

Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us

*Photo Courtesy: Corvus*

## Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Well, friends, March certainly roared in like the proverbial lion, and spring looks a little different than we expected. You can't keep a good (or not so good!) gardener down, however, and we have responded to this unexpected and unprecedented (at least in our lifetime) event with resilience, adaptability, and innovation. (Kind of like the very best plants in our gardens!)

Although our face-to-face AgriLife and DCMGA meetings, programs, and activities are canceled through May 4th, we are conducting many via videoconference. Although the AgriLife office and the entire Joseph A. Carroll building (401 W. Hickory Street, Denton) are both closed with no public access until further notice, we are staying connected in cyberspace. And, although (at the time of this writing) Denton County is under a "Stay at Home" mandate through April 7th (which may be extended by the Denton County Commissioners Court), home is a happy place for horticulturists, and our gardens will be grateful for the extra time and attention.

Many have asked about our Plant Sale (May 2nd) and our Garden Tour (May 9th). Regretfully, current protocols required us to cancel the 2020 Plant Sale, and Garden Tour contingency strategies are currently being considered. (Stay tuned for a final Garden Tour determination!) Our respective Project Managers (Pat and Don Edwards and Karen Roberts) and their teams have been champs. Thank you all for demonstrating adaptability and flexibility; we appreciate you ... and your leadership!

CONNECT WITH US ON THE WEB

<https://dcmga.com>

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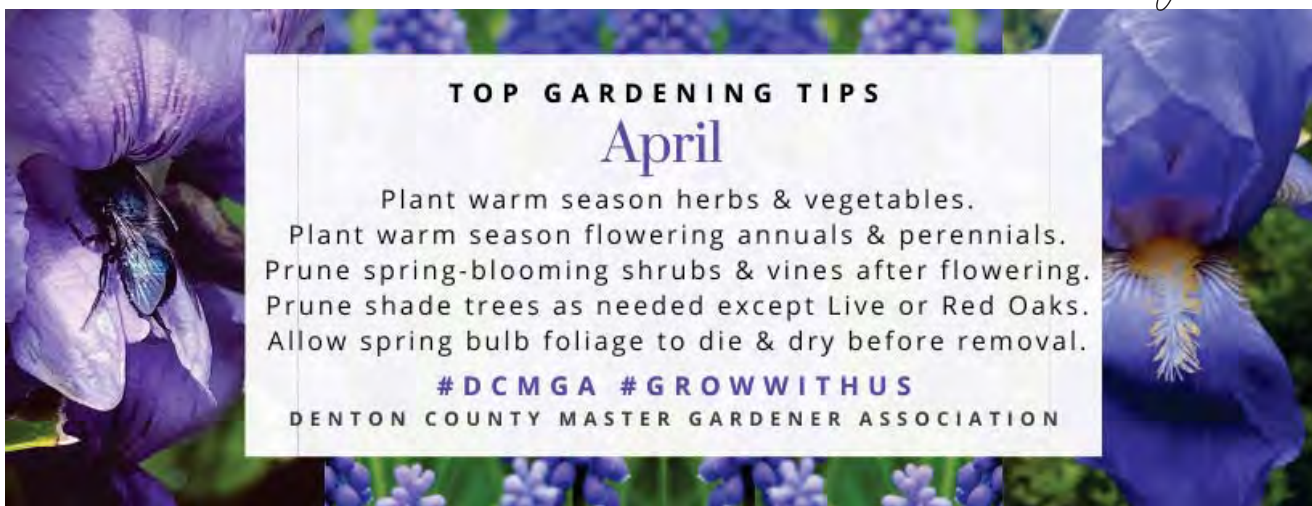
## Buds From The Board (Cont.)

During this time, I encourage you to stay connected via our [website](#) and social media, especially [Facebook](#). Please check out the "[Upcoming Events](#)" section on our website's home page for the latest information and updates. Our "[North Texas Gardening](#)" page offers a wealth of educational material.

Our friends at Aggie Horticulture and AgriLife Water University have developed some wonderful online tools to virtually educate and engage us. Aggie Horticulture is offering short (30-minute), [live, interactive, educational events via Facebook](#) every Wednesday and Friday at 1 pm. Recent presentations have included "Raised Bed Gardening," "Starting Vegetables from Seed," and "Direct Sowing and Transplanting Vegetables." Check out the latest schedule of topics and additional resources on their [website](#). AgriLife Water University is offering longer (hour and a half) [virtual programs via Facebook](#) every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 pm. Recent programs have included "Grow Native, Not Wild" and "Landscape CPR." The schedule of upcoming classes (as well as the selection of archived classes) is available on their [website](#).

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you bring joy to this journey. May you continue to be safe and sound with every protection and provision. April will be a time of triumph; keep calm, and garden on!

*Kathryn*



## Help Desk Project

BY KATHY RAINEY

One of the most valuable services offered to residents by Denton County Master Gardeners is the Help Desk. Master Gardeners who volunteer on the Help Desk try to research and answer questions from the public in twenty-four to thirty-six hours. Residents may call the Help Desk and leave a detailed message on voicemail, but the best way for a resident to receive a quick answer is to submit their question by email. Pictures help tremendously and it is important to include a picture of the entire plant and the problem area. Also important is to include as much information about the plant's growing conditions (sun vs shade, watering schedule, etc.), when the problem began, and any remedies used to try to address the problem.

Master Gardener volunteers respond to hundreds of inquiries each year. Most resident questions are about trees and grass/turf, followed by pesticides/herbicides, flowers, veggies/fruit/herbs, diseases, weeds, and shrubs.

Working the Help Desk is not only an important service provided to our residents, but an outstanding way for Master Gardeners to expand their knowledge. Every day they see new or unusual issues to research. Ann Hillmann is Program

Co-Manager for the Help Desk/SPLASH, along with Pam Spooner and Cheryl Huckabee. Master Gardeners can contact the program managers via VMs if they have any questions or wish to volunteer. Ann describes the benefit to Master Gardeners as pure growth for the volunteers and their work in helping others as very rewarding.

Working the Help Desk earns service hours as well as Continuing Education (CE) hours for your research time. You can work the Help Desk from home once you learn the process. All you need is a computer and keyboard skills.

SPLASH is the Help Desk's bimonthly meeting to share ideas and research techniques. All DCMGA members are invited to attend. SPLASH meets the first Friday and third Thursday of every month to discuss unanswered resident questions, share the unusual questions, and build knowledge and confidence among new volunteers. Volunteers earn one hour of service and one hour of CE for attending each SPLASH meeting. While face to face meetings cannot be held at this time, we are meeting via teleconference, so check the member calendar for details.

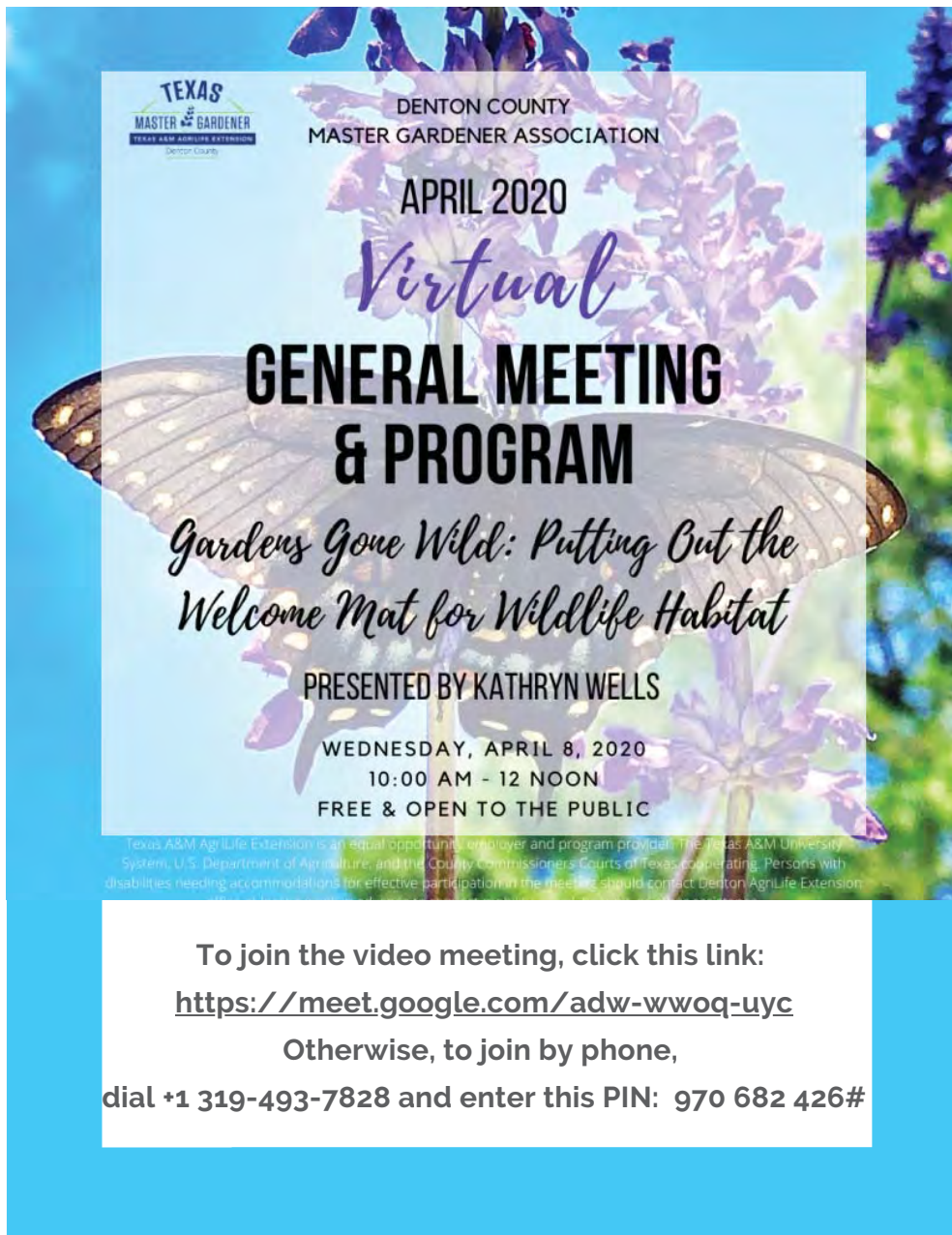
The Help Desk is located at 401 W. Hickory Street in Denton. Our office building is currently closed, but when we reopen, residents may bring in a sample of diseased plants or plants that need identification. In the meantime, contact the Help Desk via phone (940-349-2892) or email (master.gardener@dentoncounty.com). If there is no answer to your call, leave a detailed message. If you send an email, providing pictures will be our best opportunity to help.



**Ann Hillman**

Help Desk Project Co-Manager  
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**TEXAS**  
**MASTER GARDENER**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Denton County

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2020

*Virtual*

**GENERAL MEETING  
& PROGRAM**

*Gardens Gone Wild: Putting Out the  
Welcome Mat for Wildlife Habitat*

PRESENTED BY KATHRYN WELLS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020  
10:00 AM - 12 NOON  
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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 Denton AgriLife Extension.

To join the video meeting, click this link:  
<https://meet.google.com/adw-wwq-qyc>  
Otherwise, to join by phone,  
dial +1 319-493-7828 and enter this PIN: 970 682 426#

### 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>

## 2020 Garden Tour Sneak Peak

### Urban Butterfly Oasis

BY GAY CAMPBELL

*DCMGA always looks forward to providing an outstanding Garden Tour experience for all our guests and volunteers. We are monitoring the pandemic situation carefully and we will keep you informed of any changes.*

Filled with native and adaptive plants, the Urban Butterfly Oasis requires very little maintenance. It is heavily mulched and no supplemental watering, herbicides, or pesticides are necessary, a benefit to both humans and pollinators.

Plants are not babied in this garden. If they don't perform, they are not replaced. The side yard contains an 80 foot by 5 foot raised vegetable garden filled with Dyno Dirt and mulched with cardboard and wheat straw to retain moisture. An organic fertilizer is used on both the year-round vegetable garden and backyard sod.



This home owner was originally a Midwest dairy farmer who enjoyed canning homegrown produce. Her favorite plant is a pollinator magnet called Oscar Milkweed, nicknamed Harry Balls because of the appearance of its seed head.

If you're interested in learning how to maximize a small yard to achieve the largest garden possible, or if you're simply curious about Harry Balls, this is the garden for you!





## Meet Claude and Shirlee Singer

BY GAY CAMPBELL

As first impressions go, it was a good one. I immediately noticed tasteful decor and interesting furniture. Upon further inspection, I found myself drawn to several thoughtfully curated art collections, each with personal significance to either Shirlee, Claude, or both. An assortment of handmade pottery displayed on the far wall commanded my attention. Crafted by the Acoma Pueblo Indians, the collection was both inherited and acquired and serves as the room's focal point. When I commented on an office wall decorated with Navajo rugs, Claude explained that his first Navajo rug was presented to him on his twenty-first birthday by his grandparents. He now has a dozen such rugs in his collection, a passion he inherited from family. Claude reveals that he's a fourth generation Native American Art collector and claims that living in Taos, New Mexico, deepened his appreciation of Native American art. Elsewhere in the apartment, paintings, drawings, and textile pieces created by the couple are on display.

In hindsight, it's not unusual that a treasure trove of craftsmanship and design would be visible in the home of two university art professors. After all, Claude and Shirlee met while teaching at the University of North Texas (UNT) Art Department. Shirlee, a widow and mother to seven-year-old John, was a professor in the UNT College of Design, teaching basic design classes, as well as silk screen printing and textile design. Shirlee had previously worked at Herman Miller Furniture in the Dallas Design District and admired Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Philippe Starck, and other innovative designers. Claude taught introduction to art, art education, and jewelry-making classes. After accompanying the UNT art faculty on a three week trip to an international craft conference in Lima, Peru, Shirlee returned to Denton and married Claude. The couple celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary this year.

Claude, whose father was in the Navy and later employed by the U.S. government, attended eleven schools in just twelve years. He earned a BA and BFA from Wichita State University before landing a teaching position in the UNT Art Department.

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Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member John Williams

### Claude Singer

and a few of his memorabilia collections.

Shirlee, a native Texan, was born in Ft. Worth and moved to Brownwood after Jr. High. Shirlee laughingly recalls an incident involving her older brother, Jack, who was fifteen years her senior. Tasked with babysitting five-month-old Shirlee, Jack waited until Shirlee fell asleep, picked up his rod and reel, and left a note beside the crib which read, "Baby okay, gone fishing."

Claude, Shirlee, and John eventually moved to Muncie, Indiana, where Shirlee taught Interior Design at

## Claude and Shirlee Singer (Cont.)

Ball State and Claude was an Art Education Doctoral Fellow. His dissertation explored the question of "how children respond to a creative environment."

After Ball State, the family relocated to Georgia where Shirlee designed the Valdosta State Student Union Building and, as a result, she was offered a job at an architectural firm. The Singers transferred to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, when Shirlee became a full professor and head of the Interior Design Department at Louisiana State University. She also served as a member of the State Board of Examiners for Interior Design.

The Singers finished their academic careers at Iowa State where Shirlee eventually retired as a Professor Emeritus. While there, she took additional classes and served as President of the Interior Design Educators Council as well as President of the American Society of American Designers. As faculty members at Iowa State, Claude and Shirlee fondly remember the two semesters they taught in Rome. They claim to have taken every opportunity that presented itself to travel both at home and abroad.

Design might be second nature to Shirlee, but plants were not. Upon their return to Texas, Shirlee decided to plant hostas, which she claims grow well in Iowa. She was rather pleased with herself, she said, until a neighbor walked over and commented that she had planted the hostas upside down.

After she and Claude joined DCMGA, Shirlee discovered the need for a landscape design class, specifically one that was accessible to both the public and members of DCMGA. Having worked with a landscape architect at Iowa State, Shirlee was up to the challenge. Shirlee and Claude have taught DCMGA's "Design Your Yard" class for several years now and always strive to "keep the class fresh."

A few years ago, Shirlee designed a Firewise landscape for the Denton County Emergency Management Service and a landscape for the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety. She also created an innovative Pocket Prairie for the city of Carrollton in which she designed a large walk-through arbor shaped like an armadillo. Claude oversees a writers group at Good Samaritan Village in Denton and Shirlee enjoys needlepoint, often creating her own designs. One thing is for certain, with so many talents, hobbies, and interests, this is one couple that will never be bored!



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member John Williams

### Shirlee Singer

standing next to a handmade needlepoint she designed from a butterfly photo taken by DCMGA President Kathryn Wells.

## Keep Calm and Garden On!

BY LIZ MOYER

We at Denton County Master Gardener Association want everyone to take this opportunity to walk in their yards and enjoy their landscapes. Now, there may be more time to tackle some of those bigger projects like installing bed borders or paths. This pause comes just at the right time for installing and planting raised beds to provide both entertainment and fresh vegetables.

There are many things you can do now to better your chances of a successful landscape:

- Explore and bookmark our website: [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)
- Check out the many articles on the website under "[North Texas Gardening](#)"
- Subscribe to [The Root](#) – this monthly e-newsletter is full of good gardening information and tips
- Like our [Facebook page](#)
- Our Help Desk is still working like crazy, so now is the time to read their [Help Desk Question of the Week](#) on our website and Facebook page and to use their services if needed. Access them through our website: [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com). Please check out the Frequently Asked Questions section to get faster answers: <https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/faqs-2/>
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)
- AgriLife is running a weekly Facebook Live event on their page: <https://www.facebook.com/26803072143/>
- AgriLife Water University Events now list multiple virtual classes: <https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu/events>
- AgriLife has a tremendous website including plant lists, turf information and many other things you wish you had known when you started: <https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/solutions/earth-kind-landscaping/>

While we may be physically separated and our speakers don't have crowds to educate, we are all still connected in our love of all things growing – well, most things anyway. So pause, catch your breath and reconnect with your yard. Happy Gardening!



*Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson*



## Plant of the Month - Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye Daisy AKA Resin Bush (*Viguiera Stenoloba*)

BY LEE ANN YATES

"To plant a garden is to believe in the future." Here I sit, keeping a safe distance, but still being neighborly (we are Texans, after all!), planning an optimistic future, and working diligently on not going completely bonkers! We can still get outside and garden, so how about adding Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye Daisy to your flower beds. Everybody loves daisies and this perennial Texas native is as sunny and happy and low maintenance as a Texas summer. Although it sounds Halloween-y, its "skeleton" leaves are merely narrow little strips of dark green, rather like the "bones" of a leaf. They give this Goldeneye Daisy a light, airy, not-at-all-scary look. The single, golden yellow flowers dance on top of leafless stems, beckoning bees and butterflies who devour its nectar. Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye Daisy (that's a mouthful so - SLGED, for short) blooms intermittently throughout the summer, but really puts on a show in the fall. Deadheading the flowers regularly will promote even more blooms.



Photo Courtesy Stephanie Brundage,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### SLGED Planted En Masse



Photo Courtesy Ray Mathews,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### One SLGED Blossom

#### Plant Placement

Planted en masse in full sun or light shade, SLGED makes an interesting tall ground cover, but it can be planted singly to grow into a small flowering shrub for the back of a border or to highlight selected spots in your landscape. This superb plant grows one and a half to three feet high and two to three feet wide in a rounded shape. It must have very well-drained soil, so once it is established it needs little to no irrigation. SLGED is exceptionally (several websites used this word exactly!) drought and heat tolerant, as well as being pretty cold hardy. However, when we have those colder winters, SLGED may freeze back to the ground, but the roots should survive to grow again another season if you give it a blanket of mulch. To maintain the density of its shrubbiness, this plant should have a good haircut all around in midsummer. Rock gardens, on top of a berm or wall, in a raised bed, or across a hillside are locations preferred by this daisy – any place it will not get wet feet.

<https://dcmga.com/>

## Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye Daisy (Cont.)

Bordered Patch butterflies use Skeleton-Leaf Goldeneye Daisies as a larval host, while it provides nectar for many bees and butterflies, moths, and several insects. Its bushiness provides a place for birds to rest and nest and aromatic oils in its leaves discourage deer from browsing on it. This oil is also why it is sometimes called Resin Bush.

### Propagation

It isn't difficult to propagate SLGED – because who wouldn't want more of this low maintenance, bright, sunny exquisiteness! The most effective way to increase (and maybe share?) these daisies is by softwood tip cuttings, choosing bright green new growth. Stems with buds at the ends do not do as well – they are set up to flower, not propagate. Or you can gather the little seed pods (these are called achenes – new term for me, so I'll pass it on!) from a spent flower as they turn brown and begin to fragment. Air dry the seeds for several days before storing them in sealed containers and refrigerate them if you aren't going to sow them right away. Broadcast the seeds in late fall or winter, tamp lightly into the soil to barely cover them, or just let them lay on top of the soil. You should see new growth in the spring!

You can find these cheery darlings for sale at nurseries that cater to native plants – look for those which advertise Natives, Adapted, or "NICE" plants. "NICE" on the label stands for "Natives Improve and Conserve Environments." You can find NICE partners at <https://npsot.org/wp/resources/nice/>. Skelton-leaf Goldeneye Daisies might be a little harder to find at more commercial nurseries, but you can always ask! The more we request natives, perhaps the more the commercial nurseries will carry them!

So get outside! Start a garden, add to or rehab an old one! You'll thank yourself and the neighbors will thank you ... and gardening is contagious in a good way! Bring some beauty to your world and don't forget to love your Mother ... Earth!

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### Resources

*Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*

<https://www.wildflower.org/>

"Viguiera stenoloba"

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=VIST](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=VIST)

*Texas A&M Aggie Horticulture*

"Skeleton-leaf Goldeneye,  
Golden Bush Daisy"

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/ornamentals/nativeshrubs/viguerastenol.htm>



Photo Courtesy Lee Page,  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



## Why I Go On Garden Tours

BY SHARRIE ELY

Spring is such a gift in North Texas. So much is green, and new, and in bloom that it's wonderful to be outdoors. It's fun and exciting to see what fellow gardeners are doing in their North Texas gardens. To find local garden tours you can start looking online now to see when Master Gardener groups and Garden Clubs are hosting their delightful tours.

### *Creativity and Personality*

On a garden tour, I especially enjoy seeing the creativity and personality of a garden. Gardens can display lots of different gardening themes – whimsical, native, organized by a color theme, made especially for children, or are of a formal design. These garden displays show the lifestyle and personality of the home gardener. And they are inspiring. I can take the ideas that appeal to me and apply them to my own home garden.



### **Organization Members Work Hard**

to prepare private gardens for tour day.

Mulch is the last step.

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So other than just the aesthetic beauty of a garden, what is it that I enjoy seeing? I'm looking at clever garden containers, use of design, great plants, water-saving ideas, color, texture, and beautiful blooms. Sometimes garden tours hosted by educational groups will have plant lists, labeled plants, and an educational component to teach more about rain collection, and vegetable and perennial gardens. Many tours now offer fun items to purchase from vendors at their garden tours, and I enjoy seeing these creative wares. It is a fun way to take home a lovely memento of the tour and have something fun or pretty to beautify my own home and garden.

In the gardens, there may be several of the same plant, and they are used in the other gardens as well. This is a good thing. Seeing them in several gardens on a garden tour just confirms that they do well in North Texas and will do well in your North Texas garden. Find out what they are and look for them at each stop. If you are a beginning gardener, these are the plants to incorporate into your garden for a higher chance of success.



## Why I Go On Garden Tours (Cont.)

### *Bring Along a Friend*

A garden tour is even better when you can go with one or two garden-loving friends. A garden tour ticket can make a great gift for a friend, especially with an offer to visit the gardens together. The more the merrier! I enjoy carpooling with a group of friends for a fun day in the gardens. With Mother's Day coming up, a tour ticket and time with Mom or a special family friend would be a great gift too.

### *Compliments Are Always Welcome*

Enjoy the gardens you visit because you know a lot of work and effort have gone into the planting, planning, and grooming of each space. This is their "ta-da!" moment and a lot of imagination and elbow-grease has gone into their presentation. Think about that as you critique a garden and remember to be kind as volunteers and home owners have generously opened their sanctuaries for you to visit. A compliment can be a great way to say "thank you" to a garden owner for sharing their ideas and results with you.

### *Good Garden-Visitor Manners*

Show your good Garden-Visitor Manners by staying on the paths, not stepping on plants, and refraining from taking plants either by cuttings or seeds. Many garden owners are generous and may share items,

but do not take their plants or take cuttings: Ask first. The answer may be "no" but you can always gather good garden information to take with you to try in your own garden.

Finally, wear good walking shoes, take water with you, and wear a hat. Check out where the public restrooms are before visiting a garden and plan stops accordingly. Just because the private gardens are open to visitors does not mean that the private homes are open to visitors. Think ahead!

If you are seeing these suggestions and thinking you would never impose on a garden tour host like that, good for you! These guidelines are written because, well, we've seen it in our own open gardens. So be nice, be kind, enjoy the gardens, and take pictures of all those great ideas so you can incorporate them into your own landscape!



### **Discovering New Ideas**

for small tableaus is a fun part of garden touring.

### *Upcoming Garden Events:*

#### **Denton County Master Gardener Association (MGA) Garden Tour**

May 9, 2020 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

[dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)

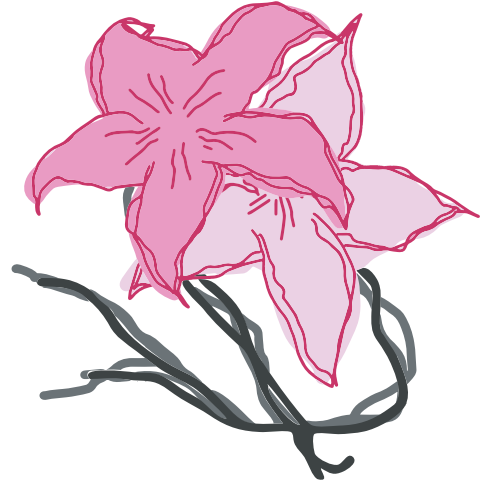
#### **Plan ahead for 2021! – Celina Garden Club**

Next Garden Tour, June 12, 2021

[celinagardenclub.org](http://celinagardenclub.org)

#### **Denton County MGA Plant Sale - Canceled**

May 2, 2020



### **DCMGA 2020 Garden Tour**

Saturday, May 9

9 am to 4 pm

## ***Four Delightful Country Gardens***



These tours are self-guided, so where you start and where you end is completely up to you.

April 1st through May 8th  
tickets are \$15 each.

May 9th at the door price  
tickets are \$20.

Mark your calendar today for this fun, family friendly, rain or shine event showcasing Denton County's best and local vendors.

Go to our website [www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents](http://www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents) for tickets and garden locations.

*Garden Tour Dependent on Current Conditions*

*Watch our website – [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)*

*or our [Facebook page](#) for current information*



## Front Yard Gardening

BY SHARON STRATMAN & LIZ MOYER

Feeling isolated? How about an almost surefire way to meet your neighbors? Even talking across the street or from six feet apart on the sidewalk outside in the sunshine is better than being alone in the house. Now is the time to work in your yard, and we are talking about the FRONT yard! Sadly, in this day of patios and privacy fences, our back yards seem to get lots of attention, but the front – not so much. After all, social networking is not limited to the internet. We can all take this opportunity to get to know our neighbors better by creating a welcoming front yard.

Creating a focal point in your front yard for conversation opportunities is easy. Why does that matter? Now that social distancing and sheltering in place are mandatory, we need an outlet for our mental and physical needs. Gardening is the perfect answer – plenty of Vitamin D producing sunshine, fresh air, and physical exertion... oops, exercise!

Putting in a new bed or upgrading an existing one are great projects. Whether you are installing a large new planting area, adding a little bed around your mailbox or running down the outside of your fence, the process is very similar. Working around your mailbox is almost certain to attract some neighbors or friends you haven't met who are out walking.



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Sharon Stratman

Wondering how to implement a new garden bed? First decide the location and layout of the garden bed, taking in to account the amount of sun exposure during various times of the day. Is it morning sun, midday, all day, or none at all? Gather a rubber mallet or hammer, rope, spray paint, and cardboard. Next, lay out the shape and size of your bed using rope. Rope is flexible and comes in convenient quantities. When you are satisfied with the design – I made a classic kidney shape – spray paint over the rope to mark your layout. Measuring the total length of rope used in your design will help you determine the amount of metal edging required. Your edging, either just metal, or a combination of metal edging and stone, should provide enough clearance above ground for 6 to 8 inches of soil to be added.



## Front Yard Gardening (Cont.)

Depending on the brand, each strip of edging comes with stakes attached, or stakes are sold separately. With pliers, flex the stakes back and forth till they snap apart. Now you are ready to join the edging pieces together by pounding the stakes into the two end pieces. Stake the edging pieces following the outline of your paint. If the metal strips are too long, cut them to size with a hack saw or just make your bed bigger.

Depending on your conditions, there are several ways to approach the actual soil install. We recommend installing cardboard to keep the weeds and grass down, then either watering it and mulching over it and letting it sit a year, or going ahead and planting. If you are including larger plants like shrubs, it's best to wait, but you can install them now by either mounding up the soil to give them plenty of root growth room or cutting through the cardboard just for their rootball before planting.

Please see more detailed info on bed and soil prep at our website:

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/community-gardening/>



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Liz Moyer



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

Garden centers are considered "essential businesses," so now you can help support this important community resource. Consider using some edibles – curly parsley makes a great border and those bright green sweet potato vines actually do form sweet potatoes you can eat in the fall!

And be sure to wave to any passing cars while you are working – you'll be glad when you see every single driver smile and wave back!

Happy Corona Virus Gardening!

## The President's Volunteer Service Award

### *About The Award*

The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) was started by the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation in 2003 as a way to thank and honor volunteers. The program continues today as an initiative of the Corporation for National and Community Service and is managed by Points of Light, an international nonprofit whose mission is to inspire, equip, and mobilize people to take action to change the world.

The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes individuals, families, and groups that have achieved a certain standard – measured by the number of hours of service during a 12-month period.

For adults, age 26+, the award levels are:

Bronze	for 100 - 249 hours/12 months
Silver	for 250 - 499 hours/12 months
Gold	for 500+ hours/12 months

### *Some DCMGA Statistics:*

- DCMGA has participated in the program for 10 years now.
- We have given 588 awards during those 10 years, to 216 recipients.
- This year we have 90 members who have earned an award.

## President's Volunteer Service Awards for 2019

*Names are in alphabetical order and not reflective of placement in the photos.*

### *Gold (500+ hours)*



Gay Campbell  
Sharrie Ely  
Cindy Helm  
Liz Moyer  
Pat Moyer  
Kathryn Wells  
Kim Wootton

## President's Volunteer Service Awards for 2019

### Silver (250-499 hours)

Marion Arndt  
Joe Beckett  
Robert Bender  
Barbara Brown  
Barbie Dane  
Beverly Duncan  
Karen Gibson  
Tammie Gurley  
Lynda Harvey  
Susan Hudiburgh  
Linda Javor  
Jolayne LaCour  
Susan Novak  
Karen Roberts



Beth Sharum   Shirlee Singer   Debbie Smith   Katherine Woodward

### Bronze (100-249 hours)



Gloria Alexander  
Jerry Alexander  
Rick Armontrout  
Lori Barr  
Nick Barrows  
Patti Barry  
Dana Bays  
Mary Branstetter  
Reagan Branstetter

Carol Brantley  
Karen Brown  
Ngoc Brown  
Mary Cissell  
Patricia Cooke  
Susan Cosio  
Mike Crawford  
Marilyn Crouse  
Linda D'Amanda

Sheila Daniel  
Claudia Duckworth  
Don Edwards  
Pat Edwards  
Kathryn Fast  
Janet Gershenfeld  
Bernadette Gilbert  
Bree Gray-Eskue  
Kaye Gross

Mary Harned  
Linda Hay  
Anne Haynie  
Martha Hector  
Ann Hillmann  
Cheryl Huckabee  
David Huffman  
Debby Ishee  
Lela Khan  
Lisa Lebsack  
Mary Lehrer  
Socie Lemke  
Pamela Long  
Shirley Manfredi  
Carol Noble  
Thomas O'Brien  
Dolores Payne  
Dale Powell  
Barbara Prins  
Kathleen Rainey  
Michele Rawleigh

Ray Roberts, Sr  
Cathie Rod  
Charlotte (Barney)  
Sanborn  
Kimberlee  
Shaneyfelt  
Steve Simpson  
Diane Sloan  
Sonny Smith  
Pam Spooner  
Joanne Spurgin  
Steve Spurgin  
Carolyn Stoy  
Russell Tyson  
Barbara Veglia  
Lea Watson  
William White  
Deborah Williams  
Lee Ann Yates





## DCMGA Project News

### What's Growing On

BY JOANNE SPURGIN



#### **New Deadline for Budget Approval – November 18, 2020**

This year the Board of Directors will work to get the 2021 budget prepared and approved by members at the November 18th General Meeting. This allows us to have funds approved for expenditure by January 1, 2021, the beginning of our fiscal year. With this change, Project Managers will need to be proactive in developing their budgetary needs earlier than in past years. In the coming weeks, Project Managers will be sent more information, including deadlines and necessary forms.

#### **Thank You, Project Managers!**

There are many moving parts that Project Managers are responsible for. One important part of their role is providing direction to others. With the recurring cancellation of AgriLife related areas, our Project Managers have had to prepare, then stop in their tracks and cancel the workdays of their projects. Please be patient with calendar changes as this is a timely process involving many people. Fortunately, some meetings have been held via videoconferencing and it has been a great learning tool for all of us! The Board of Directors and Project Managers value and appreciate all intern and veteran member support and look forward to when we can get back to what we love most—gardening with our fellow Master Gardeners and engaging the public with our knowledge. So, a big thank you to all our Project Managers and their supporting partners!

#### **HELP WANTED:**

##### Sign Up Genius

With the growth in membership and number of projects, we're looking to expand use of SignUpGenius. SUG has been managed single-handedly by Kaye Gross since the beginning, but as we look at our organization's needs and her workload, we would like to add additional members to her team.

##### Merchandise Ordering

Another area needing additional help is with merchandise orders. This involves working with vendors, use of correct logo, payment coordination, scheduling orders, delivery, and communications.

If you have an interest in one or both activities, please email Joanne Spurgin (address is in VMS).

## Texas Master Gardener Association 2020 State Conference



**Due to COVID-19,  
the conference has been  
cancelled.**

For more information  
<https://txmg.org/conference/>



Spring Gardening Season has begun!  
Got a yummy fruit, prized vegetable,  
specialty herb, or flawless flower in  
your garden?

As you begin your spring seed sowing, consider choosing a variety to grow and enter in our 2020 Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show!

Bring your free entry on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 9 am to the  
Front Lawn of the Historic Bayless-Selby House in Denton.

Cash prizes will be awarded for both Youth and Adults in several  
categories including Best in Show.

Happy Gardening!





## Online Education Opportunities

*For Master Gardeners and the Community We Serve*

.....

Science-based knowledge on a variety of topics in an innovative and interactive virtual format.

.....

See this month's article, "Keep Calm and Garden On" for additional web-based resources (page 8).

### Web-Based Classes

#### AgriLife Online Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Most, but not all, are free.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Plants-and-Garden>

#### AgriLife Online Pest & Weed Control Courses

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Some are free, some are inexpensive, some are pricey.)

<https://agrilifelearn.tamu.edu/catalog?pagename=Pest-and-Weed-Control>

#### Earth-Kind® Online Master Gardener Training

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

#### Introduction to Plant Identification

USDA NRCS Science & Technology

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/introduction-to-plant-identification>

### Social Media Events

#### Gardening 101 Series

Aggie Horticulture, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Wednesdays & Fridays, 1 pm, via Facebook)

Tune in live or watch the replay.

Topics may be viewed at:

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fblive/>

#### Virtual Learning Series

Water University, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

(Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5 pm, via Facebook)

Tune in live or watch the replay.

Upcoming class schedule and archived class selection may be viewed at:

<https://wateruniversity.tamu.edu>

#### DCMGA Members

See our **Member Handbook** for approved CE sources and guidelines.

Note that members may claim up to three hours of annual discretionay education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to six.





#### BY HELP DESK TEAM

*Q: Virginia creeper and poison ivy grow together on our property. In spring, the new Virginia creeper sometimes displays a three-leaf pattern similar to poison ivy. How can I tell the difference between them, and how can I treat poison ivy without harming desirable plants?*

*A: Spring warmth awakens our garden favorites, but it also coaxes to life the undesirables, like poison ivy. The chameleon of vines, poison ivy varies greatly in its appearance, confounding our efforts to identify and avoid it. Read on to learn the differentiating characteristics and control measures. Included links allow for further research. There's even a fun quiz to help you practice PI identification. This author got 53 correct out of 55. Who can beat that score?*

#### NOTEWORTHY DIFFERENCES

- Poison Ivy (PI) – Each compound leaf contains three leaflets.
- Virginia Creeper (VC) – Each compound leaf consists of up to five leaflets. In early growth, VC may only show 3 leaflets, with more leaflets appearing over time.
- PI – Center leaflet has a longer stalk than the side leaflets, which seem to have almost no stalk at all

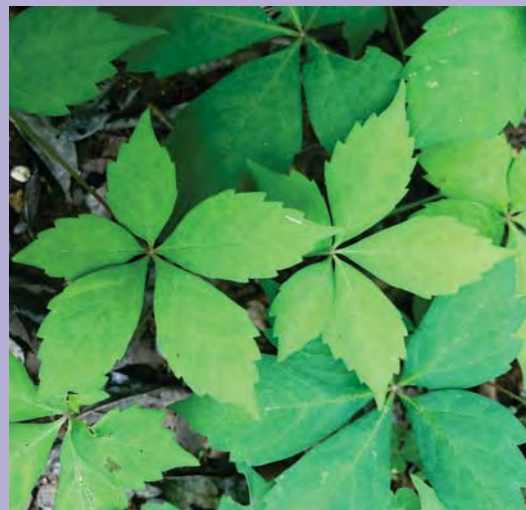
- and are always directly opposite each other.
- VC – Individual leaflets radiate uniformly from the center with virtually equal stalk lengths.
- PI – Has no tendrils or adhesive discs, but uses aerial roots to climb structures.
- VC – Uses tendrils and adhesive discs to climb structures.
- PI – Older vines have a demonstrable hairy appearance due to the aerial roots.
- VC – Young vines exhibit finely hairy growth.

Due to the wonderfully detailed information provided, this answer couldn't be printed in its entirety here, but please link to our Facebook post for additional information and resources:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA/posts/3944392188934749>.

And, as always, please explore our website for a wealth of gardening education, information, and upcoming events:

[www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com).



Virginia Creeper Photo Courtesy of Kathryn Wells

*If you have questions about plant identification 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...*

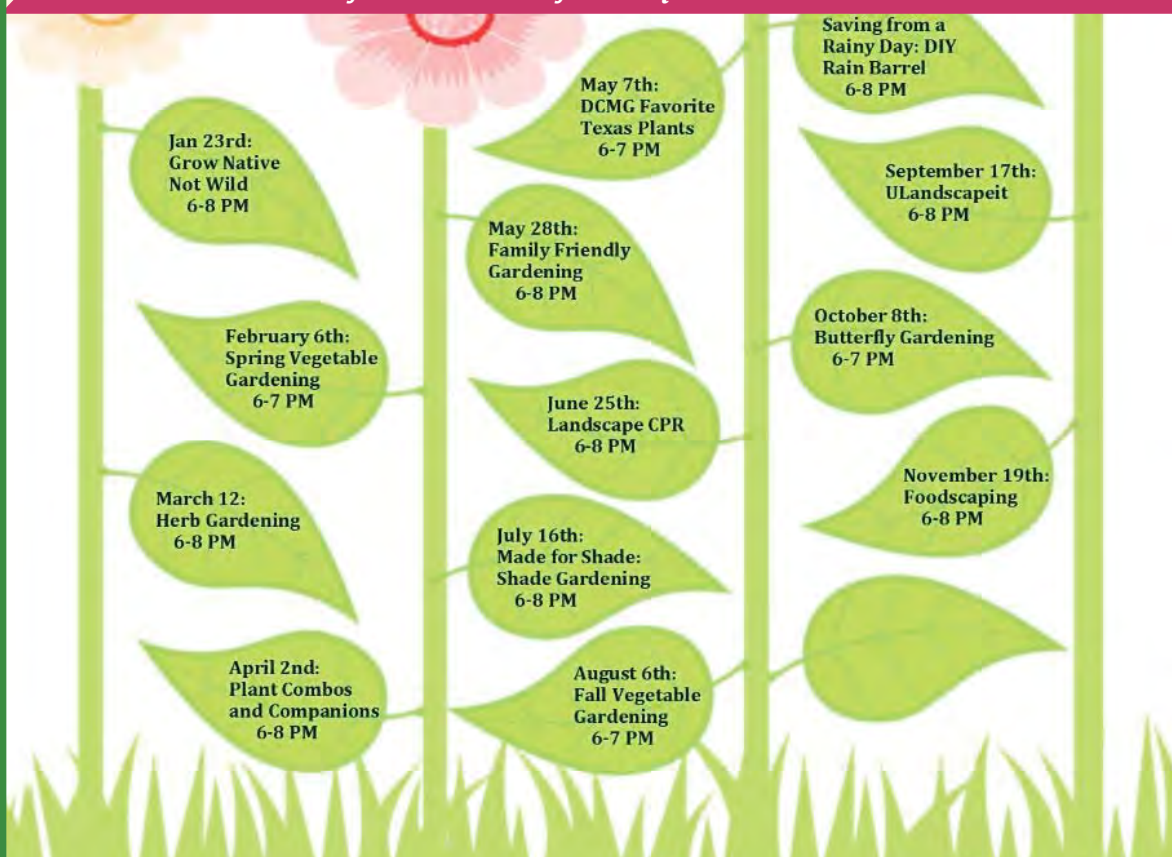
## 2020 Garden Secrets Classes

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 . RSVP is required.**

All classes will be held at the MCL Grand  
(100 N Charles St, 75057).

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

*April 2nd, and May 7th classes have been postponed due to COVID-19.  
Please check with [KeepLewisvilleBeautiful.org](http://KeepLewisvilleBeautiful.org)  
for the status of subsequent classes.*



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



Keep Lewisville  
Beautiful



WATER  
UNIVERSITY



RSVP: 972-538-5949

[keeplewisvillebeautiful.org](http://keeplewisvillebeautiful.org)

[info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org](mailto:info@keeplewisvillebeautiful.org)





### **An Opportunity for Families to Learn Gardening Together**

WHERE

## WHEN

WHO

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### ACTIVITY

Harvesting  
the Herb

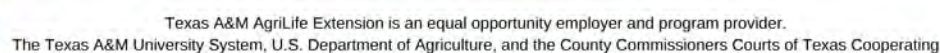
## TOPIC

**CANCELED**

The weather determines what we are able to plant each week, but our planting includes radishes, carrots, potatoes, spinach, lettuce, chard, squash, peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, onions, herbs, watermelon, and cantaloupe. We will also be harvesting throughout the season.

PLEASE PARK ON LATTIMORE STREET. IN THE EVENT OF RAIN, THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN WILL NOT MEET.

For additional information, visit us on facebook: DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION  
or online: [www.dcmga.com](http://www.dcmga.com)



**TEXAS**  
MASTER GARDENER  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
Denton County

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

# Annual Plant Sale

## CANCELED

9 AM - 1 PM or Until sellout!!

Trinity United Methodist Church  
633 Hobson Lane, Denton

Bring your own wagon or cart so you can take home as many of these wonderful plants as your garden can hold.

- ☛ Texas native plants, tough-as-nails perennials and no-fuss roses
- ☛ Hard-to-find ground covers, bedding plants and herbs
- ☛ Special container plants
- ☛ Pass-along plants from Master Gardeners' own gardens
- ☛ Master Gardeners available to help you make your selections and answer your gardening questions

For more information, visit our website at [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com), like us on FACEBOOK or call (940)349-2883

"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"

© 2020 Denton County Master Gardener Assn



**The Denton County Master  
Gardener Association  
thanks**



**for their support of our  
Spring Garden Tour.**

*Garden Tour Dependent on Current Conditions  
Watch our website - [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com)  
or our [Facebook page](#) for current information*

DENTON COUNTY  
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2020 Garden Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2020

9 AM TO 4 PM

# Four Delightful Denton County Gardens

A favorite family-friendly event you don't want to miss!  
Inspiration abounds on self-guided tours of four unique North  
Denton County private properties with Master Gardeners onsite to  
provide education and information.

Two properties include an optional Nature Walk guided by volunteers  
from the Texas Master Naturalist - Elm Fork Chapter.

Closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Vendors of unique garden-related items at one location!

Early-Bird tickets are available Feb. 19th thru March 31st for \$10.

Regular ticket price of \$15 is effective April 1st thru May 8th.

At-Door tickets will be available on May 9th for \$20.

Go to [www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents](http://www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents)  
for tickets as well as property information and locations.

DCMGA thanks D&L Farm & Home for their support of  
the 2020 Garden Tour







DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER  
ASSOCIATION  
AND THE CITY OF DENTON  
INVITE YOU TO THE

# Fruit, Vegetable, Herb and Flower Show

SATURDAY  
JUNE 20, 2020  
9 TO NOON

317 E. MULBERRY ST  
BAYLESS-SELBY HOUSE LAWN

Registration open to all Denton County Residents. Youth and Adult Divisions.

Cash prizes awarded to Best in Show, 1st and 2nd Runners Up.

Registration begins promptly at 9.



# DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2020 Events

### Denton County Speaker Series:

Aubrey: Jan. 16 - Oct. 15

Flower Mound: Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Lewisville: Jan. - Nov.

Childers Creek: *Canceled* June

Design Your Yard Class: Jan. 23-25

*Canceled*

Garden Tour: May 9

Junior Master Gardener Camp:

June 8-12

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and

Flower Show: June 20

Design Your Yard Class: Aug. 27-29

Fall Garden Fest: Oct. 3

DCMGA New Member Round Up: Oct. 13



# DCMGA.COM



### 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.

### 2020 Board of Directors

President	Kathryn Wells
Vice-President - Projects	Joanne Spurgin
Vice-President - Outreach	Kathy Rainey
Secretary	Katherine Woodward
Treasurer	Joe Beckett
Communications Dir. - Systems	Liz Moyer
Communications Dir. - Promotions	Treva McFadden
Education Director	Barbara Brown
Member-at-Large	Tammie Gurley
Past President	Pat Moyer

### Social Media

#### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DentonCountyMGA>

#### Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/DentonCountyMGA>

#### Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@DentonCountyMGA>


#### Pinterest:

<https://www.pinterest.com/DentonCountyMGA>

#### YouTube:

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

### Save the Date



April 8	General Meeting (Virtual)
May 9	Garden Tour
June 20	Fruit, Vegetable, Herb & Flower Show

### Contact Information

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

Office: 940.349.2883

#### Help Desk:

940.349.2892

[master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com)

#### Webmaster:

[dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com)

#### Communications:

[dcmga.communications@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com)

#### Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

### Content

Submission deadline for the May edition of *The Root* is Wednesday, April 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](mailto:karenhoot19@gmail.com) or Communications Director Liz Moyer at [lizmoyer@live.com](mailto:lizmoyer@live.com).

All photos are courtesy of DCMGA Media Team unless otherwise attributed.

<https://dcmga.com>