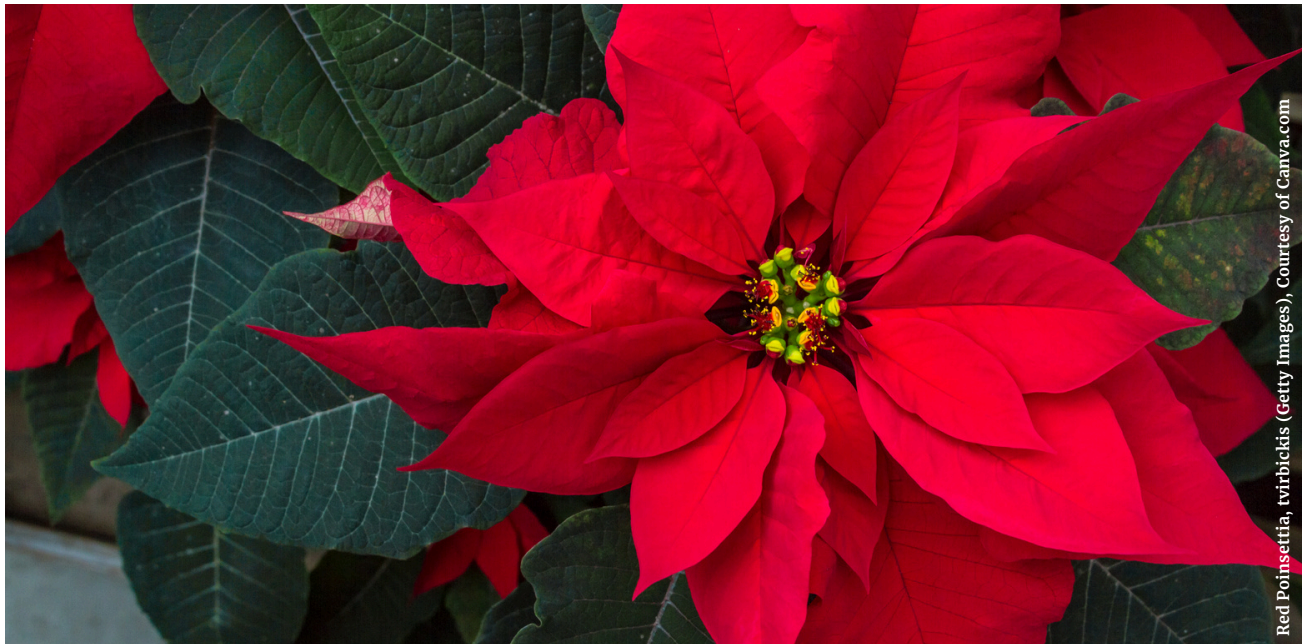


Denton County Master Gardener Association

# THE ROOT

Grow With Us



Red Poinsettia, tvirbickis (Getty Images), Courtesy of Canva.com

## WHAT'S GROWING ON

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# Buds From The Board

BY RAELINE NOBLES, PRESIDENT

Well then! It's December – my favorite month for decorating, meeting up with friends, baking, and gathering seeds for next year's garden. It's also a time of reflection over the year's events, successes and challenges. This year as I reflect, it's a seed mix of many things – most great and happy, a few of sadness.

November saw us voting in the 2026 Board of Directors which I have to say is stellar! In my two years on the Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) Board, I have met extraordinary leaders who accomplished much on behalf of the community, our members and Texas AgriLife Extension Service. It's amazing that the 2026 Board is filled with members who are no different – intelligent, thoughtful, mission-focused and energized. To most, a Board of Directors is kind of a Wizard of Oz behind a screen – they perform their due diligence, make strategic decisions of accountability and activities, and approve budgets. But for the most part, not many know who they are and details of what they do are a bit elusive.

At DCMGA; however, it's a whole new ball game. We have no paid staff so the full responsibility of operations, paying bills, creating documentation and forms, evaluating programs, and everything else a paid staff of a nonprofit does, falls on the Board to identify, manage, delegate and at a minimum oversee if not do completely. So, the skill sets of our Board must be diverse and they must be willing to learn all the ins and outs of our organization, not just their specific role. It's a fascinating learning whirlwind for those with the right attitude and energy. Sure, we have the Texas AgriLife Extension Agent here to help lead the way towards AgriLife goals, but largely the hands on work of that effort falls primarily to the Board with her guidance. It's a unique setup, one not commonly found in nonprofits but one that teaches its Board members all aspects of Board leadership and more.

You will read about our 2026 Board of Directors in this month's issue, but allow me to briefly introduce them to you. I am certain you will hear more from them as they get their Board sea legs!

Bonnie Ambrose – President (Previously Director of Outreach)

Jeff Hardgrave – VP and Director of Projects (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Jill Olhausen – Secretary and Parliamentarian

Brenda Martin – Member at Large (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Donna Hull – Director of Communications (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

Treva McFaddin – Director of Outreach

Barbara Smith – Director of Education

Ricky Wilkins – Director of Technology

Harry Gornick – Treasurer

I am retiring from DCMGA at the end of December. It's been 13 years of so many wonderful things and people. I have deep gratitude for all DCMGA has offered me: the fabulous horticultural education, the fun events and projects I enjoyed working, and the people I was so fortunate to meet. The people of DCMGA have been the best gift of all. Many friends I have made will remain so for the rest of my life. I may be retiring from DCMGA but its members are what makes it sing and will always have a part of my heart. They do great things for our community that are just not available anywhere else: educating with science-based knowledge, inspiring new gardening behaviors, and enriching a more sustainable Denton County. I am so proud to have been a member of this wonderful organization and been able to offer what I could to its success on behalf of those members ...and You, our community! We have accomplished much on your behalf. Be ready for even more great things as the new year progresses! "While visions of sugar-plums dance in their heads" this month, I know the new Board members are also dreaming of new ideas to grow our efficacy and impact.

So sweet dreams to one and all as you nestle in under the covers and dream your own gardening dreams. I thank you for the opportunity and privilege to share my wandering thoughts with you all this year.

We at DCMGA all wish you and yours a happy holiday season. And don't forget to kiss a faerie along your gardening journey!

My best to you,  
Raeline

A graphic titled "TOP GARDENING TIPS December" with a list of tips and the hashtag #DCMGA #GROWWITHUS. The background features a close-up of a white lily flower with red stripes. The text is centered in a white box with a thin red border.

**TOP GARDENING TIPS**  
**December**

Forage for fresh holiday decorations; leave seeds and berries for wildlife.  
Clean, sharpen, repair, and store garden and lawn tools.  
Leave the leaves! Mow in place, compost, or use as mulch.  
Check trees for damaged limbs that may be compromised by ice.  
Relocate established trees & shrubs during winter dormancy.

**#DCMGA #GROWWITHUS**  
DENTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

## 2026 Garden Tour Preview

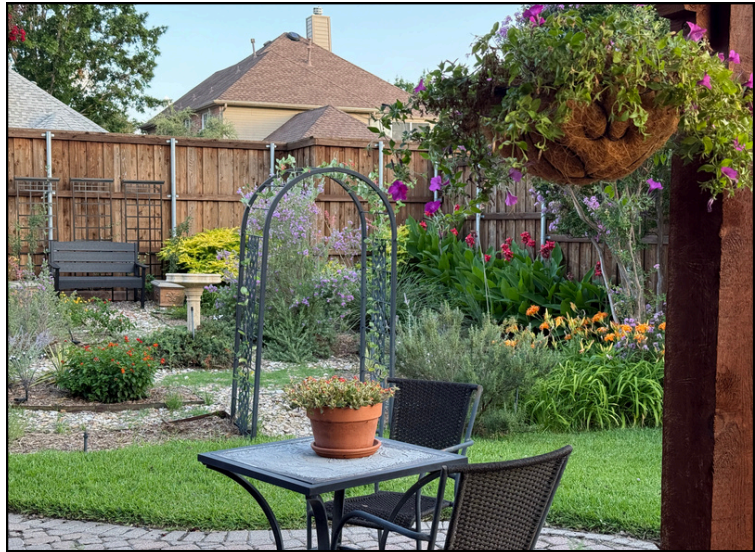
### Three Home Gardens and Two Public Gardens

May 9, 2026

*Our 2026 Garden Tour will feature herbs, raised bed vegetable gardening, succulents, Earth Kind<sup>®</sup> gardening, Texas Superstar<sup>®</sup> plants, and more. Public gardens will have information on raising grapes, pruning fruit trees, water conservation and growing native plants. Watch for ticket information in early February. Join us for a great day of gardening!*

#### *Sage and Serenity*

This calm, English-inspired retreat teaches how Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup> principles can guide design choices. Carefully selected native plants, including several varieties of sage, provide soft landings for pollinators and native wildlife around beautiful Shantung maples. Nearby, drought-tolerant perennials are thriving in the full sun and raised beds utilize square-foot gardening to maximize yield for the perfect salsa garden!

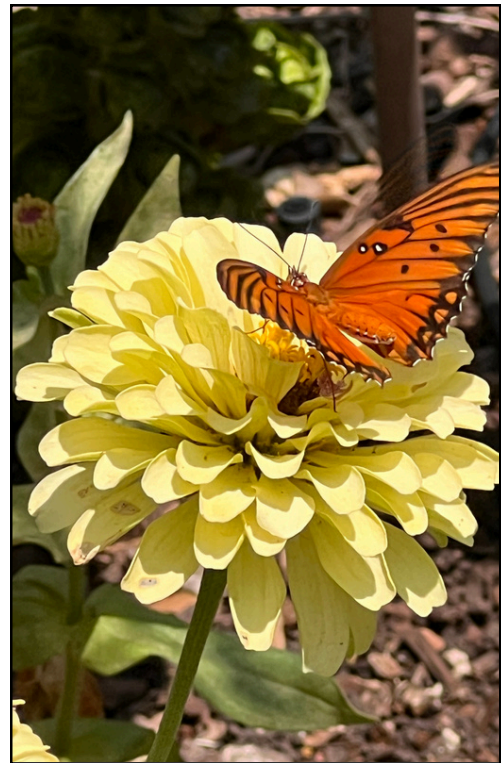


All Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Members

## 2026 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

### *Rhapsody in Green*

Rhapsody in Green is a lush, shaded landscape where composting turns waste into renewal. Shade gardening thrives beneath mature live oaks in several parts of the property, while full-sun areas are filled with succulents, vegetables, and other heat-loving plants. In addition to incorporating homemade compost to build the soil, this property demonstrates the benefits of water-wise irrigation and rain barrel harvesting to reduce homeowner costs and benefit the environment.



All Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Members

## 2026 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

### *Rooted Together*

This nostalgic, neighborly space filled with Texas Superstars®, herbs, pass-alongs, and full-foliage plants is an abundance of sensory gardening. Vintage decor is woven into the garden story throughout. Thoughtful tree care, including proper pruning techniques and preserving the natural growth of the tree will be part of this garden experience. The property also includes a rain barrel, compost tumblers and raised garden beds for both herbs and ornamental plants.



All Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Members

## 2026 Garden Tour Preview (Cont.)

*Public Gardens: The Grove Community Garden and Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie*

### The Grove

The Denton County Community Grove and Earth Kind® Garden is a collaborative project between Denton County and DCMGA to demonstrate how to best grow fruit and nut trees and native plants in Denton County. In addition to learning about the proper selection, planting and maintenance of these plants, there will be demonstrations of soil preparation, water-wise irrigation and low maintenance practices that are successful in North Texas. Fruit and nut selections include peaches, pears, plums, pomegranates, blackberries, pecans, and jujubes. Jerusalem sage, boneset and *Salvia* attract beneficial wildlife and hummingbirds to the native plant garden. Bluebird houses and even a chimney swift tower have been added to provide habitat for the birds who come to The Grove.



Photos Courtesy of DCMGA Members



### Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie

The Josey Ranch Pocket Prairie collaborates with Carrollton's Library, Parks, and Environmental Quality Departments as well as the Dallas County Master Naturalists to offer education on plant selection, pollinator gardens and Monarch Waystations. This pocket prairie is a visual treasure of native wildflowers - bluebonnets, Mexican hats, evening primrose, black-eyed Susan, coreopsis, and Indian blankets. Rockrose is abundant, attracting pollinators along with Turk's cap, frogruit, obedient plant and native grasses. Come to Josey Ranch and reconnect with nature while imagining how to restore a piece of natural habitat for plants, pollinators, and wildlife in your own garden.



# TIME TO RENEW



## 2026 DCMGA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS OPEN !!



Use the QR Code or go to [dcmga.com](http://dcmga.com) and log into the Member Home Page to access the renewal form.

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Veterans and 2025 Interns, \$20 renewal fee, Oct. 1 - Dec. 15, 2025. There will be a \$15 late fee Dec. 16 - Dec. 31 2025, \$20 late fee thereafter. Members who do not renew by December 31, 2025 will be deemed Inactive on January 1, 2026.



## Reminder



*The December and January issues of The Root will be mostly announcements . This gives The Root editors and authors time to enjoy the holidays. The February 2026 issue will be full of the gardening articles and information you have come to expect and enjoy.*

*The Root staff thanks you for your understanding.*



## Overwintering Beneficials

by Janice Yoder-Smith

Like us, garden creatures benefit from shelter, food, and water. We can help them survive winters by leaving our gardens as natural as possible and recycling and upcycling what we have on hand. Let's explore some ways to help creatures while improving our gardens and saving time and money.

Leaving upright, flowered stems in place during the winter attracts omnivorous birds to feed on seeds. Letting plants reseed provides new plants next year. Stems provide shelter for some beneficial insects or their larvae. If local codes require us to cut the stems at the base, leaving them lying on the ground somewhere still provides shelter, food, and future plants. Those "unsightly" stems and fallen branches provide nurseries for insects that lay eggs inside them. Those larvae mature over the winter. When the ground warms in the spring, those larvae transform into pupae and then into insects, which help protect our gardens.

Adding fallen leaves to our compost piles along with some "green" material helps keep the compost pile warm during winter. Some arthropods will live within the pile to survive the cold. If we don't have room for a compost pile, we shred the leaves and spread them on the ground to nourish the soil and help burrowed larvae and insects stay a little warmer in the winter.

While inspecting our gardens during autumn, we may realize that some areas need additional care before spring. Our garden creatures benefit from us stacking fallen limbs, twigs, pine cones, and removed plants into piles to create critter "hotels" for the winter. Drilling different-sized holes in logs or branches creates other shelter options. Drawing on memories of walking in woods, across prairies, or near water helps us create shelters that resemble those found in nature, with distinct features tailored to different microclimates within our yards. One such hotel might be a pile of stones situated in a sunny location for lizards. Another could be a pile of brush near a rain garden.



Beginning a Brush Pile

Photo Courtesy of Janice Yoder Smith, DCMGA,  
CC-BY-NC 4.0

Partially burying broken clay pots provides shelter for toads that emerge from burrows beneath the freeze line during prolonged warm periods in north Texas winters. Exposed parts of the clay pots provide shelter during downpours. (Leaving the pots for the summer provides shade.)

Use shallow saucers or fragments of clay pots to provide water for birds and animals during the winter. (The DFW Metroplex usually doesn't experience frequent, prolonged periods of deep-freezing temperatures, so water in shallow containers left out for animals should be replaced frequently to limit mosquito reproduction.)

Including plants that flower in the winter helps feed pollinators. Consulting the Denton County Master Gardener Association and Trinity Forks Native Plant Society of Texas websites provide several guides for building pollinator gardens that support pollinators year-round. Let's review the "Resources" section that follows for more information to help us support creatures in our gardens during winter.



Janice Yoder Smith, DCGMA, CC-BY-NC 4.0

**Lizard Shelter**

Janice Yoder Smith, DCGMA, CC-BY-NC 4.0

**Toad Shelter**

Photo Courtesy of Canva.com

Resources:

Building a garden for pollinators (Gardening Basics Series). (2022, November). Denton County Master Gardener Association. Retrieved October 15, 2025, from <https://www.dcmga.com/wp-content/uploads/docs/garden-basics-plan/gb-building-pollinator-garden.pdf>

Grows, M. (2024, September 18). How to help Overwintering pollinators. Maryland Grows. <https://marylandgrows.umd.edu/2024/09/27/how-to-help-overwintering-pollinators/>

Himes, S. (2024, May 2). How to help beneficial insects survive winter. AgriLife Today. <https://agrifiletoday.tamu.edu/2023/11/22/how-to-help-beneficial-insects-survive-winter/>

How to help beneficial bugs survive Winter. (2024, December 10). Take Care of Texas. <https://takecareoftexas.org/about-us/blog/how-help-beneficial-bugs-survive-winter>

Leave it be: Maintaining leaf litter in the landscape. (2024, September 27). LSU AgCenter. <https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1727207888289>

Make the best of beneficial insects - El Paso County Master Gardeners. (2019, March 24). El Paso County Master Gardeners. <https://txmg.org/el Paso/learn/gardening-in-el-paso-articles/make-the-best-of-beneficial-insects/>

Native Plant Society of Texas. (2025, October 4). What to plant - Native Plant Society of Texas. <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/trinity-forks/trinity-forks-resources/tf-what-to-plant/>

Nesting & Overwintering Habitat | Xerces Society. (n.d.). <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/nesting-overwintering-habitat>

The Denton County Master Gardener Association. (2025, October 27). Plan - Denton County Master Gardener Association. Denton County Master Gardener Association. <https://www.dcmga.com/plan-and-prepare/plan/>

Watts, S. (2025, October 28). Bug Hotel | Home & Garden Information Center. Home & Garden Information Center. <https://hgic.clemson.edu/bug-hotel/>



**Got Pumpkins??**

Drop them off at the Hulcher Complex sign in Denton TX. Pumpkins will be used to feed rescue animals at Hogs and Kisses of Texas Animal Sanctuary.

Now through the first weekend of December.

**PUMPKIN DROP OFF!**

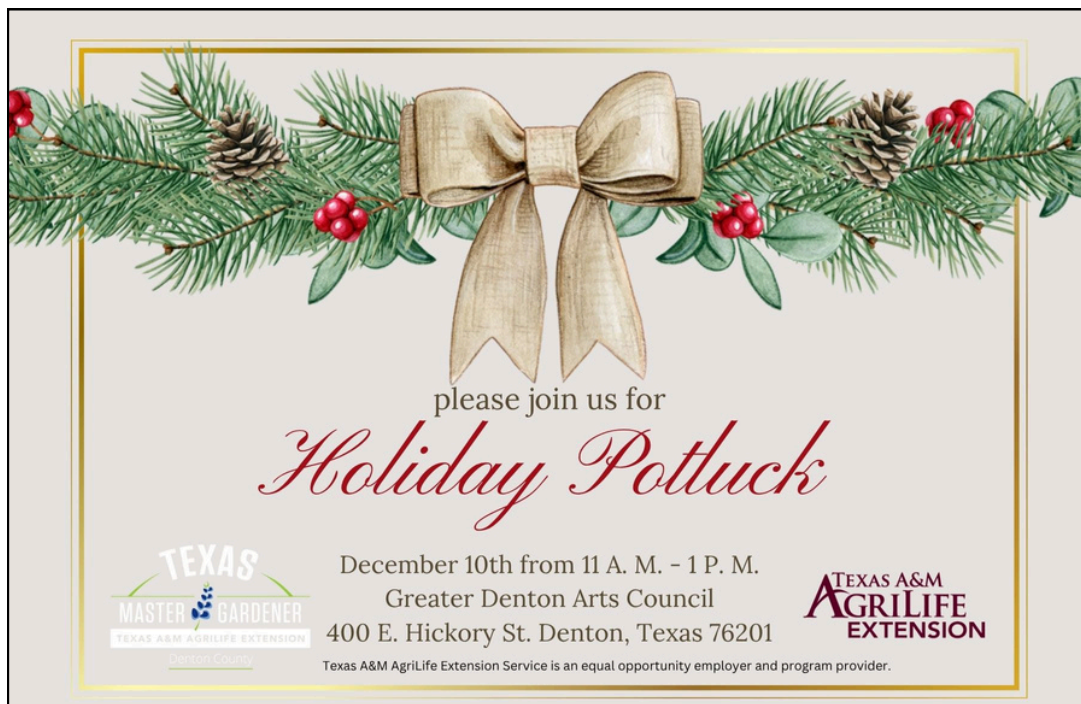
Please leave your **whole, uncarved** pumpkins here. They will be used to feed rescue animals at Hogs and Kisses of Texas Animal Sanctuary! Pumpkins will be picked up weekly now through the first weekend in December.

# My Favorite Things

## The 2025 DCMGA Holiday Social

by Cece Kenney

I've been reflecting on our Holiday Party theme this year, "My Favorite Things", and I wanted to share a few of my favorite things with you and the invitation to our 2025 Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 10th. In looking back at my childhood, I remember the smells the most. My mother was an avid cook, cooking was love, gathering as a family was love, and making holiday goodies was more than love - it was tradition. I remember pulling taffy. I remember the method of how to make her fruitcake recipe with the pounds of pecans that we shelled. It tasted better with a lot of pecans, and yes, I love fruitcake to this day. As I pull out her recipe file from under my cabinet at this time of year, all of these recipes will be there. And along the way, I have started to add more favorite things to my collection. Our Holiday Social is truly a social - our vendors are our family, interns, and members. Our shared food comes from our heart. We decorate, we dress up or down in holiday wear, some sing and some dance, but we all share our favorite things. Happy Holidays, and we look forward to seeing you at our Holiday Social!



# MEET THE DCMGA BOARD

## Bonnie Ambrose

### President

#### Prior Experience

My previous and ongoing service with DCMGA includes Outreach Director, leading the Lunch and Learn Team, volunteering for the Plant Sale, Speaker's Bureau, and Garden Tour.

#### Goals in My Role

- Foster a welcoming and inclusive environment where every member feels valued and empowered to contribute.
- Support and recognize the dedication of our volunteers, ensuring they have resources and the encouragement needed.
- Strengthening our educational programs by expanding partnerships with local organizations, schools, and community groups.
- Promote long-term sustainability and growth of DCMGA.
- Celebrate our successes and learn from our challenges, making DCMGA a model for community engagement and horticultural education.



## Jeff Hardgrave

### Vice President

#### Prior Experience

My experience includes: Intern Garden Captain 2023-25, Plant Sale 2023-25, Speakers Bureau 2023-25, Strategic Planning Committee 2023-2024, Texas Master Gardener Association Director 2024, Board of Director Vice President 2025.

#### Goals in my Role

- Improve DCMGA's contribution to and standing in Denton County.
- Create opportunities for others to learn and enjoy gardening as a sustainable, fulfilling investment in our communities. Improve our volunteer experiences to be more about inclusion and contribution to those we are privileged to serve.



# MEET THE DCMGA BOARD

Jill Olhausen

Secretary

**Prior Experience**

Volunteer with Garden Tour, Plant Sale, Fall into Gardening, Earth Day, Arbor Day. Project involvement: includes Tree Team, The Grove, Flower Mound Seed Library, Help Desk, BOD meetings, LLELA, Shiloh, Josey Ranch, Roots for Wings, FMFB Community Garden, Argyle Unity Park, Beulah Acres, By-Laws Committee.

**Goals in my Role**

My goals as a member of the Board are the same as a member - to come to the table in a positive, welcoming, and inclusive manner. I'm excited to learn, open to change, and I want to support the organization to the best of my abilities that continue moving DCMGA forward.



Donna Hull

Director of Communications

**Prior Experience**

My prior experience includes working with The Grove, Flower Mound First Baptist Community Garden, Search for Excellence Awards, writing and editing for *The Root*, and one year on the DCMGA Board as the Communications Director.

**Goals in my Role**

My first goal in Year 2 is to continue the task of developing the "Comm Team" as a team that works together to keep our members informed of our events and showcase our organization in its best light, helping the public find the horticultural resources and support that they need. We hope to continue to provide Canva education, a writing workshop, develop our marketing potential, and add a photography committee.



# MEET THE DCMGA BOARD

## Barbara Smith

### Director of Education

#### Prior Experience

My prior experience with DCMGA includes: Speakers Bureau, Ask A Master Gardener, Fair Oaks Independent Living Center, Denton County Historical Park Gardens, 24-25 Plant Sale, 24-25 Garden Tour & Docent.

#### Goals in my Role

- Grow an educationally driven DCMGA.
- Increase member opportunities to deliver quality education.
- Strengthen Our Core – the Education Foundation.
- Develop & document processes, procedures, and templates.
- Leverage technology for access and consistency.
- Enhance presentations: Core Menu & Advanced Topics.
- AAMG & Speakers Bureau training and mentoring.
- Partner across Teams.
- Collaborate with DCMGA projects to create and expand programs.
- Plan for Denton County growth.
- Establish satellite relationships with community organizations.



## Treva McFadden

### Director of Outreach

#### Prior Experience

- Served on the Board in 2020 as Communications Director-Promotions
- Outreach Team member

#### Goals in My Role

- Expand collaboration within and outside of DCMGA.
- Let the community know of our availability to serve and educate Denton County communities.
- Establish thriving collaborations between current and future projects to build connection and solidify education efforts of all projects.
- Educate local HOAs.
- Solidify DCMGA's reputation as a pinnacle association within TXMGA.



# MEET THE DCMGA BOARD

## Ricky Wilkens

### Director of Technology

#### Prior DCMGA Experience

- Intern Captain for Barb Prins during Garden Tour 2022.
- Overseen ticket sales and performed treasurer duties for GT
- Helped with technology/cashier training for Plant Sale
- Served on Finance Team and helped perform the financial audit for DCMGA in 2025

#### Goals in My Role

My goal for this role is to bring overall organization and leadership to all the ways that technology effects us, to better serve our members and the citizens of Denton County. I would also like to increase member participation in our technology efforts. It takes a lot of people to make this run smoothly.



## Brenda Martin

### Member-at-Large

No matter the job, I have always served others. From my career in development at UNT, collaborating with donors to see that their gifts would serve them in perpetuity, or as the dean of students at Liberty Christian serving the needs of students, parents, and staff in all aspects of their lives, I have been in service to others. I focus on "what could be" and strive to make it happen.

No job is too big; no job is too small. I will work tirelessly to lift a burden or better a situation. From scrubbing toilets to greeting dignitaries, all the jobs need to be completed...so I serve. Striving to bring joy, smiles, comfort, reassurance and often truth to demanding situations; it is always about the other person.



# MEET THE DCMGA BOARD

Harry Gornick

Treasurer

## Prior DCMGA Experience

Class of 2024, FMFB Garden Tour Intern Captain (2024), FMFB Co-Project Manager (2025), The Grove Volunteer, Initiated Plant Sale Recycling Program, 2025 Finance Committee, 2025 Nominating Committee Chairman

## Goals in My Role

My goal for this role is to continue to maintain and enhance the organization's well-managed financial controls. I will continue financial transparency, and ensure that the organization follows appropriate risk management practices.



OPEN

## VP, Ways and Means

The VP of Ways and Means will represent DCMGA in fundraising efforts to meet our organization's current and future needs. This individual will share our DCMGA story as they develop long-term relationships with individuals and businesses across Denton County whose charitable philosophies align with our project goals and organizational mission. Is this you? Are you interested?? Contact Harry Gornick at [harry.gornick@verizon.net](mailto:harry.gornick@verizon.net).



## Gifts For Gardeners

BY JANICE YODER SMITH

What can I give my gardener friend  
To bring them joy that won't end?  
Maybe gauntlet gloves for their arms  
Protect from thorns and other harms.

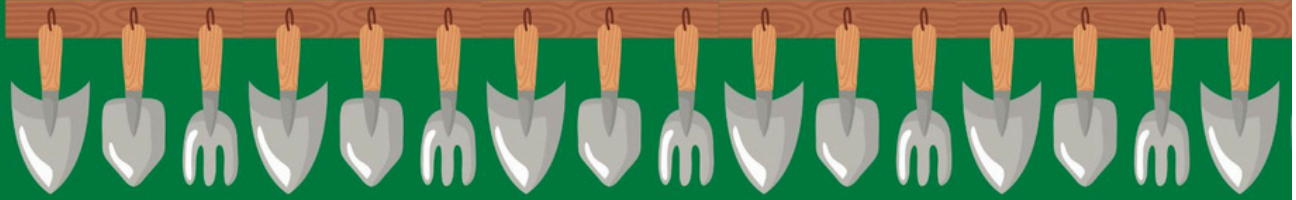
Or a Hori Hori knife  
To help them dig with less strife.  
Lopping shears or pruners might  
Shape up plant parts that bring fright.

How about a hat to shade  
Their eyes and face as they spade?  
A kneeling bench might bring ease  
To stand up with aching knees.

Would they love a fun new plant?  
What about a décor ant?  
How about some native seeds  
and a garden book to read?

The gift of time could be great.  
Help them a new bed create,  
Help them gain a garden skill,  
Learn together for a thrill.





## **Christmas Gifts for Gardeners**



*Thank you all for the suggestions on Facebook! This list is not comprehensive, but here are a few favorite garden tools and accessories shared by our members. Brand names are avoided in this publication - but you can find them on Facebook. Enjoy - and add a few of these to your own list!*



### **Garden tool sharpener**



Garden trug made from recycled tires

Hoe/cultivator combo tool

Battery garden pruner kit

Garden knife/Hori-hori knife

Collapsible double decker wagon

General garden cart

Root Slayer trowel or spade

Pruners/sheers

Watering Can

Folding kneeler

Knee pads

Mini handheld saw



### **Seeds & bulbs**



Garden journal or book (see next list!)

Kidskin leather gloves

Garden signs & art

Terra cotta watering spikes

Garden hat (w/ or w/out pony tail hole!)

Plant labels

Stepping stone kits

Propagation vases

Arm sleeves for protection

Garden overalls

Heating pad & ice pack!

**GIFT CARDS**



## Book Titles for Gardeners

The titles below were gathered from a Facebook post to DCMGA members. Thank you to everyone who responded - special thanks to Janet Gershenfeld for sharing a small part of her library! Look at the titles, Google anything interesting and maybe add a few to your own wish list this year!

*JADAM Organic Farming* by Youngsang Cho (2016)

*Four-Season Harvest* by Eliot Coleman (1999)

*Foraging: Explore Nature's Bounty* by Mark Vorderbruggen (2022)

*The Natural Shade Garden* by Ken Druse (1992)

*Gardens for the Soul* by Sara Bird and Dan Duchars (2022)

*Grow More Food* by Colin McCrate and Brad Halm (2022)

*Fruits & Berries* (Rodale's Successful Organic Gardening) by Susan McClure and Lee Reich (1996)

*Your Edible Yard* by Crystal Stevens (2020)

*Practical Permaculture* by Jessi Bloom, Dave Boehnlein, et al. (2015)

*Survival Gardening* by Sam Coffman (2025)

*A Ceiling of Sky* by Pat Ross (2000)

*The Comfortable Garden* by Laurie Barkin RN, MS (2012)

*Natural Companions* by Kenneth Druse and Ellen Hoverkamp (2012)

*Gardens Private and Personal* by Nancy D'Oench, Bonny Martin, Mick Hales (2008)

*Water Features for Every Garden* by Helen Nash (2001)

*A Pattern Garden* by Valerie Easton (2007)

*A Modern Herbal* by M. Grieve (1971)

## Book Titles for Gardeners (cont.)...

*Plant Science for Gardeners* by Robert Pavlis (2022)

*Plant Propagation* by the American Horticultural Society (Alan Toogood, ed., 1999)

*Nature's Best Hope* by Douglas Tallamy (2020)

*Nature of Oaks* by Douglas Tallamy, Adam Barr, et al. (2022)

*How Can I Help?* by Douglas Tallamy (2025)

*Nature's Action Guide* by Sarah F. Jayne and Doug Tallamy (2024)

*The Poetics of Gardens* by Charles W. Moore, William J. Mitchell, et al. (1988)

*Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents* by Terry Hewitt (1997)

*Succulents and All Things Under Glass* by Isabelle Palmer (2020)

*Cut Flower Garden* by Erin Benzakein (2017)

*The Complete Gardener* by Monty Don (2021)

*The Texas Tomato Lover's Handbook* by William Adams and Deborah Adams (2011)

*The Vegetable Book* by Dr. Sam Cotner (2012)

*Texas Fruit and Vegetable Gardening* by Greg Grant (2021)

And for a relaxing, funny read...

*The \$64 Tomato* by William Alexander (2007)

**Happy Reading!**



## Become a Citizen Forester

~Learn about trees!

~Volunteer to improve our urban forest!

**Application deadline - December 31, 2025.**

The **Citizen Forester** program is sponsored by the **Cross Timbers Urban Forestry Council**, a non-profit organization, focused on publicly owned trees.

Trained volunteers work in public areas including city parks, street trees, public school yards, etc. We provide public education through presentations and booth events. Our goal is to help communities reap the benefits of trees in the urban environment in a responsible manner.

**The program consists of training on Tuesdays from February 10th through May 5th, consisting of in-house instruction and outdoor field exercises.**

In-classroom training will be held at the Herring Recreation Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 191 Civic Cir, Lewisville. Field exercises will be announced at a later date.

Certified Arborists and Foresters will conduct training which includes tree identification, propagation, planting, pruning, pest and tree diseases and hazard assessment.

**You will never look at a tree the same way again!**

Go to [ctufc.org](http://ctufc.org) to learn more about the Citizen Forester Program and click on **"Apply to become a Citizen Forester"** for the application. **(Applications will be on-line November 2025, deadline is December 31, 2025. Class limited to 25)**

**Questions?** Contact our Training Coordinator, Mary Morrow, [hawkilittle@aol.com](mailto:hawkilittle@aol.com).



### *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>



# Earth-Kind<sup>®</sup>

## Landscape Design Course

January 16 -17, 2026  
in Flower Mound 8:30-4:30 both days  
PLUS  
a Personal Design Consultation  
on January 24th

Learn sustainable design and installation techniques  
for creating or renewing your home landscape!

Pre-registration required and available at  
DCMGA.com or use the QR Code



Follow us on social media  
at DentonCountyMGA  
for more information

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is a n equal opportunity employer and program provider.*



# Denton County Master Gardener Association

## Upcoming Events

### Community Strong Farm Work Days

**Growing Vegetables for Linda Tutt High School Student Run Grocery & First Refuge Food Bank. All tasks from soil prep to harvesting as the season dictates. We will have a short education on the tasks of the day. Meet Monday mornings through December 15<sup>th</sup>. 9AM-11AM. If you have a group that would like to volunteer at another time, call Russ to set it up. (940-577-9794)**  
1350 Milam Road E., Sanger

### LLELA Nature Preserve Workday

Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area  
201 E Jones St. Lewisville, TX 75057, Meet Wednesdays 9AM-12PM

**Dec  
2**

### Constellation of Living Memorials Symposium

This is a first-of-its-kind gathering that unites leaders in conservation, education, public policy, and community engagement to reimagine forgotten historic cemeteries as living memorials—places where remembrance, biodiversity, and civic pride flourish together.

Hosted in partnership with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, this one-day symposium brings together Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners, 4-H youth, preservationists, philanthropists, and city leaders to explore how environmental stewardship and cultural restoration intersect.

Attendees will gain insight into how local communities across Texas are transforming sacred spaces into ecological sanctuaries and outdoor classrooms that heal, inspire, and endure.

Space is limited. Register soon:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/constellation-of-living-memorials-symposium-tickets-1968290594152>

**Dec  
12**

### Houseplants-101

Discover the secrets to thriving indoor greenery in Houseplants 101, a presentation by a certified Master Gardener. Perfect for beginners and plant lovers alike, this session covers the essentials of houseplant care—from choosing the right plants to watering, lighting, and troubleshooting common issues. Learn how to create a lush, healthy indoor space with confidence! 9AM-10AM

Denton Senior Center 509 Bell, Denton



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.



**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.

**2025 Board of Directors**

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**Social Media**

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

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

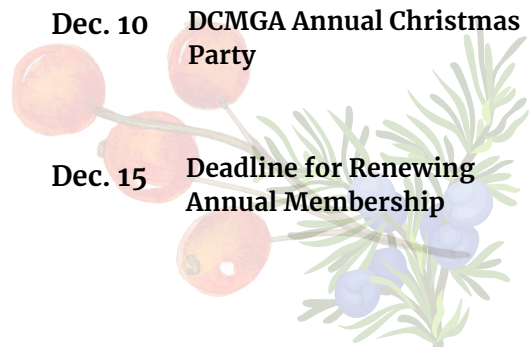
Pinterest:

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

YouTube:

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

**Save the Date**



Dec. 10 DCMGA Annual Christmas Party

Dec. 15 Deadline for Renewing Annual Membership

**Contact Information**

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**Content**

The submission deadline for the January edition of *The Root* is December 5. Submissions may be revised at the discretion of the editor.

Ideas, photos, and articles are welcome and may be submitted to Communications Director Donna Hull at [doctorhulld@gmail.com](mailto:doctorhulld@gmail.com).

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