



July 2013 Master Gardener Meeting

The July MG meeting will be held at noon at the Arboretum on July 10th. 1 hour education credit for class Creative Floral Design by Debby Boyd.

Kimberly Dougherty, Making a Difference in the Lives of Young Students



MCMG member Kimberly Dougherty was born and raised in Oregon, where it is considerably easier to garden than here in Central Texas. She graduated from Oregon's George Fox University in 1995 with a B.A. in music education. For a time she lived in Michigan and in Indiana, before eventually moving to Texas in July, 2005.

Kim's parents were "yardeners" who involved the whole family in the garden, raising vegetables and flowers. Kim caught the gardening bug. Later, while living in an apartment with no plants to tend, she realized how much she missed gardening. After moving to Texas, Kim tried gardening here, with discouraging results. Then she learned about MCMG from Sherry Prather – and joined the 2008 intern class.

Kim's three daughters have all attended Woodway Elementary. Kim knew of Sarah McCormick's excellent landscape work at the school and was interested in helping out. She soon got a bit more than she reckoned for, in the form of an invitation to head the children's garden project at WWE. In her words, "Wow – I was shocked. I had not grown a single vegetable in Texas successfully at this point. This project was a perfect fit because I wanted to volunteer at my daughters' school, so I accepted."

That first fall (2008), there were six participating classes. By the following spring there were 18 participating classes. This year all 25 classes (kindergarten through fourth grade) have participated over the course of the school year. Kim is a modest person. When questioned about her experiences at Woodway Elementary, she did not mention that she accomplished this without a lot of consistent volunteer support. Despite having to carry much of the load herself, Kim managed to build up a highly successful, hands-on gardening program for the children at Woodway Elementary. She deserves recognition for her accomplishments. Kim is a credit to MCMG and to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

In the process, Kim has mastered the art of growing vegetables in Central Texas. Those of us who have occasionally helped out at WWE know that Kim is a very good gardener indeed. Sherry Matthews had this to say about Kim: "She involved parents and teachers and really taught the children so much about gardening! I wish you had been there to see the children harvesting the potatoes. They were up to their elbows in dirt and having a wonderful time. They could all tell you how to plant seeds, build a compost pile, etc. Kim is an extraordinary teacher and more people need to know about her accomplishments in my opinion."

Kim's husband Kevin is a Baylor sociology professor and the couple has three daughters – Aidan (12), Tyne (9) and Dacey (6). They all love fresh vegetables from the garden. Kim is a distance runner and she also enjoys yoga. Other interests include reading, singing, baking – and, of course, gardening.

Before she became a full time mom, Kim taught elementary music in Indiana. This year she did some substitute teaching in Midway Independent School District. Now that her youngest daughter is school age, Kim has accepted a music teaching position at Castleman Creek Elementary in Hewitt. Says Kim: "The opportunity to teach music again is exciting. I will miss working with the students at Woodway Elementary, but I know that Lisa Daily and Marietta Diehl will make a great team to continue the project. I am so grateful for the education I continue to receive through MCMG. I can finally garden with a measure of success thanks to my fellow MCMGs. Who knew you could grow so many great vegetables year round!"

On behalf of all of us, thanks, Kim, for a job well done at Woodway Elementary! We think you are terrific and you have made a difference in the lives of a lot of young students. They won't likely forget the gardening lessons you taught them.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED at Master Gardener Office:

A Master Gardener to go one day a week to the pot recycle bin at the Extension Office and sort through the pots, stack neatly by sizes and discard the broken and unusable pots. Louie will continue to empty the bin when needed, but some people bring bulky bags and boxes of pots (& trash) making it "junky".

To volunteer: Call or e-mail to Ila Jean Carothers (848-4321, ijcarothers@juno.com)

MG Office needs volunteers:

Tuesday, July 16 = 1 volunteer

Tuesday, July 23 = 2 volunteers

Tuesday, July 30 = 1 volunteer

If anyone desires to work at the MG Office from 1:30 - 4:30PM, please email Carol Reinking sscarol.24@gmail.com.

from **Sandy Back**

Seeds from Sandy

This month's article is written by Steven Lovecky.



"Grandpa, look out! There's a Zombie behind you! And a Creeper in front of us! Run!" "Too late!" I said. "The Creeper blew up. Are you OK? Let's go. We have enough diamonds, gold, and iron for a while. We need to work on our house and garden. We can explore some abandon mines later." "Grandpa, this is so much fun! Kind of scary though."

What an opportunity. A sixty year old grandpa and an 8 year old granddaughter playing games on a computer. Who is entering into whose world? Both of us are having fun. Learning about each other and bonding. Later that day I'm in the greenhouse and here she comes. "Grandpa? Whatcha doing? Can I help?" "Sure", I said. "Pick out a flat of the best Adeniums for the Gardeners Gathering. If you want to you can come with me and you can sell the first Desert Rose and keep the money." Audrey smiled. "Cool". Then she got to work. I was thrilled as she selected plants, asked questions, and manicured the flat to look pretty. As she worked, I could see her mother's enthusiasm and her dad's propensity to excellence. And of course her grandparents' many positive attributes. What fun. All I had to do was spend time with a child and give her direction, encouragement, incentive, and opportunity. Sale day and Audrey's reward was swift as past McLennan County Master Gardener president Jan Serface entered the web we had spun. Jan was quick to realize the teaching moment as she eagerly parted with cash for a Desert Rose enthusiastically promoted.

As Master Gardeners everything is about teaching. Teaching moments present themselves every day and within all kinds of ways. All we need to do is recognize the opportunity. As we listen to questions and observe lives, we identify entry points to leave nuggets of insight that Master Gardener training has provided. We need however to be helpful, not intrusive. Information needs to be accurate and applicable to the situation. The Children's Garden Fair held in October is a great way to interact with kids, parents, and grandparents, launching many teaching moments.

So whether you are answering the phone at “Ask a Master Gardener”, participating at the annual plant sale, or engaging kids during the Children’s Garden Fair, be sure to seize the moment, enthusiastically and respectfully sharing insights you have learned. Your faithfulness to that goal will surely place you within the cosmic encounter of another’s life.

Steven Lovecky

Tips from Master Gardeners for Master Gardeners

Weed Killer Applicator

Linda Deal Kruse tells me that when they tidied the shade garden at the extension office last week, Cathy Cole had a nifty weed killer idea. Linda said she thinks that Cathy said it originally came from Barbara Vance. Take an inexpensive set of kitchen tongs, cut sponge to fit (and overlap a little) on the pads of the tongs. Wrap electrical tape tightly around the ends of the sponge pads to hold them on. Dip the sponge ends into weed killer. Grasp the target weed at the base, squeeze to release the weed killer and pull all the way to the top. Death to the offender! I have heard several versions of this idea from different people, but I really like this one because I think it sounds like it would work the best and fastest. Thanks, Linda!



The CobraHead® tool is one of Susan Crawford’s favorite tools. Good for weeding, digging, cultivating, etc. It has a steel blade and is well made (in the USA). www.cobrahead.com. Free shipping included in the price! There is also a long handled one of these available.

Robert Powers suggested an item he finds handy: a black plastic tub, 18" by 24" size, 5" deep, that he uses for mixing potting soils, potting plants, mixing small amounts of Redimix concrete, watering flats of plants, and also used as an outdoor sink for cleaning pots and others. It can be set on a table or in a wheelbarrow for easy access. These are available in Home Depot in the building materials department. Cost about \$14 and these do come in a smaller sizes.

Melody Fitzgerald also suggests that if you have a baby bathtub that a child no longer uses, it makes a great tub for mixing cement or potting soil. The sloped end makes mixing cement extra easy.

June 2013 Speaker's Report

June 4 - Jeanette Kelly did a program on Children's Gardening for the Steel Magnolia Garden Club in Lorena, TX. Fourteen members enjoyed her program.

June 7 - Carol Wood spoke on Shade Gardening to the P.E.O. Sisterhood. Twenty-one members were present.

May 22 - Jan Serface spoke on What is a MG? and Planting Tips for June to the Downtown Rotary Club. Fifty people attended.

Newest Member



Congratulations to our newest member, Ralph Calhoun. Ralph received his certification at the June meeting.



Japanese Gardens at Fort Worth Botanical Garden

Biointensive® Gardening



Biointensive gardening is a set of sustainable, organic gardening techniques whose objective is producing the maximum yield from a given plot of land. The key aspects of biointensive gardening are improving and then maintaining soil fertility on a closed system basis. The system is especially suited for small garden plots, but is also suitable for small farms. It is similar to French intensive gardening, which originated near Paris in the late nineteenth century. French intensive gardening became quite popular.



Randy Fish of World Hunger Relief Farm (Elm Mott) double digging a garden bed.

Some biointensive techniques date back to the ancient Greeks, early Europeans, the Chinese and the Mayans. English Master Gardener Alan Chadwick (1909-1980), a leading innovator of organic farming, combined these techniques with French intensive gardening and called the result the *Biodynamic-French Intensive method*. Later, Ecology Action director John Jeavons further developed biointensive gardening into an eight step system known as “Grow Biointensive® Sustainable Mini-Farming”. Ecology Action is a §501(c)(3) non-profit organization devoted to teaching biointensive techniques. According to Ecology Action, biointensive gardening has been employed around the world wherever food is grown.

Inexpensive to implement, biointensive gardening enjoys some advantages over conventional small-scale farming. It is not difficult to implement and the learning curve is not overly long. No commercial fertilizers or chemicals are used. Biointensive methods are claimed to significantly increase food production (and farm income) while using renewable local resources and minimizing expense and energy inputs. If done properly, fertile topsoil is created many times faster than in nature. Water use is minimized.

So, there has to be a catch, right? Considerable physical labor is necessary to begin with, though the amount of labor to maintain the garden is somewhat less. There are eight techniques, all of which are essential for good results. First, crops are planted in double-dug beds. The soil must be loosened to a depth of two feet. Second, you must master the art of composting. This is essential, for good compost is vital in maintaining good soil health. Your kitchen waste, weeds and non-edible parts of garden crops are composted.

Third, you plant intensively. When the plants mature, their leaves touch. This creates a micro-climate beneath the leaves and that reduces the need for mulch, retains moisture, protects the soil and keeps weeds down. It also results in higher yields.

Fourth is companion planting. Certain plants do better in close proximity to certain others. An example is marigolds and tomatoes. Some companion plants repel pests.

Fifth is carbon farming, which means growing seed and grain crops in about 60% of your garden plot. These crops produce lots of carbon, which is vital to soil fertility. Your plants remove carbon from the air, and when they are later composted, this returns carbon to the soil (carbon sequestration).

Sixth is calorie farming. About 30% of the garden area should be in root crops such as potatoes and others that produce lots of food energy. Seventh is use only of open-pollinated seeds. Also known as heirloom seeds, open-pollinated seeds allow the farmer to save seeds from each crop for the next planting. The resulting plants gradually adapt to local conditions over the years.

Number eight emphasizes that all these techniques are necessary to optimize your results. If you don't use them all, your soil can rapidly become depleted due to the high yields.

Heirloom seeds are stabilized, open-pollinated varieties that have been around for at least 50 years. There is a subtle distinction between heirloom and open-pollinated seeds. Hybrid seeds are from the first generation of a cross between two seed varieties. The resulting plants will be uniform in size and appearance and will likely mature at the same time. This is good. However, their seed is generally not suitable for seed-saving. Hybrids are more expensive than open-pollinated seeds and they make the gardener dependent on seed companies.

Some seed suppliers offer treated seeds, which are coated with chemicals such as fungicide or pesticide. Certified Organic Seed is produced by farms that have been inspected and approved by the USDA's Organic Certification program. Use of chemicals is prohibited and strict requirements must be met. Also available is seed grown under the same conditions but not USDA certified. This would be roughly equivalent to the Certified Naturally Grown program.

An excellent source of heirloom, untreated, open-pollinated seeds is Bountiful Gardens (www.bountifulgardens.org), a non-profit affiliate of Ecology Action.

There is also GMO seed, which has become controversial world-wide. There is a growing backlash against use of GMO seed. It will be fascinating to see how that plays out long term.

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Volunteer Opportunities July 2013

July 9	Univ. High gardening planning meeting, 10am at UHS	Tom Burr
July 13	Downtown Waco Farmers' Market 8-8:30	Penny Gifford

	set up, 1pm depart	
July 19	Cedar Ridge Elementary tidy-up, 8am	Sandy Back
July 20	Woodway Elem. Clean up 7am or when you can get there.	Marietta Diehl Lisa Daily
July 30	Extension Office Shade Garden workday 8am	Cathy Cole
July 31	4-H Workshops, Extension Office 9am to noon	Peggy Holcomb

McLennan County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting June 12, 2013

Carleen Bright Arboretum, Whitehall Center

[Followed by B.L. Barnes' program on the "MHMR GARDEN"]

President Sandy Back called the meeting to order welcoming everyone. Minutes were approved as read in The Latest Dirt newsletter, and the budget was approved as read in the email sent out by Treasurer, Sherry Matthews. The format of the budget report was changed to an abbreviated version; however, it was made clear that any and all details would be made available to anyone who requested to see them. It was further reported that just prior to the meeting members came in and purchased an additional \$325 worth of cookbooks. Sherry also reported that profits from the May plant sale were up to \$4000.

Peggy Holcomb called our attention to the printed list of activities for the remainder of June and July that could be found on the flip side of the meeting agenda form. Peggy confirmed that the printed date of July 31st was the correct date for the 4-H Workshops. Contact Peggy if you have Styrofoam packing peanuts.

Wednesday, August 14, 1:00, Mark Barnett will lead an educational program on lawn care, diseases and insects. This program will be open to the public for the cost of \$10

each. It will be advertised, but please inform your friends, neighbors and others about of this opportunity so they can put it on their calendars.

Standing in for the Belanger's who were not available, Cindy Neal was on hand to give out previously ordered MCMG clothing items.

Our newest member, Ralph Calhoun, received his certificate at the meeting.

Cookbooks are still available for purchase at the Extension Office, locked in the closet of in our room. Please refer to the email from Sherry Matthews for details or give her a call, not the office staff.

Preparations for the 2014 Intern Class are getting underway. Be thinking about this and about whether you might be interested.

Tom Burr is working with Payton Wren and Deanna Franklin at the Extension office on an afterschool program for Juniors and Seniors at University High School. They will be using Junior Master Gardener curriculum and Tom is looking for Master Gardeners with interest and skills who would like to help. Greenhouse skills and experience would be especially welcome. The Environmental Sciences teacher at the school is very interested in what Tom is doing and intends to support the afterschool program by incorporating some similar content in her daily classes. Please call Tom with questions and /or to volunteer.

Our new MCMG website will be ready soon, but we have been well served by our long time web master, Mary, the daughter of Carol Wood. We owe her our grateful thanks and wish her well as she moves on in her life.

Now that our Master Gardener group is growing into a larger organization, the Executive Committee began to explore ways that would help keep them responsive to the desires and interests of more of the members. Many questions were asked before the discussion was closed. Jene Hering moved and Robert Powers seconded that Master Gardeners should expand the Executive Committee by electing 2 members at large. A vote on this motion carried with 1 vote in abstention. The bylaws committee will meet to write a proposed revision which will be handed out at the July general meeting and mailed

to those who do not pick up a copy at that time.

Shane McLellan has requested that the pamphlet on Recommended Plants for Central Texas be updated. Sandra Scott volunteered to take on this project.

Brenda Golubski has created pages that replicate what an individual sees when they go online to register their hours. They were available at the back of the room. She also volunteered to walk people through the process if they have questions.

Ila Jean is planning on an educational program at the Extension office near the end of June showing condo and apartment dwellers how to use buckets to grow vegetables, herbs and/or ornamental plants on their balconies or patios. She asked for volunteers.

The meeting was adjourned, and B.L. Barnes began his very interesting program on the Garden at MHMR. This program is worth 1 hour of education credit for those who attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Milam
Secretary, Master Gardeners



B.L. Barnes gives a presentation about the MHMR Gardens at the June meeting.

MCMG Attendance June 12, 2013

Members in attendance at the meeting:

Back, Sandy; Barnes, B.L.; Burchfield, Billy; Burchfield, Linda; Burr, Tom; Calhoon, Ralph; Carothers, Ila Jean; Cole, Catherine; Cooper, Nelda; Crawford, Susan; Creech, Robert; Cunningham, Jean; Daniel, David; Davidson, Emily; Demuynek, Lynn; Dossey, Jane; Dupart, Victor; FitzGerald, Eva; Ford, Kris; Foulks, Xan; Goaley, Patricia; Golubski, Brenda; Hahn, Judy; Haller, Judy; Henson, Sherry; Hering, Jean; Holcomb, Peggy; Hughes, Carolyn; Kelly, Jeanette; Kinder, Missy; Kruse, Linda Deal; Marlin, Patricia; Matthews, Sherry; McDaniel, Louie; McLatcher, Claudia; Mersinger, Barbara; Milam, Elizabeth; Milnor, Gerry; Moore, Andrea; Moore, Candace; Plasek, Anne; Powers, Robert; Reinking, Art; Reinking, Carol; Richardson, Sharon; Schaffer, Janet; Schmeltekopf, Judy; Scott, Sandra; Seale, James Jr.; Serface, Jan; Setser, Della; Smith, Edrena; Tawwater, Betty; Trice, Mary Lou; Valentine, Catherine; Vance, Barbara; Vokes, Barry; Waldrop, Melba; Warriner, Sonia; Watson, Ramona; Whitehead, Dorothy; Whitehead, M J; Wood, Carol

Tina Traynor, a prospective member, attended the meeting, but not the program.

Interns in attendance at the meeting:

Harmon, Joan; Sefcik, Ann

*Special Note: In the June issue of The Latest Dirt, the Attendance Report given listed the correct people for the May 8 evening meeting at Eva FitzGerald's home; however, they were listed as April instead of May.

• MCMG Clerical	69.75
• Ask A Master Gardener Telephone Line	36.5
• News Publishing	7.5
• Shade Garden	9.5
SPEAKER'S BUREAU	19.5
DOWNTOWN FARMER'S MARKET	13
MCGREGOR DEMONSTRATION GARDEN	20
POT RECYCLING	8
OTHER VOLUNTEER PROJECTS	54.05
<i>Total volunteer hours for 2013</i>	<i>3505.15</i>
<i>Total continuing education hours for 2013</i>	<i>516.75</i>

Reminder: Children's Garden Fair

It seems early, but time is passing quickly, and it is time to be thinking ahead to the *Children's Garden Fair*. *Sunday, Oct. 13, 2-5 p.m.* (as listed in your directory).

Please be thinking of an area where you might to volunteer, and any new ideas along with the JMG, 4H curriculum, or appropriate educational Gardening/Nature Activities.

This year Janet Schaffer will have the Woodway Parks and Recreation Department setting up the tables and tents. This will make it so much easier and less stressful for all of us. (This will also cut down the volunteer hours' time, so keep that in mind as we get closer to the end of the year and everyone is finishing volunteer hours).

Hope to see you ALL there, enjoying a cool Fall day!

Thank you,

Committee Chairs....Jeanette, Judy and Janet



Reminder: The Texas Master Gardener Conference for 2013 is coming up

October 17, 2013 -
October 19, 2013 at the McAllen Convention Center
700 Convention Center Blvd. in McAllen, Texas. To register, go to the website at

<https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/productid/1297/> and hit the big green button.

HOURS FOR THE MCLENNAN CO. MASTER GARDENERS June 2013	
Members reporting: 40	
VOLUNTEER HOURS	319.3
EDUCATION HOURS	20
(The hours listed below are included in the above totals.)	
ARBORETUM	30
• Trailside Garden	6
• Superstar Bed	24
SCHOOLS:	51.5
• Cedar Ridge Elementary	14.5
• Woodway Elementary	37
MCMG:	123.25

Master Gardeners About Town

Woodway Elementary Students learn about gardening in these photos:



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

