

Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



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## Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Happy March, Friends!

What a difference a week (and even day) makes! During mid-February's arctic blast here in north Texas, we went from 0 degrees F to 70 degrees F in about three days. Everything is bigger in Texas ... including the temperature swings!

I hope everyone is safe and sound; I know many of you endured the Polar Express without power, without water, and, in some cases, with burst pipes. If you were one who did, I sincerely hope that restoring your home is an easy and economical process.

As we survey our landscapes, it's a good time to note what's recovering ... and what isn't. Our gardens are always evolving works in progress; hopefully, most of your treasures weathered the storm. Worst case scenario, it's a prime opportunity to reimagine some of your flora real estate! If you need some tips in assessing the viability of your plants, this [three-minute video by Texas A&M](#) (via Aggie Horticulture's Facebook page) may help. And, of course, you are always welcome to [contact our Denton County Master Gardener Association Help Desk](#).

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<https://dcmga.com>

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

- 01 Buds From The Board
- 03 Janet's Corner
- 05 Project Spotlight:  
Denton Co. Historical  
Park Gardens
- 07 Meet a Member:  
Kim Shaneyfelt
- 09 Plant of the Month:  
Privet
- 12 2021 Garden Tour  
Preview
- 13 Feature Article:  
Insects That Attack  
Trees
- 17 2020 Award Recipients  
& Member Milestones
- 19 Welcome 2021 Interns
- 20 Volunteer Fair Recap
- 21 Online Education  
Opportunities
- 23 Help Desk Q&A:  
Ice Damage to Trees



## Buds From The Board (Cont.)

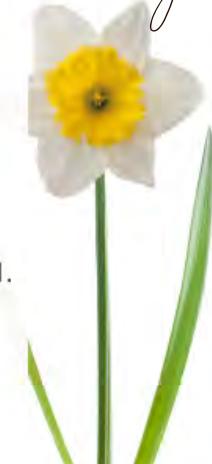
For our March 10th General Meeting (via Zoom), we're pleased to feature Daniel Arenas (Denton County Master Gardener, Texas Master Naturalist- Elm Fork Chapter, Urban Garden Specialist, and Certified Permaculture Design Specialist), who will present, "Permaculture Design." Advance registration is required, and, as always, our General Meetings are free and open to the public.

Presidential Volunteer Service Award recipients will also be announced at March's General Meeting to honor and recognize our members who completed 100 or more hours of service in 2020. Fifty-nine members earned the award despite the challenges of restricted service opportunities due to Covid-19 protocols. Three of the fifty-nine completed more than 500 hours of service in the 12-month period. What an achievement!

In this past year as many events and programs were held virtually, we developed a video library on our Denton County MGA YouTube channel. Check out the offerings when you have time, and, if you haven't already, subscribe so you'll be notified of new content.

Denton County Master Gardeners and Denton County residents—you're as resilient as the very best plants in our gardens. Spring is on the horizon, y'all. Let's greet it together; ready, set, March!

*Kathryn*



## Janet's Corner

BY JANET LAMINACK, AGRILIFE EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT, DENTON COUNTY

### **Not Dead Yet**

What just happened? It was crazy-cold is what happened. Like you, I don't put up with our sweltering summers to have to deal with that kind of cold nonsense. But SURPRISE! So what does this mean for our plants? In talking to my colleagues across the state, we came up with: "we don't know yet." That's a great answer from some of the most knowledgeable horticulturists ... oh, right, insert Aggie joke here.

It is frustrating to not know how this cold has or will affect our plants, but we just don't have a reference point. It has never gotten this cold, for this long, at this time of the year in our recent history. Previous cold snaps have happened without much plant damage. However, the soil temperature was also really cold for several days this time and that will have an impact.

The discussion with my colleagues was about how cold can "such and such" plant survive? Many of our plants are grown in much colder climates and thrive. However, with our warm winters, many of those plants were coming out of dormancy. Buds were swelling, flowers were blooming, sap was rising, birds were singing ... all that stuff. That makes it all the more unknown in our part of the world.

So for now, our best advice is to "live with the ugly" for a while. I have seen plants/trees/shrubs that looked completely dead, but eventually bounced back. I have declared plants goners only to see that they are thriving years later. That's why we are recommending a "wait and see" approach. If the plant has died completely or some of it has died back, there's nothing to be done about it right now. Pruning back should wait, at least for a couple more weeks.

Are you ready for my view into the magic ball, since I'm obviously so good at this sort of thing? I think we will see some ugly evergreen shrubs and trees for a while. Because those plants have foliage, they are more likely to desiccate or even experience physical damage. I predict that some fruit production may be hampered. We may not see it in our area, but I imagine some parts of Texas will see a loss of production.

I foresee a great replanting of winter vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, and other greens in our home gardens, or at least mine. Some of our herbs and other perennials will have died back to the ground or given up completely. Plants in containers that were left outside will probably experience a lower survival rate than their cohorts in the ground.



Photos Courtesy Janet Laminack

## Janet's Corner (Cont.)

Where I'm afraid we will see the biggest impact is going to be to our trees. This was probably a stressful event for trees, which have already endured drought, extreme heat, and flooding in recent years. Cumulative stress events such as these can take a toll even on our older, native trees. What makes it even more heartbreaking and confusing is that the impact probably won't show up this season. Trees are a lot of things, but quick to respond is not one of their traits. Next year or the year after that, the damage will begin to show on our trees.

So besides wait and endure the ugly, what can you do? I would advise that you don't do much. We do not want to create more stress on our plants. Things that can seem good can cause stress, such as watering too much or fertilizing. Certainly our timing is going to be a bit different this spring. If you like to do planting, fertilizing, or weed control by a calendar +date; that may not work. Pruning or trimming should wait as well.

We have shared some videos on assessing freeze damage along with some pointers on the [Aggie Horticulture Facebook page](#). We may not have much advice, but rest assured you are not alone.

As always, give us a call at 940-349-2892 or send us an email at [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com) if you have specific questions.



### What's Growing in Member's Gardens



**Jalapeno & Poblano Peppers**  
*Capsicum annuum*



**Cabbage**  
*Brassica oleracea*



**George Specie Iris**  
*Iris histrioides George*



**Parsley Leopard Plant**  
*Farfugium japonicum 'Shishi Botan'*

## Denton County Historical Park Gardens

BY KATHY RAINY

You may have visited or at least driven by the Denton County Historic Park located at 317 W. Mulberry Street in Denton, TX. It is home to the Bayless Selby House, African American Museum, Woods House, and Taylor Cabin. The Bayless Selby House and African American Museum have been renovated and are open to the public for tours. The Taylor Cabin is the next structure to be renovated and the Woods House, thereafter. Denton County Master Gardeners work with Peggy Riddle, Director of Museums from the Office of History and Culture, and Denton County Facilities Department's Fred Burrell, Landscape Project Manager, to beautify the park's gardens. Master Gardener Georgiana McCoig is the project manager for DCMGA. She learned in July 2020 that the Office of History and Culture needed help doing some renovations to the herb gardens at the Bayless Selby house. While she was working on the herb garden last summer, she noticed that the flower beds at the park needed to be rejuvenated.



### MG Volunteers

rejuvenate flower beds at the Denton County Historic Park.

After talking with other Master Gardeners, Georgiana received approval to make the Historic Park Gardens a DCMGA project in September 2020. Georgiana asked Lee Ann Yates to become Assistant Project Manager because Lee Ann is a docent at the museums and a Master Gardener. Both share an interest in beautification of the gardens. Georgiana's special interest in the park stems from her husband who is a docent for the museums and her daughter who is the Curator of Collections for the museums. The original gardens were designed by DCMGA back in 2000 and the Park officially opened in 2001. Again, several years later, DCMGA designed the gardens for The African American Museum which opened in 2008.

Since the project's initiation last fall, Master Gardener volunteers have trimmed trees and shrubs and cleaned out flower beds. They removed plants where roses will be planted this winter and planted 750 daffodil bulbs surrounding the historic buildings that represent different parts of Denton County. The Historical Park project has a busy time ahead after the renovation of the Taylor (Log) Cabin. Beautification of the log cabin site will include planting trees, installing a vegetable garden, demonstration gardens, and a flower bed around the log cabin sign. Master Gardeners will also design the gardens for the Woods House and continue some maintenance of the flower beds throughout the

## Denton County Historical Park Gardens (Cont.)

Historical Park including trimming rose bushes, cleaning out flower beds, and planting new plants. The County contracts with a landscaping service that trims and mows the grounds and mulches the beds. When Covid protocols permit, Georgiana will schedule workdays every other week, as needed.

In early spring visitors to the Historical Park can expect to see new rose bushes, trimmed plants, clean flower beds, and blooming daffodils. Master Gardeners interested in volunteering for this Project should contact Georgiana and watch the DCMGA calendar for workdays.



### DCMGA Volunteers Observe COVID-19

protocols while continuing to serve the community. Last fall volunteers trimmed trees and shrubs, cleaned out flower beds, and planted 750 daffodil bulbs in the park gardens.



Join Denton County MGA in cyberspace for our March General Meeting & Program.

We're pleased to feature Daniel Arenas (Denton County Master Gardener, Texas Master Naturalist-Elm Fork Chapter, Urban Garden Specialist, and Certified Permaculture Design Specialist), who will present, "Permaculture Design."

Advance registration is required.

As always, our General Meeting programs are open to the public and free of charge.

We look forward to seeing you!



## Meet Kim Shaneyfelt

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

To say Kim Shaneyfelt has led an impressive life of service to her country and community is an understatement. Kim knew she would have to serve four years in the military when she accepted an ROTC scholarship to Southeast Missouri State University, and thought, "I can stand on my head for that length of time." Twenty-four years later, she retired as a Colonel, with her final active duty post as the Commander, 17th Training Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base in San Angelo, Texas. Her military specialization was intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. During her career in the U.S. Air Force, Kim received eleven military service decorations. If that was not enough, she's earned a BS in psychology (Southeast Missouri State), and three post-graduate degrees: an MA in Security Studies (Georgetown University), an MA in National Security and Strategy (Air University), and an MS in National Resource Strategy (National Defense University).



**Kim Shaneyfelt,  
DCMGA Class of 2017**

Kim's childhood home in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was on three acres with a one-acre vegetable garden, fruit trees, grape vines, and other produce plants. Her father once brought home a grocery deli case that he turned into a mini-greenhouse for starting seedlings. Her mother liked the idea, but not the look, and camouflaged it with a fence and forsythia bushes. Her mother raised iris that once grew in Kim's grandmother's yard, and eventually made their way to Kim (more about that later!).

Kim was stationed in the U.S., South Korea, Japan, and Germany. Although she wasn't really able to garden while stationed overseas, she often visited the beautiful public gardens.



While stationed at Scott Air Force Base, Kim lived in a home built in 1904 in St. Louis, Missouri, near the Missouri Botanical Garden. A huge 100-year-old tulip poplar tree grew in the front with six-inch yellow-orange flowers every spring. She often made the trip to Cape Girardeau to check on her parents who were both ill.

## Kim Shaneyfelt (Cont.)

After returning from those stressful trips, it was therapeutic to work in her garden, sometimes working in the dark wearing a headlamp. Like most of us, she learned from her gardening failures. She had to re-plant the shady, north-facing front yard with shade tolerant herbs and perennials. In her sunny backyard some of her favorites included butterfly bush and coneflower. She attributes this experience to putting her on the road to becoming a Master Gardener.

In 2015, Kim and her husband purchased a home in Denton County on two heavily wooded acres. In addition to many oak trees, the property was covered with "scrub" trees, Greenbriar vine, and other invasive plants. They removed 130 trees that were causing stress to the desirable trees and plants. This opened up some sunny spots for a vegetable garden and an area for turf and sports activity. They added beautiful native and adaptive plants, and also a Japanese-inspired garden with a stone lantern and wooden bridge over a dry creek bed as focal points. As a bonus, they are seeing more native wildlife around their home. The irises from her grandmother's garden are lovingly planted in Kim's landscape after being cared for by her uncle for 5 years while Kim was stationed overseas. This awesome garden was featured in the 2019 DCMGA Garden Tour.



Kim was a member of the DCMGA class of 2017. In addition to the Garden Tour, Kim served as Secretary on the DCMGA Board of Directors in 2018 and 2019, has volunteered for a variety of DCMGA projects including the Fall Garden Fest, maintaining the gardens at Fair Oaks Senior Independent Living Center, and the annual Plant Sale. Kim's current gardening interests include pollinator gardening, native and adaptive grasses, and hardscape. She recently completed a course on water features sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Texas. She's a fan of [Neil Sperry's E-Gardens Newsletter](#), which features gardening tips for Texas.

True to her commitment to service, she was appointed by Governor Abbott to serve as one of five Commissioners on the Texas Veterans

Commission. The mission of the Texas Veterans Commission is to "advocate for and provide superior service to veterans that will significantly improve the quality of life for all Texas veterans, their families, and survivors."

After living all over the world, Kim and her husband are planning to make Denton County their forever home. They've purchased a lot in Hidden Valley Airpark, a fly-in community in eastern Denton County. They hope to start construction on their new home this year. While her husband dreams of being able to fly more often, Kim is making lists of the plants and hardscape for their new landscape.

## Plant of the Month - Privet and its Dirty Not-So-Little Secret

BY MICHELE RAWLEIGH

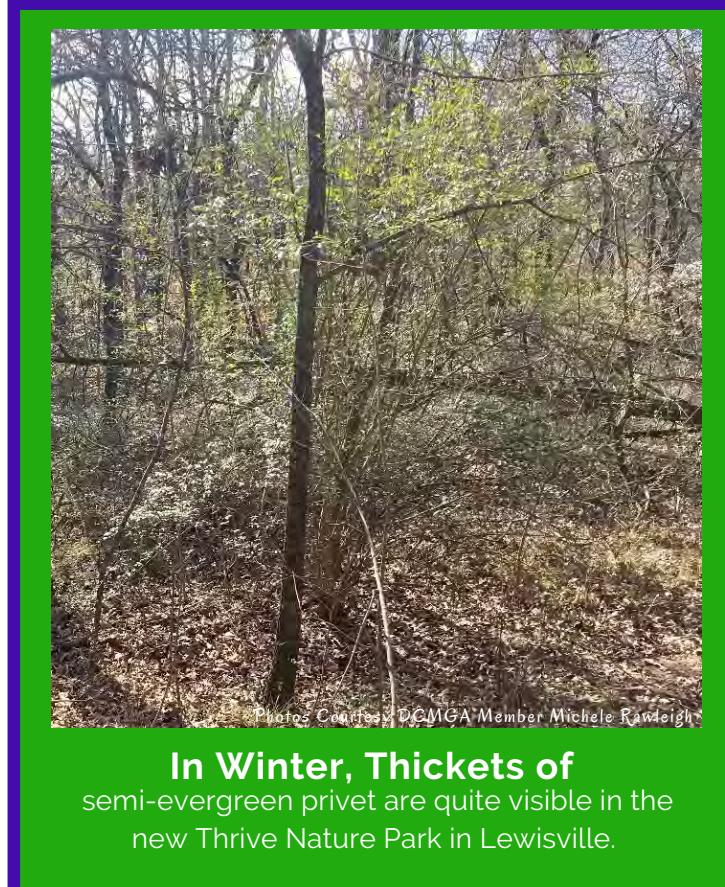
*Have you ever planted something that you thought was perfect only to regret it later? In this space where we usually feature recommended plants, we are highlighting a popular shrub that is problematic and should be avoided.*

Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*) and its *Ligustrum* cousins are popular landscape shrubs that have a significant flaw – they're an ecological nightmare. Privets certainly seem to check off a lot of desirable boxes for many homeowners: low maintenance, mostly evergreen, shade tolerant, privacy hedge, pretty flowers and beautiful berries. BUT ... privets are, plain and simple, botanical thugs that have escaped from our backyards into our natural areas. Once established, privet alters the forest ecosystem by creating excessive shade, choking out native plants, and reducing biodiversity.

Removing privet from woodlands and riparian areas for restoration projects will be a never-ending battle. In some cases, these natural areas are far from the suburban landscapes that were the original privet source. Berry-eating birds are an efficient dispersal method, plus privet spreads by suckering roots, quickly creating impenetrable thickets.

"I think privet is the worst invasive by far," says Courtney Blevins, Regional Forester with the Texas Forest Service (TFS). He fears old-growth trees in North Central Texas are not adequately being replaced because dense stands of privet are preventing tree seedlings from growing. Our beautiful oak forests could become a privet wasteland. Not surprisingly, privet has made the Cross Timbers list of the Dirty Dozen – the top twelve invasive nonnative plants that are "particularly worrisome" in each Texas ecoregion (see References).

You need not venture too far into Denton County's wild places, like the Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area, to see the impact of privet. It's literally everywhere despite substantial efforts to eradicate it. Clusters of white blooms in early spring and dark purple berries in early winter give away its ubiquitous presence. Other times of the year though, it tends to blend in with the rest of the natural



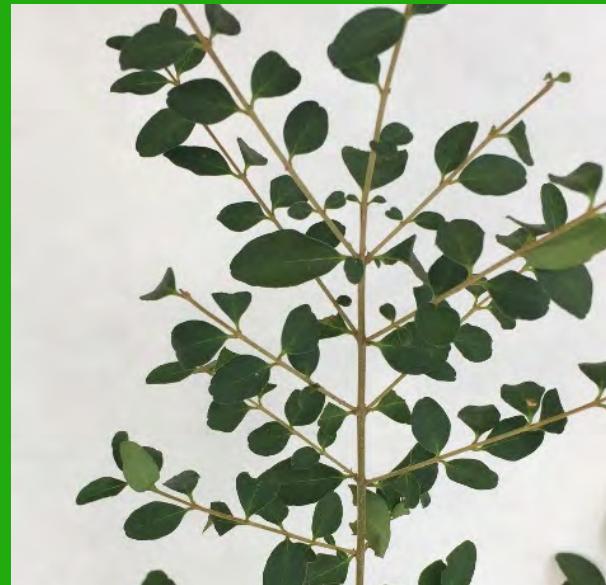
**In Winter, Thickets of**  
semi-evergreen privet are quite visible in the  
new Thrive Nature Park in Lewisville.

## Privet (Cont.)

flora. In late winter, after the berries have been consumed, younger Chinese privet specimens could be mistaken for the Texas native yaupon holly. The most obvious difference being that privet has opposite branching while the yaupon holly has alternate branching.



**Privet's Dark Purple Berries**  
often persist into winter as shown here.



**Privet's Summer Foliage**  
features opposite branching.

A native of Asia, privet was introduced into this country more than a hundred years ago as an ornamental shrub. It continues to be widely available for legal purchase despite being listed as an invasive plant throughout much of the southeastern United States. That may seem counterintuitive, but considering how long privet has been here and how widespread it already is, regulations attempting to control privet by restricting sales may be futile. That's where public education plays an important role.

### **Privet Control Options**

Now that the ecological downside of planting privet has been revealed, what should you do if you already have it in your landscape? Established shrubs are difficult to remove, but the techniques employed during the restoration of natural areas are well-documented using mechanical and/or chemical means (see *References*). However, since the main source of dispersal is from the fruit, if the flowers or unripe berries are diligently removed and collected, then the ability of the shrub to escape into the wild can be minimized. For smaller plantings where continuous maintenance is not preferable, then the entire plant including the roots should be removed and the area monitored over the next year or so for seedlings.

### **Native Alternatives to Privet**

Fortunately, there are several Texas native plants that are suitable substitutes for privet in the Denton County area. In addition to the aforementioned yaupon holly, here are a few others that are described

## Privet (Cont.)

in the Native Plant of North America Database, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (see References):

- Southern Wax Myrtle (*Morella cerifera*)
- Carolina Laurel Cherry (*Prunus caroliniana*)
- Evergreen Sumac (*Rhus virens*)
- Inkberry (*Ilex glabra*)
- Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)

More recently, a reportedly sterile cultivar of Chinese privet called 'Sunshine' has been introduced. This cultivar is touted as not producing flowers or fruit and has bright yellow green foliage that makes it an eye-catching landscape shrub in full sun.

### Resources and More Information

[TexasInvasives.Org](http://TexasInvasives.Org), Texas Invasives 101

Cross Timbers and Prairies Ecoregion "Dirty Dozen Terrestrial Invasive Species"

(includes alternative plant options)

[https://www.texasinvasives.org/i101/ecoalert\\_detail.php?ecoregion\\_id=5](https://www.texasinvasives.org/i101/ecoalert_detail.php?ecoregion_id=5)

*Alabama A&M & Auburn Universities, Alabama Cooperative Extension System*

"Control Options for Chinese Privet"

<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/control-invasive-plants/control-options-for-chinese-privet/>

*Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center, Native Plants of North America database*

<https://www.wildflower.org/plants-main>

*Texas A&M University, Texas Forest Service, "Privet Fact Sheet"*

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/uploadedFiles/Landowners/Privet.pdf>

*USDA National Invasive Species Information Center, "Chinese Privet Profile"*

<https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/plants/chinese-privet>

Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Kathryn Wells



DCMGA members marveled at the beautiful Frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*) ice ribbons created during February's sub-freezing temperatures.

## 2021 Garden Tour Preview

### *A Hidden Cottage Garden*

*Editor's Note: For the next few months, we will share a sneak peak of this year's Garden Tour locations. Be prepared to see some colorful and creative gardens.*

Designed around a Craftsman style home, this hidden cottage garden has no rules. Curved pathways and garden beds, which provide a continual display of year-round color, fill the front and side yards. Perennial plants dominate, with plants allowed to spill over onto the walkways. Both native and adaptive plants have been selected for texture, color, size, and fragrance. Vegetables and herbs are randomly planted throughout the gardens, with self-sowing annuals filling empty spaces.



A dry riverbed was built to control excess runoff and provides a pathway for rain into the rain garden, which has two levels. Native plants, grasses, and wildflowers in this area draw butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.

In the immediate back yard, look for a unique garden shed and quirky wall hangings.

The antique iron gates lead to a hidden backyard with ledges of stone and repurposed logs. This area is planted with shade loving plants. Throughout the gardens, repurposed materials and eclectic yard art are randomly placed—a hallmark of a cottage garden.

The back of the property has been kept natural, with native landscape providing a parklike setting, and is a Certified Wildlife Habitat.



## Insects That Attack Trees

BY JANIE FARLER

Ahh, insects. Few living things cause greater consternation for homeowners. Not all insects are harmful, nor do all infestations need to be treated. Insects usually attack stressed plants, so if an infestation occurs, look for sources of stress and try to correct that.

Because it is impossible to get rid of all insects that may be harming your trees, the first step to solving an insect problem is to identify the insect and then find out if treatment is necessary. If you need help with identification, send a close-up picture of the insect and/or the damage to our help desk: [master.gardener@dentoncounty.com](mailto:master.gardener@dentoncounty.com). If you do decide to use pesticides, the safest time is at dusk after bees have returned to their hives. Please read the warning on use of pesticides below.



If insects are found on a tree (or evidence of them), follow instructions for Integrated Pest Management (IPM). IPM focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage by managing the ecosystem. With IPM, you take actions to keep pests from becoming a problem. For more information on AgriLife recommended IPM-based control: "[About Integrated Pest Management](#)"

### Insects Commonly Seen on Trees in Denton County

#### Aphids

There are several different types, varying in color. This is one seen frequently. Blasts of water aimed at the underside of the leaves can help limit the numbers of aphids. Aphids are a favorite food for ladybugs and especially ladybug larvae. Waiting for the beneficial insects to come is a good tactic for aphid control.



## Insects That Attack Trees (Cont.)

### Bag Worms

#### *Thyridopteryx ephemeraeformis*

Bag worms can be handpicked from trees. They can defoliate and kill a tree, so control is important. Use of a selective insecticide such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or Spinosad is recommended in the spring when the caterpillars are emerging.

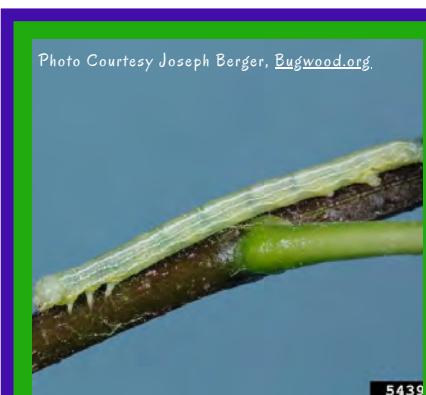


**Bag Worms**

### Cankerworms

#### *Paleacrita vernata* (Peck)

The fall cankerworm is a native insect ranging across the Eastern half of North America from Texas to Nova Scotia. This inch-worm caterpillar will outbreak in large numbers every several years. According to the Department of Entomology University of North Carolina Extension, "The pesticide of choice has been B.t. (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) a naturally occurring bacteria that has been used by organic farmers and gardeners for decades. It has no known adverse effects on humans, wildlife, pets, fish or honey bees."

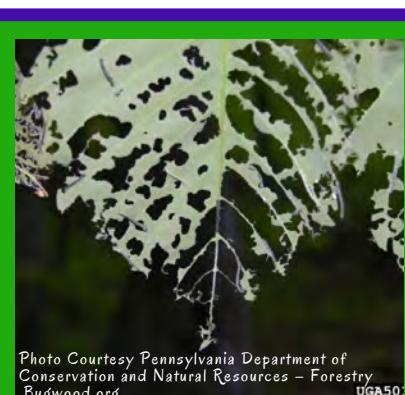


**Cankerworms**

feed as larvae, or caterpillars, on the leaves of a great variety of trees



**Cankerworm Moth**



**Cankerworm**

damage on leaves.

Texas AgriLife suggests, "If treatment is needed, sprays containing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) or spinosad will be the safest for beneficial insects and bees. These sprays should be applied early, before the caterpillars reach their full size. If you can't treat early, it may be best not to treat; however other insecticides, such as carbaryl, permethrin, cyfluthrin and other pyrethroid insecticides can provide effective and rapid control of all sizes of caterpillars."

## Insects That Attack Trees (Cont.)

### *Crape myrtle Bark*

#### *Scale Eriococcus lagerstroemiae*

"One of the first signs of an azalea bark scale infestation is a black (sooty mold) coating that appears on the bark of the trunk and on the branches of crape myrtles. Leaves and limbs may feel sticky. The insects appear as white, waxy encrustations. Up close, the azalea bark scale-insect is white to gray in color. Control recommendations for azalea bark scale are still being developed. Application of systemic insecticides as a drench applied to the root zone has shown the most promise in tests to date.

Imidacloprid and dinotefuran has shown best control when applied between May and July."



**Crape Myrtle bark scale**

### *Elm leaf beetles*

#### *Xanthogaleruca luteola*

The elm leaf beetle is a leaf-chewing pest of elm trees, especially European elm species. If elm leaf beetle is a problem, you can manage it with an integrated program incorporating cultural practices, conservation of natural enemies, regular monitoring, and the use of less-persistent insecticides. Elm leaf beetle populations fluctuate from year to year and trees do not need treatment most years. When management is warranted, use a combination of methods because no single action improves the health of elm trees or kills 100% of the pests.

More information on controlling elm leaf beetle: University of California IPM, "[Pests in Gardens and Landscapes](#)."

## Insects That Attack Trees (Cont.)



Elm Leaf Beetles

### Additional Information

This *University of California* site is extremely helpful. Click on a tree and get a list of pests, diseases, and management options:

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/plantmenu.html>

The *Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab* in College Station can help diagnose disease and fungi. Obtain a submission form here:

<http://plantclinic.tamu.edu/forms/>

For questions about taking samples or proper packaging, send an email to [plantclinic@tamu.edu](mailto:plantclinic@tamu.edu)

*DCMGA, North Texas Gardening, "IPM Practices"*

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/insectspests/about-integrated-pest-management/>

#### Editor's Note:

*This is an excerpt -- To read the complete article, visit "[Insects That Attack Trees](http://txmg.org/denton/files/2010/06/insects-trees-final.pdf)"*

<http://txmg.org/denton/files/2010/06/insects-trees-final.pdf>



#### Book

*Easy Gardening for Texas*, Joseph G. Masabni (2016), Texas A&M University Press - Great book for vegetable gardeners, includes information for 30 different vegetable plants, dealing with pests, harvesting and storing vegetables.

#### Magazine

*Texas Gardener*, The magazine for Texas gardeners, by Texas gardeners (R), Suntex Communications - Monthly activity checklists, planting guides, excellent features (tomatoes, sunflowers, gardening with children, etc.). [Texas Gardener Magazine](#)

#### Website

[Wildflower.org](#), The University of Texas at Austin Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - The go-to place for all native plant information. [Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center](#)

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

## 2020 Award Recipients

BY KATHRYN WELLS

*Congratulations to our 2020 Award recipients!*

**John Cooper Educator (Veteran)** -- Kim Wootton (2017)

Intern Basic Training & Administration; Education Director 2018-19; Help Desk; Speakers Bureau; SWAT; and more!



### **The John Cooper Educator Award,**

named after Denton County MGA's founding County Extension Agent for Horticulture, honors select veteran members for consistent excellence in educational volunteer service. Our 2020 recipient, Kim Wootton, fits the bill!

#### **Educator (Veteran)**

Cheryl Huckabee (2018)

Help Desk

#### **Educator (Intern)**

Edsel Harrell

Help Desk

#### **Award of Excellence**

Liz Moyer (2009)

#### **Project Manager (Veterans)**

Don and Pat Edwards (2012)

Plant Sale

#### **Project Manager (Veteran)**

Karen Gibson (2017)

The Root Newsletter Editor

#### **Project Manager (Interns)**

Judy Allen & Melissa Migis

Public Gardens Map

#### **Special Merit (Veterans)**

Bob Bender, Lela Khan, Debbie

Smith (All 2019)

Plant Sale Pass-Along Team

#### **Special Merit (Veteran)**

Suzie Cook (2003)

Plant Sale Procurement

#### **Special Merit (Veteran)**

Jolayne LaCour (2014)

Greater Aubrey Area Library Series,

Nominations Committee Chair

#### **Special Merit (Veteran)**

Tom O'Brien (2019)

Technology

#### **Special Merit (Veterans)**

Barbara Ridge (2016) & Pam

Spooner (2018)

Help Desk

#### **Special Merit (Intern)**

Sandy LaQuey

Exceptional Volunteer Service

## 2020 Member Milestones

BY KATHRYN WELLS

*Congratulations to our Member Milestoners!*

**20**  
YEARS

Linda Williams



### In her 20 years of membership

with Denton County MGA, Linda Williams served three years (2003, 2009, 2010) as President; her contributions to our Association are many and much appreciated.

**15** Years

Judy Brough  
Brian Byrwa  
Judy Guthrie  
Stacey Jarman  
Jill Peak  
Carolyn Richard

**10** Years

Carol Arment  
Barbara Brown  
Jacqueline Carney  
Susan Cosio  
Kathi Efflandt  
Sandy Faciane  
Sally Hughes  
Phyllis Minton  
Martha Smith  
Lou Todd

**5** Years

Gloria Alexander  
Jerry Alexander  
Jack Alldredge  
Linda Alldredge  
Mary Cissell  
Chris Davidson  
Holly Dollahite  
Linda Gonzales  
Pam Hawkins  
Angie Lindsey  
Leslie Marchman  
Bill Menius  
Stephanie Nickson  
Pat Peters  
David Petty  
Cynthia Polson  
Tricia Rowen  
Joann Szopinski  
Erin Tran  
Gary Truitt  
Russell Tyson  
Joyce Yarnall-Smith

## Welcome 2021 Interns

BY KIM WOOTON

On January 26, DCMGA welcomed the 2021 Intern Class. The training classes continue to be held on Tuesdays, but for the first time we are meeting in a virtual format. Reporting to the Zoom class on the first day were 32 enthusiastic interns and more than 16 veterans who supported them as mentors and presenters for the day.

As we strive to better serve citizens in all areas of our community, the 2021 Class hails from a wide geographic range, representing not only Denton, but also Collin and Wise counties, with all of these interns pledging their volunteer time to Denton County Master Gardener projects. The Class of 2021 consists of a wide range of age groups bringing with them a variety of skills that will ultimately help DCMGA to continue to grow and evolve with the changing times.

Such diversity will make our organization even stronger and help us to better achieve our Mission Statement. The Class Administrators, Barbara Beane and Kim Wootton, as well as the more than fifty members of the Class Planning Team are proud of the goals the interns are already setting and excited for them as they begin their journey with the Denton County Master Gardener Association. So, when you see our Interns (both virtually for now and in person eventually) at the upcoming projects and meetings, please say a friendly, "Howdy!"



# Volunteer Opportunity Fair Recap

BY JOANNE SPURGIN

On February 10th, after presenting the 2020 member awards and milestones and approving the 2021 budget, the first virtual Volunteer Opportunity Fair was held with 158 attendees.

The presentation opened with two Administrative Committees, both great work-at-home opportunities available year-round. The Communications Team presented needs for writing articles, publicity, photography, branding, signage, social media, and the website. The Technology Team is looking for volunteers to share their technical skills to create and maintain webpages, forms, reports, and provide technology support with third party software used by DCMGA.

The third work-at-home project presentation was the Help Desk. The Help Desk receives questions by phone or email from Denton County residents. Volunteers respond with advice about research-based horticultural and environmental practices. Volunteering one day a month would be a great help to the Help Desk's busy year-round schedule.

The next presentation was on the Plant Sale, DCMG's #1 fund raiser and #2 in offering volunteer service which includes planning, ordering, labeling, setup and delivery. Due to Covid restrictions, it was announced that the plant sale and member rose sale will again be for members only and the setup will be like last year. Also, like last year, the pass-along plant sale will be held on a separate day.

FMFB Community Garden and Friends of Shiloh Gardens-Shiloh Fields, both community garden projects, made presentations highlighting their need for volunteers to help in all phases of work needed

## Volunteer Opportunity Fair Recap (Cont.)

to supply produce to meet the growing demands placed on community food banks especially during the pandemic.

Science With Attitude (SWAt) presented five major topics they present to pre-school thru 6th grade. Of our projects, SWAT is #3 in offering volunteer service hours and collaborates with Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Master Wellness, and 4-H.

The presentation for Fairoaks Senior Independent Living Center highlighted educational opportunities and the need for volunteers to maintain 50 gardens with a goal of adding beauty to resident's lives through gardening.

The annual Fruit, Herb, Vegetable and Flower Show presentation highlighted the opportunities for members and the public to showcase their gardening accomplishments. This colorful event has both adult and children categories and volunteers are needed to process entry registrations, judge entries, and award prizes.

The Garden Tour presented the four homes selected for the 2021 Garden Tour to be held on October 2nd. This project contributes DCMGA's largest number of volunteer hours which is needed to help homeowners be "tour ready." Opportunities include planning meetings, workdays preparing the gardens, and tour day activities.

The next volunteer recruitment presentation was the Gardenscaper's project which receives beautification and landscape planning requests from HOA's, government entities, and nonprofits. Volunteers are grouped to work together as teams on these requests.

Another beautification and landscape project, Denton County Historical Park, presented the need for volunteers to help with the design and renovation of the grounds surrounding the Bayless-Selby House. A multi-year plan, funded by the County and City of Denton, involves establishing walkways, demonstration gardens, vegetable gardens, and tree plantings surrounding historical structures including a log cabin.

The final presentation highlighted Beulah Acres Agroforest, a new project started in 2020 in collaboration with Global Spheres and Master Naturalists. This project cultivates and demonstrates an agroforestry system of plant-based food production.

Due to time constraints, only projects offering the most volunteer service opportunities were presented. The Fall Garden Fest was not included because it will not be offered in 2021. Members and interns were encouraged to contact project managers to be added to the project email distribution list, also regularly check the Member Calendar, and read the Weekly Update email.

The Zoom presentation was recorded and posted to DCMGA's private Facebook page and on YouTube. A full list of all projects and committees is located on DCMGA's website under Member Info.



## 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.



### *Gardening 101 + Virtual Learning Series*

Aggie Horticulture

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*Texas AgriLife posts great videos to the Aggie Horticulture Facebook. There are over 50 presentations here. View them at:*

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/Aggie-Horticulture-26803072143/1541129202716211/>

### *AgriLife Online Courses*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*(Most, but not all, are free.)*

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

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

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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

### *Introduction to Plant Identification*

UDSA NRCS Science & Technology

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

### *Aggie Horticulture YouTube*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkcScRVoHlN3Hi1\\_KUQ/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkcScRVoHlN3Hi1_KUQ/)

### *DCMGA YouTube CE Programs*

*"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"*

*"Preserving the Harvest:*

*"Growing Green and Saving Blue,"*

*"Gardens Gone Wild"*

*"Getting Buggy"*

*"Texas Trees: Caring for Your Legacy"*

*"Using Technology for Plant Identification"*

*Business meetings*

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### *Citrus Varieties:*

### *Gardening on the Gulf Coast*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*Stephen Brueggerhoff, Extension Agent – Horticulture*

<https://youtu.be/wSIRjQJnxhE>

### *Chat with Green Aggies*

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

*All previous recordings:*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxT5cUdFaycrUzUiWSA46JRPGBYSFiFzH>

### **DCMGA Members**

Watch for a VMS email with current Online CE Opportunities.

See our [Member Handbook](#) for approved CE sources and guidelines.

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

## Online Education Opportunities (Cont.)

### DCMGA Fall Garden Fest Presentations

Dr. Hennen Cummings – "Your North Texas Turf Needs"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpMG6dvYdEY>

Toni Moorehead – "Fall/Winter Tips & To-do's for North Central Texas Gardens"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjCVnRQyX74>

Betsy Marsh – "Gardens that Give Back: Lovely, Low-Water, Life-Giving Landscapes"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5a2HXvkmYs>

### DCMGA Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series

March 18, 2021. 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

"Roses," Presented by Pat & Don Edwards

Event location: (VIA Zoom) Aubrey Area Library

To preregister:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudOutrTspHNonBMvIFIHB2KoBuw1beTID>

### Tuesdays with Texas Master Naturalists

On the Second Tuesday of each month at the noon hour (12PM Central Standard Time), the TMN State Office will offer an hour-long virtual advanced training event (sometimes including some fantastic new and returning guest speakers). These will be recorded each month and shared to the website by the following day of each month. Here's a link to one YouTube video: A Presentation by Doug Tallamy – "Nature's Best Hope"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WY4aV5hqkxY>

### BRIT Brown Bag Lecture Series

April 17, 2021. Noon to 1 PM.

"Spring Flower Pounding" – Join Master Gardener Nancy Curl to create a lovely piece of fiber art on prepared fabric using natural pigments from flowers and leaves. Flower pounding is a wonderful way for gardeners to preserve the colors of the garden while relieving stress and creating beauty. This is an outdoor class and supplies are provided.

Price: \$35 /Non-Member or \$30 /Member.

More info at

<https://shop.brit.org/Flower-Pounding?page=1>

### DCMGA General Meeting Presentations

March 10, 2021. 10:00 am – Noon.

Open To The Public

Permaculture with Daniel Arenas Richieri. Learn all the facts and details of this extensive new project at Beulah Acres, Global Spheres spearheaded by DCMGA's own Daniel Arenas Richieri.

To Register:

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYuceGsrDIuHNQr16wFXEYz4zeb4JGukqPs>

April 14, 2021. 10:00 am to Noon

Open To The Public

"Just Enough Latin to Go Plant Shopping" presented by Carol Clark

Special presentations from DCMGA Christmas party begin at 24:36 minutes on our YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7j2R5xA1EU>

### Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

Check it out! And don't forget to subscribe!

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

# DCMGA HELP DESK

Question of the Month

BY HELP DESK TEAM

**Q: One of my favorite old trees has ice damage. Can it be saved?**

A: The trees in our landscape serve many functions from adding color and beauty, providing food and shelter for birds, to offering shade during our hot summers. People have emotional attachments to their trees, and of course, you want to save it.

There is no simple answer to "Can my tree be saved?" If the tree was generally healthy and thriving before the storm, it may recover, depending on the extent of the damage. It will depend on how much of the crown (foliage and branches) is intact, how big the wounds are, how much bark is damaged, and maybe even how much you want to save the tree. The Texas Forest Service offers this [guide to assessing the degree of tree damage.](#)

For minor damage, you can prune the damaged limb(s) and wait to see if the tree recovers. Major damage usually cannot be repaired and the tree should be considered a loss. Guidance from Texas A&M AgriLife, "[Proper Pruning Techniques](#)."

### When to call for help:

If there are power lines down, or major branches hanging overhead, stay away. Also, if climbing or extensive chain saw work is involved, leave it to the professionals. This link will help you find a certified arborist.

<https://tfswsweb.tamu.edu/canmytreebesaved/>

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques/>

<https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist>



If you have questions about any horticulture-related subjects,

or master.gardener@dentoncounty.com

*It's free of charge, and it's our pleasure to assist you.*

## Denton County Master Gardener Association



This past year has brought a resurgence of interest in gardening and with it, an increase in Help Desk activity. With this in mind, the Help Desk page has been updated and streamlined. If you have a gardening/plant question, make the Help Desk page your first-stop resource. It's very likely you will quickly and easily find the answers you need.

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

*November's Help Desk Q&A on Pruning Perennials was so well received that it now has its own dedicated DCMGA webpage:*

**"When and how to prune perennial flowering plants"**

<https://dcmga.com/north-texas-gardening/perennials/when-and-how-to-prune-perennial-flowering-plants/>

The Newsletter Editor is looking for  
an assistant

who has **Canva** (or any "drag-and-drop"  
layout/design program) experience and/or knowledge.



If you would like to help, please contact the Communications Director

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

**Earn Volunteer hours from home!**



## 2021 GREATER AUBREY AREA GARDENING SERIES

Jump start your 2021  
gardening with this  
free educational series.

**Aubrey Area Library**  
226 Countryside Drive  
Aubrey, TX 76227



**JANUARY 21**

Texas Trees

*Pat Moyer*



**AUGUST 19**

Waterwise  
Gardening  
*Jolayne LaCour*



**FEBRUARY 18**

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

*Kathryn Wells*



**SEPTEMBER 16**

Texas Native Plants  
*Liz Moyer*



**MARCH 18**

Roses

*Pat & Don Edwards*



**OCTOBER 21**

Made for the Shade

*AgriLife TBD*

### WE'RE GOING VIRTUAL!

Until we can meet in person, all  
sessions will be presented virtually  
through Zoom.

Register for each session at:  
[www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents](http://www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents)

**6:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

Third Thursday: Jan, Feb, & March  
and August, September & October

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# DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2021 Events

### Denton County Speaker Series:

**Aubrey:** March 18

**Aug 19, Sept 16, Oct 21**

### Lewisville: Watch for updates:

<https://keeplewisvillebeautiful.org/garden-secrets/>

**Children's Garden:** TBD

**Plant Sale:** TBD

**Garden Tour:** Oct 2

**Junior Master Gardener Camp:** TBD

**Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and Flower Show:**  
TBD

**Design Your Yard Class:** TBD

**Fall Garden Fest:** Oct. 2

**DCMGA New Member Round Up:** Oct. 19



# 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.

### 2021 Board of Directors

President	Kathryn Wells
Vice-President - Projects	Joanne Spurgin
Vice-President - Outreach	Kathy Rainey
Secretary	Katherine Woodward
Treasurer	Jolayne LaCour
Communications Dir. - Systems	Cheryl Huckabee
Communications Dir. - Promotions	Kathi Fast
Education Director	Barbara Brown
Member-at-Large	Tammie Gurley
Past President	Pat Moyer
Extension Agent - Horticulture	Janet Laminack

### 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:

<http://www.youtube.com/c/DentonCountyMasterGardener>

### Save the Date

March 3	Board Meeting - Virtual
March 10	General Meeting & Program - Virtual ("Permaculture")
March 18	GAAGS "Roses" (Virtual)

### 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 April edition of *The Root* is Monday, March 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 or Communications Director Cheryl Huckabee at [dcmga.communications@gmail.com](mailto:dcmga.communications@gmail.com).

All photos are courtesy of DCMGA's Creative Visual Arts (CVA) Team unless otherwise attributed.