

# THE LATEST DIRT

McLennan County Master Gardener Association  
Volume XI Issue 7

July 2009

## McLennan County Master Gardener Association Officers 2009

President- Steven Lovecky Vice President- Jan Serface Secretary- Nelda Cooper  
Treasurer- Louie McDaniel Sponsor- Shane McLellan Newsletter- James Storrs  
Send volunteer hours to Julia Khoury at 8512 Bosque, Waco 76712, or tkhoury@hotmail.com  
[www.mclennanmastergardeners.org](http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org)

## PROGRAM PREVIEW

July 8, noon, Carleen Bright Arboretum  
Vegetable Gardening Meeting (Getting  
ready for the fall)

Speaker: Dr. Joe Masabni from A&M,  
vegetable specialist. Public invited a free  
meeting.

-Jan Serface

## MORE INFORMATION

about July meeting  
from Texas Gardener's Seeds

*Dr. Joe Masabni, Texas AgriLife  
Extension Service Vegetable Specialist,  
will present "Getting Ready for Fall"  
(Vegetable Gardening Program),  
Wednesday, **July 8**, from 1 p.m. until 4  
p.m. at Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001  
Bosque Blvd., Woodway. For more  
information, contact (254) 757-5180.*

## FROM SHANE MCLELLAN

Just wanted to pass on a few  
comments. I am always amazed and  
somewhat humbled when I am in the  
presence of greatness. The McLennan  
County Master Gardeners are GREAT!!  
Your willingness to do what ever it takes  
to succeed is inspiring. I have been  
somewhat out of the loop due to family  
responsibilities but I did make a short  
appearance at the plant sale and felt  
like I stole the 9 plants that we put in  
my wife's' car. I think the location was  
great, the signs looked awesome and  
most importantly when I walked up to  
the rain soaked MG's they all had smiles  
on their faces. I never felt like I was  
being persuaded to buy anything, it was  
more of a "how can I help you" feel and  
it made me want to buy more. I  
applaud each and every one of you for a  
job well done.

County Commissioner Gibson got the ball rolling to get MG's an office space in our building. Commissioner Snell has been to the office and is pushing as hard as he can to get MG's in our building. By the summer, we should have an internet equipped office and more storage, for McLennan County Master Gardeners. Keep it up, you are making a difference in McLennan County and the surrounding area.

-sM

## MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met June 10, 2009 at 6:30 at the home of Jo Campbell. President Steven Lovecky called the meeting to order. The May minutes were approved as written in the newsletter.

### TREASURERS' REPORT:

In the absence of Louie McDaniel, Steven Lovecky reported an ending balance of \$12,428.20 for May.

### BUSINESS:

Congratulations to four new Master Gardeners. Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Donna Lindsey, and Clara Henderson completed their volunteer hours.

### PROJECTS AND COMMITTEES:

The Trailside Gardens dedication on June 4 was well-attended. Additional projects will be announced later.

A Cedar Ridge Elementary workday is scheduled for July 13 at 8 am. Call Sandy Back to help.

The next workday at the Earth-Kind Rose Demonstration Bed at TSTC is July 6 at 8 am. Call Jo Von Rosenberg.

The McGregor Demonstration Garden has been planted and mulched. Kim Dougherty needs help maintaining the Woodway Elementary Green Classroom this summer.

A JMG 2 workshop is scheduled for July 15.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Thirty-two people went on the field trip to A&M on May 28.

We have the logo for the MG T-shirts. E-mail Della Setser or Georgia Peterson with suggestions for style of shirts.

Master Gardeners made approximately \$3,000.00 on the plant sale on May 16.

The July 8 Master Gardener meeting is a special program on "Vegetable Gardening" at the Arboretum from 1-4. The business meeting starts at noon. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments are needed.

The business meeting was adjourned. Master Gardeners enjoyed refreshments and toured the beautiful garden of Jo Campbell.

-Nelda Cooper, Secretary

## ATTENDANCE AT JUNE MEETING

Jane Anderson, James Bays, Dick Belanger, Ila Jean Carothers, Jo Ann Clafferty, Nelda Cooper, Susan Crawford, Victor DuPart, Eva FitzGerald, Kris Ford, Brenda Golubski, Clara Henderson, Maureen Holy, Randy Kemp, Julia Khoury, Donna Lindsey, Steven Lovecky, Lori Lutz, Elizabeth Milam, Gerry Milnor, Andrea Moore, Georgia Peterson, Ernie Petru, Anne Plasek, Sherry Prather, Art Reinking, Carol Reinking, Laurie Sappington, Dawn Segrest, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Gale Storey, Barbara Vance, Sonia Warriner.

### Interns:

Sandy Burleson and Penny Gifford.

-Nelda Cooper, Secretary

## GREEN GARDEN IN MCKINNEY

Barbara Vance sent along this link to a website that should be of interest to our members. The City of McKinney (30 miles north of Dallas) and Texas AgriLife Extension Urban Solutions Center have worked together to create a totally

"Green Garden", a landscape water conservation demonstration. The website below explains the garden and lists the plant materials and lawn grasses used. It is an interactive site, in that you can click on each plant listed and get a nice description. All plants are native or adapted to the area (which is similar to ours) and use less water, fertilizers, and pesticides. Check it out!

<http://mckinneygreengardens.tamu.edu/about-the-gardens.aspx>

## CRAPE MYRTLE CRAZE!

Speaking of McKinney, the Crape Myrtle Trails will have tours and sales this Saturday, June 27. At some point the Trails will have the largest collection of crape myrtles in the world. The information at the link below was furnished by Neil Sperry, whose monthly e-magazine arrived only this evening.

<http://www.neilsperry.com/articles/2009/05/28/crape-myrtle-craze.html>

## MEALYBUGS

I don't know about you, but mealybugs got an early start this year on some of my susceptible plants, and on some that they had never bothered before. Since malathion and some other pesticides have been taken off the market, our options are limited. If a plant has a heavy infestation, it's probably best to discard it, since it serves as a breeding ground for the creatures, which eventually move on to other plants. Using rubbing alcohol on a Q-tip as an applicator will kill them one at a time, but if you have a massive infestation that's not practical. Spritzing with diluted alcohol is somewhat effective, but it does cause plant tissue damage. Bayer makes a product that you mix with water and pour on the soil around your plants. It contains a systemic pesticide as well as fertilizer. It may be the most effective mealybug control available to us today.

Here is a link to a clever and informative article on this pest:

<http://www.waterroots.com/rootofallevil.htm>

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## Volunteer opportunities for July

July 6, 8:00.....TSTC work morning (help needed)

July 9, 9:00.....Superstar Bed (deadheading and tidying up garden)

July 13, 8:30...Cedar Ridge , (watering and tidying up garden)

--Jeanette Kelly



MEMBERS  
COMPLETING  
INTERNSHIP  
(shown below)

Donna Lindsey

Gerry Milner

Sonia Warriner

Edrena Smith

Clara Henderson

James Storrs

Elizabeth Milam



## MG ONLINE TRAINING

You may already know that you may earn education hours by completing online modules. This link will provide details.

<http://earthkind.tamu.edu/MGtraining.html>

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## HOME LAWNS AT AGGIETURF

Answers to almost any question you might have

<http://aggie-turf.tamu.edu/aggieturf2/lawns/lindex.html>

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## LAWN FERTILIZER

Research is always ongoing at leading centers such as Texas A&M, and recommendations sometimes change. For years, the standard formula for lawn food was a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio. That has changed. Repeated and extensive soil tests have shown that clay soils, particularly those which have been fertilized for several years, almost always have an overabundance of phosphorus and potassium (the second and third numbers). These elements don't wash out of clay soil but tend to build up and can actually be detrimental to plants, interfering with their ability to absorb iron, among other things. Nitrogen, the first number, is used up rapidly by plants and that which isn't washes out of the soil rather quickly. For this reason, the current recommendation is an all-nitrogen fertilizer for both turf and ground plants in clay soils. (Having a soil test done is the way to be sure about this.) It's important that the all-nitrogen fertilizer have a balance between slow and fast release. A 50-50 ratio is good. The fast release formulations cost less, but they give a burst of growth and then are used up. For those of us who have SANDY or loam soils, the 4-1-2 formula is still recommended since elements don't build up in them. Here again, a soil test will tell you the best fertilizer for your lawn. Follow the link above to find the dates for each application and the proper amount.

-JMS

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A great big thank you to Brenda Golubski, Jeanette Kelly, and Barbara Vance, who submitted all the photos on the next pages. I have tinkered with them in Photoshop.



A FANTASTIC FIELD TRIP TO A&M!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**McGregor Garden Volunteers**