

# The Latest Dirt

April 2010

Volume 12/No. 4

## Jan's Notes

April 2010



## When a small thing leads to a big thing . . . .

Sometimes things go on behind the scenes that not everyone is aware of. This was one of those events. MHMR had a groundbreaking ceremony last Thursday, March 18. Shane McLellan, Ila Jean Carothers, her husband, Jon, Steven Lovecky, Jeannette Kelly and I were there from Master Gardeners. Shane was the first speaker. Then there were dignitaries from Waco, McLennan County, along with other members from the community.

Ila Jean said, "This is a big event." This was a BIG EVENT!

MHMR is building a vegetable garden behind their main building and it is huge. This is the We Care Project.

Now for the rest of the story:

Ila Jean first talked with Kim and Steve, two employees from Alcoa, last October when they visited her garden to see her raised vegetable beds. They took pictures and Ila Jean graciously shared her Power Point presentations on vegetable gardening using raised beds. They looked at her composting techniques and took more pictures.

Kim and Steve used this material along with other ideas to make a video. This was submitted to the Alcoa Foundation in a company contest. They won a \$20,000 grant!

They reached out to other businesses in our community and many of them joined in this effort. Raised beds will be built from concrete, guttering for a rainwater system, sidewalks, a wooden arbor, a gazebo, drip irrigation were all donated. Steven and Jeannette will work with them on the design for the rainwater catchment.

This was an idea from people who knew nothing about vegetable gardening, but they care about people. The clients at MHMR will learn about gardening and growing vegetables to be donated to the community.

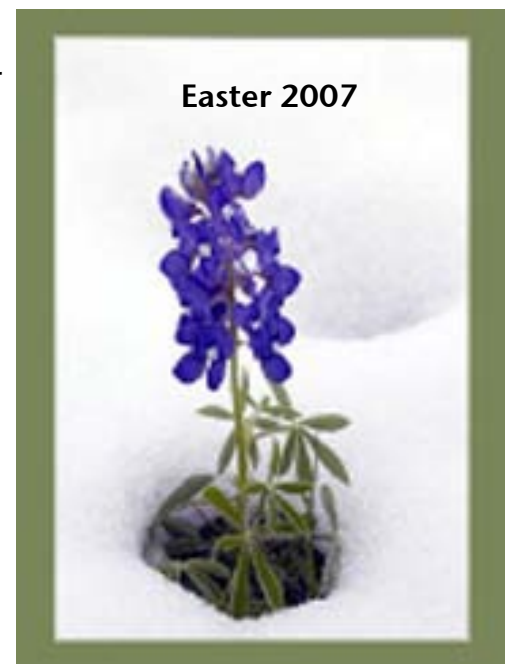
Thank you Ila Jean for your willingness to help others. Thank you Jeannette and Steven for volunteering your time.

I hope our organization will be asked to help more in this worthwhile project and that we will offer a helping hand to others.

Sometimes we may be asked to answer a few questions not knowing where it may lead. My prayer is that as Master Gardeners each of us will be receptive and willing to reach out to others every day.

We need each of you to step up and be willing to answer the telephone at our new office at the AgriLife Extension Service building on either a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon during the next six weeks.

Jan



Bluebonnets in the Snow by James Storrs

## ***MCMG Minutes*** **March 10, 2010**

The McLennan County Master Gardeners met March 10, 2010, at noon at the arboretum. President, Jan Serface called the meeting to order. The minutes for February were approved as written in the newsletter. New member, Norma Folse, was introduced.

**Treasurer's Report:** Irene Dauphin reported an ending balance of \$13,361.93.

**TX Agri-Life Extension:** MG's made \$5,385.00 from the BIG Conference. MG's paid for cattle scales out of those monies. The new office for MG's will be used for storage, meetings and manning the phone to answer questions from the public. The starting date will be March 16. We will be available to answer questions on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1- 4 p.m. for a trial period of six weeks. Volunteers are needed. We will have a computer in the office. Norma Folse will chair the committee. Our title is "Ask a Master Gardener".

**Projects and Committees:** Habitat will have a planting at 8:30 and a dedication at 5:30 on March 18. JMG will meet on March 18 from 3-4:20 at Cedar Ridge Elementary. A workday will be held on March 26 at 9:00 at Cedar Ridge. The Day in the Garden is March 29 from 8:30-2:30. A workday in the Trailside Garden is scheduled for March 27. Woodway Green Classroom will have a spring planting with students on April 9. There will be a docent tour at the arboretum on April 8. The Gardener's Gathering is April 11. The annual plant sale will be May 15.

**New Business:** Melody Fitzgerald will teach a power point class on April 20 from 1-4 at the extension office. Bonnie Belanger reported that the MG shirts will be either long or short sleeve denim. Order forms were handed out. New membership cards were passed out. Ila Jean Carothers reported that the MG website is being redesigned. Jan Serface and Ila Jean Carothers will be delegates to the TMG Convention in Dallas. Anita Dawson and Doug Quicksall are alternates.

**New Opportunities:** A MG is needed to redesign a front yard. The Hewitt Walmart has asked for several MG's to help children plant flowers in pots at their Grand Opening on March 27 from 10-12 am. Four 30 minute sessions will be held.

MHMR is holding a Health Fair for employees on April 23 at 2:30. They have asked for 2-3 MG's to teach how to plant a container garden. Julia Khoury has pots for this. The April meeting will be at noon at the arboretum. The program will be given by Norma Folse on Butterfly Gardens.

The meeting was adjourned.

Nelda Cooper  
Secretary

### **Meeting Attendance: 43**

James Bays, Bonnie Belanger, Grady Bonner, Ila Jean Carothers, Susan Crawford, Jean Cunningham, Irene Dauphin, Anita Dawson, Victor DuPart, Norma Folse, Eva FitzGerald, Melodie Fitzgerald, Kris Ford, Brenda Golubski, Jene Hering, Terry Irvine, Jeanette Kelly, Julia Khoury, Donna Lindsey, Steven Lovecky, Barbara Mersinger, Elizabeth Milam, Andrea Moore, Sarah Ortiz, Anne Plasek, Sherry Prather, Doug Quicksall, Art Reinking, Carol Reinking, Sharon Richardson, Janet Schaffer, Judy Schmeltekopf, Dawn Segrest, Jan Serface, Della Setser, Judy Tye, Barbara Vance, Jo Von Rosenberg, Melba Waldrop, Sonia Warriner, Dorothy Whitehead, MJ Whitehead, Carol Wood.

**A** for Mary Wood's new look on our web site! It was a design project for work on her MS degree. Daughter of Carol, she has been our webmaster for quite some time. You can thank her at [mwood@aggienetwork.com](mailto:mwood@aggienetwork.com)

[www.mclennanmastergardeners.org](http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org)

### **McLennan County Master Gardeners Association Officers 2010**

President - Jan Serface • Vice President - Jene Hering • Secretary - Nelda Cooper  
Treasurer - Irene Dauphin / Sponsor - Shane McLellan • Newsletter - Sonia Warriner

Send volunteer hours to Julia Khoury, 8512 Bosque Blvd., Waco 76712 or [tkhoury@hotmail.com](mailto:tkhoury@hotmail.com)  
[www.mclennanmastergardeners.org](http://www.mclennanmastergardeners.org)

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

# Coming soon . . .

## **April 5 • Home Lawn Maintenance and Management,**

9 - 11:30 a.m., Carleen Bright Arboretum. Speaker: Dr. Jim McAfee, Texas AgriLife Extension Turf Grass specialist. Free and open to public. Call 254-757-5180 for more information.

## **April 5 • Vegetable Gardening & Tomato**

**“Crash” Course**, 1 - 4 p.m., Carleen Bright Arboretum. Speaker: Dr. Joe Masabani, Texas AgriLife Extension Vegetable Specialist. Free and open to public. Call 254-757-5180 for more information.

**April 11 • Gardeners’ Gathering**, 1 - 4 p.m., Carleen Bright Arboretum. Fun for all the family: children’s activities, sales, garden advice. Rain location: Woodway Family Center on Estates Dr.

**April 17 • Texas Native Plant Sale**, 9 am - 3 p.m., Baylor University Science Plaza (at Bagby & Speight corner). Over 100 species of native plants grown in Baylor greenhouses. Hosted by Biological Honor Society. Cash/check only. Planting guides provided.

**April 17 • Spring Garden Fair in Georgetown**, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., AgriLife Extension Service bldg., Sponsored by Williamson Co. Master Gardners. Plants from Joss Nursery..

**April 21 • Orientation Meeting for 2010 MG class**, 1 - 2 p.m., Woodway Family Center, corner Bosque & Estates. Call 757-5180 for info.

**April 28 • Water Seminar for McLennan Co.**, Brazos River Authority, Cobbs Dr., 8 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Fee: \$10 including lunch; 3 CEU’s. Register by April 20. Call 757-5180



## **New MG Shirts**

**Two Styles, Four Colors**

**Many Sizes, Great \$\$**

**Order from now until April 14 to have yours by the May meeting and plant sale.**

**Short Sleeve Polo, cotton pique, in white, light blue, red. Logo on pocket. Sizes: sm, med, lg, xlg - \$11. Sizes 2, 3x, \$13 + tax.**

**Long Sleeve cotton denim, light shade, logo on left front. Sizes: sm, med, lg, xlg - \$14. Sizes 2, 3x, \$16 + tax.**

**Orders must be pre-paid plus 8.25% tax payable to MCMG % Bonnie Belanger, 5215 Pine Ave., Waco 76710, 772-0986.**

## **Office Volunteers Needed**

Eight slots are open to answer phone at our new office on April 4, 8, 13, 15 from 1 - 4 p.m. Must have two people for each day. Helpful info will be provided. Pick - A - Pal and sign up now. So easy on the back and knees!

... Ever want to try designing a residential garden? MG has requests and can put you in touch with the people who want help.

## **How many hours do we give?**

Thanks to Julia Khoury’s records, here is the score for Jan/Feb 2010:

Volunteer hours:	165 1/4
Education hours:	34 1/2
Contacts:	1368
Meeting attendance:	94

*Note: these include 11 1/4 hrs at the Arboretum*



*“Grandma’s Yellow” - The best yellow rose available at this time.*

## ***The yellow rose story***

**T**here has been some confusion about a yellow rose that was released in 2009 by Texas A&M as a Texas Superstar. Some thought it was an EarthKind rose, but it isn’t yet.

Dr. Jerry Parsons and Dr. Larry Stein headed this research team. In 1996 they started looking for a really good yellow rose that was vigorous and disease-resistant. They finally decided on the name Nacogdoches, but it was difficult to spell.

They had planted six candidates in the spring of 1998 in the garden of Dr. Stein’s grandmother, Clotilda Mary (Tillie) Jungman, near Castroville.

After Miss Tillie died in 2005, the name “Nacogdoches” was changed to “Grandma’s Yellow” in her honor as she had let them use her garden to test these roses.

- Jan Serface

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The May meeting will be a picnic supper at Jan Serface’s home. Details and directions will be in the next issue.

Considered the best yellow rose available at this time, it is grown on its own roots, is upright and bushy. It can grow 4 - 5 ft. in height. Cold hardy to zone 6.

It has a light and spicy fragrance, is a repeat bloomer and has the best disease resistance of any yellow rose. Rosa chinensis, now promoted as official yellow rose of Texas.

Sources: [www.plantanswers.com](http://www.plantanswers.com)  
[www.bexar-tx.tamu.edu](http://www.bexar-tx.tamu.edu)  
[www.aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu](http://www.aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu)

