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As we move into September, we usually start thinking of cooler weather and the coming months when we can plant fall crops and plant natives for next year. However, in Texas, September does not always cooperate with cooler weather. I looked at the record temperature for August and it is 109°; for September it is 111°. So maybe we need to relax for another month and plant during the last half of the month. Maybe we will be able to have a group workday if it is cool enough later in the month.

We have started the class and have 28 students, and they are enthusiastic. Some have already volunteered at Berry Springs Park and Preserve helping Susan with much needed work. We started with 32 but have had some drop out due to work problems. I encourage all of you to come to the monthly meetings and greet these new volunteers. Quite a few came to the meeting immediately after starting the class. You are welcome to come to the classes and meet them there also.

I am pleased that the Demonstration Garden volunteers have been able to provide produce to the Caring Place, Annunciation Maternity Home and some to the Round Rock Serving Center. The Demonstration Garden volunteers have done a great service to the community, not only to those that wish to see what they can grow locally but through sharing the produce with those in need. These volunteers have really shone this year. Stop by and look at the gardens on Tuesday and Friday while they are there and I am sure they will take the time to show you around. If you want to see a weekly update of what has been grown and harvested, check out our web site, www.txmg.org/williamson and scroll down to the Veggie Garden Blog for an update.

I once saw a bumper sticker that said “Don’t talk bad about farmers with your mouth full.” Sometimes, I think we do not let farmers know how much we appreciate the crops they grow for us and how hard it is to be a farmer.

I also want say thanks to all of our volunteers. We appreciate what you do!
Introducing!

Rebecca Irey

Rebecca is a wannabe native Texan via South Dakota, who moved to this area in 2013 after escaping the frigid North Country. She has worked in the medical industry for 20 years as well as raising and homeschooling 7 children ages 3 to 23. With her immigration to Texas, her husband decided he would like to become a gentleman farmer, which means he points and they plant, so she was thrilled to learn about the MG program. They are also active in the Williamson County Beekeepers Association and 4-H program, and Rebecca is an aspiring quilter and crafter and loves all that involves new adventures. She is very excited to make the MG Intern program one of those!

Joe Schram

Joe Schram has been growing organic produce in Central Texas for years. His wife and he have always been involved in some sort of gardening, including landscaping as well as vegetables. Several years ago, he started studying Aquaponics and fell in love with the concept. More recently, the Schrams relocated to Liberty Hill in the Texas Hill Country. Soon after moving in, they built their first Greenhouse and Aquaponics system and enjoy the great harvest from it year round. Committed to organic methods and the resurgence of heirloom produce, Joe believes becoming a Master Gardener gives him an opportunity to learn from folks who are not only experts, but willing to share that wisdom, and also to give back to his community in a meaningful way. Joe’s passion is education, both giving and receiving. Thus, a great time for him is fellowshipping with others who share the same passion!
International Gardening Classes

by Arlene David

The International Gardening classes will start up again this fall at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor. The center presently holds about 500 women who are awaiting rulings on whether they will return to their home country or will be permitted to remain in the U.S. We will begin classes on September 3 and continue for ten weeks through November 5. We begin with check-in at the facility at 8:30 a.m. and finish at 11:30 a.m. for three hours of volunteer time each session. We could use about five volunteers for each weekly session.

We have been very pleased with the response of the residents to our classes. We had planned on 15
students each week but now our classes have increased to 30 each time, which is the limit. We have only had a few that have been there long enough to attend more than one class. We have had excellent cooperation with the staff members who have been assigned to assist us. In fact, I think staff members have benefitted tremendously for they always have questions.

We conduct the class in English and have translators for the Spanish. Any volunteers who speak Spanish would be welcomed with open arms. We have had students from many nations: Colombia, San Salvador, Peru, Chile, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

Weather permitting, we hold classes in the greenhouse but during inclement weather we go into the chapel for classes. Our topics include plant nutrition, composting, planting seeds, lasagna gardening, propagation, square foot gardening, spiral herb gardens, benefits of gardening, and working outside to add amendments to the soil and taking care of raised beds for planting. We have a large area that we will have the residents plant this spring.

At first we were fearful because it was a locked facility but having the students thank us for coming in their halting English is very heartwarming. It has been very rewarding for us. Master gardeners will need to take a training class for volunteers before being allowed to go into the facility. Volunteers will get volunteer hours for taking the class. Volunteers will also need to complete paperwork for a background check which will be competed as part of the training. You will need to show a driver's license each time to get into the center and will be given a visitor's badge. We always have a staff member with us. No open-toed shoes or shorts are allowed. The volunteers have done a wonderful job helping and we thank them for their efforts.

We would like to give others the opportunity to see how rewarding this project can be. If you have questions, we would be most happy to answer them. Give us a call. Arlene David 512-940-0251 or email us at arlenesdavid@gmail.com.
Most of us in Williamson County Master Gardeners have done volunteer hours at Berry Springs Park and Reserve. We admire Susan’s leadership and her way of working with us and at the same time teaching us something new. And, have you ever noticed how she always make everything seem so simple; easy to do! A piece of cake!

Last year I went to a farmer’s field and we all cut thousands of Blue Bonnet seed capsules. When Susan said we could get volunteer hours or cleaning out the seeds from the pods I jumped on the band wagon. After all how often can one get volunteer hours sitting in an air conditioned house, watching television, and cleaning up seeds! Little did I know the number of hours it would take, the smell that lingered for days afterward and the sheer tediousness of the entire operation.
However, being short of hours this year I gladly took a bucket of standing cypress home to harvest the seeds and lo and behold it was indeed a ‘piece of cake’. In less than two hours I had those babies shucked and ready to take back.

So when Susan suggested I might like to get a couple of hours by cleaning poppy seeds I gladly agreed. Home I came with a big plastic container of poppy heads. Susan said all I needed to do was squash the heads and the seed would come out.

The first two hours of “squashing poppy heads” netted me about a large cup of refuse. My finger tips felt like they had bruises and the size of the container that still had poppy heads was daunting. So my husband decided to make me something to make it easier. It was definitely better than using my poor bruised finger tips but after an hour of this my entire hand was cramping! So, using my noggin’ for a change, I got out my herb smasher---I’m sure it’s called something else but you get the idea!
This certainly made more progress and I could see I was finally making a dent in the container. But still my ‘old’ hands would only be able to handle this an hour or so before I needed to massage them and stretch the fingers.

Sometimes if we just let go and forget about it for a while, new ideas will come to the surface. And, lo and behold, about 2:00 a.m. one morning I woke up and knew I had figured out a better way! Put all your poppy heads into an old pillow case, tie up the open end, get out your rolling pin and roll away! (For all you young whipper snappers that don’t know what a rolling pin is, ask your Gramma or see the photo!)

A job that I had now worked on for about 4 hours was now completed in another hour and the amount of poppy heads I smashed quadrupled in the one hour! Time to get out the ole rolling pin!
Late summer into fall, people may notice tiny insects that are mottled grayish-brown collecting near windows, especially if hackberry trees are nearby. Hackberry psyllids (pronounced sill-ids) look like tiny cicadas and are actually closely related to them. Adults are about 1/8 an inch long.

Another name for hackberry psyllids is hackberry nipple gall maker. Adults lay their eggs on hackberry leaves in the spring. When eggs hatch, the psyllid feeds on the leaf and the leaf responds by developing a small pocket around the insect. The pocket is called a gall. Hackberry trees do not show long term damage from the galls or feeding of the psyllids, but the galls can make the tree unsightly.

These insects are not harmful to humans or companion animals. In the fall, the insects are searching for overwintering sites. They normally overwinter under the bark of trees, but sometimes they will utilize whatever crack or crevice they can find. This, along with the psyllids being attracted to lights at night, can lead them near doors and windows and sometimes they end up inside the home.
To manage fall invasion of hackberry psyllids:

- Use fine mesh (18) screening
- Reduce outdoor lighting or use bulbs that are less attractive to insects
- Use sealant to seal cracks and crevices
- Insects that find their way indoors can be vacuumed up

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.*
Monthly Gardening Tips

September 2014 by Winola Van Artsdalen

Save seeds from summer annuals you want to plant next spring. Plan to start new plants from cuttings of favorite perennials when weather cools, but before winter.

Be ready to plant wildflower seeds for spring bloom, with a target date of October 1. You will need to have cleared the area and loosened soil before planting.

Groom roses and other plants for fall blooms. Remove debris from beds.

Add compost to areas now to prepare areas where you plan to begin transplanting perennials at end of this month, but wait until winter to move evergreens.

Turf care:
- September 1: Apply pre-emergent for annual winter weeds.
- September 15-30: Monitor for brown patch, a fungus characterized by circular patches one foot to several feet in diameter with a “smoke ring” appearance. In this area, leaves can easily be pulled from stem.
- Apply one-half to one inch top dressing after temperatures lower, usually mid-September.
Congratulations to Our Newly Certified Master Gardener
Cathy Reyes!
## 2014 Board Positions

### President
- Wayne Rhoden

### Vice President
- Cat McGrath-Farmer

### Secretary
- Annie Bowersox

### Treasurer
- Sandra Lawrence

### Past President
- Jeanne Barker

### Programs
- Alicia Johnson

### JMG
- Jane Bowman

### Landscape
- Chuck McKelley, Janet White

#### Rose Garden
- JoAnne Dieterich

#### Drought Tolerant Garden
- Janet White, Sandra Lawrence

### Rose Garden
- JoAnne Dieterich

### Water Conservation
- Carol Parsonage

### Vegetable Gardens
- George Prall

### Projects
- Steve Echols

### Awards
- Claire Hall

### Training
- John Papich

### Communications
- Catherine Nickle

#### Publicity
- Betty Jo Phillips

#### Help desk
- Martha Baddour

#### Speaker's bureau
- Open

### Online Presence
- Diana Kowalska-Somerville

### Newsletter
- Jinna MacLaurin

### TMGA Directors

1. Wayne Rhoden
2. Cat McGrath-Farmer

### Alternates

1. Jeanne Barker
2. Claire Hall
Williamson County Master Gardener Meetings

Monthly meetings are held at the Williamson County Extension Office, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas.

**September 8, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

6:30 p.m.: Social Time
7:00 p.m.: *Drought Tolerant Medicine* with Grace Bryce. One hour educational credit.
Grace Bryce, MH, CNHP, is a Clinical Herbalist, Quantum Reflex Analysis Practitioner and Jin Shin Jyutsu Practitioner. Grace became a Certified Natural Health Professional (CNHP) in 2010 and received her Master Herbalist certification from Global College of Natural Medicine in 2011. She offers Natural Health Consultations and Energy balancing sessions to return people to balance and improved health. She also offers Aqua Chi Ionic Foot baths designed to help the body detox. Grace enjoys helping people and spending time in nature with the plants. She is the owner of Gracie’s Garden, LLC, ~Sacred Herbs & Energy Harmony~, and manufactures a line of herbal products, that she sells at Georgia’s Naturals and Monument Market. Grace grows many of the herbs she uses. They are organically cultivated without chemicals and grown with TLC. She is also affiliated with Georgia’s Naturals Health Food Store. Grace has lived in Georgetown since 1997 and has been working with herbs since 2007.
October 13, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.: Social Time
7:00 p.m.: **Seed Saving.** One hour educational credit.

November 10, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.: Social Time
7:00 p.m.: **Bromeliads** with Dr. Steve. One hour educational credit.

December 15, 2014
Annual Awards Dinner at the San Gabriel Community Center in Georgetown. More details coming later!

What does one Master Gardener say when he greets another Master Gardener? "What's growing on?"

*submitted by Suzie Brady*
Educational Opportunities for Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Volunteer Training Classes

Monday, September 15, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Williamson County Master Gardener Help Desk Training
Williamson County Extension Training Room, 3151 SE Inner Loop Road, Georgetown, Texas.
Contact Martha Baddour or Wayne Rhoden for more information.

Williamson County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and Master Gardener Classes

Tuesday, September 2, 2014, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m
Rainwater Harvesting . . . Making the Most of Mother Nature’s Infrequent Blessing
Carol Parsonage will be speaking on "Build Your Own Rain Barrel," and Shea Luther with the City of Georgetown will discuss water conservation initiatives from the city.
Williamson County Extension Training Room, 3151 SE Inner Loop Road, Georgetown, Texas.
Williamson County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Webinars and Patio Series

Webinars and patio lectures are held at the Williamson County Extension Office, Extension Training Room, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown, Texas. Webinars and patio lectures are free. Call 512-943-3300 to register by noon on the Thursday before the class.

All Bugs Good and Bad Webinar Series
For more information, see http://williamson.agrilife.org/event/all-bugs-good-and-bad-webinar-minimize-mosquito-problems/.

Friday, September 5, 2014, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
  **Kudzu Bug Takes Over the Southeastern U.S. / Brown Marmorated Stinkbug - All Bad**
  Dr. Michael Toews and Dr. Tracy Leskey

Friday, October 3, 2014, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
  **Alien Invasions, Zombies Under Foot, and Billions of Decapitated Fire Ants**
  Dr. Michael Toews and Dr. Tracy Leskey

Friday, November 7, 2014, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
  **Where Have All the Honey Bees Gone? Hope for the Future**
  Dr. John Skinner

eOrganic Webinar Series

Tuesday October 7, 2014, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
  **Organic Farming and Soil Health**
Patio Lecture Series

Monday, September 29, 2014, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Pollinators

City of Cedar Park Gardening Classes

In partnership with the Williamson County Master Gardeners, The City of Cedar Park, Parks & Recreation will host the following free gardening classes. Classes are held at the Cedar Park Recreation Center Community Rooms, 1435 Main St, Cedar Park, Texas. For more information, call (512) 401-5500, or see http://www.cedarparktexas.gov/index.aspx?page=444.

September 16, 2014, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Water Wise and Fire-Wise Landscaping

October 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Introducing Edibles into Ornamental Gardens

November 18, 2014, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
How to Grow and Propagate Tough-as-Nails Roses and Perennials
Travis County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Master Gardener Classes

Seminars held at Zilker Botanical Garden are free; Zilker Park entrance fee is $2 per adult, $1 per child or senior. For more information, call (512) 477-8672

You must register for seminars held at Travis County Extension Office https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty or by phone 979-845-2604. Location and fee for classes is noted in description below. Class size is limited.

Thursday, September 4, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – noon

**Backyard Basics: Fall Season Vegetable Gardening**

Travis County AgriLife Extension Office, 1600 Smith Rd #B, Austin, (512) 854-9600.

With its warm days and cooler nights, along with more stable weather patterns, fall just may be the best season for vegetable gardening in Central Texas. In our second class on Backyard Basics, Master Gardener and vegetable specialist Tommie Clayton will share her many years of experience in gardening, with details on planting schedules, proven varieties for our area and other helpful resources. Part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Backyard Basics Series. Register at https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty or by phone 979-845-2604. $10 fee, $15 late and on-site. Class is limited to 40 people.

Monday September 8, 2014 through Friday, September 12, 2014

**Master Volunteer Entomology Specialist Training**

Travis County Extension Office, 1600-B Smith Rd., Austin, TX, with some field trips to local sites. More information at https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/productid/1540/.
Saturday, September 13, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Backyard Basics Workshop**

Austin Community College south campus, 1820 W Stassney Lane,
The basics of growing fruits and vegetables, as well as garden recipes (basic canning and preserving how-to’s) backyard chickens, and backyard bees will be covered.

- 8:30 to 9:00 Registration
- 9:00 to 10:15 Grow Your Own Fresh Fruit, Joe Posern, Travis County Master Gardener Fruit Specialist
- 10:15 to 11:30 Growing Vegetables, Patty Leander, Travis County Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist
- 11:45 to 1:00 Garden Recipes and Preserving the Harvest, Jeff Peters, Travis County Master Gardener
- 1:00 to 1:30 Lunch (boxed lunch provided)
- 1:30 to 2:45 Backyard Chickens, Joy Williamson, Travis County Master Gardener
- 2:45 to 4:00 Backyard Bees, Chris Doggett, Williamson County Beekeepers Association President

Register online: [https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty](https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty) or register by phone: 979-845-2604.

For more information, contact Richards at 512-854-9600 or drichards@ag.tamu.edu.

$25 fee, $30 late and on-site. Class size is limited.

Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Fruit Production for Producers and Backyard Enthusiasts**

Travis County Health and Human Services, 502 E Highland Mall Blvd.

From site selection, soils, fertilization, and pruning to sustainable production practices and dealing with particular insects and diseases—we’ll cover the production basics, as well as unique specifics. This workshop is only offered semi-annually and is not to be missed!

- 8:30 to 9:00 AM Registration
- 9:00 to 1:00 PM Fruit Production Basics

There will be a half hour break in the middle of the workshop, with refreshments and the opportunity for networking.

Register online: [https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty](https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty) or by phone: 979-845-2604.

For more information, contact Richards at 512-854-9600 or drichards@ag.tamu.edu.

$30; $40 late and onsite. Class size is limited.
Thursday, October 2, 2014, 10am – noon

**Backyard Basics: Integrated Pest Management**

Travis County AgriLife Extension Office, 1600 Smith Rd #B, Austin, (512) 854-9600.

Wizzie Brown, Integrated Pest Management Specialist for the AgriLife Extension Service, will discuss natural pest control in the garden and landscape, as she teaches about pests and the damage they inflict at various times of the year. Learn to encourage the good guys and discourage the bad guys in your vegetable garden in this third class on Backyard Basics. Part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Backyard Basics Series.

Register online: [https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty](https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/TravisCounty) or by phone 979-845-2604.

$10 fee, $15 late and onsite. Class is limited to 40 people.

**Monument Cafe Market Gardening Classes**

500 S Austin Ave, Georgetown, Texas 78626, 512-240-4715

No information at this time.
Natural Gardener Gardening Classes
8648 Old Bee Caves Rd, Austin, Texas 78735, 512-288-6113. Classes are subject to change so please call first to confirm. Classes are held outdoors under an open air canopy – be sure to dress for the weather. Arrive early for best seating. You are welcome to bring your own chair. Classes last about an hour. For more information see http://www.naturalgardeneraustin.com.

Saturday, September 6, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
   Living Among Bats. Dianne Odegard, Public Information and Training Coordinator for Bat Conservation International (batcon.org), will talk about bats.

Saturday, September 20, 2014, 9:00 a.m.
   Introduction to Permaculture. Dani Slabaugh of Yard to Table Gardens gives us an introduction to permaculture

Online classes

The state Texas Master Gardener Association allows only three recorded (static) online educational hours per year from the 12 different free online EarthKind Modules. The link for these classes is here: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/

WCMGA also has approved the webinars from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, http://www.wildflower.org. There is a small fee associated with their webinars.

A total of three online educational hours per year is allowed whether they are all through A&M or a combination of EarthKind and Wildflower.

There is no limit on live online educational hours per year is allowed through Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.
Events of Interest to Master Gardeners

**September 25 through 27, 2014**

*2014 Texas Master Gardener Conference*

**October 21 through October 24, 2014**

*2014 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference*
This issue of the *Williamson County Master Gardener Newsletter* was made possible because of the contributions of the following Williamson County Master Gardeners and Interns: Wayne Rhoden (president), Jinna MacLaurin (editor), Catherine Nickle (proofreader), Suzie Brady, Wizzie Brown, Arlene David, Rebecca Caldwell, Rebecca Irey, Joe Schram, AJ Senchack and Winola Van Artsdalen. Cover photo by Steve Echols.

If you would like to contribute to the October 2014 *Williamson County Master Gardener Newsletter*, please send your submissions to Jinna MacLaurin at austindadamama@gmail.com by September 16, 2014. As you garden, volunteer and learn, please take a moment to share your experiences with other gardeners. Thank you!

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