

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Janice Goetz

Buds From The Board

BY KATHRYN WELLS, PRESIDENT

Hooray for the month of May!

Our gardens have mostly rebounded safely and soundly from the effects of Winter Storm Uri, and those few who didn't survive at least gave us a good excuse to buy more plants! The beautiful blooms as well as the beneficial bees and butterflies are a welcome sight.

Although the gardens are in their glory, our customary Mother's Day weekend Garden Tour will be held in the autumn (October 2nd) this year. Many folks have asked about and hoped for a fall circuit, and we expect that it will be refreshing and fun for you to have a different seasonal perspective. Our members and interns are already working to refine our four featured private properties; it's not a hard job, as they are all currently fabulous as is! Be on the lookout for a sneak peek video and more information coming soon. In the meantime, check out other educational and engaging opportunities on the [Upcoming Events](#) page of our [DCMGA website](#).

CONNECT WITH US ON THE WEB
<https://dcmga.com>

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Buds From The Board (Cont.)

And, speaking of educational and engaging opportunities, please join us in cyberspace on May 12th for our General Meeting and Program. We're delighted to welcome Randy Johnson, who will present "Organic Gardening" at 10 am. As always, our General Meetings and Programs are free and open to the public. Advance registration is required.

Last, but in no way least, congratulations to our interns who have completed their initial educational requirements! These stellar individuals comprise the very first group to intentionally complete an all-virtual basic educational program from beginning to end. Led by Administrators Extraordinaire Kim Wootton and Barbara Beane and encouraged by everyone (but especially our seven superb veteran mentors), the Class of 2021 is already blazing a brilliant trail. Great job, y'all; we're so very happy to count you as our newest gardening friends!

Denton County Master Gardeners/Interns and Denton County residents—you're my very favorites! May this month be filled with your very favorites, too.

Kathryn

TOP GARDENING TIPS

May

Finish planting warm season herbs & vegetables.
Continue planting warm season annuals & perennials.
Prune spring-blooming shrubs & vines after flowering.
Prune climbing roses to remove dead or weak canes.
Prune erratic growth on evergreen shrubs.

#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

Photos courtesy of Kathryn Wells

Janet's Corner

BY JANET LAMINACK, AGRILIFE EXTENSION HORTICULTURE AGENT, DENTON COUNTY

Gardening is gaining in popularity, which is finally some validation for us plant nerds. Although not a completely new trend, we are seeing more schools put in outdoor gardens. What does seem to be a newer trend in our area are the greenhouses and hydroponic setups schools are doing.

There is so much to be learned in a garden. As Thomas Jefferson wrote, "tho' an old man, I am but a young gardener." We gardeners can all relate to that, there's always something new to discover. And Mother Nature is on the ready to throw curve balls at every opportunity. Besides the art and science of growing plants, the garden is teeming with life lessons, history, exercise, mental benefits, and opportunities for socialization and connection (and more!).



Photo Courtesy Janet Laminack

For years, our SWAt program has been supporting teachers and schools with horticulture and nature related education. This June, we will be conducting a workshop: "Growing Gardeners," to help teachers know where to start without feeling overwhelmed. All gardeners know starting small is never a bad idea. We hope that some of our participants will be inspired to start small with a few container gardens or even observing nature on the school property. We hope that those who have been charged with a lofty endeavor such as hydroponics or having a plant sale, will come out of the class knowing how to start and knowing we are always a nearby resource for them.

This workshop will be June 2-3. If you are interested in more information about this class, contact Nikki Johnson at 940-349-2883 or Nikki.Johnson@dentoncounty.gov.



Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

Click on "Videos" and check out our new presentations!

And don't forget to subscribe!

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

Scholarship Awards

Denton County Master Gardener Association is pleased to award two scholarships to Denton County resident college students pursuing a degree in a horticulture-related field.



Evan Price of Pilot Point is the recipient of the Tom Harpool Horticultural Scholarship for \$1,000. Evan is attending Oklahoma State University with a major in Natural Resource and Ecology Management.

Kaylee Almand of Sanger received two \$500 scholarships from Canyon Oak Garden Club and the Blue Ribbon Scholarship fund. Kaylee is enrolled at Tarleton State University majoring in Wildlife and Ecosystems and Confined Wildlife Management, and minoring in Agribusiness.

Find more information about our scholarship program at this link:
<https://dcmga.com/scholarship/>.



Celebrity Tomato Latest Texas Superstar

The Celebrity tomato, long recognized as the variety by which all new tomatoes are measured, was named the latest Texas Superstar plant.

Larry Stein, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service horticulturist, Uvalde, said Celebrity tomatoes have been the standard for new tomato varieties since their introduction more than 40 years ago and meet all the criteria for a Texas Superstar plant.

“Celebrity tomatoes have been around for a long time, and it is rare for a tomato to be as good as it has for as long as it has,” he said. “When we test new tomato varieties, we look for characteristics that are as good or better than Celebrity, and that is not easy to do.”

To be designated a Texas Superstar, a plant must perform well for growers throughout the state. Texas Superstars must also be easy to propagate, ensuring the plants are widely available and reasonably priced.

Stein said Celebrity’s root-knot nematode resistance sets it apart from most tomato varieties.

“For gardeners who plant tomatoes in the same spot year after year, they have to have root-knot nematode resistance,” he said. “That and its yield, fruit size and quality make Celebrity a must for gardeners.”

To learn more about raising Celebrity tomatoes, visit [AgriLife Today](https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2021/03/25/celebrity-tomato-latest-texas-superstar/),

<https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2021/03/25/celebrity-tomato-latest-texas-superstar/>.

Meet Michele Rawleigh

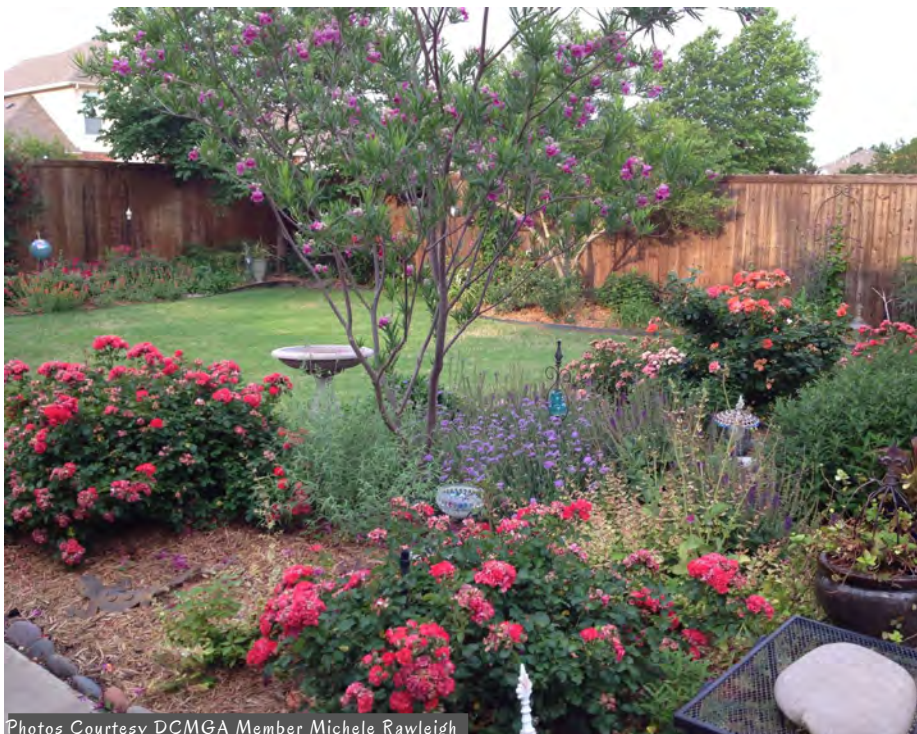
BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Michele says she's a lazy gardener! In reality, she's a smart gardener because she is highly knowledgeable, understands the importance of the right plant in the right place, and is a good steward of the environment.

Michele grew up a "city girl" in the mid-Atlantic. She was 10 years old before she lived in a home with a backyard. At that, it was a small patch behind her family's townhome. That didn't deter her mom who planted every square inch of the yard with a wide variety of plants. She even planted a 5-in-1 apple tree and a 5-in-1 pear tree! Michele was 30 years old before she owned a home with a yard, again, a small patch behind her townhome in New Jersey. Like her mother, she filled her small yard with plants, many from the mom-and-pop plant nursery where she worked part-time. She began her quest for gardening knowledge by participating in GardenWeb, an online forum now owned by Houzz. There she met other gardeners that would influence her passion for many years to come.



**Michele Rawleigh,
DCMGA Class of 2018**



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Michele Rawleigh

Michele's Sunny Backyard

Pictured: Drift® roses (Rosa x), Desert willow 'Bubba' (Chilopsis linearis 'Bubba'), Butterfly blue pincushion flower (Scabiosa columbaria 'Butterfly Blue').

July 1 through September 22, 2000 was the driest on record in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area according to the National Weather Service. As luck would have it, Michele moved to Denton County on July 4, 2000, and suffered through 84 consecutive days without measurable precipitation. What a difference from her New Jersey home that received 16+ inches of rain in that same time frame!

Michele Rawleigh (Cont.)

Determined to get a jump-start on her new Texas landscape, she set up several plastic kiddie pools on her driveway as temporary homes for her plants. The following spring she popped those plants into the newly prepared landscape beds in her backyard. Clever girl!

Perhaps it was kismet that drew Michele to the GardenWeb online forum: It was there she met Misti, who lived in Krum. When Michele landed in Texas in the summer of 2000, the first trip she made was to meet Misti in person at her home in Krum. That led to Michele joining The Garden Fairies social club. These North Texas gardeners were her first friends, and along with Neil Sperry, helped her get her garden established in a short amount of time. As an added bonus, Anne McMahon, a 2021 DCMGA Intern, was also a member of The Garden Fairies. Anne and Michele have visited many gardens and nurseries together over their 20+ year friendship.



Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) & Coral Bean (*Erythina herbacea*)



Peony Poppies (*Papaver paeoniflorum*) & Peach Drift® Rose (*Rosa* x 'Peach Drift')

Michele learned about the Texas Master Gardener program through her North Texas gardening friends. She is a 2018 DCMGA graduate and has actively volunteered in many programs, including the Garden Tour, Pass-Along Plants, Tree Seedling distribution, and authored several articles for The Root. She is also a Texas Master Naturalist (2018, Elm Fork Chapter), and Certified Citizen Forester (2018, Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council) and has completed all levels of the Native Landscape Certification Program (2019, Native Plant Society of Texas).

Michele Rawleigh (Cont.)

Through the Texas Master Naturalist, Michele volunteers as the project manager for the new Thrive Nature Park in Lewisville. There she is working with Lewisville Parks and Recreation to restore the park to represent the three eco-regions that exist in Lewisville - the Cross Timbers Forest & Prairie, the Blackland Prairie, and the Trinity River Watershed. The park has 21 acres of native Texas forest and prairie with trails and opportunities for environmental education and play.

"Lazy Gardener Likes A Lot of Flowers BUT Doesn't Want to Work Too Hard For Them" is how Michele describes the gardens at her Denton County home. She's put her extensive horticulture training and knowledge of native plants to work in a low-maintenance garden with perennial and reseeding annual flowers in a small space. Michele says "if it blooms, has variegated foliage, and is not prissy, I'll try it." She has collections of daylilies, iris, clematis, hibiscus, roses, salvia, and so much more!



Dragon Lady Crossvine,
Red (*Bignonia capreolata*
atrosanguinea 'Dragon Lady')

*Michele Rawleigh – Lazy gardener, NO! Smart gardener, YES!
And a valuable asset to all the organizations where she's a member
and to the Denton County Community.*



Book

Wildflowers of Texas (A Timber Press Field Guide) Michael Eason (2018), Timber Press Publisher - Descriptions and illustrations of 1,100+ commonly found plants

Book

Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies: A Field Guide, Myrna & David K. Langford, Texas A&M University Press - An illustrated field guide describes 101 native larval host plants in Texas.

Garden Tools

- *Holdredge Hooke N' Crooke* either handheld or long handled with a choice of two blades. <http://holdredgeenterprises.com/>
- *CobraHead Weeder & Cultivator* handheld. <https://www.cobrahead.com/categories>

Both are multifunctional from weeding to planting to hoeing to digging. And they are quality products.

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.

Plant of the Month - Four-Nerve Daisy *Awful Name, Awesome Flower*

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

When Master Gardener and 2021 Garden Tour (*Our Wildlife Oasis*) Homeowner Janie said one of her favorite plants is the Four-Nerve Daisy, I thought: The 'what' daisy? I've since come to understand why it's a flowering perennial she adores.

The Four-Nerve Daisy's botanical name, *Tetraneuris scaposa*, is of Greek origin: tetra, four, and neuron, nerve. The name is a reference to the petal-like parts (rays) of the flower that have 3 veined lobes.



Image: Lon Turnbull via Native Plant Society of Texas, npsot.com

Four-Nerve Daisy (*Tetraneuris scaposa*)

It does best in dry, well-drained soil. It prefers full sun or part shade, and once established does not require supplemental water. The most notable feature of the Four-Nerve Daisy is its bloom time, which is typically from February through early summer, but can flower almost every day of the year even in the northern part of the state. The bloom time can be extended by pruning off the spent bloom stalks.

Although deer resistant, Four-Nerve Daisy is a good pollinator, attractive to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Its winter-time blooms are often one of the only sources of nectar.

As an ornamental plant, it works well in sunny rock gardens, as a border plant, and in containers. It is a more colorful substitute for liriopse or monkey grass. Consider planting Four-Nerve Daisies in the 'nuisance strip' between the curb and sidewalk where it can be difficult to water regularly.

Four-Nerve Daisy, also known by the common names Hymenoxys, Stemmy Four-nerve Daisy, Yellow Daisy, and Bitterweed, is a perennial 1 to 3 feet tall with silvery clumping foliage from a woody base. It forms a single 1-inch yellow flower on leafless stalks. It often appears covered in long-lasting flowers.

Native to Texas and nearby states, the Four-Nerve Daisy is heat and drought tolerant.

Four-Nerve Daisy (Cont.)

Our Wildlife Oasis has Four-Nerve Daisies planted throughout its garden, adding almost year-round color and a food-source for pollinators. Janie highly recommends giving Four-Nerve Daisies a try!

Learn more about Four-Nerve Daisies at these websites:

- *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Plant Database*, "Tetraneuris scaposa"
https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=tesc2
- *Native Plant Society of Texas*, "A flower for all seasons" (January 17, 2018)
<https://npsot.org/wp/story/2018/10534/>



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Janie Cindrie

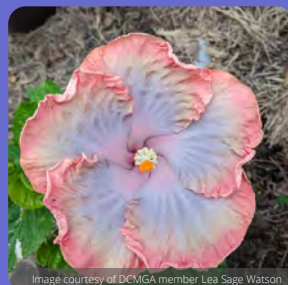
**Four-Nerve Daisy interplanted with Yarrow & Verbena
in Our Wildlife Oasis garden.**



What's Growing in Member's Gardens



Arkansas Blue Star
Amsonia hubrichtii



Hibiscus Voodoo Queen
Hibiscus rosa-sinensis hybrid



Bluebonnet & Red Feather Clover
Lupinus sp. & Trifolium rubens



Borage
Borago officinalis

Preparing for the Garden Tour

BY JOANNE SPURGIN

Nature works in mysterious ways. Traditionally DCMGA's garden tour is Mother's Day weekend. But for this unusual year, the tour was moved to the fall and will be on October 2nd. This may be a blessing in disguise because of the hard freeze our gardens need to rebound from, but a new challenge of making our gardens presentable after the Texas hot summer.

Each year a selection committee of prior tour owners chooses gardens two years in advance for DCMGA's annual garden tour. Garden Tour is DCMGA's #1 project in volunteer service hours and #2 in fundraising. Like most gardeners, we enjoy sharing our garden with others, so when we were chosen for the 2021 tour it was beneficial to have a two-year window of planning, especially being pay-as-you-go gardeners.

The Keys to Success

Preparation and planning are the keys to DCMGA's garden tour success, so each homeowner develops a team to help them prepare for tour day. Also, Project Manager Karen Roberts has done an excellent job of paving the way with written documentation, scheduled meetings to keep us on track, and providing support to the homeowners. In fact, in October 2020 a pre-tour was held so that 2021 tour homeowners and their teams could see each other's gardens. This gave us a feel for what the public will experience. It also helped us appreciate each other's talents, choose our educational focus, and motivate us.

Our garden is only four years old, and we have "wish lists" and "to do lists" which have now been influenced by the October 2nd date. One task we moved up and completed earlier than planned was having pathways throughout our garden to connect the various "garden rooms" we've created. This was a good choice because we walk the pathways every day!



Photos Courtesy DCMGA Member Steve Spurgin

Preparing for the Garden Tour (Cont.)

Our next focus was completing some drainage issues caused from the home construction and heavy Texas downpours. Regardless of the garden tour, we needed to do more for water runoff, so at the bottom of a dry riverbed we added a rain garden with two levels to minimize excess runoff. The rain gardens were educational to us, so we decided this would be our educational focus for the public.

Every year we add plants to our growing collection, but this year was different because of the freeze and the upcoming fall tour. In fact, most of our selections to plant this spring have been focused on what it will look like in the fall for the tour. If it blooms late summer/early fall, we consider it. Closer to the actual tour date we will rely on fall annuals to fill unplanned gaps if needed. Maybe pumpkins, too!



Although the tour date is in the fall, several of our workdays involving volunteers were scheduled in the spring to prepare the garden for plantings. Our first activity involving other DCMGA volunteers was to decide what days to schedule, how many volunteers we could accommodate, and what tasks to assign. We decided on bed prep, weeding, planting, trimming, and mulching. We also wanted to offer an educational element to discuss and to share ideas on the rain gardens and adding micro-misters and drip to containers.

My husband and I are both Master Gardeners, so most of the work in our garden has been done solely by us. This was the first time anyone other than us worked in our garden and it wasn't easy letting go. But overall, we have been confident in, happy with, and thankful for all the work done by DCMGA volunteers.

Throughout the summer we will be challenged by the soaring heat and the water needs of new plantings and potted plants. We will be doing more deadheading and watching for insect infestations. In September, a couple more workdays will be needed to tidy up the garden and complete plant identification. People often ask for names of plants, so DCMGA provides the common name plus botanical name on plant markers placed by the plant; a great exercise for Master Gardener volunteers to touch up on their plant ID skills. Also, on tour day Master Gardener docents will be stationed throughout the garden to answer questions.

Preparing for the Garden Tour (Cont.)



To ensure our garden is fresh on tour day, the lawn will be mowed and edged right before tour day and hopefully we remember to turn the lawn sprinklers off. The plan is to have clean windows, walkways, patios and chairs, put up a shade tent for the ticket takers, have water and food available for volunteer workers, and hope it doesn't rain or the moles don't show up.

Opening our gardens to the public is a very personal experience. Those who put their homes on the garden tour enjoy sharing their gardens and want the gardens to look as nice as we can make them. But I think it's fair to say that people really enjoy walking through gardens, and they don't care if there are a couple of weeds, if the garden is large or small, exotic or common. They come to get ideas, learn, be motivated, speak with others garden enthusiasts, and spend a day relaxing outside in nature.

Each of the four homes on DCMGA's 2021 Garden Tour looks forward to welcoming you to our gardens on October 2nd.



Be like a
flower and
turn your face
to the sun.
~ Kahlil
Gibran



Photo Courtesy DCMGA Member Karen Gibson

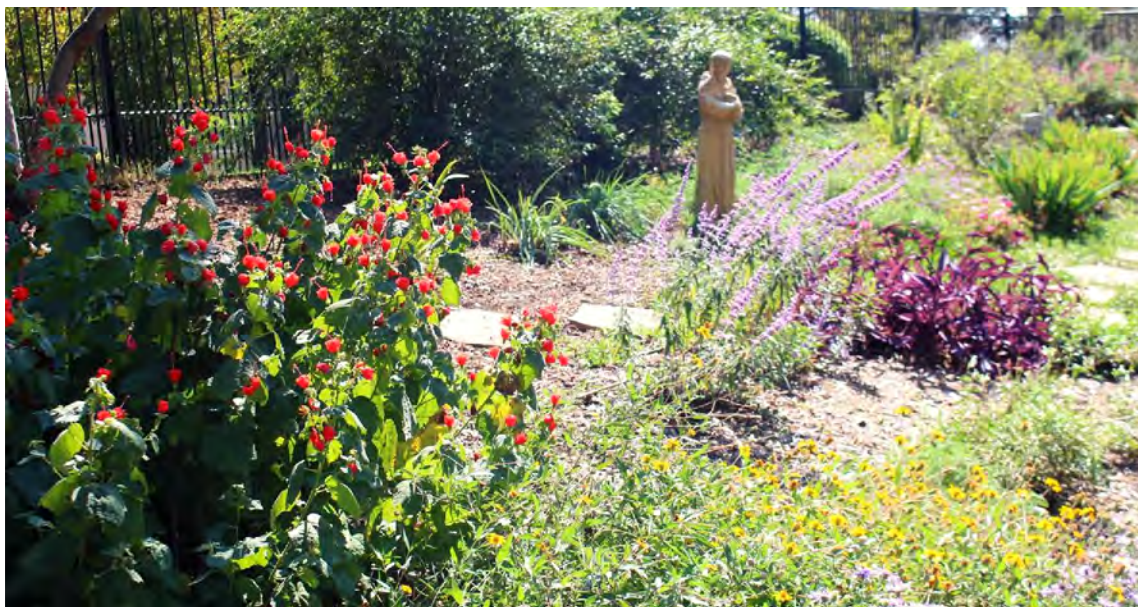
2021 Garden Tour Preview

Our Wildlife Oasis

Editor's Note: In April's issue we inadvertently included the wrong garden, one previously highlighted in January. My apologies to Our Wildlife Oasis, and you, the reader. THIS is definitely the last of our Garden Tour location sneak peaks.

*The 2021 Garden Tour date is **Saturday, October 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Check [Upcoming Events](#) late this summer for tickets and further information.*

From sodded prairie farmland to a garden where nature can flourish, this yard was created to invoke a sense of calm and to provide beauty by utilizing native plants and environmentally sustainable practices. It has developed over time with the vision of creating an outdoor room for the owners and visitors to enjoy. The gardens were built on a berm surrounded by neighbors in an HOA community and has all the resources needed to be a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Water barrels, drip irrigation, and a self-seeding wildflower area focus on sustainability and water stewardship. The garden is "spreadable." Native plants thrive here and when you walk through the garden, it is possible to see repeated plantings that are offspring from others in the garden—a bonus when the plant is loved or one is gardening on a budget. It also provides an opportunity for sharing with others.



2021 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)



From the owner: "I love our garden's restorative powers and the memories it evokes in me. Many of our plants were shared by friends or are favorites from gardens in our past, such as our grandparent's gardens. Sitting on our garden benches or patio and seeing all these things together, plus the wildlife the garden brings, is a joy. We host a variety of birds, including hummingbirds, owls, Cooper hawk, as well as butterflies, bees, toads, anoles, rabbits, and bobcats."



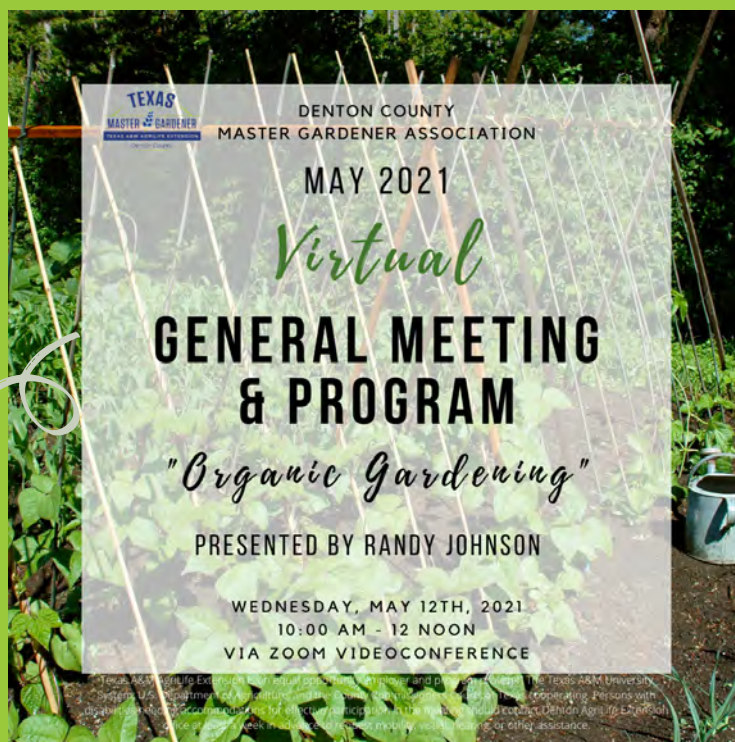
Join Denton County MGA in cyberspace for our May General Meeting & Program.

We're pleased to feature Randy Johnson (a well-known, local, organic, native plant enthusiast who has taken his entrepreneur skills to the market with a native plant nursery) who will present, "Organic Gardening."

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!



North Texas Gardening Focus

This column will highlight timely articles from the North Texas Gardening section of the DCMGA website. If you are wondering what to plant, when to plant it, when to fertilize it, and when to water it, you will find all this and more in articles written by Denton County Master Gardeners on North Texas Gardening.

Container Gardening Basics

Getting Started:

Container Gardening is a fun way to jump-start any season with an instant "pop" of color in your garden. Urns and pots can be quickly transitioned from season to season. Planters, filled with annual or perennial flowers or herbs make a perfect gift.

Some Important Basics:

1. Pick your container/planter,
2. Ensure proper drainage in your container,
3. Soil preparation and
4. Plant selection and color arrangement.



Picking the Perfect Container:

Work with your existing planters and/ or add new pots. There are countless planter materials and types, so determine your style, color scheme and durability requirements. Porous planters such as clay and wood; allow for great air movement for soil and roots, offer good drainage but may need winter protection as they deteriorate faster. Non-porous ceramic planters offer less air movement and are costlier, but they withstand frost and hold water longer. Unusually clever solutions include antiques, like troughs, wheel barrels and buckets. Check out your storage areas for suitable items previously overlooked. Have fun creating a conversation piece for your space.

Ensuring Proper Drainage:

Getting a planter with pre-existing holes for drainage is best, or you can drill holes in the planter base. Place either medium-sized rocks or coffee filters over the inside holes to allow for slower drainage and water retention. You can pass drip irrigation up through a hole to provide for effortless watering.

To read the complete article, including tips for getting started:

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



SAVE THE DATE
June 19, 2021

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
**FRUIT, VEGETABLE,
HERB & FLOWER
SHOW**

Denton County Historical Park &
Community Market
317 W. Mulberry St., Denton

- FREE Event
- Entries open to all Denton County residents
- Vegetable, Fruit, Herb and Flower categories for adults & children
- Cash Awards!
- See dcmga.com for details

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

CITY OF DENTON

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.

Denton County Master Gardener Association

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/>

HELP



Do you have **Canva** (or any "drag-and-drop" layout program) knowledge?
Are you interested in helping with the newsletter?

Contact the
Communications Director
dcmga.communications@gmail.com

**Earn Volunteer hours
from home!**

HELP





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.

DCMGA General Meeting Presentations

May 12, 2021. 10:00 AM – Noon.

Open To The Public

"Organic Gardening" presented by Randy Johnson. Organic Randy shares useful tips all gardeners can implement in their own gardening world.

To Register:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcoc-uvqDgrHNd-olCYzXZRJFPUpmwYW_EN

June 9, 2021. 10:00 am to Noon

Open To The Public

"Arranging with Nature in Mind" presented by Lori Barr

AgriLife Extension

Unwanted Guests Pest Series

May 6, 2021. 1:00 – 2:00 PM.

"Cleaning Products"

May 13, 2021. 1:00 – 2:00 PM

"What's Bugging You? Insects in Your Home"

May 20, 2021. 1:00 – 2:00 PM

"What Bugging You? Insects in Your Yard"

May 27, 2021. 1:00 – 2:00 PM

"Home and Garden Pest Control"

To register: <https://dallas-tx.tamu.edu/agriculture-and-natural-resources/ag-natural-resources-programs-of-interest/unwanted-guests-pest-series/>

AgriLife Urban Backyard Series

May 7, 2021. 10:00 – 11:00 AM.

"Poultry Chicks"

May 14 2021. 10:00 – 11:00 AM.

"Vegetables 101"

May 21, 2021. 10:00 – 11:00 AM.

"Fruit Trees"

More info:

<https://dallas-tx.tamu.edu/event/4229/>

Upper Trinity Regional Water District, City of Lewisville and Keep Lewisville Beautiful virtual classes

Information to help you save water year-round.

[Spring Into Action for Long-Term Success](#)

[Soil Preparation and How to Plant a Plant](#)

[Lawn Care Basics](#)

[Getting Started With Natives](#)

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=WY4aV5hqlxY>



FYI: Underlined Texts are active Internet Links throughout this publication.



Online Education Opportunities (Cont.)

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/UCbp4wkcScRV0HlN3Hi1_KUQ/

DCMGA YouTube CE Programs

"The Ease of Effective Hardscaping"

"The Pleasures & Pitfalls of Perennial Plants"

"Gardens Gone Wild"

"Getting Buggy"

"Texas Trees: Caring for Your Legacy"

"Using Technology for Plant Identification"

Business meetings

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

Home Grown Lecture Series from Harris County Master Gardeners

Join us for our Free, 30-minute, bi-weekly ONLINE on Thursdays at 10:-- AM Central time.

Must register through Eventbrite to get the webinar link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-grown-lecture-series-tickets-143797364789?aff=erelexpmlt>

May 6, 2021 - "Benefits of Bats" - Brandi Keller, Master Gardener Program Coordinator

May 20, 2021 - "Growing Fabulous Houseplants" - Paul Winski, County Extension Agent- Horticulture

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/>

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

Plan Your Week emailed each Friday has the most current Online CE Opportunities.

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

Note that members may claim up to 3 hours of annual discretionary education; veteran members with 10+ years of service may claim up to 6 hours.

**BY HELP DESK TEAM**

Q: We're going to answer several questions we've received about selecting shrubs for the landscape. The questions ranged from finding a 3 foot flowering shrub, shrubs for a privacy fence, replacing freeze damaged shrubs, and selecting a hedge shrub for a fence line.

A: When choosing any plant for your landscape, there are several factors to take into consideration. For shrubs, we'll break those factors down into 3 categories: The purpose or function, the aesthetic considerations, and site conditions.

Shrubs in the landscape can serve several purposes or functions. As you think about the shrub selection, determine what you want the shrub to "do" in your landscape. Are you looking for a

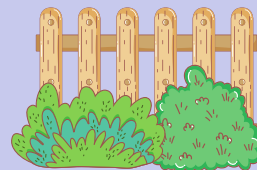
- Fence or boundary formed by closely growing bushes or shrubs (hedge)
- Focal point in the landscape
- Foundation planting to integrate the home into the landscape
- Screen for privacy or wind
- "Garden" room or a way to separate outdoor spaces from each other
- Defining a walkway
- Way to minimize drainage issues or erosion

The desired appearance and aesthetics of the shrub selection are also important. These include:

- The growth habit, i.e., is the mature shape pyramidal, columnar, spreading, etc.
- Does the shrub bloom, in what season, and what color?
- What does the foliage look like: color, texture, and shape? And, does the foliage color change by season?
- Is the plant's appearance interesting in winter, e.g., bark, twig/branch structure, fruit, or berries?
- Does the plant offer benefits to wildlife such as food or shelter?

And, most importantly, the planting site conditions to keep in mind when selecting shrubs for your landscape:

- What is the sun exposure - full sun (6 - 8 hours), part sun (afternoon sun), part shade (morning sun), deep shade (dappled or very little sun)?
- What are the moisture conditions - is the soil perpetually moist or mostly dry?
- Is the plant site exposed to wind and temperature extremes?
- What type of soil is in the planting site, i.e., clay, sandy loam, sand, etc.
- What is the hardiness zone? North Texas is in zones 8a and 8b.
- Are there other plants in the space that will compete for water and nutrients?
- Are there below ground obstructions such as pipes, electrical lines, tree roots?
- Are there overhead obstructions such as electrical or telephone lines?



Once you've thought through and determined the plant's desired purpose and appearance, and most of the site conditions, have a test done on the soil from the planting site. It will provide you with a detailed analysis of your soil and recommendations for how to improve the soil fertility. This link on the Denton County Master Gardener Association website will tell you more about soil testing and the steps to having one done:

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

Then, check out these websites to help you make the right shrub choice for the purpose, desired appearance and planting site in your landscape:

"Outstanding Shrubs for Texas"

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/xeriscape/table4.html>

"Texas Superstar® Plants"

Texas AgriLife Research

<https://texassuperstar.com/plants/>

"Top 100 Plants for North Texas"

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

<https://agrilifeextension.tamu.edu/blog/2015/08/06/top-100-plants-for-north-texas/>

Shop for shrubs at a reputable nursery or garden center. Check the plant's overall appearance for health; pull the plant out of the container and look for roots that are light colored and firm; look for circling or girdling roots indicating the plant has been in the container for too long; and the trunk should be straight and branches should have no signs of injury. For more information on what to look for when selecting plants and shrubs go to this website:

"Selecting Trees and Shrubs"

Iowa State University Extension

<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2005/8-10/select.html>

Taking the time to consider all these factors will help you make a wise investment and add lasting beauty to your landscape.



Photo by KZ1 / CC-BY

Dwarf Yaupon Holly 'Nana'

Ilex vomitoria 'Nana'

**A top shrub for North Texas,
Texas A&M AgriLife**



*If you have questions about any horticulture-related subjects,
please contact our Master Gardener Help Desk at 940.349.2892
or master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov.*

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

DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION



2021 Garden Tour



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2

9:00 AM -4:00 PM

A favorite family-friendly event you don't want to miss!
Inspiration abounds on self-guided tours of four unique Denton County private properties

Master Gardeners will be on-site in each garden to provide information about the garden, as well as featuring additional learning opportunities on a variety of gardening topics.

Our SWAT (Science With An Attitude) team will be on-site to provide hands-on learning opportunities for children.
Our "Ask a Master Gardener" booth will also be on-site at one of our gardens to answer all your gardening questions.

Go to www.dcmga.com/upcomingevents
for tickets and further information as the date draws near.



#GrowWithUs

@DentonCountyMGA

Denton County Master Gardener Association

2021 Events

DCMGA General Membership Meeting program:

May 12th at 10:00 AM
Program "Organic Gardening"

Keep Lewisville Beautiful

May 12 at 6:30 PM
"The Pleasures and Pains of Planting Perennials"

Fruit, Vegetable, Herb, and
Flower Show: June 19

Greater Aubrey Area Gardening Series:

August 19: Waterwise Gardening
September 16: Texas Native Plants
October 21: Made for the Shade

Garden Tour: October 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
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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>

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

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

- May 5 Board Meeting - Virtual
- May 12 General Meeting & Program - Virtual ("Organic Gardening")
- May 17 Plants2Go (members only)

Contact Information

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Content

Submission deadline for the June edition of *The Root* is Saturday, May 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.

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