

THE COMPOST BIN

A publication of the Travis County Master Gardeners

SEPTEMBER 2008

Features

page 3

A Message from the President
Service is what we're about.

page 4

Plant Portrait
Bat Face Cuphea



page 6

In The Vegetable Garden
You can plant for Fall now!



page 8

The Greenhouse Bench
Making way for groundcover trials

page 9

Road Trip - Not!
Podcasts for your garden 'fix'.

page 10

I'm a Garden Nerd
Humorous excerpt from Felder Rushing

page 12

Over the Back Fence
DinoLand, Bromeliads, Garden to Garden, GC Tour, and Seminars



WELCOME LOGAN RESPASS!

John Logan Respass was in Austin and lived here until the 5th grade before moving in 1979 to the sleepy little town of Buda (population 597). Logan was introduced to the sciences by his father Richard (Dick) Respass who retired from what is now Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (and now works part time at Cabela's). Prior to her death, Logan's mother was a long-time elementary school teacher. In fact, Logan comes from a long line of teachers. In addition to his mother, his sister, step-sister, both maternal grandparents and great-grandmother were all educators.

August marked the 10th anniversary of Logan's career with Extension. He began in Matagorda County (Bay City), before transferring to Aransas County (Rockport) where he oversaw the successful Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association.

Aside from interest in all manner of outdoor activities, Logan's passion is volunteer development. He marvels at the transformation of Master Gardener Interns who upon certification

go on to teach, lead and grow. Many of his Master Gardener volunteers have gone on to join the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Heritage Association, City of Rockport's Water Quality Committee and Tree Committees, or start their own businesses.

He recently graduated with his Masters from Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi in Educational Technology and Instructional Design.

It has been 20 years since Logan lived more than 10 miles from the coast, Even now he is keeping a watchful eye on Hurricane Gustav. He is looking forward to getting reintroduced to Central Texas and Hill County Horticulture, as he has been battling high winds, salt spray, and sandy soils for quite awhile now.

Please join me in welcoming Logan this Wednesday September 3rd at 7 PM.

Best Regards,

Jerry Naiser
TCMGA
Vice President
Programs



The President's Message

When I first became interested in becoming a Master Gardener, I like many of you, had no idea what a truly wonderful organization we have in Travis County. I was only focused on what I could learn and then translate to my own microenvironment.

As the class progressed, it became more evident to me that it was so much more. A lot of people put a considerable amount of their time and knowledge into educating me. I began to realize that it was my responsibility as a Master Gardener to help educate the general public about good horticultural practices. Five years later, I still enjoy and look forward to opportunities to reach out to the community and share my knowledge. And yes, my own garden has benefited from what I learned (and continue to learn) about gardening but now the main reason I am a Master Gardener is to be a good volunteer.

Early on in my association with TCMGA, I also began to realize that we are a large organization and that the volunteer opportunities and the business of running this organization just doesn't happen... they are created and cared for by various members, our Executive Board and the Extension Service. Fortunately, there are many folks who have stepped up and accepted leadership positions over the years.

Now it's time to begin thinking about our 2009 elections. As I reported during our August meeting, Cheryl McGrath has agreed to chair this year's nominating committee. She and her committee will be putting together the 2009 ballot during the month of September. The slate will be presented at the October meeting and we will vote in November.

I hope that you will support Cheryl and her committee and their work. It is very important to the future of our organization.

Many of you have so much to offer TCMGA in addition to volunteering for public education projects we sponsor. Please consider allowing your name to be placed in nomination. Or, consider nominating one of your fellow Master Gardeners (with their permission, of course).

Service is what we are all about...service to our community, service to our organization and service to Travis County Extension.

Thank you for efforts this year on behalf of the Travis County Master Gardener Association and for your future contributions!

Manda Rash, President



Plant Portrait - Bat Face Cuphea

Called Bat Face, Bunny Ears or Tiny Mice Cuphea, (*Cuphea llavea*) belongs to the Lythraceae family which includes hardy perennials (loosestrife) and trees such as Crape Myrtle and pomegranate.

Bat face cuphea is a mounding perennial (or somewhat woody subshrub) that is native to the stream sides of Mexico and into Central America.

The distinctive, whimsical flower of the bat face cuphea have two, large upward-facing, scarlet red petals resembling ears and a purple tube resembling the face of a bat. A star attraction in the garden, they are very long flowering and often bloom from spring until fall. Best of all they never need deadheading.



Cuphea Flamenco Samba

The mounding plant reaches 1-3 ft tall and 2-3 ft. wide in Central Texas. The masses of tubular flowers are great for attracting hummingbirds and bees to planters, garden beds or hanging baskets.

An outstanding plant for Texas gardens, bat face cuphea is very heat and drought tolerant. It grows well in full sun to part shade and has remarkably low water requirements. Do not overwater it and make sure it has good drainage.

The plant is cold tolerant to the upper 20's when it will sustain frost damage and root hardy to the lower 20's. The hardiness is USDA zone 9, but many gardeners have had success in overwintering the plant in zone 8 with a good mulch protection. In colder winters it will die to the ground and then regrow from the roots.

Propagate of non-patented or trademarked plants is quite successful by taking softwood or tip cuttings or saving seed.

Many new cultivars have recently been introduced that have 5 large petals and the color range has been expanded into pink, red and purples.

Cultivars Available:

'Flamenco Cha Cha' large, vivid purple/pink petals- 5 petals

'Flamenco Rumba' bright magenta red/purple – 5 petals.



'Flamenco Samba' (pictured) large rich burgundy petals and deep purple centers- 5 petals.
'Flamenco Tango' medium pink petals- 5 petals.
'Lavender Purple' mauve petals and purple center- 5 petals.
'Miss Priss' light pink and purple center -2 petals.
'Tiny Mice' aka. 'Tornado' red petals and purple calyx-2 petals.
Totally Tempted 'Cuped' bright crimson petals- 5 petals.

Anne Marie Van Nest



In The Vegetable Garden

Your garden beds are prepped and ready for planting cool season vegetables, right? If you want to be harvesting broccoli or cauliflower for Thanksgiving now is the time to put in transplants. The last couple of years I have enjoyed growing some of the newer, colored cauliflowers. 'Violet Queen' and 'Graffiti' are purple, 'Green Harmony' and 'Panther' are green and 'Cheddar', you guessed it, is orange. 'Cheddar' is said to have 25% more beta-carotene than white cauliflower. They make a lovely and unique medley when served raw, steamed or sautéed together. I don't usually blanch them as they may lose some color – in fact 'Violet Queen' will turn green if cooked in water.

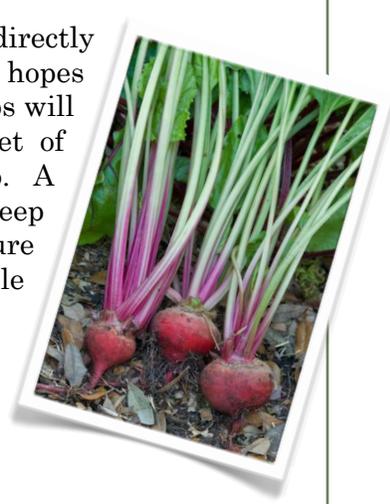


Cauliflower: Plant now, enjoy at Thanksgiving



We received some good rain and a tiny break from the heat in August (remember those two cloudy, rainy days when the high was only in the 80's?) and hopefully September will bring more relief. Milder temperatures and rain showers will be easier on our fall plantings – and on us! Cool season transplants going into the garden now will benefit from some shade until the temperatures moderate – which may not be until October!

Beets, radishes, turnips and other root crops are best seeded directly in the garden – I usually wait until later in the month with hopes that a break in the weather will cool the soil just a bit. These crops will generally produce all at the same time, so don't plant a whole packet of radishes or turnips at once, but make successive plantings every week or two. A layer of floating row cover or a light layer of compost over the seeds can help keep the soil moist and aid in germination. Once your seeds are up and growing be sure to thin them so that they have room to develop. Swiss chard, collards and kale can be sown directly in the garden or can go in as transplants.



Spinach and lettuce also prefer cooler air and soil temperatures, so I generally wait until late September or early October to get these going in the garden, but once they start producing their leaves can be harvested when needed for salads.

Late September is prime time for pea planting in Central Texas. Sugar snap peas are easy to grow and a treat from the garden. 'Sugar Snap' was the original introduction in 1979. It needs strong support as

the vines can reach 6' and beyond. If you have a strong fence and want to grow a tall variety, look for 'Super Sugar Snap'. It is a newer, slightly earlier (60 days) and more powdery mildew resistant variety than 'Sugar Snap'. Many varieties only grow 2-3', but I like to give them a little support, using either string or fencing material, just to keep them off of the ground and make them easier to harvest. Peas are susceptible to powdery mildew, so look for varieties that are resistant, like 'Cascadia', 'Sugar Sprint' and 'Super Sugar Mel'. By the way, your home-grown peas that travel from garden to kitchen in mere minutes will look better, taste better and cost less than any fresh sugar snap pea that you can buy at a grocery store – even the high falutin' ones. Yet another reason to grow-your-own!

Here's to a bountiful harvest,
Patty Leander



The Greenhouse Bench

A determined group of Master Gardeners and MG Interns spent a Saturday morning in the TCMGA greenhouse in early August and accomplished (or started) a great many items on the greenhouse “to do” list.

With a long list of things to clean up (weeding under benches) and pot up (long overdue cuttings from the mist bench), the group mixed-it-up and got a lot accomplished. Thanks to all who contributed!

The dirtiest job underway was the clearing of the triangular, sunken area between the greenhouse and MoPac. This is a section of land just south of the Citrus trial area. Jackie Johnson is taking the lead on

this project to clear this area and turn it into a groundcover growing area. It certainly will be tough growing conditions and a great trial for plants under the worst conditions - full sun, road base growing material (it does not even resemble what any of us would call “soil”) and no supplemental water just yet. Over two work sessions, Jackie and crew have tackled the removal of all the weeds (many well over 6 ft tall) and are probably still picking beggar’s tick seeds out of their clothes and hair. Thanks are extended to everyone what helped with weed removal, especially Marilyn Finnigan during the August work day.

Another big job that is underway at the greenhouse is to tie the outside irrigation system into the inside irrigation controller. This project, organized by Don Telge will allow us to have more control over the frequency of the outdoor growing area irrigation. The other ongoing irrigation project is to repair and possibly modify the “mist bench” controller valve which has recently stopped working (after about 8 or 9 years).

Just a note as well, a couple of the upcoming greenhouse work days (October and November) will not be scheduled on their traditional days (the first Saturday after the first Wednesday) because of the Central Texas Regional Master Gardener Conference and the Garden Conservancy Open Gardens Day. Watch for announcements about the rescheduled dates (which might be earlier than usual).

Anne Van Nest, Marian Stasney and Molly Clark



Road Trip - Not!

Checking out Gardening Podcasts

A great way to get your garden “fix” in the comfort of your own home is to try a garden podcast. Even if you don’t have a MP3 player, most podcasts allow you to listen on-line.

I don’t know about you, but I usually need a distraction when I’m doing mundane garden chores.

Recently, I discovered podcasting...in fact, podcasting for dummies (me!) After Felder Rushing’s entertaining appearance at the Zilker Garden Festival a few years ago, I was thrilled to find out that he had a weekly podcast - the Gesault Gardener. In addition, he has over a year’s worth of programs archived. I expected to be entertained, but I was pleasantly surprised that Felder also provided tons of practical advice. As he pointed out, since his retirement from the extension service, he is trying to give information to the everyday gardener, but he can still provide the botanical names, if needed. Check out the prior episodes with Dr. Dirt...they’ll leave you rolling and will give the neighbors something to talk about as you giggle in the garden!

How did I get started? In both “iTunes” and in “Google search” I typed in various garden phrases, such as garden, flower and gardener. In the “Google search,” I would add the word “podcast.” I found that the results changed almost daily. Even Neil Sperry has several episodes available. It is interesting to hear from gardeners in climates much different than ours and to find out that they struggle with many of the same problems that we do and love many of the same plants that we do.

Some of my other favorites include Marie Dubuque’s Easy Peasy, which gives a quick description of various plants. The Victory Garden videocasts are informative and very colorful. There are not many of these, but I enjoy taking a break with these videocasts. It’s like having a TV in the garden!

Try podcasts for an entertaining and informative addition to your gardening.

Liz Caskey



Help - I'm a Plant Nerd!

From the garden experience of Felder Rushing

It hit me the other day and, going in to wash up, found a sprig of rosemary soaking in a water glass on the kitchen sink. I had slipped it into my shirt pocket a few evenings earlier during a "date" with daughter Zoe at an upscale restaurant, promising to root it for her when we got home. Somebody help me!

Have you ever bought plants you didn't need, or really even want, but just couldn't resist? I have set pots and even entire flats of flowers on the driveway, and watered them for weeks and months until they eventually just melted away, because there simply was no place to plant them.

I suppose outsiders could see our passion as tame when compared superficially with, say, indoor soccer ("dry hockey") or Nascar racing. But I don't have to explain to real gardeners how fast a heart rate can get from a few pulls on the starter rope on a recalcitrant gas engine, or how sweat drips from our eyebrows as we toss bulbs and mulch into freshly-prepared soil, or how itchy fire ant stings (and even poison ivy) can be, between toes and fingers. Or how our hearts sing when we discover a delicate detail, flavor, fragrance, or other bonus in a newfound plant.

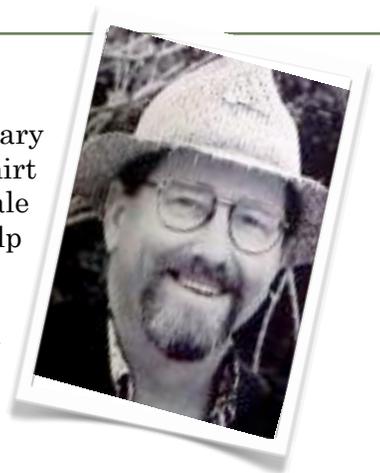
And gardening is addictive. We could even compose a Gardeners Anonymous Twelve Step Program. I can hear it now: "Hi, my name is Felder, and I am a gardener..." (In unison, the other gardeners in the group reply "Welcome, Felder, we are glad you are here. Come back often.")

"I gardened just this morning. ("Amen.") Pulled a few weeds on the way down to pick up the morning paper, and before I knew it, found myself dividing daylilies and repainting a fencepost. Coming to this GA meeting, I found a mail order catalog under my car seat, and people behind me at the stoplight had to honk to get my attention back on the road."

"I need help with my gardening. I can't stop on my own. And I am sorry for my family that, even though I don't own a bass boat or belong to a golf club, I did spend my last paycheck on shrubbery, a new greenhouse door, and a big bucket of Miracle Grow..."

Sound close to home? Here's a simple test to see if you are a garden nerd:

- You grow ten or more different kinds of the same plant (rose, daylily, daffodil, iris, African violet, camellia, tomato, whatever), and know their names (extra points if they're labeled).
- You subscribe to three or more garden magazines, and keep a small shovel in your car trunk. Turn your compost weekly. Buy bird seed by the fifty pound sack. Own a pair of Felco pruning shears (bonus points for the clip-on leather scabbard).
- Vegetables are growing in your flower beds. You mow around a weed because it has pretty flowers, or to save a place to hide Easter eggs later.
- Have you ever willingly taken a tour of a garden by flashlight? Double bonus points for luring guests outside after dark ("Hey, wanna see something really neat?"). Do we need to search your purse or camera case for purloined seeds, after a visit to a botanical garden?
- Extra points if your cuticles are dirty right now. And last, but not least, triple points if you would appreciate a special someone sending you a load of manure for an anniversary...



I'm not suggesting we gardeners should quit - though we all claim we can, any time. But maybe our motto should be Easy Grow It, or simply One Flower at A Time!



Over The Back Fence

DINOLAND EXHIBIT AT ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

September 6th- November 30th

Ninety-nine million years ago, an ornithomimid dinosaur made tracks on the muddy shore of the Sea of Tethys, which were discovered in ZBG in what is now the Hartman Prehistoric Garden.

The exciting news is that 30 dinosaurs are returning to Zilker in September - or rather, 30 lifelike dinosaur models are coming for an exhibit along the new Escarpment Trail! You can read more about this exhibit at <http://www.zilker garden.org/about/events/dinoland/index.html>

School Program exhibit training:

September 9, 11, 12th, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm or September 10, 12, 15th, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

There will be many roles for docents with the Dinoland Exhibit, and it is not necessary to attend all of the training sessions! We still need you to volunteer!

Other volunteer opportunities include Garden Greeters, Ticket Takers & Festival Assistants. More information to come!

Contact Information: Marion Alsup 480-0311, zilkerdocents@aol.com or malsup@aol.com

Marion Alsup



GARDEN TO GARDEN PLANT EXCHANGE - OCTOBER MEETING

Following the October meeting, share your bounty with your gardening buddies and take home something new. This is a great way to add to your gardening knowledge. Please have your contributions potted, bagged and labeled (no muddy soil please), and don't forget those extra magazines and catalogs along with your seeds and bulbs.

The exchange will start directly at the conclusion of the meeting, so we ask in fairness, no liberating of plants before the exchange begins. We also ask you to retrieve your leftovers as the Garden Center has no means to handle them. And we need volunteers to help clean up as the center has a prompt closing time.

Roxane Smith



BROMELIADS - NEW WORLD TROPICAL PLANTS

Short, long, erect or drooping flowering inflorescences. Green, red, speckled or variegated leaves. From less than one inch to twelve feet in diameter. Found in their native habitat from rainforests to deserts, mountains to seashores. All these descriptions fit various plants found in the family of Bromeliaceae.



Bromeliads are found entirely in the New World, from Florida along the Gulf Coast to Mexico and thru Central and South America. As always, there is one exception, there is one species found in West Africa. Found even in Texas, bromeliads include Spanish moss and our beloved ball moss—both Tillandsias. Native to southwest Texas, Hechtias, a terrestrial bromeliad, thrive in the heat and lack of moisture.

Bromeliads live in these areas by adapting and evolving to their environment. Epiphytic bromeliads attach themselves to other living plants and substrates by their roots. These plants are not parasitic. Their roots are a means of supporting themselves and their leaves take in moisture and nutrients thru their specialized leaves. Tillandsias, known by their common name—air plants, are the largest genus of epiphytic bromeliads. Included with the epiphytes are the saxicolous bromeliads, growing on rocks.



Terrestrial bromeliads grow in soil. True terrestrials must have soil to survive. Cryptanthus, Neoregelias and Guzmanias are common examples, and ones most likely encountered in local nurseries. The succulent bromeliads, Dyckias, Hechtias and Puyas, are also terrestrial.

To mix things up, some bromeliads can and have adapted to being either epiphytic or terrestrial. Neoregelias, Achmeas and a few Tillandsias are this versatile.

Epiphytic bromeliads can be mounted on cork, tree stumps, rocks, cedar and grapewood, almost anything. Even though called air plants, they do need care. Epiphytes like bright light and good air circulation. They are relatively easy to care for if you remember their natural habitat, growing in trees along their trunks and limbs. Tillandsias need water about once a week, more in summer in our climate and less in winter. Try to water in the morning so the leaves will dry out before night.

Terrestrial bromeliads like to grow in a well draining potting soil. The ones with cups like to have water in their cups. When watering, be sure to flush out the stagnant water with fresh water to help control fungal rot. They like their soil moist but not soggy. Be sure in the winter to decrease their water and have less water in the cups, especially if they are in cool areas.

Even though most bromeliads are frost sensitive, a few will survive in our area outdoors. A few Billbergias will survive outside in a protected area. If it gets below 30 degrees, one should cover them. The more succulent bromeliads, Dyckias, Hechtias and Puyas, will survive outside in your garden. With their thick spiny leaves, they fit nicely in a cactus garden. They are also right at home in a xeric or tropical garden.



This is definitely a brief introduction to the family Bromeliaceae. Its family includes 56 genera, over 3,000 species and thousands of hybrids. If you are interested in learning more, the Bromeliad Society of Austin is hosting the 33rd Annual Southwest Bromeliad Guild Show and Sale on September 20 and 21, 2008. It will be held at Zilker Botanical Garden in the Garden Center. The Southwest Bromeliad Guild is comprised of eight clubs from throughout Texas and Louisiana. There will be lots of show plants on exhibit as well as sale plants. Several vendors will be present and members will also have plants for sale. Visitors are welcome and admission is free. You

will find we are a very friendly group and will be glad to help you expand your knowledge. Stop by and learn more about the beautiful and diverse family of Bromeliads.

Steve Reynolds



GARDEN CONSERVANCY OPEN DAYS TOUR

Saturday, October 4, 9 am-5 pm

<http://www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays/events.pl?ID=108&SortBy=&State=>

Explore first-hand examples of outstanding design and horticultural practice that are growing in Austin's gardens. This year, seven gardens will be open to the public. Admission is \$5 per garden...or you can see them for free by volunteering to help! Contact Roxane Smith roxane_smith@sbcglobal.net if you can help out.



FREE SEMINAR: USING WATER WISELY

Saturday, September 6, 10 AM - Noon
West Rural Community Center, 8656 Hwy. 71 W., Building A

Rain, free but at times a scarce commodity! This free seminar concentrates on capturing rainwater and landscaping with plants requiring little water.



Confine rainwater and save it for your own use! Gain the knowledge necessary to build a rainwater harvesting system. All the basics are covered to build a non potable water harvesting system.

Not ready for a full blown rainwater harvesting system? Think small. A demonstration will show how to make a simple, inexpensive rain barrel collection system.

Lower your water usage by utilizing native and adapted landscape plants that look great and need a minimal amount of water to thrive. This method of gardening is called xeriscaping. If desired, a green, lush looking landscape can be achieved.

Bring samples of diseased, bug eaten, sick plants to the Plant Clinic. Experts will diagnose the problem and offer possible remedies.

This free seminar is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas A&M and Travis County AgriLife Extension Service. Seminar is free. No reservations taken. For more information call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardeners desk. <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>



FREE SEMINAR: VEGETABLES FOR COOLER TIMES

Wednesday, September 17, 7-9 PM
Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd.



The free seasonal seminar, Vegetables for Cooler Times, covers multiple topics pertinent to fall gardening activities. The Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Travis County AgriLife Extension Service, presents the fact filled, educational experience.

In spite of the heat, it is time to be in the vegetable garden. "Fall Vegetable Gardening" by Patty Leander will include the basics of vegetable gardening with the emphasis on plants and varieties that flourish in the fall and winter months

Leaves, leaves everywhere! Don't rake, bag and send it to the landfill. Learn how to convert leaves and other material into plant food. It is called compost. Plants adore it. Learn how to make this magic act happen.

Thought only Yankees could grow rhubarb? Wrong! With a little thinking outside the box, you can grow rhubarb, and strawberries too, right in your own backyard, Learn how these two favorites can be successfully in Central Texas.

A Plant Clinic will be held during the entire seminar. Bring your diseased/bug eaten plant, roots and all, in a plastic bag. Gain knowledge from expert Master Gardeners on action you can take to remedy the situation.

Seminar is free. No reservations taken. For more information call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardeners desk. Or check web site <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>



FREE SEMINAR: PLANT PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesday, October 22, 7-9 PM
Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd.



Plant Photography class will be taught by Sam Myers, a photo expert. The class will concentrate on developing the ability to take photos with impact. There will be an overview of cameras, film and digital. Discussion will include how lighting, focal length and aperture interact in composing photographs. Guidelines of composition will be covered along with "posing" plants.

Prerequisite: study the owner's manual on your camera. Not necessary to bring a camera but may be helpful.

The class is sponsored by the Travis County Master Gardener Association in partnership with the AgriLife Extension, Travis County. For more information call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardener's desk. <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>



FREE SEMINAR: PREPARING FOR WINTER AND SPRING

Saturday, November 15, 10 AM - Noon
Sunset Valley City Hall, 3206 Jones Rd., Sunset Valley, TX 78745



"Preparing for Winter and Spring" is the theme of this free seminar. Learn how to put the equivalent of a winter coat on plants. Discover bulbs that thrive in Central Texas and will bloom in the winter and/or spring.

Gain an overview of what needs to be done to prepare your landscaping for the stresses of winter. "Preparing for Winter" will give you confidence and the knowledge necessary for plant survival during the few winter months.

Bulb expert Danny Fowler, owner of Texas Tulips, will present many bulb varieties which excel in Central Texas. Learn about native and adapted bulbs. Bulbs will be available for purchase.

Educate yourself on the necessary planting steps to increase bulbs success. Learn when to fertilize, mulch, and divide for more productive, healthier plants.

The seminar is sponsored by The Travis County Master Gardeners, the volunteer arm of Travis County AgriLife Extension Service. For more information call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardener's desk. <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>



Closing The Garden Gate

I would like to thank everyone who contributes articles and other services for this newsletter. It would not exist if it weren't for the sharing of your knowledge and experience. And a big thank you to Cheryl Harrison who is the person responsible for making it look so great. She is a master at layout and design. I look forward to reading it every month.

It is almost time to elect new officers again. While you are considering which position you would like to volunteer for please take a moment to contemplate taking the editor slot for the Compost Bin. If you are interested please let me know. If you have any questions about what it entails I'd be happy to answer them.

Rebecca Matthews

Garden Trivia

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.

Erma Bombeck

Throughout my life, I've seen the difference that volunteering efforts can make in people's lives. I know the personal value of service as a local volunteer.

Jimmy Carter

In Closing

"We've gotten so good at growing food that we've gone, in a few generations, from nearly half of Americans living on farms to 2 percent. We no longer think about how the wonderful things in the grocery store got there, and we'd like to go back to what we think is a more natural way. But I'm afraid we can't, in part, because there are just too many of us in this world. If everybody switched to organic farming, we couldn't support the earth's current population — maybe half."

- Nina V. Fedoroff, 66, Science adviser to the US Secretary of State and administrator of the Agency for International Development. Dr. Fedoroff, a member of the National Academy of Sciences, did fundamental research on plant transposons, or jumping genes, and was among the first to clone plant DNA.

Submitted by William Hyland

2008 TCMGA Executive Committee

President - Manda Rash
Immediate Past President- Susan Decker
VP Programs - Jerry Naiser
VP Education - Rosalie Russell and William Hyland
VP Volunteer Coordinator for Certified Master Gardener - Karen Banks
VP Volunteer Coordinator for Master Gardeners in Training - Michelle Butler and Carolyn Williams
Secretary - Hope Dyson
Treasurer - Johnny DeMyers
Publications Director - Cheryl Harrison
Membership Director - Marty and Cindy Berdan
Greenhouse Manager - Anne Van Nest
AAGC Representative - Angie Dixon
State Council Representative - Susan Jung 2008 and 2009
State Council Representative - Jo Kautz in 2008
Past Presidents (Non-voting):

Bill Baldwin
Bill Boytim
Susan Cashin
Tommie Clayton
Don Freeman
Peggy Stewart
Becky Waak
Will Walker

Ex Officio Member of the Board (Non-voting) Horticulture Extension Service Agent:
Skip Richter
1600-B Smith Road
Austin, Texas 78721
854-9600 854-9611
r-richter@tamu.edu

The Compost Bin Team

Editor - Rebecca Matthews
Layout and Design - Cheryl Harrison
Contributing Editor - Anne Van Nest
Contributing Editor - Patty Leander
Webmaster - Paula Middleton

