

# Williamson County Master Gardener Journal

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Dedicated to growing with Williamson County

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## The President's Corner

### *Grace Bryce*

Hi Everyone!

I'm sorry to say that the fall color in our trees is not really fall color. We've lost many trees due to the drought. Hopefully, we will begin to get some rain this fall. The Board has been busy with many things. It is almost budget planning time, our by-laws are in the process of revision, and we will need to renew some of our background checks. More information will be sent by email as things unfold. Our website is also growing, so check it often for new things; we might even be on Facebook soon! <http://txmg.org/williamson/>



Our virtual Help Desk is taking shape, and we have 19 Master Gardeners on the list to answer questions. If you would like to be added to the list in any category, please let me know. Instructions for answering phone messages will be out soon along with a resource list to help with the answers.

I want to mention a little bit about hours reporting. The cutoff date for reporting hours for awards at the Awards Dinner will be November 1, 2011. Members with 100 hours will be eligible for special awards. Please do not wait to turn in your hours. If you have not reported any hours for the year, now is the time to do it and catch up. Please report your hours monthly at the end of each month to Brenda McIndoo. If you have questions or concerns please contact Brenda. If you have difficulty with a spreadsheet, please talk to Brenda about it. Hours and contacts are reported each month to the state, so that is why we request that you report them monthly. The dinner will be at the Heritage Oaks Community center in Georgetown with a good dinner and fun activities. Watch for more information to come.

New MG Project applications are welcome! The Projects Committee chaired by Carol Hoke has been working on revision of our MG Project Forms. Please check the website under volunteering for these forms and the process involved. We need some new projects to provide more volunteer opportunities for everyone. Please check it out and think about it and submit a project.

Minutes with committee reports and financial reports from the WCMGA Board meetings are posted on the website after the minutes have been approved each month. This information does not require a password and can be found: <http://txmg.org/williamson/chapter/meeting-minutes/>

Nominations are currently open for officers for next year. I would encourage you to run for an office. Our organization needs people who are willing to take the leadership roles, whether it is as an officer or chairperson, you are needed. Please contact Lynn Stude to add your name to the ballot. Nominations will close at the October monthly meeting, after they are opened to the floor.

*There are a few dates to put on your calendar:*

The new Master Gardener Class has begun. Please check the website for the schedule. JoAnne and Winola are doing a great job!

October 18th- Oak Wilt Specialist training class (also open to public) - Jester Annex. Dr. Appel will be here from A & M to do another fantastic class.

October 29th- Emsud Horosovic will present "Trees, Some Shady Characters"  
10 - Noon, Saturday, at the Extension Office Training Room. This will include a tree pruning demonstration.

November 1- Cut off date for hours to be reported for awards presented at the Awards Dinner in December. (You can still report hours after that date but may not get your award at the dinner.)

December 12- Annual Awards Dinner- Heritage Oaks Community Center- Margaret Seals -Awards Chairperson

March 31, 2012- 3rd Annual Spring Garden Fair - Organizers: Ingrid Langdon & Linda Zazula

Please check the calendar on the website for monthly meeting information.

<http://txmg.org/williamson/calendar/>

Hopefully, we can keep our lines of communication flowing a little better. I prefer more communication and less confusion.  
Thank you all for all you do!

Grace

## Volunteer Hours Clarification

### Grace Bryce

Our new Master Gardener class is off to a great start. Some questions have come up with our new students regarding their volunteer hours, and so we need to clarify some things. We need to make sure the information for the new students is accurate from everyone. Recently, at the May Board Meeting, WCMGA made a change for certified Master Gardeners to be able to count some travel time as part of their volunteer hours. Here are the details:

- Travel time only applies to volunteer hours, not educational hours
- Travel time cannot exceed the volunteer time for the event (if you drive 2 hours and only volunteer 30 minutes, 30 minutes is the most you can count for travel. Also you cannot count more travel time than your actual travel time. If you only drove 30 minutes, you can't count more than 30 minutes for travel time.) This may have been unclear, and we apologize for any confusion.
- Counting travel time is not retro-active to the beginning of the year, but you can go back to May. If you choose to make an adjustment to your reported hours to add travel time, Brenda has asked that you simply send her a total of hours to add (as travel adjustment). If you have calculated travel time any other way in reporting, don't worry about sending correction, just begin reporting as outlined in this email. Let's move forward from here.
- Travel time can **only** be counted by certified Master Gardener, **This does NOT apply to Master Gardener Interns or Master Gardener Students. The recent change was made by our local organization. The MG Intern and Student hours requirements are set by the state, Texas Master Gardeners, and are set at 50 volunteer and 15 educational hours to become certified, everywhere in the state. County organizations are allowed to set their re-certification hours requirement. Currently, WCMGA requires 50 volunteer hours and 15 educational hours per year to re-certify each year.**
- Volunteer hours must be from approved Master Gardener projects or approved activities. If you are not sure if something is an approved activity, please ask.

# Gardening Tips for September

**Winola VanArtsdalen**

## Planning/planting/maintenance:

Postpone the planting and put all your energy into maintenance/preservation! The important thing now is MULCH, MULCH, and more MULCH! This is the single most important thing you can do to help your plants, especially your trees. Mulch around trees to a depth of 3" to 4" with the most important area being from about halfway between the dripline and the trunk to just a little beyond the dripline. This is true even with very large trees. The mulch will moderate soil temperatures, prevent soil compaction and greatly help with water retention.

When watering large trees, water deeply (slow drip applied over a number of hours). Do not water the trunk, but the area described above for mulching. If it is a huge tree, divide area into sections and water one section per night, if necessary, but do not settle for overall shallow watering.

How much water do grass and flowerbeds need? No one can tell you how many minutes to run your water hose or sprinkler system, because it depends on your soil texture, structure, and slope, but do water deeply, less often! Your grass, garden and flowerbeds need approximately an inch per week. Set out some cans or cake pans and time how long it takes to get 1" of water. With my sprinkler system, fifteen minutes gives me one-half inch of water. Now, testing in our area shows if we water fifteen minutes, only about the first eight minutes will be absorbed by the soil. The rest will be run-off, so the watering must be in shorter cycles. Run a cycle; wait approximately a half hour, and do another cycle.

The only way to tell for sure if you have watered your grass or trees long enough is to dig down with a tool such as a long screw driver or sharp shooter spade and look at the soil the next day. If you watered enough, the soil should be moist four to six inches deep.

Potassium is listed as important for plants' resistance to frost and drought. Seaweed has formula 0-0-1, and the potassium and other nutrients in it will help your plants survive heat stress. I was amazed at the difference after foliar feeding with seaweed, even in plants like Blackfoot Daisy that usually need no help. This year is just a whole new challenge for gardeners!

## FOR THE WILDLIFE:

Provide water for the wildlife during this stressful period of summer drought. They need a shallow pan, with fresh water at least daily. Be sure to have rocks and pebbles in the bottom, so small animals have a way to get out.

When the migrating butterflies come through this fall, their usual sources for nectar in the wild will be nonexistent. They will be dependent on what little we have for them in our cultivated areas. Though most planting is not advised now, do look for plants that are a nectar source, especially butterfly weed, and plant it, even though you will have to water daily until established.

Be prepared to begin planting not only seeds for spring blooming wildflowers, but perennial transplants as well next month. Surely the rains will come!

## Monthly Meetings

Williamson County Master Gardeners hold monthly meetings at the Williamson County Extension Office, 3151 SE Innerloop Road, Suite A, Georgetown on the second Monday of each month at 6:30pm.

Master Gardeners and the public are welcome to attend.

# Cheekwood

**Chuck McKelley**

On a recent trip to the Nashville, Tennessee area my wife and I visited Cheekwood Botanical Gardens (<http://www.cheekwood.org>).

The Cheekwood estate was developed in the early 1930's as a home for Leslie and Mabel Cheek, two of the founders of the Maxwell House coffee company. Cheekwood was opened to the public as a botanical garden and art museum in 1960. The 55-acre botanical garden at Cheekwood contains ten specialty display gardens and a woodland sculpture trail with 15 major works of art. The main art museum is housed in the 30,000 square foot Georgian-style mansion. In addition there are several other buildings on the property which house a restaurant, gift shop, learning center and botanic hall.



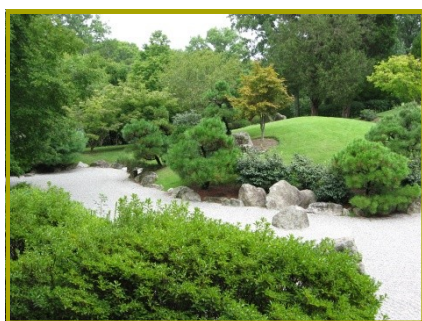
Many events and special displays are produced at Cheekwood each year. From now through the end of this year the featured display is a custom built garden railroad created by landscape architect Paul Busse of Applied Imagination in Alexandria, Kentucky.



There are seven G-scale trains in the Cheekwood railroad display. The trains pass by scale models of nearly twenty historic Tennessee buildings.

The one shown in the photo is a model of the mansion at Belle Meade Plantation (<http://www.bellemeadeplantation.com>), which is located close to Cheekwood and contains its own formal gardens. I really liked the way that Mr. Busse chose plants that matched the scale of the trains and buildings.

The next photo is a view of the herb garden potting shed. The herb garden is one of the specialty gardens at Cheekwood and is maintained by a local herb society.



Another specialty garden is the Japanese garden. It contains several traditional Japanese garden elements such as a tea house and bamboo-bordered path. The photo illustrates the Zen garden, which uses carefully raked sand to produce the illusion of a pool of water. The other specialty gardens at Cheekwood include a water garden, perennial garden, dogwood garden, wildflower garden and several others. Most are wheelchair-accessible.

The grounds at Cheekwood provide many different planting environments including open, sunny spaces as well as shady and even woodland areas. The impatiens, euphorbia and other plants in the photo are growing in a low light patch of the garden.



This allee leads one from the west gardens to the garden railroad display behind the botanical hall.

The Cheekwood gardens contain a tremendous variety of plants in a visually stunning landscape. Each season brings a new display. The many events held at the gardens each year as well as the sculpture trail and art museum make Cheekwood a must see for any gardener visiting the Nashville area.

## Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee, Lynn Stude, Chairperson, Patty Hoenigman, and JoAnne Dieterich, have thoughtfully put together a slate of officers for the 2012 year for WCMGA. These candidates are in good standing and well qualified for their executive positions. We feel that these candidates will work well together for the best interest and greater good of WCMGA.

This information will be sent out by email and announced at the October monthly Master Gardener meeting on October 10, 2011 as directed by the By-laws and Standing Rules. At that time nominations will be open from the floor. Before nominating anyone, you must check with them first to see if they are willing to serve, if elected. They also must be a member in good standing. If there are no nominations at the October monthly meeting, nominations will close, and the officers will be elected by acclamation. If any nominations are made from the floor at the October monthly meeting, there will be an election at the November monthly meeting to determine the officers for 2012, as stated in the By-laws and Standing Rules. If there are any additional nominations or for more information, please contact Lynn Stude at

[plstude@gmail.com](mailto:plstude@gmail.com)

## Officer Slate for 2012

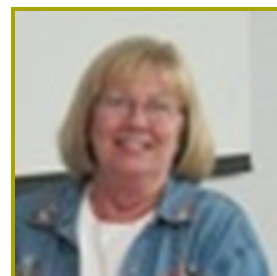
### ***President: Grace Bryce***

I grew up in South Texas, but I've only lived in Georgetown since 1997. I became a certified Master Gardener in 2008. My most recent past work experience included managing a laboratory at LSU Medical Center for 8 years. I was responsible for making sure everything got done from experiments to publications. I was active in professional organizations and held offices in several of them. I published and presented information nationally and internationally. My volunteer experiences included: PTA Volunteer Coordinator for Pickett Elementary in 1998; serving on Hospitality and Welcome committees at church; Parent Volunteer chaperone for Choir and Band at Georgetown High School; and Stewardship Council Chairperson for St. Helen Catholic Church from 2003-2007. I am organized, and I believe in having fun. I think my experiences have prepared me to serve as President of WCMGA, and I will do my best. I also think we can all work together for the highest good of WCMGA and to serve the community.



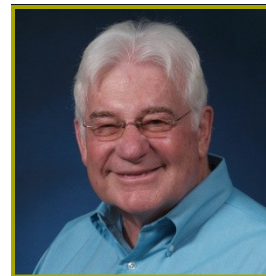
### ***Vice-President: Carol Parsonage***

I grew up an Air Force Brat, graduated from high school in San Antonio and married a Texas boy. We put ourselves through college with the help of LBJ's Great Society. I took every computer course they offered, and that wasn't many. Graduating in 1966 I went to work for IBM as a programmer at Johnson Space Center. Thirty years, two kids and a second husband later, I retired from British Petroleum as manager of one of their largest data centers. We moved to Sun City in 1997, and I embarked on a Masters degree in public history at Texas State. As a student I oversaw the collecting of oral histories of NASA retirees. After graduation I completed an oral history project on school desegregation for Humanities Texas. I gave presentations at state and national historical societies. My neighbor got me involved in the Georgetown affiliate of Habitat for Humanity as a fundraiser. In 2004 I became the affiliate's second Executive Director. During my tenure we acquired and developed a 20 lot property named Old Mill Village - this fall Habitat will build its last house in that development. I am curious, competent and a great project manager. I love working in a team environment. I'm not as experienced a gardener as some of my Master Gardener colleagues but I'm working hard to catch up. I would be honored to serve the organization as Vice-President.



**Secretary: Wayne Rhoden**

I was born in Camp Ruby, Texas (a sawmill camp near Livingston, Texas). I am married with two grown children. I worked for Western Electric Company for 18 years and then transferred to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company (Now AT&T) where I worked for another 22 years. I retired in 1999. I joined the Fort Bend County Master Gardener Association in 1996 and received my certification in the same year. I served as Vice President, President and Past President until my move to Williamson County in 2005. I was awarded a lifetime certification from the Fort Bend Master Gardener Association in 2004. I was also a volunteer at Brazos Bend State Park until my move. I was Vice President of Texas Master Gardener Association in 2003 and 2004, President in 2005 and Past President in 2006. I helped start the Williamson County Master Gardeners in 2007 and served as President until 2009. I am a certified Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist, Master Gardener Entomology Specialist and a JMG Specialist. I became a certified Master Naturalist in 2000 and am now a member of the Goodwater Master Naturalist Chapter in Georgetown.

**Treasurer: Janet White**

I have several experiences in my background that help qualify me to serve as treasurer for WCMG. My education from the University of Texas at Austin was in the field of Dietetics and Nutrition. With this degree I worked in several institutions as head of food service which always involved extensive food inventories and balancing the inventory with food cost. Some years later I served as office manager and bookkeeper for a franchise of 9 restaurants. In this position I was responsible for the monthly accounting of inventories, bank accounts, payables, receivables and payroll. I have also done bookkeeping for a children's retail shop in Austin. Years later as a realtor, I was responsible to my clients and to myself (my business) for the accounting of the client's financial commitments in purchasing or selling their house and for the financial commitment to myself in managing my own finances in this sales industry. I currently serve as Treasurer for WCMGA for 2011.



## Newsletter Submissions

Thank you to those Master Gardeners who submitted articles, pictures, and ideas for this newsletter issue. If you would like to contribute to the *Williamson County Master Gardener Journal*, please send your submissions to Jane Williamson at [awilliamson516@yahoo.com](mailto:awilliamson516@yahoo.com) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month. As you garden, volunteer and learn, take a moment to share with other gardeners.

## Williamson County Master Gardener Officers for 2011

### Officers:

Grace Bryce, President	<a href="mailto:bryce.grace84@gmail.com">bryce.grace84@gmail.com</a>	(512) 868-9191
Claire Hall, Vice-President	<a href="mailto:clairevhall@gmail.com">clairevhall@gmail.com</a>	(512) 868-5460
Carol Parsonage, Secretary	<a href="mailto:parsonage_hc@verizon.net">parsonage_hc@verizon.net</a>	(512) 864-3510
Janet White, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:phillipsjs@sbcglobal.net">phillipsjs@sbcglobal.net</a>	(512) 255-7672
Winola Van Artsdalen, Past President	<a href="mailto:jimwin@verizon.net">jimwin@verizon.net</a>	(512) 863-4923

### Standing Committees/Chairpersons:

Programs/Education	Carol Parsonage	<a href="mailto:parsonage_hc@verizon.net">parsonage_hc@verizon.net</a>	(512) 864-3510
	Lynn Stude	<a href="mailto:lstude@hotmail.com">lstude@hotmail.com</a>	(512) 869-3413
Communications	Clyde Adley	<a href="mailto:cadley+mg@gmail.com">cadley+mg@gmail.com</a>	
Membership/Volunteer Opportunities	Brenda McIndoo	<a href="mailto:airedale98@gmail.com">airedale98@gmail.com</a>	(512) 868-9212
Awards	Margaret Seals	<a href="mailto:marjim@suddenlink.net">marjim@suddenlink.net</a>	(512) 863-4127
Class Training/Facilitation	JoAnne Dieterich	<a href="mailto:rdieterich@yahoo.com">rdieterich@yahoo.com</a>	(512) 778-6690
JMG Coordinator	Carol Hoke	<a href="mailto:carolhoke@gmail.com">carolhoke@gmail.com</a>	(512) 869-1948
	Jessica Woods	<a href="mailto:jwoods@round-rock.tx.us">jwoods@round-rock.tx.us</a>	(512) 246-3036
Fund Raising	Ingrid Langdon	<a href="mailto:ingridlangdon@hotmail.com">ingridlangdon@hotmail.com</a>	(512) 863-6143

