MG new class 2012	78
McGregor Community Garden	14
Urban Coalition	1
MHMR	2
HOT Autism Network	7
Travel	34

Note: Julia's report says 22 members reported their hours.

Seven member's hours represented 2/3 of the total volunteer hours.

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

feed on grass roots. In Texas, most damage from the white grub occurs from mid-summer to early fall. The grubs are white with three pairs of legs and as they feed in colonies, they can destroy the root system of your lawn.

In the future I will take preventive measures rather than reactive ones. In an effort to help you avoid having a stomping party on your driveway, here are some grub guidelines for next year. The TAMU web site suggests applying grub control in mid-June to July. Note to self: apply control next year in a timely manner and listen when your fellow members (yes, Della) give you good advice!

Sandy

(Continued from page 1)

**Barbara Vance –
planner, coordinator**

In 2006 she helped coordinate a very successful seminar on EarthKind gardening at TSTC. One hundred people paid \$100 to attend. Another, on Superstar plants at the Arboretum, had people standing in line for the no-fee educational program.

Barbara and her husband Bill (a retired judge from the 10th Court of Appeals) moved here from Bryan in 1994. She had retired as a regional planner with the Council of Governments in Brazos County and was active in several community projects there.

She is a high-energy person who loves adventure. In her 30's she decided to learn to fly, and was a pilot for 18 years earning a commercial license. Many trips from Waco to a vacation home in New Mexico were done in her twin engine Piper Seneca. She is also a certified scuba diver.

These days the couple drives, sometimes to see the three kids and three grandchildren, but often just exploring. On a trip to Colorado in a few days Barbara hopes to talk friends into joining her on a zip lining adventure. SW



A must for all Texas Veggie Growers

Barbara reports The Vegetable Book by Dr. Sam Cotner has just been reprinted and is available at Texas Gardener Magazine offices, 10566 Rivercrossing, Waco, TX. 76712. Cost is \$28.77. Price is \$34.02 if they ship.



I expect to have a large quantity of **annual cardinal vine seeds (climber Ipomoea multifida)** to share this fall. I planted a few seeds about five years ago and will have them forever. But they climb a chain link fence (and anything in their way) really fast in late summer. The hummingbirds love them.

This year I didn't carefully prune out all the little seedlings and just let them grow. Wow. They are fragile little vines that are on Pinkie roses, Pride of Barbados, and cross vines.

After reading Melody Fitzgerald's column this month I am off to buy Sweet Pea seeds. I love those in spring. SW

**September 13, 2012, Meeting Attendance
Members: 42 Interns: 4 Guests: 1**

Back, Sandy; Barnett, Mark; Burchfield, Linda; Burleson, Sandy; Carothers, Ila Jean, Clark, Mark; Crawford, Susan; Jean Cunningham; Emily Davidson; Lynn DeMuyneck; Dougherty, Kim; FitzGerald, Eva; Ford, Kris; Foulks, Xan; GTolubski, Brenda; Henson, Margaret; Kelly, Jeanette; Kinder, Missy; Mabry, Cindy; Matthews, Sherry; McDaniel, Louie; Mersinger, Barbara; Milam, Elizabeth; Milnor, Gerry; Moore, Andrea; Moore, Candace; Moore, Linda; Peterson, Georgia, Plasek, Anne; Powers, Robert; Prause, James; Quicksall, Doug; Richardson, Sharon; Romano, Sharon; Schaffer, Janet; Schmeltekopf, Judy;; Serface, Jan; Vokes, Barry; vonRosenberg, Jo; Waldrop, Melba; Warriner, Sonia; Wood, Carol

Speakers' Bureau Report - Nelda Cooper

Sept. 4 - Melody Fitzgerald presented her new program on Art in the Garden to the Steel Magnolia Garden Club in Lorena; 20 members

Sept. 5 - Rainwater Harvesting Field Trip to Barry Vokes's and Louie McDaniel's ranch; 27 interns, several MG members

Sept. 11 - Ila Jean Carothers spoke to the Central Texas Deaf Association about Fall Gardening; 14 attended

Sept. 12 - Mark Barnett, Susan Crawford, Eva FitzGerald and Sherry Matthews spoke to the intern class; 27 interns, several MG members

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

Sept. 20 - Jeanette Kelly spoke to the Morning Glory Garden Club in Lorena about Butterflies 12 members

Minutes: September 13, 2012 Whitehall Center, Carleen Bright Arboretum

President Sandy Back called the regular meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. Guests and interns were welcomed. Tina Traynor, sister of Master Gardener Missy Kinder, came as a guest. She has recently moved into the Waco area from Galveston. Interns attending were Marietta Diehl, Peggy Holcomb, Monika Marks and Ramona Watson.

The August 2012 meeting minutes were published in *The Latest Dirt* and stand approved as published.

Barry Vokes distributed the budget and benevolence fund report by email and in The Latest Dirt.

Carol Wood reported from the nominating committee presenting the slate of proposed officer's names for 2013.

Those nominated are President, Sandy Back; Vice-President, Jeanette Kelly; Secretary, Elizabeth Milam; and Treasurer, Sherry Matthews. The membership will vote at the regular meeting in November.

Carol Wood also requested articles for the Waco Tribune-Herald. She is seeking a committee to develop or seek writers for monthly articles for a six month period and then repeat the cycle. The article for October is prepared. She suggested anyone willing to serve on the committee or as an editor to email her to express his/her interest.

Sherry Matthews requested mentors to contact their interns and discuss projects or invite them to visit a project.

Sandy Back passed on the message from Jim Seale to inform members of a composting class available at the First Methodist Church of Hewitt on Sept. 22.

Upcoming projects were reported on the back of the agenda.

Ila Jean Carothers passed around the signup sheet for working in the MG office on the "Ask a Master Gardener" telephone line. After the interns complete their class hours they are then invited to share an afternoon in the office with a master gardener.

Jeanette Kelly announced the Children's Garden Fair on Oct. 14 at the Arboretum and thanked the membership for their kind thoughts and words while her father is recovering from an ill-

ness. Also, Rhino Day will be held at the Cameron Park Zoo on Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. 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. Signup sheets were circulated for both events.

Sandy Back announced the executive committee voted not to co-sponsor the 2015 state conference with Bell County. County agent Shane McLellan feels the club is able to sponsor on our own since our membership size is significant and Waco and its metropolitan area has a lot to offer.

Members were told by the president that the October meeting will be much like a "Job Fair". Our projects will be on display and members will have an opportunity to be a part of the fun activities taking place. All projects will be featured and members will have a chance to sign up for participation.

Membership requirements were reviewed as part of reading the report by Julia Khoury of the club's achievements so far this year. Everyone is encouraged to get their education and volunteer hours and meeting attendance completed in the last quarter of the year.

Needs and concerns for individual members were reviewed by the president and each was wished the best on behalf of the membership.

President Back adjourned the regular meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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



thirtysomething –
The Intern Class of 2012 finished their final training day on Sept. 19 and celebrated with a congratulatory cake.

Plug Into These Volunteer “Opps”

Volunteer Opportunities
 October and November 2012



Date	Activity	Contact
Oct. 5	Trailside Gardens & Texas Superstars Joint workday to tidy gardens 8 a.m.	Emily Davidson, Missy Kinder
Oct. 12	Cedar Ridge Elementary work day 9 a.m.	Sandy Back
Oct. 14	Children’s Garden Fair 2 -n 5 p.m. - set-up earlier	Jeanette Kelly, Judy Schmeltekopf
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
Nov. 9	Cedar Ridge Elementary workday 9 a.m.	Sandy Back
Nov. 16	Woodway Elementary Gardening/harvesting 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Kim Dougherty

from the
cardinal's corner

Janet Schaffer, Director
Arboretum, Tourism & Recreational Services

Fall officially began on September 22 at 9:49 a.m. CST, and what a beautiful day it was. The Crape Myrtles have begun losing their leaves; the animals are scurrying around in the cool mornings; and the plants look as though they are happy to have survived another Texas summer.

With autumn comes a flurry of activity at the Arboretum! So please keep these dates in mind:

October 6 from 9:00 a.m. - noon - Carleen Bright Arboretum Work Day. We want the gardens to look spectacular for the Children's Garden Fair. We have five pallets of mulch to spread and 148 flats of flowers that will need to be planted. This is a great activity because Bluebonnet Hospice is always wonderful about getting us volunteers to help. We usually have approximately 50 Baylor medical students who come out and volunteer their time mulching and planting.

However, I need some leaders to give them direction. I would love to have Master Gardeners and Interns come out to work with these students. If you are interested, I would love to talk to you beforehand so I can assign you a garden and let you know what we hope to accomplish



in each bed. Please call me at 399-9204. These hours have been approved as volunteer hours.

October 14 - Children's Garden Fair. If you have not worked one of the Children's Garden Fairs before you are in for a treat. This is an educational event the children love. Don't forget, if you

would like to enter the scarecrow contest, let us know. Just email tfirst@woodwaymail.org and Taylor will send you a copy of the rules.

October 18 at 6:00 p.m.- We will have a **Wine & Cheese Reception** and ribbon cutting for the new Pavilion. We would love for all of you to attend!

On behalf of the Carleen Bright Arboretum, I would like to congratulate all of the interns and welcome them to the family!

Photo Above: JoAnn Clafferty, Merle Chapman, Ila Jean Carothers and Marilyn Johnson show propagation techniques at the 2011 Children's Garden Fair.

**Don't Forget the
5th Annual Arboretum & Master Gardener
Children's Garden Fair
Sunday, October 14, 2012
2 to 5 p.m.**

Waco Today - Sept. 27 - features a beautiful photo article about the new Arboretum Pavilion which will be celebrated with an open house on October 18, 2012. In March 2010, I wrote in *The Latest Dirt* "Designers put dreams on paper as garden steps into second decade." About the first draft of the master plan I said, "Their plan wove together the existing natural elements, structures and gardens into a public botanical setting that has the potential to become a major shining star for Waco. A superbly enhanced and more user friendly shining star." Part of the dream is here and isn't it something?
Sonia Warriner

About the importance of nomenclature: botanical names

There are many common names for plants that usually describe some conspicuous characteristic of the plant, and this can be very confusing if you are trying to locate a particular plant. There is an International Code of Nomenclature for plant names using Latin and these names, while being somewhat difficult to pronounce and even more difficult to remember, are not misleading.

Latin was the common language in Europe and plant taxonomy had its origins in Europe. This means that English speaking people can determine what species grow in China, England or any other country. Every scientific name should have words either in Latin or follow Latin grammar. It may be difficult to recognize a scientific name if it is spoken by someone from another country, but when you see it written out, you can recognize the plant. You may need to change your pronunciation if you are in another part of the world.

The first attempt to develop an international agreement towards an international code was in Paris in 1867. The first edition of Linnaeus' Species Plantarum that was published in 1752 was accepted as the starting point of botanical nomenclature. A group of US botanists met in Rochester, New York in 1892 and presented some additions and modifications, but taxonomists finally agreed in 1930 on an International Code of Botanical Nomenclature. This code is revised every six years. The process to make any changes is a very detailed, tedious procedure and requires an expert in nomenclature. Changes to the Code undergo close scrutiny by a committee before being voted on. The most recent is the Vienna Code, adopted in 2005.

Plants have always been of interest to civilization because they are essential to our survival; they have been used for food and medicine. When explorers discovered other parts of the world and new plants, it was apparent that some

kind of system should be put in place to organize the naming of them. Several plants bear a species patronym (a name with the addition of a prefix or suffix of the botanist's name) to honor the botanist's contributions of plants they collected that were previously undescribed.

Carl Linnaeus was a naturalist from Sweden, sometimes known as the "father of botany." He started modern botanical nomenclature in 1753 with his Linnaeus' Species Plantarum. His system for naming, ranking and classifying plants is still in use today. His ideas on classification have influenced generations of biologists during and after his lifetime. He had a passion for arrangement or system and brought order into the study of plants. Order was really needed when the expansion of trade had begun to bring strange and numerous plants from many different parts of the world. Huge numbers of plants were being brought back to Europe from Asia, Africa and the Americas. He is responsible for setting forth the principles for defining genera and species, and a uniform use of specific names. Linnaeus's classifications and nomenclature, sometimes modified, have remained standard for over 200 years. Linnaeus's process of classification for plants is by Division, Class, Order, Family, Tribe, Genus, Species and Variety. One website that is very helpful in locating botanical names is www.davesgarden.com this website will identify the Family, Genus and Species and also, several common names. Another source is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at www.wildflower.org/plants

A good example for confusion using a common name is Bluebell. The USDA Plants database lists 18 different species using Bluebell as part of their common name. It is very important to know the botanical name for a plant if you are trying to locate a plant for your garden, so the botanical name should always be first when searching for that special plant.



Interns and MG members turn out to finish the Keyhole Garden trial project at Barry and Louie's ranch on Sept. 5 - a very hot day.

Cardboard, old phone books and assorted other "fillings" are stirred in to the brick circle to begin the composting process of creating nutritious soil in a small space.