

## Texas Master Gardener Newsletter

August 2017



Swallowtail enjoying zinnias - Peggy Rogers



### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Fellow Gardeners,  
Just a few days and we will be seeing some of you at the August 12th Directors meeting in College Station. It just seems forever since our last meeting.

We are truly in the "dog days" of summer. I have always wondered what that terminology meant. To me growing up it meant taking a dose of awful smelling, tasting "stuff" that cleaned your system out all the way to your toes! Does anyone do that anymore? Now, how does that relate to gardening? Yes, most of the time it was made from a herb or plant from the garden. Ours was most likely purchased from the Watkins peddler on his monthly visit.

Well anyway, the dog days of summer are the hot, sultry days of summer, and for this year they occur July 22 through August 22, according to Wikipedia. Historically, the days follow the rising of the star Sirius (the "Dog Star") that Roman astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunder storms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs and just plain old bad luck. Are you there? Today, they are taken to be the hottest, most uncomfortable days of summer in the Northern Hemisphere.

My vegetable garden was a total failure this year. Right off, the squash vine borers (SVB) got my squash, zucchini and cucumbers. The okra has not done well, which takes me to another subject - saved seeds versus purchased seeds - but another time. Tomatoes. I don't know what I did right but they have outdone themselves. Thank goodness I have neighbors and friends that are sharing their abundance with me. On the other hand, my flowers have flourished. But now in these "dog days," it is water, water, water and mulch, mulch, mulch.

It's too hot to be working in the garden, so come to the TMGA directors' meeting Saturday, August 12th in College Station. The program will be a discussion on awards. What are the awards? How does your Association pick which award? Who writes your application for an award? Be prepared for discussion.

Hugs!



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 12, 2017**  
[TMGA Director's Meeting - 3rd Quarter](#)

**August 15, 2017**  
[Meet the Master Gardeners](#)  
Henderson County

**August 16, 2017**  
[Plan Your Fall Garden](#)  
McLennan County

**August 17, 2017**  
[The Edible Landscape](#)  
Gregg County

**April 4-6, 2018**  
[Texas Master Gardeners Conference](#)  
College Station

**August 2018**  
[Rhine River Cruise](#)  
Arkansas Master Gardener Janet Carson's Study Cruise

**June 2019**  
[International Master Gardener Conference](#)  
Valley Forge, PA

### SPECIALIST TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

[Entomology](#) - September 18-21  
Dallas County AgriLife Extension, Dallas, Tx

[Vegetables](#) - October 17-19  
hosted by Bexar County in San Antonio, TX



Peggy Rogers  
2017 President



Naked Ladies  
& Petunias



Datura



Sole Sunflower



Loki in the  
Garden

[Plant Propagation](#) - October 30-31 hosted by Hill Country Master Gardeners in Kerrville, TX



### INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE REPORT

For five days in mid-July, over 1200 Master Gardeners from nearly every U.S. state, from 9 Canadian provinces, and from South Korea met in Portland, Oregon, for the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference. The event happens every two years.

Texas was well-represented! 49 Texas Master Gardeners attended.

#### 2017 IMGC Attendance: 1,294



And, best of all, Denton County Master Gardeners won a Search for Excellence Award in the Youth Division for their "Science With Attitude (SWAt)" project. Congratulations, Denton!



**April 4-6, 2018**  
**Texas A&M University, College Station, TX**

Great tours are being booked, speaker applications are being reviewed, the venues have been rented, sponsorships are being acquired and we're just eight months away from our 2018 conference hosted by the TMGA and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The conference will be a grand time of celebration! We will "Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, Embrace the Future". We will be celebrating 40 years of the MG Program in the state of Texas and the unveiling of the Earth-Kind® Gardens within The Gardens at Texas A&M University! Plan to attend this very special conference.

One-half of our room block at our host hotel, The Hilton, has already been reserved. You may make your reservation by following this [link](#). College Station books up fast!

#### SEND IN YOUR PHOTOS!

Your photos are starting to trickle in! Thank you to those who were quick to respond! Last month we asked for our Texas Master Gardeners to submit the following:

1. A selfie with you in MG attire (yes, a selfie, not a photo someone else took!).
2. A photo of your association.
3. A photo of a project your association is involved with or has completed.
4. A photo showing what you do outside of working in the dirt. Our Master Gardeners are multi-faceted and we want to know more about you!

Send us your photos to [2018tmgaconference@gmail.com](mailto:2018tmgaconference@gmail.com). You'll see why we asked for them when you attend the 2018 TMGA Conference!

#### PICTURES TO SHARE FROM THE 2017 STATE CONFERENCE



Susan Kilpatrick and Tammie Gurley accept the award in Portland

Read more about their project and attendee reports about the conference from Barbara Buckley (Fort Bend) and Louie McDaniel (McLennan) below.

The next international conference is scheduled for June 15-21, 2019, in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. See the [Facebook page](#) and start your planning now!

Twenty-six county associations won awards in 2016, which were presented at the 2017 State Conference in Galveston.

Pictures from the 2017 State Conference and the Award Winners are online for you to view. Download them to share with your association and individuals.

<https://txmg.org/2016-awards-photos/>

**Will yours be next in 2018?**



**STAY COOL!**

**Next Directors Meeting:  
Saturday, August 12, 2017  
12:30pm (11:45am Social Time)**

### **TEXANS REPRESENT AND REPORT INTERNATIONAL MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE**

#### **From Barbara and James Buckley, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners:**

July is the one of the months to escape from the Texas heat. A trip to the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference in Portland, Oregon was just what was needed for two Fort Bend Master Gardeners. Imagine no rain or humidity with temperatures in the high 70s and you have a wonderful week for Master Gardeners to learn from experts, meet new friends, and explore the area.

The conference was attended by 1,294 MGs from 46 states, 9 Canadian provinces, and Korea. There were 49 from Texas with 6 of us from Fort Bend County. There were 3 full days of sessions - 48 concurrent sessions and 3 keynotes to choose. If only we could have cloned ourselves. The entire conference was so well planned and perfectly organized.

The sessions we attended covered a wide variety of topics. The keynote – “Welcome to Subirdia” by John Marzluff was eye-opening, explaining how the building of suburban communities impacts birds and their remarkable ability to adapt to major environmental changes. Other favorites included Thomas Rainer’s presentation “Where Ecology meets Horticulture: Designing Plant Communities”; “All About Seeds” by Renee Sheppard from Renee’s Garden; and the keynote by Dan Hinkley, “The Forgotten Elements of Good Design: Texture, Movement and Fragrance”. So many great speakers and topics made it hard to choose a favorite.

### **Search for Excellence Award International Master Gardener Conference**

Denton County won an International Master Gardener Search for Excellence Award in the Youth Division for their "Science With Attitude (SWAt)" project. The year-round program is designed to:

- Train teachers and parent volunteers from area Denton County public, private, schools, & home based education programs
- Work with DCMG, Elm Fork Chapter Master Naturalists & 4-H volunteers
- Align researched-based curricula with standardized tests to enhance science, reading, & math
- Provide individualized supplemental education for a variety of topics for classrooms and other educational settings

Beginning in 2009, the Denton County Master Gardener Association (DCMGA) began partnering with Elm Fork Master Naturalists, 4-H and Denton County School Districts to offer a summer in-service teacher training program focused around the Junior Master Gardener curriculum.

Each year after the inception, additional course material was added. In 2013 teachers who completed the enhanced summer training program requested an outreach program for their students to ensure year-around education about horticulture, the environmental impact of human behavior and general nature topics.

The Science With Attitude (SWAt) Educational Outreach program launched in 2015 offering 17 topic choices selected or suggested by the teachers during their SWAt training. Available topics include but are not limited to: vegetable gardening, honeybees, worm composting,

An additional bonus was the Search for Excellence awards. The first place winners presented a short video about their project during a general session, giving us an insight into their projects. These winners were from across the country and Canada. In the exhibit hall, all winners had posters which explained their projects in detail. We came home with great ideas to share.

Each day, a delicious hot lunch was served, giving us the opportunity to sit with MGs from across the country. And we had a chance to share information with them about our TXMG program. It was great to learn how their classes were designed for new members, how they earn hours, how they recognize member achievement. We found that while there are many program differences, we all share a love of gardening and caring for the environment. We returned home with a renewed understanding that we never stop learning or sharing. We had a wonderful time in Portland and thank Oregon MGs for hosting us!

**From Louie McDaniel, Vice-President, McLennan County Master Gardeners**

It was worth making the long journey to Portland. In addition to excellent speakers, there were many available tours. Our hosts were friendly and helpful. Each day featured a general session, followed by a selection of breakout sessions or tours. A wide selection of breakout (concurrent) sessions was offered, appealing to just about every taste. There were snack breaks, affording an opportunity to meet Master Gardeners from all over.

The event was hosted by the International Master Gardener Committee, aided by Oregon State University Extension Service and Oregon Master Gardeners. It was worthwhile and enjoyable.

Some statistics about the international conference this year:

- 1,294 registrations, the highest ever for an International MG Conference
- 18 tours with about 700 sign-ups
- Over 100 volunteers

wildlife observation and habitats, birds, wildflowers, saving water and understanding the environmental impact of human behavior.



Depending on the selected topic, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, 4-H youth or a combination of these volunteers conduct the presentation or demonstration.

Participation in the project:

- Fifty-Nine Master Gardeners supported the SWAt program at some time during 2015-2016 with nine contributors providing continuity from the beginning. The SWAt team reported 3,689 volunteer hours in 2015-2016 of which approximately 50% were in support of educational outreach to youth projects.
- Thirty-Five Master Naturalists volunteers provided over 1,000 hours of service in support of SWAt Educational Outreach.
- In 2016 volunteers engaged 2,601 youth at 48 elementary and pre-schools.
- In 2015 volunteers engaged 3,795 youth responding to 44 requests from 8 school districts.

Congratulations, Denton!

(See the full article on their award [here.](#))

Our Master Gardener Associations do amazing, wonderful things.  
Watch for highlights of other Texas Master Gardener associations in future newsletters.

**Denton County Master Gardener Association**

Denton County Master Gardener Association has a very active association with a number of excellent projects and events. In addition to the International Master Gardener Conference Search for Excellence Award, they also recently received a local award. Denton County Master Gardeners full list of projects are on their website: <https://dcmga.com/projects/>

**"Denton County Master Gardener Association Receives Conservation Award"**

The Denton County Master Gardener Association recently received the 2017 "Friend of Conservation" award from the Texas Conservation Awards Program Area 5 in recognition of the group's contribution to local education and sustainability.

The Association, an all-volunteer program directed by representatives of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, was nominated for the award by the Denton County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD). The two organizations have a long history of partnering together to educate the public and spread the conservation message.

A major education effort is "Cool Shade for the Third Grade," a sustainability program developed by DCSWCD and presented by the

gardeners to approximately 3,000 students in 32 Denton County schools every year.

“Cool Shade” introduces third-graders to the importance of soil and water conservation. At the close of the program, each student receives a free seedling to take home, plant and tend. Approximately 60 Master Gardeners volunteer for the classroom training and prepare the seedlings for distribution.

Master Gardeners also help with DCSWCD's annual tree sale at the Denton County Fairgrounds, an event that makes conservation seedlings available to local landowners. “The trees add beauty and shade, serve as windbreaks and provide soil protection and wildlife habitat,” said Steven Ray, district conservationist.

In addition, the Association annually presents the \$1,000 Tom Harpool Horticultural Scholarship to a college student from Denton County who is enrolled in a horticultural program.

“This is just one more way that the Association works to instill the value of conservation in our local youth,” he said. “Denton County Master Gardeners are valuable contributors to DCSWCD and local conservation efforts,” Ray said. “They provide time, labor and travel and share their special training to help DCSWCD in their mission to reach out to children and landowners. Their dedication to DCSWCD has resulted in a great partnership, and we were honored to nominate them for the Friend of Conservation Award.”



*Pictured left to right with the award:  
Thomas Muir, Secretary, Denton County SWCD; Lewayne Peterson, Chairman, Denton County SWCD;  
Tammie Manley-Gurley, President, DCMGA; Janet Lambrick, Horticultural Agent, Denton County.*

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