



June 2013 Master Gardener Meeting

The June MG meeting will be held at noon at the Arboretum on June 12th. 1 hour education credit for class MHMR Garden by B. L. Barnes

Louie McDaniel, Hard-Working and Resourceful Master Gardener



Whenever there is an MCMG project to be done, Louie McDaniel invariably gets the call, and for good reason. Louie is one of our hardest-working, most resourceful MCMG members. That's why he was recently awarded by County Agent Shane McLellan the Outstanding Volunteer Award for his

service to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Among his many ongoing MCMG volunteer projects, Louie is a member of the "Cedar Ridge Gang" – a group of MCMG members who maintain the school garden at Cedar Ridge Elementary and conduct the monthly "Green Classroom" sessions for the children who attend Cedar Ridge. Designed by current president Sandy Back in 2006, it is a delightful garden. Louie was instrumental in its construction, particularly the raised vegetable beds.

A Waco native, Louie grew up on his family's farm near Crawford and attended Crawford public schools. In 1967 Louie enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he rose to the rank of Sergeant. Louie served four years in the Marines, including two 13-month Vietnam tours. He has the scars to prove it, for Louie is a 100% disabled veteran. You see, he was seriously wounded in combat. Evacuated from the war zone on the *U.S.S. Sanctuary* (AH-17) Navy hospital ship, he was transferred to Guam for a time and then to Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego for convalescence. Due to his wounds, Louie underwent a tracheotomy and was unable to speak for about a year. This is why he speaks rather softly these days.

On his first Vietnam tour, Louie was a radio operator, and on his second tour he was a platoon sergeant. Louie still has to deal with shrapnel wounds, for which he was awarded the Purple Heart medal. Little bits and pieces of metal occasionally and annoyingly work their way to the surface.

Growing up on the family farm with his two brothers, Louie learned to be resourceful. There was not a lot of money, so the brothers learned to make do with whatever materials were at hand. All three McDaniel brothers are resourceful and hard-working. One brother still runs the family farm.

Louie and his wife Hilary got married in 2005. Hilary is an excellent gardener and soon after they married, Louie joined the MCMG Intern Class of 2006. Thanks in large part to Louie's tireless efforts, aided by Hilary's



creativity, the two of them created an oasis of beauty and serenity in their garden at Childress Creek Ranch. A visitor wants to say "Ahhh" upon entering the garden. Hilary raises exotic chickens and guinea hens. After losing several hens to hawks, Louie constructed a spacious, secure "run" for the birds near their home.

Not surprisingly, Louie applied himself diligently to mastering the art and science of gardening. For example, within MCMG he has by far the largest number of Texas Master Gardener specialty certificates, including Earth-Kind, Greenhouse, Junior Master Gardener, Oak Wilt, Propagation and Rainwater Harvesting. That is six specialist

certificates. Nobody else within MCMG has more than three.

Louie finds gardening to be good therapy and it takes his



mind off the war injuries, with which he will always have to deal. He helped build two keyhole gardens and recently constructed two by himself, with a third one underway. He is also expert in construction of raised garden beds and is knowledgeable about hugelkultur. He rigged up a practical and efficient drip irrigation system for the garden he shares with Hilary and he is expert in rainwater harvesting. Louie is also pretty good with solar panels and has conducted experiments with hydroponics and aquaponics. The current project is a large, 30' X 60' hoop type greenhouse.

A few years ago Hilary found an old wooden barn that was for sale and purchased the wood for a good price. It turned out to be heartwood, the kind that's expensive and hard to find in these days of dimensional lumber. Today, if you buy a 2" X 4" stud, it measures considerably less than 2" X 4". Hilary, always a bargain-hunter, also found some old but sound stained glass windows at a garage sale, and she purchased and stored them for several years. Louie turned those materials into an utterly charming and practical potting shed and separate garden tool shed. He also built two chicken coops and a feed storage shed using available materials as much as possible. As mentioned previously, Louie is resourceful. It is no surprise that, when MCMG has a project, Louie is among the first to be called upon.

from *Sandy Back*

Seeds from Sandy

Master gardeners learn from each other. Eva and Jim FitzGerald hosted our May meeting at their lovely place. We admired the



beauty of their gardens and grounds. I wandered to the pond and spotted the sign: "Feed the Fish" – which I did. Enormous blue catfish rose to gobble the pellets. How delightful!

The pebbled dry creek bed and carefully labeled plants made me marvel at the time and effort required to create such beauty. Eva's artful use of drought tolerant plants reminds us what we should teach others. Thanks to Eva and Jim. It was wonderful. It is tough living up to the standards they have established.



On May 11 we toured the gardens at Childress Creek Ranch (Barry and Louie's place), along with Jean Cunningham's pond and garden and then Judy Schmeltekopf's place. We enjoyed good weather.



Our first stop was Childress Creek Ranch. Barry gave a short talk and demo about raised garden beds, keyhole gardens and hugelkultur. We also viewed Barry's recent garden addition – several winding pathways through a newly established cactus and succulent garden. Then we saw Hilary and Louie's garden – it's truly a delight! Louie and

Barry are among our more interesting members because they experiment and they let us know what seems to work and what does not. Within MCMG they seem to be on the cutting edge of garden experimenting. Barry and Louie have inspired me to think about building a keyhole garden, but I'm still in the thinking stage, for there is some serious work involved in building one! I'm impressed that an established keyhole garden does not require much bending over to tend. That has my attention.

Hilary and Louie use available materials creatively. The two of them work together well on garden projects. There

is an old Radio Flyer wagon (remember those?) filled with plants. There is also an old wheelbarrow filled with plants. Hilary showed us some beautiful rose specimens. The two of them have exotic chickens and we got to see and pet some of them. It is but a short walk from Barry's garden over to Louie and Hilary's place.



The group then made the quick trip across the road to Jean Cunningham's place. Jean is a charter member of MCMG, having been part of the original 1996 intern class. She has mastered landscape design, pond design and construction. We stopped at Jean's place for a

quick tour and enjoyed our lunch in her tranquil and serene back garden overlooking Childress Creek. Jean treated us to a short, informative presentation about installation and maintenance of a backyard pond. From Jean we learned that careful attention must be given to balancing the chemicals and bacteria in order for the pond to thrive. Jean is both knowledgeable and energetic!

Our final stop was at Judy Schmeltekopf's home just up the road from Jean's place. Judy planned for us a delightful self-guided tour of perennials and drought tolerant plants offering delightful beauty to any Central Texas landscape. She is such a fount of knowledge and is always willing to share her time and talent. Judy is the epitome of the gracious Southern lady. One can visualize stopping by unannounced most any day for tea, cookies and pleasant conversation. Judy has invested much of herself in her garden and grounds. Self-guided tours are great fun because we can stop and linger while others move along if so inclined.

Our members inspire me to be a better and more diligent gardener. I value greatly the time and knowledge that our members are so readily willing to share.

Go Out and Dig,
Sandy

Tips from Master Gardeners for Master Gardeners

Favorite Tools



Barbara Vance has a favorite garden tool she recommends called a Trake. The trowel end is narrow, so, in addition to regular trowel

duties, it can be used to dig weeds, for seed furrows, and the long handle is helpful. Having a rake on the opposite end of the trowel helps avoid carrying two tools, and she can move mulch aside, apply fertilizer with trowel end, and rake it around, then spread mulch back. It's well-made, heavy-duty, and ergonomic. Terrific!

May 2013 Speaker's Report

- April 25 - Ila Jean Carothers did a Propagation Training Class for the Limestone County Master Gardeners in Groesbeck, Texas. Thirteen members attended.
- May 11- Jeanette Kelly & Grady Bonner presented a program on Host & Nectar Plants for Butterfly Gardens at the Waco Wetlands.
- May 13 - Jeanette Kelly & Grady Bonner spoke again on Host & Nectar Plants for Butterfly Gardens to the Hillsboro Garden Club. Eighteen members were present.

Newest Members



Congratulations to our newest members, Jane Dossey, Judy Haller, Taddie Kelly, Denise Kinnison, Claudia McLatcher, Rita Self, Betty Tawwater and Cathy Valentine. These eight all received their certificates at the evening MG Meeting at Eva FitzGerald's house.

HOT UGC Training Farm



The Heart of Texas Urban Gardening Coalition (UGC) – which has noble ambitions and is doing good work – now has a Training Farm. MCMG partners with

UGC and some UGC projects qualify for volunteer credit. UGC was founded in 2005 as Back to the Earth Gardening Coalition. Founders included McLennan County Hunger Coalition, World Hunger Relief, Inc. and East Waco residents. The current name was adopted later. It is a §501(c)(3) non-profit organization, as is the Texas Master Gardener Association, of which MCMG is a part. The Training Farm is located on Chestnut Street, near the original Lipsitz recycling facility. The site is near the old Waco Farmers Market, which operated from the early 1900s through the 1980s. The 2.5 acres is mostly sandy, fertile river-bottom soil. It's a "greenfield" site with no known prior construction history (that would make it a "brownfield" site).

The Training Farm was funded by a generous private grant that covered the cost of leasing the land for five years. The Cooper Foundation provided funds for tools and supplies for the initial year of operation. Junior League of Waco took on the herb garden as their spring project.

The Training Farm ribbon-cutting and ground-breaking ceremony took place July 9, 2012. About 300 incoming students from Baylor Line Camp Service Project began building garden beds, pulling weeds and removing rocks. MCMG member Mary Lou Trice – an active UGC participant – helped design the drip irrigation system. The Training Farm's purpose is giving hands-on education and training to interested parties in the community. A recent development is the intern program, in which five local high school youth (one each from five schools) will learn about farming, gardening and natural science. The intern program will teach financial literacy plus marketing and managing an agricultural micro-business. Training Farm produce sold at the Waco Downtown Farmers Market should aid in public access to healthy, locally grown food.

The five interns will learn a unique skill set, including communication, critical thinking, teamwork and financial reasoning. These skills are needed to prosper in



today's challenging workplace. UGC Executive Director Bethel Erickson-Bruce explains that, when an especially promising intern completes the program, the long-term vision is providing assistance to help the student establish a community garden or other agriculture-based enterprise. More people these days are aware that locally produced food is more likely to be grown using organic methods (whether certified organic or not). A growing population needs supermarket food, much of which is grown in places like California and Florida and trucked to local supermarkets (burning tons of fuel in the process). Lots of chemicals are commonly used in the process of growing that good looking produce found in supermarkets. So-called "Locavores" – whose numbers are rapidly growing – try to purchase food grown within 100 or so miles of home. Buying local food allows the customer to develop a relationship with the producer of the food. Both locally grown and supermarket food are needed.

The Training Farm is still in its infancy. Currently, the cold crop season is ending, but some cabbages, carrots, beets, parsnips, kale, Swiss chard and collard greens are still in the ground. Heirloom varieties of tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, winter & summer squash and melons are planted, with companion flowers such



as bachelor buttons, poppies, marigolds and zinnias, intended to attract pollinators. The herb garden features parsley, five different mint varieties, sage, cilantro, lemon balm and lemon verbena. There are three peach trees, one plum and one pear tree.

Future Training Farm plans include framed raised beds, a keyhole garden or two, herb spiral, potato towers – and possibly more. These demonstration projects will show how easy it can be to grow food in small spaces.

Bethel began her present journey in 2009, when she moved to World Hunger Relief Farm to become their urban gardening intern. Later she joined AmeriCorps/VISTA as part of the McLennan County Hunger Coalition. One thing led to another. Bethel is tireless, talented and resourceful. You should get to know her and husband Jonathan. The two of them married under an arbor at World Hunger Relief Farm and a little one is due soon.

Stop by the Training Farm to check out what is going on there. It's easy to find. Go east on Waco Drive and cross the Brazos River. Turn right on Dallas Street and right on Chestnut, which ends at the Training Farm. Look around and see for yourself what has already been accomplished. There is much more to do, but it's a great start!

Educational Opportunities

Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course III – September 23-24, 2013, Christ United Methodist Church, 4201 State Highway 6, College Station, Texas 77845. (979) 690-4673

Sponsored by the Texas Garden Clubs, Incorporated & Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M University Landscape Design Course III will feature some of the best and most popular instructors from the past as well as an outstanding featured speaker for our “outside” topic.

Master Gardeners who complete a course may apply to their chapters for up to 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education in their county.

Registration materials may be downloaded from: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSep13/> or requested from Mrs. Karin Wallace, Department of Extension Horticulture, 225 HFSB TAMU MS 2134, College Station, TX 77843- 2134, by telephone (979) 845-8565 or by e-mail at KMWallace@ag.tamu.edu. Registration for the course will be \$125 (including two lunches).

Ceremony Recognizes MCMG Contribution

On May 16 the MHMR Day Habilitation Facility held a celebration honoring the accomplishment of harvesting one ton of fresh produce from the raised bed gardens at their facility at 312 S. 4th St. The "We Care" garden was built

a couple of years ago with a sizeable grant awarded to the ALCOA Fastening Systems organization and numerous other companies that



supplied donated materials. The McLennan Co. Master Gardeners helped with the planning, implementing and planting of the gardens and have continued to assist with the project. The harvested produce is donated to the local food banks.

Leo Gaines presented a plaque of appreciation to the MCMG for their dedication and involvement in the project. B.L. Barnes who is our primary contact fractured his leg earlier that week and remained in his car nearby during the ceremony. Ila Jean Carothers who was involved in the initial planning of the gardens received the award for MCMG.

Volunteer Opportunities June 2013

June 7	Texas Superstar Bed workday 8:00am	Jennifer Rich
June 8	Downtown Waco Farmers' Market 8-8:30	Penny Gifford

	set up, 1pm depart	
June 11	Cedar Ridge Elementary tidy- up, 8am	Sandy Back

McLennan County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting May 8, 2013

Held at the Home of Eva FitzGerald with her Herbs & Native Texas Plants Gardens

1 Hour Education Credit Automatic Tonight Only for Those in Attendance

Minutes of the Meeting:

The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Back at 6:45 p.m. and Eva FitzGerald and her husband were thanked for their gracious hospitality in allowing us to have the Master Gardener May meeting at their home and gardens. The spouses of several members and Interns attended the meeting and they were warmly thanked for their presence.

Minutes from the April meeting were approved as read in The Latest Dirt newsletter, and the Treasurer's Report was emailed to everyone prior to the meeting. Sherry Matthews, treasurer, addressed the group to add that Andrea Moore's husband had single-handedly sold \$400.00 worth of the MCMG new cookbooks.

Barbara Mesinger passed around a sign-up sheet for those who wanted to work a shift at the up-coming Master Gardener Plant Sale on May 18. She reminded everyone again that they needed to bring their plants at 7:30 a.m. on the day of the sale in clean pots with the price and name of each plant clearly marked.

Della Setser called our attention to the many boxes of cookbooks she had brought with her so that after the meeting everyone could pick up and pay for the books they had ordered, or just purchase another one. Sandy Back emphasized how appreciative we all are for the efforts of the Cookbook committee and Della.

Sandy talked to us about how helpful it would be to have a pictorial directory so that each of us could match names to faces in our Master Gardener group. This is a gift that Carol

Wood gave us in the past and has generously agreed to do for us again. So if Carol asks to take a photo of you in the near future, please make yourself available and all of us will benefit.

Nelda Cooper and Ila Jean Carothers are heading up a new Education Committee and one of the ideas that is being considered is teaching people who don't have a place to garden how to grow things in buckets. More about this idea will be brought up again in the future.

Carol Reinking passed around a sheet of paper for people to sign-up to answer phones in June at the Extension Office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Recently we marked the passing of Sandra Bigham's mother and noted that those wishing to send her cards should send them to the Extension Office.

In addition we were reminded that when the outer doors of the Extension Office are locked during the middle of the day it is because the staff is having their lunch break. We have been asked to please respect that time as theirs and not interrupt.

Several education opportunities will be available for those who need the hours throughout the year. They include the Education Saturday on May 11, beginning at Barry and Louie's ranch, then moving on to Jean Cunningham's and finishing at Judy Schmeltkopf's. Various specialist training opportunities are available, and there are education programs following our monthly meetings. Also there is the State Conference in McAllen, October 17 – 19.

Della Setser wanted everyone to know about the May 18 ceremony dedicating a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the McGregor Garden on Hwy 84. This marker can only be put on a State Highway and its purpose is to honor all veterans. Everyone is encouraged to take the time to go see this marker when they can for its significance to veterans and for the added stature it brings to the McGregor Garden.

Finally, this month's meeting was highlighted by the handing out of Master Gardener Certificates to 8 people. They are: Jane Dossey, Judy Haller, Taddie Kelly, Denise Kinnison, Claudia McLatcher, Rita Self, Betty Tawwater and Cathy Valentine. Congratulations!

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. and people were asked to take turns eating and touring Eva's gardens.

MCMG Attendance APRIL 10, 2013

Interns in attendance at the meeting:

Calhoon, Ralph; Daily, Lisa; Dailey, Scott; Harmon, Joan; Krzywonski, Cynthia; Magee, Rianna

Members in attendance at the meeting:

Back, Sandy; Belanger, Bonnie; Belanger, Dick; Burluson, Sandy; Burr, Tom; Carothers, Ila Jean; Clafferty, Joann; Cole, Catherine; Cooper, Nelda; Creech, Robert; Daniel, David; Dawson, Anita; Demuynck, Lynn; Diehl, Marietta; Dillard, Archie; Dillard, Pat; Dossey, Jane; FitzGerald, Eva; Fitzgerald, Melody; Ford, Kris; Geletzke, Cindy; Golubski, Brenda; Hahn, Judy; Haller, Judy; Henson, Margaret; Henson, Sherry; High, Melody; Holcomb, Peggy; Hughes, Carolyn; Kelly, Jeanette; Kelly, Taddie; Khoury, Julia; Kinnison, Denise; Kruse, Linda Deal; Lindsey, Donna; Mabry, Cindy; Marlin, Patricia; Matthews, Sherry; Mcdaniel, Louie; Mclatcher, Claudia; Mersinger, Barbara; Milam, Elizabeth; Moore, Andrea; Peterson, Georgia; Plasek, Anne; Powers, Robert; Prather, Sherry; Reinking, Art; Reinking, Carol; Richardson, Sharon; Schmeltekopf, Judy; Seale, James Jr; Self, Rita; Serface, Jan; Setser, Della; Tawwater, Betty; Valentine, Catherine; Vance, Barbara; Vokes, Barry; Vonrosenberg, Jo

Visitor: Anita March (transferring)

• Plant Sale	189.25
SPEAKER'S BUREAU	31.5
DOWNTOWN FARMER'S MARKET	15.5
MCGREGOR DEMONSTRATION GARDEN	14
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	2
POT RECYCLING	8
OTHER VOLUNTEER PROJECTS	99.1

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McGregor Demonstration Garden



From Eva FitzGerald's garden

HOURS FOR THE MCLENNAN CO. MASTER GARDENERS May 2013

VOLUNTEER HOURS	558.25
EDUCATION HOURS	136
(The hours listed below are included in the above totals.)	
ARBORETUM	33.5
• Trailside Garden	12.5
• Superstar Bed	18.5
SCHOOLS:	35.5
• Cedar Ridge Elementary	34
• Woodway Elementary	1.5
MCMG:	324.75
• MCMG Clerical	90.9
• Ask A Master Gardener Telephone Line	23.5
• Cookbook	8
• News Publishing	12

Master Gardeners' About Town



Hard at Work in the Superstar bed.



Superstar bed after planting.

At the Farmers' Market:



Making paper pots and planting flower seed for Mother's Day at Farmers Market



McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2013

President - Sandy Back • Vice President - Jeanette Kelly • Secretary - Elizabeth Milam

Treasurer - Sherry Matthews

AgriLife Sponsor - Shane McLellan, County Agent

Our web site: www.mclennanmastergardeners.org

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

