OCTOBER 2019 VOL. 2, NO. 10

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT



Grow With Us



Buds From The Board

BY PAT MOYER, PRESIDENT

Howdy Fellow MGers and Interns,

Welcome to October and hopefully a wonderful Autumn! September really made up for what I believe was a relatively mild Summer. I hope that the weather will be cool enough to alter my gardening work schedule where currently I cower inside (in the A/C) between 11 AM and 7 PM.

By now you may have heard that we won't be hosting the 2021 State Conference. We encountered some issues relating to changes the state AgriLlife organization proposed that we were uncomfortable with. The result was that a decision was made not to proceed with conference planning. I believe that we, DCMGA, should consider offering to host the conference at some point in the future when the new process is better defined.

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Buds from the Board (Cont.)

While the State Conference decision was an unfortunate one, I believe we still have enough Mission-related activities to keep all of us busy. Over the next three months, for example, we have the always popular Fall Garden Fest, the Fall New Member Round-Up, the new Project Manager Symposium, and our annual Christmas Party.

Mixed in with those events, the Nominating Committee has the task of identifying candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors. Of the seven elected positions on the Board, only two members are eligible for re-election to their current position. Our recent decision to split the VP and Communications Director positions added two more for them to fill. Their goal is to fill a proposed slate of officers in October and completes with the election of the 2020 Board at the November general meeting.

You can make the committee's job easier by offering your time and talents to serve in a Board position. Please contact Patty Cooke, the committee chair, or any current Board member to let them know your interest (or to suggest others).

Happy Gardening,

Pat Moyer

DCMGA YouTube Channel

We need your help!

When we reach 100 subscribers to our new DCMGA YouTube Channel, we can apply for a "named" channel, rather than the current crazy long unreadable one.

So, go check it out and while there, please subscribe.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMNnUyi2A



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Cool Shade For The Third Grade

BY KATHY RAINEY

It's October and we are enjoying cooler temperatures, children are back in school, and Denton County Master Gardeners are in full swing with their fall projects. Cool Shade for the Third Grade is a favorite annual program sponsored by the Upper Trinity Regional Water District, **Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Denton** County Master Gardener Association. This program started over ten years ago with its purpose being to educate students about how watersheds work and how trees can capture stormwater, help filter pollutants, provide clean air, and beautify the areas where we live, work, and play.



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Susan Loos

Native Shade Trees Provide Clean Air, help filter pollutants, catch stormwater, and beautify our neighborhoods.

Getting students to think about how plants and other things in the watershed can improve lake water quality is emphasized because our lakes are the main source of drinking water.

DCMGA works with local school districts to make them aware of the program and offers them the opportunity to participate. Cool Shade supports the science curriculum objectives of the Third Grade regarding trees/plants and their importance to the environment. By distributing native shade trees, we have the opportunity to engage students in the importance of native plants that require less water and fertilizer, all benefiting water quality and conservation.



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Cool Shade For The Third Grade (Cont.)

Master Gardener Intern Barbie Dane is program leader for Cool Shade for the Third Grade, and Janie and Tom Cindric, who are former leaders of the program, have assisted Barbie in her first year leading the program. We have 3,000 trees to distribute this year and over 30 schools have been contacted to participate. The species of native trees distributed each year varies; this year we have Shumard Oak, Live Oak, Burr Oak, Bald Cypress, and Cedar Elm.



AgriLife Extension
Horticulture
Agent Janet
Laminack

helps bag and tag trees for distribution. This year's varieties include Shumard Oak, Live Oak, Burr Oak, Bald Cypress, and Cedar Elm.

Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Susan Loos

Master Gardener volunteers are vital to the success of Cool Shade because it's a quick four-day process once the trees are delivered. On Tuesday, October 22 the trees will be delivered and helpers are needed to receive, unpack, and place the trees in buckets of water. The next day, volunteers bag individual trees, sort, and distribute the trees to the Master Gardener volunteers who will deliver the trees to the schools.

Master Gardeners deliver the trees to the schools on Thursday and Friday, October 24 and 25. This involves a brief scripted presentation at the school to all third graders that aims to encourage student participation in discussing the importance of trees. For volunteers, it is a very rewarding interaction with students who express so much joy and enthusiasm for the gift of a tree.

Along with a tree, each student receives a tag with the tree name and instructions on how to plant and care for the tree. Last year a mini-survey of fourth graders who had participated in the Cool Shade program as third graders revealed that a few of their trees had accidentally been mowed over, so this year Barbie is including orange surveyor's flag tape tied around each tree seedling for better visibility after planting. The tree seedling species being distributed will grow between 1-3 feet per year, with mature heights averaging 50 feet.

For more information about actions you can take to protect or improve your watershed, visit:



Upper Trinity Regional Water District https://www.utrwd.com/

Texas SmartScape http://www.txsmartscape.com/



FMFB Community Garden Delivers 10K

BY LIZ MOYER

Congratulations and a Texas-size "Thank You" to the Community Garden project at Flower Mound First Baptist Church! After four years of operation, this busy work group delivered its 10,000th pound of fresh produce to the Christian Community Action (CCA) food pantry.



Thelma Cantú of the CCA came out to thank the volunteers and tell them a little about what these donations mean to CCA's clients. She said Thursday, the delivery day from this garden, is a very busy one for the pantry, and there is always a traffic jam in the produce aisle.







Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer

This beautiful garden has 42 rows: 21 for neighbors who need a place to garden and 21 maintained by a volunteer workforce of Master Gardeners and church members for the food pantry. There is a wide range of crops grown in the garden – asparagus, basil, green beans, pinto beans, blackberries, melons of all types, carrots, chives, squash, tomatillos

Periodically, David Huffman, Carol Nobles, and Cindy Helms, our DCMGA program leads, conduct classes and demonstrations for neighbors, school groups, scout troops, etc. This garden is growing knowledge and know-how, as well as fruits and vegetables!



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Saving Water - Educating HOAs BY MARTI HECTOR

There are approximately 4.8 million Home Owners Associations (HOAs) in the state of Texas and I live in one of them. There are a lot of positives to living in a community that controls what homeowners can – and can't do; there are negatives, too.

WaterWise Plants Instead of Thirsty Turf

I wanted to build a garden in the right of way in front of my house using WaterWise plants; I approached the city with my plans and a comprehensive list of plants I wanted to use. After I got the city's approval, I submitted my request to the HOA; my request was denied. Why, if the city supported my idea of removing water-guzzling Bermuda (on their property) and replacing it with



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Media Team

plants that not only saved precious water but attracted pollinators, did my HOA object? Uniformity - plain and simple. The Board objected to the garden in the city's Right of Way (ROW) because it was different; all the other ROWs in the neighborhood had grass; my ROW wouldn't match.

The state of Texas is facing a water shortage crisis. Cities are promoting water saving practices and some cities have incentives for those who upgrade their irrigation systems and trade their thirsty turf for water saving plants.

Texas Property Code Sec. 202.007

During my internship with the Denton County Master Gardener program, I learned that Texas Property Code Sec. 202.007 allows homeowners to harvest rainwater and plant WaterWise plants in their yards, even if that is not something their Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions (CCRs) permit. Having this information proved helpful, as my request was quickly approved after I educated the HOA Architectural Committee about the property code.

This doesn't mean that homeowners with restrictive covenants can do anything they want. This law does not restrict a property owners' association from regulating the size, type, and materials for, or the location of, compost piles and/or rain water harvesting equipment. It doesn't prohibit the HOA from requiring the owner to submit a detailed description or a plan for the installation of drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf for review and approval by the property owners' association. But this law is the first step homeowners can take to educate themselves and their HOAs about saving water and creating a more beautiful neighborhood.

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Saving Water - Educating HOAs (Cont.)

If you are ready to convert your ROW into a beautiful pollinator garden, take the right steps to get whatever approval might be needed. Don't take the first "No" you get as a final answer, and get that garden planted soon for a wonderful pollinator rest area in the spring!

References

Texas Property Code Sec. 202.007 https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/PR/ htm/PR.202.htm

Texas.Public.Law - Texas Statutes
Code in an easy-to-understand format:
https://texas.public.law/statutes/tex.__prop.__
code__section__202.007







Photo Courtesy DCMGA Media Team



Fall Garden Fest News for DCMGA Members BY SHARRIE ELY

Calling all Denton County Master Gardener Association members

Fall Garden Fest is October 12, and we will need you to help with this fun and educational event. Signup Genius will be going out in September, so be sure and sign up for your spot.

Don't know where to work? Show up and we will find a place where you are needed. Looking for a job that requires a lesser amount of exertion? We have those too.

This event is a great and fun way to get your volunteer hours.

Contact Sharrie Ely via VMS for more information on chances to volunteer:

- Setup Friday, 6 p.m. (October 11)
- Setup Saturday, 7 a.m. 9 a.m. (October 12)
- Event Saturday, 9 a.m. 3 p.m. (October 12)
- Takedown and cleanup Saturday, 3 p.m. 4 p.m. (October 12)

Plant of the Month - Pecan Trees

All good-hearted Texans know that the Pecan tree (Carya illinoinensis) is the honored State Tree of the Great State of Texas. We have the renowned Governor James Hogg to thank for that. On his deathbed in 1906, Hogg requested that a pecan tree be planted at his gravesite. His request encouraged a popular movement to recognize the treasure across Texas and the state legislature to enshrine the pecan as the official state tree in 1911. The name "pecan" comes from an Algonquian word "pacane" that was used for all nuts that had to be cracked with a stone. Technically, pecans are not a nut; they are a drupe - a fruit with a stone pit surrounded by a husk. What we love to eat in goodies or out of hand is actually the pit!



Canva Stock Photo

Pecans Are A Drupe

and not a nut. A drupe is a fruit with a stone pit surrounded by a husk.

Pecans are native to about 150 counties in Texas, but are capable of growing and producing in every Texas county. They are longtime favorites for landscaping as well as nut production. They are difficult to transplant and need special attention throughout their lives, but what a payoff they return! In the wild, pecans live in river and creek bottoms where soils are deep, fertile, and well drained, but can hold substantial amounts of water. If you choose to plant a pecan, you should look for those same qualities in your landscape. Trying to modify shallow, poorly draining soils by digging large planting holes and adding topsoil or compost often does not work in the long term.

Pecan Trees are Monoecious

Pecan trees are available as either container grown, bare root, or as large tree transplants. Always purchase trees from a reliable tree nursery source as pecans need care continuously when young. Buy your tree as soon as they become available at a local nursery or if you order through a mail order nursery, order your tree at least six months ahead of planting time. Container grown pecan trees are the better bet to survive transplanting and continue to grow well. They are usually smaller trees (best



Canva Stock Photo

is at least four foot but no taller than eight foot) and locating them is getting easier as they are growing in popularity. They can be planted any time of year, but fall or winter is best to give the tree plenty of time to adjust to its new environment before our Texas summer heat hits. Pecan trees are monoecious, meaning they have both male and female flowers on the same plant. However, they develop these flowers at different times in order to pollinate with nearby trees instead of self-pollination.

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Pecan Tree (Cont.)

Bare root trees are the most common pecan nursery tree. They can be difficult to transplant, but December through mid-March is best. Keep the roots slightly moist, not wet, until you get them planted, but try to plant as soon as you get them home. Heel them in with moist soil if you can't plant immediately and trim off all broken roots immediately before planting. If you are considering transplanting a large tree, know that they require excellent soil to a pretty deep level (three feet or more) and very frequent irrigation. It takes a longer time for large transplants to acclimate to their new environment and they often do not develop any faster than bare root trees would. They are also quite expensive.

Choose Grafted Varieties For Nut Production

If you are planting mainly for nut production, choose grafted varieties. These improved varieties vary greatly, so you need to select the particular variety that will meet your needs. If you are more interested in their landscape possibilities, plant ungrafted seedlings. Pecans do not come "true" from seed, so each seedling or native is a unique tree. The nut quality is variable and usually takes longer to form with seedlings, but the trees generally have strong, fast growth and a natural central leader without the bother of pruning and training.

Varieties recommended by Aggie Horticulture for home planting in Denton County include Sioux, Choctaw, Wichita, Cheyenne, Pawnee, Forkert, Cape Fear, Kiowa, and Caddo – in that order!



Canva Stock Photo

Pecan Trees Need Space to spread and full sun, therefore they are not suitable for every yard.

Don't Crowd A Pecan Tree

Pecan trees are not suitable for every yard. If you have a postage stamp yard, admire them from afar – possibly quite far. Pecans can get to be 110 feet tall with a spread up to 75 feet wide and they need full sun. Any hardscape in your yard needs to be at least 15 feet away from the tree so the tree gets maximum water absorption. Grass under and around the tree should be kept mowed as short as possible. You just can't crowd a pecan tree if you expect it to grow – kinda like all other Texans, right? You'll need to fertilize and spray every spring and you'll have to be patient as it can take up to 10 years before they will bear any fruit.

If you have the space, time, and patience to nurture one of the tastiest symbols of our Great State, plant a pecan tree. We will all thank you in about 10 years!

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Pecan Tree (Cont.)

For detailed information on growing pecan trees, one place to start your education might be the sources below, where I pulled the information for this article.

Resources

Aggie Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Home Fruit Production - Pecans" - Choosing, growing, planting, and care https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/homefruit/pecan/pecan.html

"Texas Pecan Yard Trees" - Guide to common Pecan problems/solutions https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/hortupdate_archives/ 2002/jan02/art10jan.html

Preservation Tree

"Pecan: Fun Facts About the State Tree of Texas" https://preservationtree.com/blog/pecan-fun-facts-about-the-state-tree-of-texas



Project Manager Symposium BY KATHRYN WELLS, DCMGA VICE PRESIDENT

Project Manager Symposium Scheduled for November 20th

Featuring a Dynamic and Interactive Program by Kaber Communications President Karen Reid

Who has more excellent Project Managers than Denton County Master Gardener Association? (No organization that I know!)

So, to better equip, encourage, and support our stellar PMs, DCMGA is holding a 2019 Project Manager Symposium on Wednesday, November 20th, from 9 am to 12 pm in Room 115 of the Joseph A. Carroll Building (401 W. Hickory Street, Denton).

Who is invited? All current PMs (rookies and veterans), assistant PMs, and wannabe PMs are welcome. The event is open to our entire membership, so if you're not currently leading a project, but you'd like to, it's a great opportunity to water and nourish those seeds of leadership.

Sessions include Mission and Governance, Administrative Protocols (incorporating information about budgeting, planning, promoting, and reporting your project), Leading and Motivating a Team (featuring guest presenter Karen Reid), and a Board Member/Support Staff Panel Discussion (open to questions from the floor).



As a special treat, Kaber Communications President Karen Reid will share "Planting the Seeds of Engagement," a dynamic and interactive presentation that will help foster collaboration and communication within your team, empowering team members to do what they do best. Karen will share strategies for recruiting and engaging your core team, and you'll leave with tips and techniques for identifying potential volunteers, upgrading recruitment methods, communicating team needs, and rethinking project outcomes and impact. With a Master Gardener for a mother-in-law and a fresh presentation customized for DCMGA, Karen's session is sure to be the highlight of the day.

The PM Symposium is approved for two hours of Advanced Training (AT) and one hour of Volunteer Service (VS). Look for a Sign Up Genius (SUG) in your email inbox on October 23rd; RSVPs will be due by November 6th. A separate SUG will offer additional volunteer service opportunities for the event's hospitality needs. As always, carpooling is encouraged.

Thank you to those who lead, those who want to lead, and those who serve. You are the heart and soul of DCMGA, and you are the hands and feet of our mission. We appreciate you all, and we look forward to welcoming you on November 20th.

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Why All the Fuss about Landscape Design?

BY RHONDA LOVE

The landscaping around your home may become the first impression people have about you. Creating an inviting and beautiful landscape involves the selection and placement of plants, trees, hardscape and turf around your house. Done well landscaping enhances your quality of life and the value of your property. Designing a landscape can seem to be a daunting exercise, but a methodical approach and patience will help you develop the best design for your property. Before you begin, check with your HOA, if needed, to see what rules and conventions you might need to consider.

Elements of Design

You do not need to be an artist to incorporate some basic elements of design to create a pleasing garden area. Consider such basics as developing a focal point, creating contrast and balance, and using positive and negative space.

A focal point will give your eye a focus. It can be a plant, a tree, a water feature or almost anything you want. Contrast and balance among your plants and other features create interest for the viewer. Positive space is a filled space and negative space is empty by comparison.

The use of color in your design creates another type of interest. Color is a great way to create contrast and balance, depending on the use of primary, secondary, and tertiary colors. A color wheel may help you

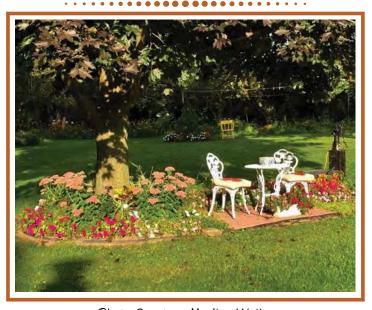


Photo Courtesy Marilyn Walker

A Focal Point Adds Contrast

and balance to a garden area. The table and chairs in this garden are an invitation to sit and enjoy the beautiful fall day.

choose the colors you want for the various seasons. Color can come from flowers, foliage and containers.

Getting Down to the Nitty-Gritty

The first thing to do is to develop a layout of the area you want to landscape. Using the survey diagram from the purchase of the property will help, but it is not necessary. This task will be easier to accomplish if you have graph paper and a ruler. It can also helpful to use a compass and a protractor.

Begin with the measurements of your property lines, easements, the buildings on your property and any landscape features you don't want to change such as the locations of large shade trees. You can trace your survey, or create one on graph paper; this will help you get the distances and layout of plants correct. Create a scale to help get the proportions of your property correct; for example, 1/4" =1'.

Next, designate the directions of north, south, east, and west on your property and use arrows to show this on the layout. Include information about light and shade; wind patterns; types of soil; natural

https://dcmga.com/

Landscape Design (Cont.)

water pathways that might produce erosion or wet spots, etc. Keep in mind that light and shade patterns change with the seasons. Be sure to note areas that are especially sunny during our hot summer months. Each area of a landscape is its own microclimate, and success depends on selecting plants that are happy with the conditions in which they are planted.

Step by step instructions are available on the Texas A&M AgriLife Horticulture website (see Resources).

In thinking about your design, consider:

- What kind of gardens do you want? Do you want flowers, vegetables, a special place for plants that support pollinators, fruit trees, etc.
- If you have a patio, how will you be using it, and how does that affect the kinds of plants you want along the border of it?
- Do you need open areas for activities or sports?
- Where is the access to water, and do you want water features?
- Where can you create a utility area for sheds and storing your tools?
- Where can you place your compost pile or bins?
- What is the best place to have rain barrels?

We recommend using the EarthKind® system of landscaping (see Resources). It will help you reduce energy, chemical and water use while supporting the vital ecosystems in your landscape.

Plan Ahead for a Safe Environment

Consider the principles of universal design in the creation of your landscape. Plan the landscape to remove barriers to safe work and play and to allow easy travel between areas of interest. This is especially important if the landscape is to be enjoyed by children, the elderly or the disabled.

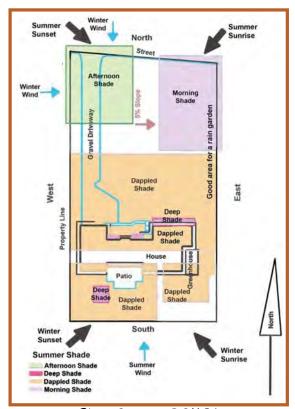


Photo Courtesy DCMGA

A Shade Analysis

Each area of a landscape is its own microclimate. Keep in mind that light and shade patterns change with the seasons.

Consider fire safety in the creation of spaces and the choices of plants and their locations. Make certain that firefighters have easy access to windows, doors, and the roof.

Water Use and Pesticide Reduction

In our climate, we all need to focus on the wise use of water and the reduction of the use of pesticides.

Landscape Design (Cont.)

Our average rainfall is less than 40 inches, and over 25% of our water is used in irrigation in urban areas.

The use of rain barrels will help reduce the amount of water you need to use from the city supply and the barrels are relatively easy to install and use. Rainwater is thought to be better for vegetation because it is slightly acidic and does not contain any of the chemicals used in treating it for consumption. Not all of the roof water will be collected with rain barrels but most people will see a reduction in the cost of water if barrels are used.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA 2019 Spring Garden Tour

Creating Hydrozones,

installing rain barrels, and mulching are good ways to conserve water.

Hydrozoning creates different zones related to the need for watering or irrigation and will help reduce water use. Of course, mulching is greatly needed, no matter what zones you create. Most beds should have 3-4" of mulch year-round. In addition to installing rain barrels, creating hydrozones, and mulching, efficient irrigation is a good way to conserve water. One of the best systems for the garden and yard is drip irrigation. It exposes less water to the air so that evaporation is decreased, is very adaptable to the shape of the bed and the ground itself, and is easy to hide under mulch.

All gardens will be affected by pests and gardeners need to understand pest management. It is important to be able to

identify what the pest is, what is the least invasive approach to managing it and what chemicals, if any, should be used. This approach is called "Integrative Pest Management."

Pesticide use is sometimes required but one should use the least harmful chemicals and only as instructed by the manufacturer. It is critical to read and follow instructions on the labels and to store pesticides properly. It is also important to wear protective gloves when using pesticides. It is critical to keep pesticides out of the waterways, so be extra-cautious around storm drains.

Go Forth and Do Good

Whatever approach to landscaping you choose, keep in mind that North-Central Texas presents challenges to any kind of gardening. We have great swings in temperatures and periods of drought that test the viability of many plants. We are on the edge of the Eastern Region and the Panhandle regions of Texas. However, researchers have investigated our challenges and have helpful suggestions for us. The Texas A&M Aggie Horticulture site is a particularly valuable resource. Also, lists of landscaping plants native to this area can be found on the website of the local chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Landscape Design (Cont.)

Resources & References:

Aggie Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Earth-Kind Landscaping, https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/

"Landscape IPM"

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/ipm.pdf

"Landscape Pesticides"

https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/files/2010/10/pesticides.pdf



"Efficient use of Water in the Garden and Landscape"
https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/drought/efficient-use-of-water-in-the-garden-and-landscape/

Water University, Texas A&M AgriLife Research Extension

"Simple Rainwater Harvesting Systems"

https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/rainwater-harvesting/rain-barrels/

Texas A&M AgriLife Reserach

Regions of the State, https://agriliferesearch.tamu.edu/region/

Texas A&M Forest Service

"Prepare For Wildfires; Protect Your Home" https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ProtectYourHome/



FEMA

"Firewise Landscaping in Texas" https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1519061366471-725c32a4ffea6d6a9c03ebf33735a5d3/Firewise-landscaping.pdf

The American Institute of Architects

"Universal design and the outdoor landscape"

https://www.aia.org/articles/15781-universal-design-and-the-outdoor-landscape

Trinity Forks Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas https://npsot.org/wp/trinityforks/

U.S. Climate Data

https://www.usclimatedata.com/climate/denton/texas/united-states/ustx0353

If you are still hesitant to plan your landscape or even a portion of it, the DCMGA Design Your Yard with Earth-Kind Landscaping class has a session coming up October 18 and 19, and another in the spring. Pre-registration is required.

More information is available at dcmga.com. (See Flyer on Page 30)

2019 Fall Garden Fest

Denton County Master Gardener Association presents the 2019 Fall Garden Fest on October 12, 2019

Have you ever been to a Home and Garden Show where you walk around and wonder, "Where EXACTLY is the 'Garden' part of this show?" If you love to talk plants (and more plants), soil, water conservation, insects, and more, then we have your event and your garden info!

The Denton County Master Gardener Association, Fall Garden Fest will be on October 12, at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church of Denton, 201 S. Locust St., Denton, Texas. DCMGA presents the 2019 Fall Garden Fest, a free event, showcasing North Texas gardening information, great garden speakers, vendors, information booths, kids' activities, and North Texas non-profit booths. Bring your gardening questions and enthusiasm to the event that "gives back" to the community by sharing sustainable, horticulture information that benefits our homes and communities.

Smart Plants for Smart Gardens is the theme of our 2019 Fall Garden Fest.

We are excited to welcome speakers,
Jay White, Editor/Owner and writer for
Texas Gardener Magazine and
Dee Nash, well-known garden writer,
garden traveler, author, and podcaster of
Red Dirt Ramblings.

Jay White will talk on "Bluebonnets, The Gateway to Native Plants" and "Average Gardeners, Mean Vegetables, and Distributed Benefits."

Dee Nash will present "Dream Gardens on Balconies, Decks, and Patios" and "Good Companions: Plants to Take Your Garden Through the Seasons."





DCMGA is giving away a free packet of Wildflower seeds to the first 200 visitors. This Texas/Oklahoma Wildflower seed mix, generously donated by Justin Seeds, Co. of Justin Texas, will be available at our Welcome Booth.

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2019 Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

Master Gardener Booths

Our Master Gardener educational booths will cover topics for North Texas Gardeners.

Bring your gardening questions and curiosity to learn more about:

Arranging Fall's Bounty Design and arrange Fall's bounty of flowers, grasses and found natural objects.

Ask A Master Gardener Have a specific gardening question? You can start here!

Bats are Beneficial Interesting Facts on Bats in Texas.

Garden "Bugs" Learn about insects found in North Texas & the damage or help they provide.

Children's Area Hands-on garden-learning activities for kids with their parents or guardians.

DCMGA Intern Recruitment Information & applications for the DCMGA Class of 2020.

Design Your Yard with

The team will sketch landscape ideas and answer landscape questions. Bring Earth-Kind Landscaping pictures of your yard and we can give you ideas for your North Texas garden.

Earth-Kind Landscape Focus on economically- and environmentally-friendly management practices

Management Practices that produce beautiful, low maintenance, and sustainable landscapes.

Exploring Succulents Succulent display & hands-on with propagating succulents plus a take away.

Fairy Garden Children & adults make their own fairy garden. Donation-suggested activity.

Harry Potter Plants Plants from Harry Potter books you can grow; plus magical" plants on display!

Herbs that grow in North Texas and the many ways to use them.

Monarch Butterfly Info Information on monarch butterflies, their migration, life cycle, and habitat.

Native Bees Housing and care for native bees.

Propagation Team Discussing all types of propagation, tips, and care for success!

Rainwater Harvesting Information about rainwater harvesting and how to install rain barrels.

Rose Rosette Education Design and arrange Fall's bounty of flowers, grasses and found natural objects.

Science With Attitude Have a specific gardening question? You can start here!

(SWAt)

2019 Fall Garden Fest (Cont.)

Master Gardener Booths

Tree Musketeers Answer tree disease & pest questions, tree selection, planting, and care.

Turf's Not Tuff Bring your turf questions. Learn the best care for your turf in North Texas

Vegetable Gardening Giving out seeds and information on fall gardening.

WaterWise - From Lawn to a

WaterWise Landscape

Reduce turf, use WaterWise plants in yard. Provide current Texas law for HOAs

and TAMU materials.

Wildscape Demo Garden Demonstration of color & function in providing food, shelter, & water for a

variety of wildlife including butterflies and birds.

Worm Composting Demonstration, Q & A, with a worm composting bin & informational materials.

Wildflower posters & seed packets, demonstration of seed planting,

distribution of DCMGA article regarding wildflowers, some giveaways.

DCMGA Fall Garden Fest will host vendors that will appeal to the garden shopper with merchandise such as plants, décor for the garden, and items for the home.

The vendors include:

D&L Farm and Home
SB Designs
Lea's Kitchen
It's for Africa, Inc.
Usborne Books & More
Harvey Goods
Susie's Snack Shop

The Melodious Garden
Garden Charms
Painted Flower Farm
Candler Wreaths & more
Expressive Creations
Brigid Brammer Bags
Catching the Sun
Living Earth

City of Denton – Dynodirt
Go Gardenland Nursery.
Larry Duncan – Wood Works
Texas Gardener Magazine
Wild n Woolly Creations
Angee & Teresa's Gardening Stones
Clay Art by Carolyn Tinner & Ann Rollins

Several non-profits groups will have booths at the DCMGA Fall Garden Fest. DCMGA welcomes the Texas Master Naturalist, Elm Fork Chapter; the UNT Natural Dye Garden (a DCMGA Project); Friends of Shiloh Garden; the Native Plant Society of Texas, Trinity Forks Chapter; and the Denton County Beekeepers Association.

This event is for the whole family, so be sure to visit the Kids Area. Activities are for children (accompanied by their parent or guardian) to learn more about gardening and the great outdoors. Presented by our award-winning SWAt (Science With Attitude) team, it will be loads of fun!

Visit DCMGA.com for more information about our speakers, booths, and vendors.

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SWAt Congratulates Two Team Members, Christian & Erik Dieterich

BY MARION ARNDT

SWAt's two favorite beekeepers, Christian and Erik Dieterich, recently received several prestigious awards at the annual 4-H Gold Star Banquet held on August 10, 2019. The banquet is held to recognize the accomplishments of 4-H members throughout the past year. All applicants

are required to submit a recordbook detailing their 4-H project, submit an application, be interviewed, display leadership qualities, and be involved in community service.

Erik is 16 years old and is homeschooled. He is the proud recipient of The Danforth "I Dare You" National 4-H Award for his outstanding character and leadership abilities. His Entomology Recordbook placed 1st at State. He is also a member of the 2019-2020 Texas 4-H Council, President of the Argyle 4-H Club, and 1st Vice President of the Denton County STEM 4-H Club, and Denton County Council.

Christian is 19 years old and is attending his first year at NCTC. He received the Al Petty

Photo Courtesy Tina Dieterich

Christian & Erik Dieterich,

SWAt's two favorite beekepers, recently received several prestigious 4-H awards.

Scholarship and placed first at State for his STEM Recordbook. Past achievements include President of the Argyle 4-H Club, Denton County STEM 4-H Club, Denton County Council, and Teen Leader for Robotics for five years. He also served on the 2016-2017 Texas 4-H Council and was a member of the Texas 4-H Technology Team for four years.



Both Christian and Erik received the Presidential Service Award, Gold Level (250+ hours) for their community service.

In addition to their 4-H activities, Christian and Erik are always eager and ready to go out to our local schools and share their beekeeping enthusiasm and knowledge with the students. They are so popular with both teachers and students that they are asked back year after year.

CONGRATULATIONS once again to Christian and Erik from their friends at SWAt for a job well done!

Tree Planting

I usually start most of the talks I do about trees with the old joke: "When is the best time to plant a tree?" with the answer, of course, being "thirty years ago." That points out the fact that trees are most appreciated as they achieve their mature size. So, without a handy time machine now is the time to start planning for trees to enhance your future landscape.

Before you run down to your local Big Box store and buy the biggest tree possible, take some time and create a planning strategy that will give a new tree (or trees) the opportunity to be the highlight of your landscape.

Site Planning

Proper Site Planning will not only help you determine where planting a tree is advisable but also what type or species of tree will work best for you.

Assuming you know your soil conditions, one of the first things to do is determine what you want your tree to do. There are several reasons for planting trees. Providing a screen or shade are two of the more common reasons.

I enthusiastically recommend using the *Texas Tree Planting Guide* on the Agrilife website at http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/. That site has two very informative links. These are the "Custom Tree Selector" and the "Tree Planting and Care" links (I really don't find the "Express Tree Selector" link very useful).

The "Tree Planting and Care" link on that site will take you to another set of links on various considerations prior to tree selection as well as some basic tree planting and maintenance recommendations. Note that each of the links also has accompanying video that helps clarify topic.

Tree Species Selection

Once you know the characteristics of the tree you want, it's time to look at some various species that meet those criteria. The most convenient place to find those is on the same Agrilife website, http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/. This time, use the "Custom Tree Selector" link.

That website has an extensive listing of trees by size, foliage, required soil conditions as well as native selections. (I always recommend native species over non-natives because native plants thrive under our local environmental variations, require less water, and provide vital habitat for birds and other wildlife benefits.) The only required field on this website is the county. So, if, for example, you want to peruse all the trees recommended for Denton County, just select "Denton" on the County Dropdown Menu and press the "Show Trees" tab and "Voila!" there is your Agrilife recommended list.

Each species has a link that gives additional info for that type of tree. This info cites both the good and some of the not so good aspects of the tree. Make sure you review this info before deciding on a specific species.

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Tree Planting (Cont.)

Picking a Tree at the Nursery

Now the fun of hunting for your ideal tree begins. Depending on the species you want, "good" trees are available from numerous sources, including Big Box stores, if you take the time to evaluate them. Once again, the Agrilife website several good tips at

http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PickTreeAtNursery.html . The accompanying video is also a good reference. Keep in mind pulling a tree out of its pot to check the condition is very important. If a retailer doesn't want you to pull the plant out of its container or the tree has severely girdled roots, don't buy that tree.

Also remember that there is usually less transplant shock to a smaller caliper (aka diameter) tree than a larger caliper tree of the same species. This means that, generally, a smaller caliper tree may start regrowth after planting more quickly than a larger caliper tree and may, in fact, overtake the growth of the larger tree.

If you're looking at buying a really large tree, over 15- to 20-gallon pots, you may want to have the nursery plant it for you. In that case, you may want to make sure you note an identifying characteristic (or even a photo) of the tree so you can make sure the tree that is delivered is the one you selected.

Plant Your Tree Properly

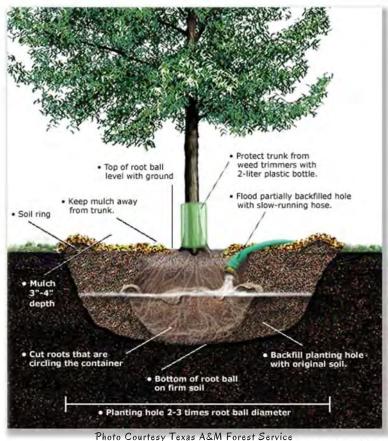


Illustration Copyright € Robert O'Brien

Tree Planting (Cont.)

Planting The Tree

Returning, once again to the Agrilife website, at

http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/PlantTreeProperly.html, there are several points to remember when planting the tree.

- The hole depth and width are important to establish the tree properly.
- Refilling the hole with the same soil that was removed also helps establish the tree.
- Using some form of trunk protector (they suggest using a liter plastic bottle) pays off, particularly when there are weedeaters nearby.
- Mulch retains moisture and slows weed development around the tree.
- Most important is proper watering. Watering of 6-8 gallons per inch of diameter is necessary at least once a week. In hot, dry periods this may increase to 2-3 times per week.
- Staking should only be done if necessary. Allowing the tree to develop without external support strengthens the tree.
- Trimming during the first year of a newly planted tree should be limited to removal of dead or broken limbs.
- While nurseries will plant trees all year round (particularly potted trees), planting should be done when the tree is dormant (late Fall through early Spring).
- Some trees with thin barks (red oaks, for example) may need to be wrapped to prevent scalding of the bark.

Result: Right Tree in the Right Place and More

Following the guidelines above will enable you to say you not only planted the "right tree in the right place," but thirty years from now you can also say you planted it at the right time.

Fall 2019 Area Plant Sales

Plant sales are a good way to find plants that are often not available on the general market. Organization members contribute pass-alongs from their gardens, and volunteers are on-site to answer questions.

Following is a list of plant sales in the area.

Check the organization's website or Facebook pages for more detail.

October 5	River Legacy Park, Elm Grove Pavillion, 701 NE Green Oaks Blvd., Arlington	Native Plant Society of Texas, North Central Chapter	www.txnativeplants.org/
October 12	Myers Park, McKinney	Collin County Master Gardener Association	www.ccmgatx.org
October 19	Austin	LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center	www.wildflower.org/plant-sales

Why Do I Like To Garden?

Reprint of letter written by Master Gardener Jane Powell to her grandson which was originally published in the June 1995 issue of the "Roto-Teller."

Dear Daniel, May 9, 1995

You surprised me with your question, Why do I like to garden?

There are many reasons. I like to be outdoors, and it is something pleasant and challenging to do, outdoors. On days when the weather is mild and sunny the air feels soft and fresh, the sky is blue and may have a few pretty clouds. Birds sing in the background, sometimes squirrels chatter or run about in the trees. It is friendly to be in the midst of all this beauty.

But it is a lot of work, to dig and hoe and bend down to pull weeks, or demanding to push a lawn mower. And tools have to be cleaned, and trash has to be gathered and hauled away. And water hoses have to be pulled here and there, or sometimes I have to stand a long time to water by hand. And I get very tired. So, why do I like it?

And I spend many, many hours studying seed catalogs, or drawing shapes on paper to plan how to arrange planting of bedding plants or seeds. It is like studying in school.

Sometimes the weather is unkind and spoils all my work, and I have to start over and do it all again. But I do start over, and do it again. Why?

I think it is because the earth is our home. We need a home, and we try to keep it clean, and make it pretty, and take care of it, so it can take care of us. We cook and eat in our homes. But where does the food come from? Where does the wood for our houses and our furniture come from? Where does anything we have, our clothing, our cars and bicycles, the water we drink, everything come from? It all comes from the earth.

So, we need to learn to love the earth, and care about it being in good health, and appreciate all the life it supports, the plants and animals, the water we swim in, and all the fish and other animals in the seas and lakes and streams. Everything.

Growing a garden and taking care of it is one way to get closer to Nature, which is another name for the earth and all the air and moon and stars we can see or know is out there, as part of our whole universe.

Lots of people, millions of people, like to garden. Why? It is one way to feel close to ourselves, our life, to all life. People never learn all the answers to a question like yours. And we don't often talk about it. We just feel a feeling of love, of the beauty and wonder of life, how delicate and how powerful it is. And as a gardener one can help a little bit to create some of this beauty and wonder and power. We never can create the life itself. But we can see it and feel it and love it, and help to take care of it.

And this is wonderful fun! Love, Grandma

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MGer Advanced Training and also DCMGA Public Presentations

Our members share their science-based knowledge and experience on a variety of topics.

Flower Mound Library Series
October 14, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Made for the Shade: Shade Gardening

Learn about the many native and adapted plants that not only survive but thrive in shadier spots along with ips and tricks to create beautiful shade gardens that beat the Texas heat. We'll also cover gardening under mature trees as well as turf alternatives and hardscape options for low light areas.



Location: Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound

DCMGA Design Your Yard with Earth-Kind® Landscaping

October 18, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and October 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (2-day class)

Cost: Fee for the class is \$100 for one person or \$125 for two people in the same household. Registrant duos will share materials and design one property. Online registration is required; the deadline is October 14. Fees must be received by then to reserve your place in the class.

This course concentrates on the thoughtful planning of a beautiful, productive yard or garden using Earth-Kind® practices that conserve time, money, and natural resources. The class includes a wide range of topics including planning, preparation, design application, plant selection, and hardscape considerations. The course will focus on Earth-Kind and landscape design principles with the step-by-step basics of creating your own design.

Location: Flower Mound United Methodist Church, 3950 Bruton Orand Blvd, Flower Mound

Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center

October 24, 5: p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Barron Rector, Texas A&M Associate Professor & Extension Range Specialist, will help you identify plants for whatever interest you have. We will identify cool season grasses and forbs. Come out and test your knowledge, we will have an ID contest! \$20 cash or check at the door. Space is limited to first 50 registrants. Call 940.349.2894 or email robin.hill@dentoncounty.com to sign up.

Location: Clear Creek Natural Heritage Center, 3310 Collins Rd, Denton

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Advanced Training (AT) Opportunities at Fall Garden Fest

Denton County MGA members who are looking for Advanced Training this fall can find it at the 2019 Fall Garden Fest on October 12. These talks will count towards your Advanced Training (AT) hours.

The Fall Garden Fest speakers are:

- Jay White editor and owner of Texas Gardener Magazine, at texasgardener.com
- Dee Nash garden writer, photographer, garden traveler, author, & podcaster, at reddirtramblings.com

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. "Bluebonnets, The Gateway to Native Plants," Jay White, texasgardener.com

10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. "Good Companions. Plants to Take Your Garden Through the Seasons," Dee Nash, reddirtramblings.com

12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. "Dream Gardens on Balconies, Decks, and Patios," Dee Nash, reddirtramblings.com

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. "Average Gardeners, Mean Vegetables, and Distributed Benefits," Jay White, texasgardener.com

Stop by Jay
White's booth
for Texas
Gardener
Magazine and
subscribe to
this
informative
(and the only
print copy)
gardening
magazine for
Texas
Gardeners.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz

Dee Nash will have her book for sale during the day. The informative title says it all — The 20–30 Something Garden Guide: A No-Fuss, down and Dirty, Gardening 101 for Anyone Who Wants to Grow Stuff.

Native Perennial Gregg's Mistflower attracts Gulf Fritillaries in a MGer's garden this fall.

DCMGA -HELP DESK

Question of the Month







Help Desk Team Contact Information 940-349-2892 master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

BY BARBARA RIDGE

Q: Our post oak's leaves are spotted, discolored, and are already dropping from the tree. Two arborists gave us conflicting diagnoses. One said it was root rot, but our tree is at the top of a hill, so rot seems unlikely. The other arborist said it was a fungus called Tubakia. What do you think, and what should we do?

A: Both of the arborists could be correct. On the issue of root rot, post oaks prefer well draining soil. They suffer from continuously wet soil as well as from wide fluctuations in moisture. However, since your tree is on a hill, "wet feet" is less likely, but wide variation in moisture is still a concern. You can use an inexpensive soil moisture meter to determine if your tree needs irrigation or if you should withhold watering for a

The *Tubakia dryina* fungus is a strong possibility. Typical in late summer/early fall, this fungal pathogen requires no chemical treatment. It will not kill your tree, but it is unsightly and may signal a stressed tree. To help prevent future infection, clear fallen leaves frequently. By removing the leaves, you will lessen the number of spores that can overwinter on your property and impact your tree next year. The leaves can be composted, but care should be taken to ensure that the temperature reaches 140 degrees to kill the fungus.

Stressed trees are more likely to succumb to disease. Think through what might have stressed your tree during the past few years:

- Irregular moisture? (Monitor with an inexpensive moisture meter and adjust irrigation, if possible.)
- Heavy clay soil that drains slowly? (Consider aerating the root zone and topdressing lightly with compost. Plunging a screwdriver fully into the ground every few inches should work to aerate; no need for an expensive process.)
- The root flare being covered by soil or mulch?
 (Gently clear away the soil/mulch from the trunk, exposing the flare. You can suffocate a tree by covering its root flare.)
- Lack of fertilization? (Have your soil tested; see below.)

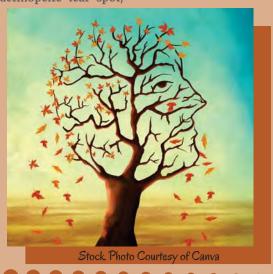
Regular lawn fertilization should provide sufficient nutrients for your tree. However, if the tree doesn't receive fertilization, you may want to send a soil sample to Texas A&M Soil Testing Laboratory to determine the soil's pH and its percentage of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium. The lab will give recommendations for the quantity of each nutrient, if necessary.

Refer to the links, below, for more information on *Tubakia* and tree care:

Overview

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/tubakia_leaf_spot _appearing_on_oak_trees

Tips on preventing future infection (start now) https://plantclinic.tamu.edu/factsheets/tubakiaactinopelte-leaf-spot/



If you have questions about tree issues or any other horticulture-related subjects, please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892 or master.gardener@dentoncounty.com. It's free of charge, and it's our pleasure to assist you.

Keep Lewisville Beautiful Presents...

2019 Garden Secrets Classes

Join Keep Lewisville Beautiful and City of Lewisville for FREE community classes led by Denton County Master Gardeners and The Texas Agrilife Extension Office. Classes are free but seats are limited to first 40 participants to RSVP.

All classes will be held either in Classroom 1 or Recital Hall at the MCL Grand (100 N Charles St,75057).

RSVP REQUIRED: 972-538-5949 info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

Jan 24th: ULandscapeIT: Water Efficient Landscape Design 6-8 PM

> February 7th: How to Plant Vegetables 6-7 PM

Feb 28th: Composting 6-8 PM

> DCMG topic to be announced

DCMG topic To be announced

May 2nd: Pots in Small Spots: Container Gardening 6-7 PM

> June 13th: Sensational Succulents 6-7 PM

July 18th: Made for Shade: Shade Gardening 6-8 PM

> August 1st: Water U Doing Water Efficient Sprinklers 6-8 PM

August 15th: Let's Ketchup on Tomatoes 6-8 PM

> September 5th: Grow your Own Vegetables 6-8 PM

September 19th: Texan Plants 6-7 PM

> October 24th: Birds, Bees, and Butterflies: Gardening for Wildlife 6-8 PM

November 21st: Texas Trees 6-8 PM

The mission of Keep Lewisville Beautiful is to engage the citizens of Lewisville through service and education to enhance their community environment.









RSVP: 972-538-5949

keeplewisvillebeautiful.org

info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org



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Denton County Master Gardener Association presents



FALL GARDEN FEST

Smart Plants for Smart Gardeners

OCTOBER 12

SATURDAY 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

DENTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 201 S. LOCUST ST., DENTON, TX

A NEW location on Locust St. south of Denton Couthouse. Free parking on Sycamore St. Enter on the south side of the church for speakers and kids area and indoor retail and education areas.



Featuring Speakers

Jay White -Editor and Owner, Texas Gardener Magazine

Dee Nash - Garden Writer, Speaker, Garden Traveler, Writer of Red Dirt Rambling.com and podcaster, "The Gardenangelists"

Come join us for a day of fun kid activities, great speakers, wonderful vendors, and hands-on learning from Master Gardeners on topics such as butterflies, fall vegetable gardening, herbs, wildflowers, trees, and much, much more!

Texas ASM Agrille Extension is an equal appartunity engineer and program provider. The Texas ASM University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Causty Commissioners Caust of Texas Cooperating

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Design Your Yard with Earth-Kind® Landscaping

"Homeowner education focused on Earth-Kind® practices conserving time, money, and natural resources to create beautiful, productive yards or gardens."

© Planning Preparation
© Design Application
© Hardscape Considerations
© Plant Selection

October 18 & 19, 2019 Friday 6:30 - 8:30 pm Saturday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Flower Mound United Methodist Church 3950 Bruton Orand Blvd. Flower Mound, Texas 75028

The cost is \$100 per person or \$125 for two people in the same household (Registrant duos will share tools and design one property)

For more information and to register, visit www.dcmga.com



"Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating"





For All DCMGA Project Managers (Rookies & Veterans)

And Those Who Would Like to Become One!

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

Project Manager Symposium

 9 AM TO 12 NOON
 Approved for 2 Hours AT & 1 Hour VS Room 115

Joseph A. Carroll Building 401 W. Hickory Street, Denton

Featuring a dynamic presentation by Kaber Communications President Karen Reid: "Planting the Seeds of Engagement"

Sessions Include:

Mission & Governance Administrative Protocols Leading & Motivating a Team Board Member & Support Staff Panel Discussion TEXAS ARM AGRILIFE EXTENSION



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Centon County AgriLifeExtension office at least a week in advance of the meeting or event to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.



Mission Statement

Denton County Master Gardener Association educates and engages county residents in the implementation of research-based horticultural and environmental practices that create sustainable gardens, landscapes, and communities.

Extension EO/EEO Statement

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

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Pinterest:

https://www.pinterest.com/DentonCountyMGA

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/ UCtNGrhH1hopNTVcMNnUyi2A

Save the Date

October 12	Fall Garden Festival
October 15	Becoming a Master Gardener Information Session
October 18-19	Design Your Yard with EarthKind
November 20	PM Summit

Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Joseph A. Carroll Building 401 W. Hickory Street Suite 112 Denton TX 76201-9026

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Communications: dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Website: https://dcmga.com

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Content

Submission deadline for the November edition of *The Root* is Tuesday, October 15. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Editor Karen Gibson at karenhoot19@gmail.com or Communications Director Liz Moyer at lizmoyer@live.com.