

Denton County Master Gardener Association

THE ROOT

Grow With Us 



WHAT'S GROWING ON

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Buds from the Board

BY RAE LINE NOBLES, PRESIDENT

Come Grow with Us in 2025!

Happy New Year from Denton County Master Gardeners (DCMGA)! I'm Raeline Nobles, 2025 President of DCMGA, and I'm excited to begin working with an outstanding Board of Officers and Directors. Together with 322 certified Master Gardeners, Texas A&M AgriLife, and multiple community partners, we are committed to continuing the great work of the previous leadership while developing new ideas to serve our community in gaining education and real-life answers to expanding sustainable, science-based horticultural practices for residents' homes, community gardens, and public landscapes.

Master Gardeners own a vital responsibility to our Denton County citizens to help them learn how sustainable gardening practices add not only generational value to resident's homes and the communities we serve but also enhanced longevity to those communities. Last year as Member-at-Large I had the honor of visiting many of our projects to see how that responsibility is given life. Those visits showed me the depth of commitment our volunteers bring our mission of community-based horticultural education while growing beauty and bounty for county residents. The visits galvanized my passion for our mission, strengthened my respect for our members' work, and deepened my appreciation of how a group of dedicated people can make a real and positive impact on the quality of life Denton County residents deserve. I hope to share that passion with our members and assist in all ways that I can to expand their positive impact by supporting current projects and advocating for exciting new ways to serve our mission.

One of our newest concepts is the Know, Grow & Show program which is in the final stages of development. The project will involve several community gardens we currently support to provide accessible education and hands-on learning at those gardens for community members. Guests will see small and large gardens in action while learning how to implement successful concepts at their own homes. Hands-on learning activities will enhance the learning experience so application at home can more effectively happen. From soil preparation to irrigation to integrated pest/disease management to planting and harvesting, the program will offer many aspects of gardening. They will be free to the public and scheduled at gardens throughout Denton County. We invite you to participate in any or all of the programs Know, Grow and Show will offer. Stay tuned for more information!

Our 2025 Garden Tour will build on its success to expand learning opportunities at each Tour home through various modes of learning. Guests will learn from unique gardens and take the ideas they see and learn about back to their own homes to replicate. Also, Shiloh Gardens will

Buds from the Board (Cont.)

be a Tour highlight. Shiloh is the largest community garden in the United States and it's right here in Denton County! They provide bushels and bushels of food for food banks and shelters in North Central Texas. We hope to see you this year to revel in the beauty, learn from Master Gardeners, and take away valuable ideas to incorporate into your own landscape.

So much more is coming your way! We invite you to join us at any of our public education events. They are free, provided by highly trained Master Gardeners, and provide a valuable resource for your gardening efforts! For more information, check out our web page at www.dcmga.com for upcoming events. The website also provides a wealth of information about home gardening for both the seasoned gardener and those just beginning their gardening journey. Come grow with us!

~ Raeline



What to Plant in January

- Cold-hardy transplants such as calendulas, dianthus, flowering kale, pansies, and snapdragons.
- Spring flowers and vegetable seeds indoors, as well as seeds in greenhouse conditions for later transplanting.
- Fruit and ornamental trees, asparagus, berries, peas, grapevines, shrubs, vines, and other permanent plants.
- Peas in January, Onions in late January to early February.
- Divide perennials and biennials that might be overcrowded. These include violets, phlox daylilies, and irises.
- Remove all vines and groundcovers away from the root flare of trees.
- Make flower and vegetable garden plans now before spring.

For more monthly tips:

<https://www.dcmga.com/maintain-and-solve-problems/maintain/monthly-gardening-tips/>

2025 Garden Tour Preview

Denton, Oak Point = Four Gardens + One Community Garden

May 10, 2025

Enjoy Seasonal creeks, Texas Native plants, Rain Gardens, Water Conservation & Management, Shade gardening, Raised Vegetable beds, Fruit trees, Berries & Grapes, Cacti & Succulents, Fragrant Roses, Community Garden, Hugelkultur, Chickens, High Tunnels, Perennials & Annuals, Pollinator gardens. Our Annual Garden Tour has it all. Watch for ticket information in early February.

New this year! As you explore the gardens, watch for posters featuring the Digging Deeper logo scattered throughout the landscapes. These posters offer quick facts on a variety of popular garden topics. Each one also includes a QR code that links to more detailed articles and fact sheets, allowing you to explore topics further. You can read the articles right in the garden or take a photo of the QR code to read later at home. Additionally, enjoy hands-on activities at each garden, presented by Denton County Master Gardeners.

Secluded Sanctuary

This Northeast Denton garden offers a peaceful retreat, nestled in a suburban neighborhood, where nature can be appreciated in a serene setting. This charming garden features a variety of native plants, many of which are excellent pollinators. Turk's Cap stands out as a summer favorite, thriving in both sun and shade while attracting hummingbirds. Native plants not only provide vital wildlife habitat but are also highly drought-tolerant.



Pink Turk's Cap is a hummingbird favorite.

A beautiful rose garden showcases a selection of unusual varieties, ensuring year-round enjoyment. As you stroll through, you'll be surrounded by a vibrant mix of colors and fragrances that captivate the senses.



Dozens of varieties of roses will delight and inspire you.

2025 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

Other plant favorites of the owners include elderberries, horse herb, and expansive plantings of wildflowers. The landscape also includes numerous fruit trees and berry bushes, along with raised vegetable beds that yield fresh, edible crops throughout the growing season. Water conservation and stormwater drainage are thoughtfully addressed across this expansive property.

The Secluded Sanctuary is a year-round source of joy and inspiration, offering outstanding examples for both novice and experienced gardeners alike.



Just a small example of the edible beauties you'll find in this amazing garden.

Secluded Sanctuary

DIGGING
deeper



Learning Opportunities

Drip Irrigation
Roses
Water and Erosion Control
Raised Bed Gardening



Earth-Kind Design Class

Coming in January!

- Looking for a gift for your favorite gardener?
- Garden Tour coming up and you need help with a redesign?
- Have problems in your landscape that need solutions?

The EARTH-KIND® DESIGN course will help with that!



Members of the public have priority in registering for the course. Master Gardeners will be put first on a waiting list, then moved to the registration list as space permits.

You can register singly or with a companion working on the same design by using the QR code on the [flyer on page 14](#).

EKD instructors have you covered from preparing your soil to design principles to plant selection and how to care for it all.

The three classes build on each other and you don't want to miss a minute! Join us and start your journey to a sustainable, easy-care, beautiful landscape!

Denton County Master Gardener YouTube Channel

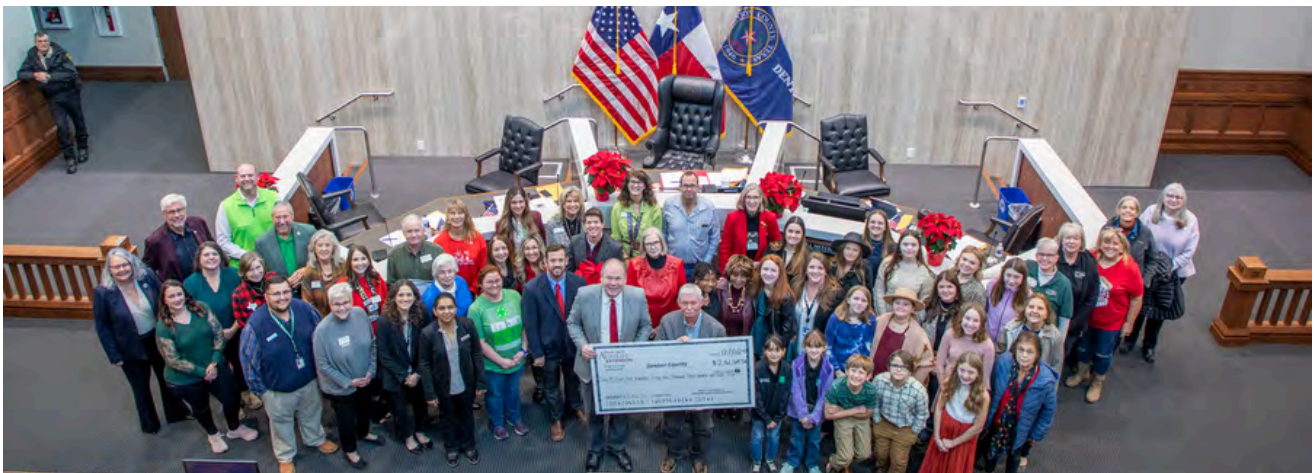
Click on "Videos" and check out our new presentations!

And don't forget to subscribe!

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

Gratitude in Action: Celebrating Denton County's AgriLife Volunteers and 4-H Leaders!

The 2024 Commissioners Court Appreciation breakfast, hosted by Denton County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and sponsored by the Leadership Advisory Board, Denton County 4-H Youth and Club Leaders, on December 10 was a success! After breakfast, Denton County 4-H & Youth Development members led the invocation and pledges at Commissioners Court. AgriLife volunteers contributed 69,162 hours, valued at \$2.2 million, with Master Gardeners alone contributing over 33,000 hours worth \$1 million! A big thank you to the AgriLife staff, our dedicated Master Gardener volunteers, and the residents of Denton County for their ongoing support and contributions to these impactful programs!



AgriLife volunteers in Denton County contributed 69,162 hours, valued at \$2.2 million, strengthening our community.



Denton County AgriLife Extension Staff: Lauren Herrera, Deva Bruce, Sandra Erp, Lara Isbell, Hannah Schlup, Zach Davis, Dusty Fife, Steven Baringer, Chandandi Kothari.



Save the Date for Spring Garden Learning *Flower Mound Library Garden Series 2025*

BY LYNDA HARVEY

Winter is short-lived in North Texas, with just enough time to plan your garden for Spring. The Flower Mound Library Garden Series 2025 has four motivating topics to start growing your excitement.

The first session details a common issue. Do you do everything in your garden “by the book” and still have flowers and vegetables fail? The February 3, 2025 topic of Sick Plants 911! may help you understand what went wrong. Plants can’t tell you when they have an infection. Learn to identify common signs of plant virus, bacteria, fungus, or nematode issues and what to do about it. The speaker is Denton Master Gardener, Lynda Harvey who recently completed the Plant Pathology advanced training. She is cross-trained as a Vegetable, Entomology (insects), Earth-kind, and Propagation specialist that will provide a rounded perspective on botanical health.

Planning will save time and expense to provide a stunning garden to enjoy. Join the Denton County Master Gardener Earth-Kind® Design Team on February 10th for Landscaping with Earth-Kind®. Earth-Kind® Design is an earth-friendly and practical landscaping approach. This presentation is an introduction to sustainable design and installation techniques for creating or renewing your home landscape. The speakers, Carol Arment, Lee Ann Yates, and Kathy Rainey have over 30 years of combined knowledge, experience and service as Master Gardeners. Their additional certifications include Native Plant Landscapes, Rainwater Harvesting, Water Shed, Texas Superstar Plants and Earth-Kind. This team is zealous about landscape sustainability with a desire to help others discover a shared vision about living in harmony with Mother Earth.

Blake Alldredge will present Healthier, Happier Yards – How to Save Water and Money! He will explain how outdoor irrigation makes up 60-70% of all water use during the summer months to maintain landscape health. However, much of this usage is wasted due to inefficient irrigation systems or overwatering. Attend this class on February 17th for tips and tricks on watering methods to keep your yard looking great all summer long, especially now that residents may only water up to two days per week. Blake is a Water Education Coordinator with the Upper Trinity Regional Water District since 2014. He coordinates the District’s Water Conservation and Watershed Protection planning and outreach programs and assists customer cities and utilities in their efforts.

Spring Garden Learning (Cont.) *Flower Mound Library Garden Series 2025*



**Learning about Herbs from the 2024 Flower
Mound Library Garden Series**

Be ready for a Garden to Table talk on February 24th, entitled Cooking Thyme. Join Chandani Kothari for a hands-on class where you'll discover the art of cooking with herbs and spices! Learn how to enhance your dishes with flavor and nutrition, and create your own personalized spice blend to take home. Our speaker is the Denton County Extension Agent for Family and Community Health.

Chandani holds a master's degree in public health and has dedicated the

past three years to serving Denton County. She is passionate about empowering families and communities and shares knowledge and practical strategies to enhance health and well-being.

The one-hour classes are scheduled for 7:00 pm at the Flower Mound Library, located at 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75022. Each class is free but registration is required. Registration will be located at <http://flower-mound.com/libraryevents>. Select the month of February to view events and registration information.



***Resources & Education Opportunities
for Master Gardeners and the Community we serve
can be found on the Calendar at
[Upcoming Events.](#)***

For non-DCMGA events, [Continuing Education Opportunities.](#)

DCMGA Members & Interns

***Plan Your Week (PYW) has the most current VS/CE Opportunities
and is sent via VMS every Friday.***

Meet the 2025 DCMGA Board: Leadership, Passion, and Growth Ahead!

BY CHERYL HUCKABEE

Each November, we elect our board members to serve a one-year term starting in January, with the option for a second year. These dedicated individuals work behind the scenes to ensure DCMGA stays focused on its mission, with guidance from our County Master Gardener Program Coordinator, Zach Davis.

Here's a quick introduction to the 2025 board members:



- **President Raeline Nobles (Class of 2013):** With years of nonprofit management experience, Raeline has made a lasting impact at DCMGA, from Intern Class Administrator to Member-at-Large. Her expertise in volunteer recruitment and event management is invaluable.



- **Vice President Jeff Hardgrave (Class of 2023):** A former energy professional, Jeff has turned his focus to gardening. His service-oriented mindset and skills as a furniture maker and state-licensed irrigator bring new energy to the board.



- **Secretary Lori Barr (Class of 2018):** Lori's passion for meaningful causes has led her to impactful roles, including Garden Tour Co-Project Manager and Intern Mentor. She continues to strengthen the community through her nonprofit work.



- **Treasurer Dale Powell (Class of 2011):** With a knack for numbers and years of experience in program management and bookkeeping, Dale is once again serving as Treasurer, ensuring DCMGA's financial health.



- **Communications Director Donna Hull (Class of 2023):** A retired educator and lifelong learner, Donna brings a strong commitment to communication and community service, using her skills to support DCMGA's outreach.

Meet the 2025 DCMGA Board (Cont.)



- **Education Director Ellen Gauntt (Class of 2022):** Ellen's passion for sustainable gardening and her work with the Help Desk help others learn to improve their gardens and land. DCMGA's wealth of knowledge inspires Ellen, and she sees the potential to spread it further.



- **Outreach Director Bonnie Ambrose (Class of 2017):** With leadership experience in various organizations, Bonnie focuses on creative solutions and building relationships to strengthen DCMGA's community impact.



- **Member at Large Brenda Martin (Class of 2023):** With a passion for service and leadership, Brenda brings a visionary approach to her role as Garden Captain for the 2025 Garden Tour and Member-at-Large.



- **Immediate Past President Cheryl Huckabee (Class of 2018):** Cheryl Huckabee has served on the board of directors for four years as Communications Director (2021-2022) and President (2023-2024). In her new role as Immediate Past President, Cheryl will offer guidance as a non-voting advisory member of the 2025 board.

We're excited about the year ahead because of the leadership, passion, and growth these board members will bring!



Branch Out This Spring: Tree Seedlings for Sale from the Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District!

The Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District (DCSWCD) is once again offering tree seedlings for sale. Thirteen species are available for purchase. Planting a conservation tree not only adds beauty and shade to your property but also provides numerous benefits, including oxygen production, windbreaks, soil protection, and wildlife habitat.

Trees must be picked up on Friday, February 28, 2025, at the North Texas Fairgrounds in Denton from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To place an order, please mail or submit the order form on [pages 16 & 17](#) to the Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District. When ordering, be sure to understand the size and condition (bare root, potted) of the trees ordered. **Orders are reserved upon payment and quantities are limited, so please order soon.**

The sale is a DCSWCD project. DCMGA only participates in the distribution of the trees and providing advice and educational materials to customers on planting and maintenance of the trees. Any questions should be directed to DCSWCD at 940-383-2691, ext 3.

Species available:

Oak Trees - Bur Oak, Mexican White Oak, Shumard Oak, and Live Oak

Conifer Trees - Austrian Pine, Afghanistan Pine, Italian Stone Pine, Deodor Cedar

Fruit & Nut Trees - Black Cherry, Pecan, Mexican Plum

Ornamental Trees - Vitex, Desert Willow

A copy of the order form may also be downloaded at

<https://www.dcmga.com/tree-seedling-sale-2025-dcsgcd/>



Denton County Master Gardener Association

Upcoming Events

Jan
09

Landscape Design

Are you struggling to develop a landscape that compliments your home? Don't know what will grow in specific areas or how to determine bed sizes? Let Denton County Master Gardener Treva McFadden help you with design tips to ensure your landscape is an asset that supports your property and your lifestyle. Free event co-sponsored by the Wise County Garden Club
1107 8th Street, Bridgeport. 11:40 AM-12:40 PM

Jan
10

Edible Gardening

Want to brighten up your home with beautiful plants during the winter? Learn to select easy-care house plants from Denton County Master Gardener Treva McFadden.
Free event at the Bridlewood Activity Center, 500 Par Dr., Flower Mound. 6:30-7:30 PM

Jan
14

Easy Care House Plants

Nothing beats home-grown vegetables for taste and texture! Grow your own right in your yard, and incorporate them into your existing landscape. Lynda Harvey, Denton County Master Gardener, will present her many tips for success learned over years of successful vegetable growing in this area.
Free event at the Denton Senior Center 509 Bell St., Denton. 9 AM-10 AM

Jan
16

Succulent Identification

Succulent Identification – presented by our own Chryl Prestemon
Global Spheres Center 7801 S Interstate 35E, Corinth. 10 AM -12 PM

Jan
16, 17,
& 18

Earth Kind Landscaping Design Course

Learn sustainable design & installation techniques for creating or renewing your home landscape.
Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17, 6 to 9 PM, and Saturday, January 18, 9 PM to 4 PM.
Limited class size- Individual or Companion registrations available. Reserve your spot now!

Register online for all 3 classes.

Denton County Elections Administration Building, 701 Kimberly Drive, Denton

Jan
25

Join us at the Ask a Master Gardener Booth

Join us at the Ask a Master Gardener booth during Rooted In Garden Center's community gathering for National Seed Swap Day! Swap heirloom seeds, bulbs, and cuttings, and get expert gardening advice from Master Gardeners.

Free event at Rooted In Garden Center, 12804 Pelzer Rd., Pilot Point. 1-4 PM

Feb
3

Flower Mound Library Series – Sick Plants 911!

Learn to identify common signs of plant virus, bacteria, fungus, or nematode issues and what to do about it. Presented by Denton County Master Gardener Lynda Harvey.

Flower Mound Public Library, 3030 Broadmoor Lane, Flower Mound. 7-8:30 PM



Master Gardeners - Mark your calendars
for the Volunteer Opportunity Fair
February 12th

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 Cooperating.

Landscape Design Course Registration Opens November 25, 2024



Earth-Kind Design
Denton County Master Gardener Association

**Learn sustainable design & installation techniques for creating or renewing
your home landscape**

Thursday & Friday, January 16 & 17, 6pm to 9pm

AND Saturday, January 18, 9am to 4pm.

(Register once for all 3 classes)

Denton County Elections Bldg. 701 Kimberly Drive, Denton, 76208

Limited class size- Individual or Companion registrations available

Reserve your spot now!



**Scan QR code or go
to [DCMGA.com](https://dcmga.com) to
register**



"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 Cooperating."

Growing in knowledge, growing in service!

Volunteer Opportunity Fair

February 12, 2025

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

at

Global Spheres Center

Solomon's Porch

7801 S. Interstate 35E

Corinth, TX 76208

Denton County Master Gardener Association

Educating and inspiring Denton County residents through research-based horticulture to promote eco-friendly gardens and enduring landscapes that enrich our communities.



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TREE SEEDLING SALE

Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District

Plant A Conservation Tree!

The Denton County Soil & Water Conservation District is once again offering tree seedlings for sale. 14 species are available for purchase. Plant a conservation tree and add beauty and shade to your property as well as many other benefits. Trees provide oxygen, windbreaks, soil protection, and wildlife habitat to benefit the landscape.



Bur Oak



Mexican White Oak



Black Cherry



Shumard Oak



Pecan



Live Oak



Austrian Pine



Afghanistan Pine



Vitex



Mexican Plum



Desert Willow



Deodora Cedar



Italian Stone Pine



Mail or submit orders to Denton County SWCD, 525 South Loop 288 Suite C-1, Denton, Texas 76205. If you have any questions, please phone 940-383-2691 Ext 3 or visit the USDA Service Center in Denton. Orders are reserved upon payment and quantities are limited, so please order soon.



(order form on back)

2025 TREE ORDER FORM
DENTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Phone: (940) 383-2691 Ext. 3
LIMITED QUANTITIES - ORDER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

NAME: _____ DATE: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ STATE: _____
 CITY: _____ ZIP: _____
 E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

BAREROOT: \$3 per tree (12-18 inch top, bare root)

	Quantity	x	\$3.00	=	Cost
Pecan	_____				_____

CONTAINER: \$4 per tree (6-12 inch top, 10 cubic inch)

	Quantity	x	\$4.00	=	Cost
American Beautyberry	_____				_____
Afghan Pine	_____				_____
Austrian Pine	_____				_____
Black Cherry	_____				_____
Deadora Cedar	_____				_____
Italian Stone Pine	_____				_____

POTTED: \$12 per tree (1-4 foot top, one gallon)

	Quantity	x	\$12.00	=	Cost
Bur Oak	_____				_____
Live Oak	_____				_____
Mexican White Oak	_____				_____
Shumard Oak	_____				_____
Desert Willow	_____				_____
Mexican Plum	_____				_____
Vitex	_____				_____

Total No. of Trees

SUBTOTAL: _____

8.25% TAX: _____

TOTAL DUE: _____

PAYMENT DUE AT TIME OF ORDER

Cash ☐ Check ☐ # _____

Comments:

Make checks payable to Denton County SWCD Mail or submit orders to Denton County SWCD, 525 South Loop 288 Suite C-1, Denton, Texas 76205. Orders are filled on a first come first serve basis, so place your order early! **Trees must be picked up on Friday, February 28, 2025 at the North Texas Fairgrounds in Denton from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**



Mission Statement

As Master Gardeners, our mission is to educate and inspire Denton County residents through research-based horticulture, to promote eco-friendly gardens and enduring landscapes that enrich our 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.

2025 Board of Directors

President	Raeline Nobles
Vice-President	Jeff Hardgrave
Secretary	Lori Barr
Treasurer	Dale Powell
Communications	Donna Hull
Education	Ellen Gauntt
Outreach	Bonnie Ambrose
Member-at-Large	Brenda Martin
Past President	Cheryl Huckabee

Social Media

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

X (formerly Twitter):

<https://twitter.com/DentonCountyMGA>

Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

Save the Date

- January 15 DCMGA Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet, Denton Civic Center (Members Only)
- February 12 Volunteer Fair, Global Spheres (Members Only)



Contact Information

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
Hulcher Services Building
611 Kimberly Drive
Bldg. B
Denton TX 76201-9026

Office: 940.349.2883

Help Desk:

940.349.2892

master.gardener@dentoncounty.gov

Webmaster:

dcmga.webmaster@gmail.com

Communications:

dcmga.communications@gmail.com

Website:

<https://dcmga.com>

Content

The Submission deadline for the February edition of *The Root* is Wednesday, January 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 Donna Hull at doctorhull@gmail.com.

Unless otherwise attributed, all photos are courtesy of Denton County MGA.