

WEB NEWSLETTER

<http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/>



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!



When I try to write anything I never know what to say. I've been staring at this blank screen now for forty five minutes and nothing has happened. I guess I thought the letter writing fairy would show up and write for me (guess not).

First, I would like to say that I consider it a privilege and honor to have been elected as president of the Texas Master Gardeners. I'm really excited about this year. Our executive board is committed to do whatever we can to make this year the best year ever. With that said, let me also say that the only way we can make this year the best is for everyone to be involved.

We would like to challenge each director and every master gardener set a personal goal to try something new this year. Think outside the box. Start a new project, join or start a speakers bureau, become a director, help with the JMG program, sponsor a specialist training class, plant an EarthKind™ rose garden, plant a tree for Arbor Day.

We have a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about horticulture. It has been our experience in Johnson county, through our Lawn & Garden Show and other educational events that the public is eager for Extension and Horticulture information. Each Master Gardener Association can make a lasting impact in our counties.

If you would like to chair one of the five year goals or have other goals or ideas you would like to see implemented let me know. (Goals may be found on the TMGA website.)

Garey Wylie, President TMGA, Gareywylie@charter.net

LEARN, EDUCATE, GET EXCITED & HAVE FUN !!!

2008 WILL BE GREAT!

2008 State Conference

April 24-26, 2008



Montgomery County Master Gardeners invite you to join fellow Texas Master Gardeners for the 2008 Texas Master Gardener Conference April 24-26, 2008 in Conroe, Texas.

The 2008 Conference promises opportunities for sharing gardening interests, fun, educational activities and enjoyment of the numerous amenities offered in the lovely lake Conroe area of Montgomery County.

Registration forms will soon be available on this web site.

The host hotel for the conference will be announced soon along with other lodging options.

For a great learning experience and a delightful time come to the 2008 Texas Master Gardener Conference. April 24-26, 2008 - Conroe, Texas

Visit Website - <http://www.2008texasmastergardenerconference.org/>

Jan 12, 2008 - Rainwater Harvesting for the Home Landscape - Friendswood, TX

The Harris County Precinct 2 Master Gardeners Workshop: Rainwater Harvesting for the Home Landscape: Build a Rain Barrel. Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Southeast Church of Christ, 2400 W Bay Area Blvd, Friendswood, TX 77546 from 9am-2 pm. Class is size limited, be sure to register early. Registration deadline Dec. 29, 2007 or until class is full, fee \$65.00. For more information visit our website at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu> or call (281) 991-8437

Jan 15-16 The 46th Annual Blackland Income Growth Conference - Waco, TX

The 46th Annual Blackland Income Growth Conference will be held in Waco on January 15th and 16th. This years Horticulture Sessions will feature Dr. Dotty Woodson, Extension Program Specialist. Dr. Woodson will speak on Vegetable Gardening 101 and Water Conservation – How to Lower Your Water Bill with Drip Irrigation. The sessions begin at 9:00 A.M on January 15th and conclude by noon. Lunch is included with your registration fee of \$15.00. Gene Stallings will be this year's luncheon speaker. Gene Stallings coached football as a head coach at Texas A&M, the NFL St. Louis /Phoenix Cardinals and the University of Alabama. One of his Alabama teams went undefeated and captured a NCAA National Championship. Mr. Stallings was appointed to the TAMU Board of Regents in 2005 and also serves on multiple boards throughout Texas. Coach Stallings, of Paris, Texas, is known for his inspirational speeches, reinforcing family values and strength of character. Registration begins at 8:00 A.M.

Submitted by Doug Quicksall, McLennan County Master Gardener

Jan 29-Apr 22, 2007 - Master Gardener Training Class - Navasota, TX

Hosted by Grimes County Master Gardeners and Grimes County Extension Office. Classes will run from Tuesday January 29th through Tuesday April 22nd, and will be held from 8.30-12.00, at the Go Texan Building at the Fairgrounds. Cost will be \$150.00. For more details contact the Grimes County Extension Office

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2008 EVENTS

- FEBRUARY 23-24, 2008 - HOME & GARDEN SHOW- ASK A MASTER GARDENER
- MARCH 15, 2008 - SPRING VEGGIE SALE & SEMINAR
- APRIL 12, 2008 - PLANT SALE & SEMINAR
- APRIL 19, 2008 - SPRINGTACULAR GARDEN TOUR
- SEPTEMBER 6, 2008 - FALL VEGGIE SALE & SEMINAR
- OCTOBER 11, 2008 - PLANT SALE & SEMINAR OCTOBER 18, 2008 - FALL GLORY GARDEN TOUR

February 9, 2008 - *The Right Plant in the Right Place!* - Sunset Valley, TX

Travis County Master Gardeners



10:00 AM - Noon Sunset Valley City Hall, 3206 Jones Road. Sunset Valley, TX
The Right Plant in the Right Place!

Want to have gardening success? Increase your odds by learning more about your plants and what the plants needs at this free seminar. *Plants for the Shade Garden* will provide examples of plants preferring to living under the old oak tree or in other shady spots.

Learn about *Sun Worshipping Plants*. Specific varieties will be discussed so you know what will work in your situation.

Love to entice butterflies and hummingbirds to add a new visual dimension and personal enjoyment to your garden? Discover *Plants that Attract Butterflies and Hummingbirds*. Details about specific plants that act like magnets for these creatures will be talked about. This **FREE** seminar is sponsored by the Travis County Master Gardener Association in partnership with the Texas Cooperative Extension. For more information call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardeners desk. <http://www.tcmastergardener.org/html/events.html>

Five Year Plan for Texas Master Gardeners



These ideas are only a starting point. The purpose of these ideas is to get our Master Gardener Associations involved and help us build a better our organization.

Please let me know if your county would like to chair or help with one of these projects. In addition, if there are anymore ideas let us know. I look forward to working with you.

Garey Wylie, President TMGA gareywylie@charter.net

Five Year Plan - Proposed Ideas	County Chair
Increase TMGA membership - Issue ID cards annually, Free admission to Botanic Gardens (discounts in gift shop) in Texas, Discounts at Nurseries in Texas, etc.	
Membership Outreach - Divide state into districts & have an Association (and an alternate) from each district to help counties in their district to increase their membership and get new counties involved.	George Ammermann Guadalupe County
Master Gardener Yearly Calendar - (maybe a photo contest for each month.)	
Planting Wildflowers across Texas - Work with TxDot on the state level. They planted 100,000 lbs. of seeds along highways. Maybe they would furnish the seeds and each county m/g group would plant in their county.	
New Specialist classes – Research/Recommend new classes, i.e. Lawn Care, Plant Pathology, House Plants, etc.	
EarthKind™ Rose (Demo/Research) garden in each county in Texas.	Garey Wiley Johnson County
Long Range Budget – Develop long range financial plan.	
Website - Assist or be responsible for the TMGA website.	
Rainwater harvesting (Demo/Research) in each county	Pam Daniel Ellis County
TMGA Quarterly Meetings – Ways to improve attendance, programs, etc.	
TMGA Communications – Ways to improve communications between TMGA and local associations.	
Junior Master Gardener	Neil Cochran Williamson Co
Mentor Program	Bunny Williams Dallas County



Master Gardener Counties with EarthKind™ Rose Trial Gardens

Anderson-Angelina-Austin-Bell-Brazoria-Brazos-Burnet-Cooke-Dallas Denton-Ector-El Paso-Ellis-Fannin-Fort Bend-Galveston-Grimes-Harris-Henderson-Hidalgo-Hood-Hunt-Jackson-Jefferson-Johnson-Kleberg-Lamar- Liberty-Lubbock-McCulloch-McLennan-Midland-Montague-Montgomery- Nueces-Orange-Parker-Potter-Randall- Rusk-San Saba-Smith-

Somervell-Tarrant-Victoria-Walker-Wichita-Wilbarger-Wood Total = 49 12/12/07



Howdy, from your 2008 TMGA officers.

I believe I speak for everyone on the newly elected Board when I say that we look forward to working with representatives from all counties across the state. It looks like it will be a busy year so let's get started.

In addition to the local Master Gardener projects that each county sponsors, there are many great opportunities in which people can get involved at the state level. The "Five Year Plan" is a great starting place if you or someone in your organization is looking to broaden their volunteer scope. If you know of a need that is not currently being addressed, please let us know and we will take that into consideration.

The Board commits to do our best in keeping the directors informed of what is happening and where help is needed. We are asking that the directors continue to help us by sharing information with their county members so that everyone will know what is available to them in the way of advanced training, regional seminars, etc. The TMGA website is also an excellent place to promote programs in your county so be sure and let us know what you are doing.

Together we can spread the word and reap the benefits of increased member involvement across the state. Please encourage each of your members to log onto the TMGA website regularly and check out what is going on.

Brenda Cunningham, TMGA Secretary jimbrenc@earthlink.net

June 11-14, 2008 - Junior Master Gardener Specialist Training

Williamson County Extension



Williamson County Master Gardeners

Please save the date of June 11-14, 08. Junior Master Gardener Specialty Training will be held at the Williamson County Extension Office in Georgetown, Texas. Costs are being calculated and an application will be available soon.

Contact: Neil Cochran JMG Coordinator Williamson County

June 18-21, 2008 - Regional Master Gardener Conference - Okla City, OK

Read More <http://mastergardener2008.com/>

March 22-26, 2009 - International Master Gardener Conf Las Vegas, NV

Read more <http://www.unce.unr.edu/imgc/>

Mar 29, 2008 - 8th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo! - Waxahachie, TX



Ellis County Master Gardeners

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 1950 N I-35 E, (Hwy 287 & I-35E)
Waxahachie Cost: \$3. Children under 12 free.

Free sponsors available through our sponsors. Description: Join the Ellis County Master Gardeners in their 8th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo! Keynote speakers Neil Sperry, Dotty Woodson and Gaye Hammond will discuss current gardening topics and techniques. Also featuring: Children's Hands On Workshops, MG Breakout Sessions, 4-H Concession, over 100 lawn & garden exhibitors, plant sales, door prizes and much more! Don't miss it! More Info: 972-825-5175 or <http://www.ECMGA.com>



Merry Christmas to everyone!

I hope you all have a joyous holiday, and that the New Year will be filled with many blessings for your and yours.

As your newly elected Treasurer, I want you to know that I will do my best to fulfill the responsibilities of the office and earn your trust. I have opened a new account with Citibank, which I think will allow a more efficient handling of the Association's funds as the office of the Treasurer changes each year. I'll have more about that in future Newsletter articles, so stay tuned.

Doug Richards has modified the form for sending in your annual dues to include my mailing address and email address, so I am now ready to take your money. Just a note about my email – it shows only one "t" in my last name. That is not a mistake. Long story, but just accept it as one of those annoying things we have to deal with.

I am proposing a change in the way the County Associations submit their dues and Association information. As you may know, the Association Information listed on Page 2 of the form is used as the basis for preparing the County Rosters of Officers and Directors. I would like to ask as many of you as possible to submit this page electronically (email) to me as a Word document. You should be able to "save" the form and type in the information. Sending via email would improve the timeliness and accuracy of getting this information processed and the roster updated. Obviously, the check for the dues would need to be sent via snail mail, since electronic transfer of funds is a bit beyond our capability at this time.

So, I am asking you to consider emailing page 2 of the form to me, then mailing a hard copy of page 1 to me along with your check for the dues. If you are unable to send anything by email, then just mail both copies with the check as in the past. In return, I will commit to you that I will acknowledge receipt of your both your email copies and hard copies with dues, by return email. In addition, I will prepare monthly reports of the counties from whom I have received dues through the month of March.

During the coming months, I hope to share with you via the Newsletter, some of the other ideas I have in mind to improve the efficiency of the Treasurer's responsibilities. If you have any ideas or suggestions for things that you would like to see, let me hear from you. The better we can communicate, the better we can improve our Association.

Thanks for your help.

Homer Babbitt, Treasurer TMGA hlbabbit@swbell.net



April 05, 2008 EarthKind Rose Symposium - Cleburne, Tx

8:00 am to 5:00 pm Sponsored by Johnson County Master Gardeners & Cleburne Parks Department

Speakers

- Dr. Steve George - Professor & Landscape Horticulture Specialist Texas Cooperative Extension A&M University System
- Gaye Hammond - President of the Houston Rose Society
- Claude Graves - Master Consulting Rosarian
- Steve Chaney - Tarrant County Extension Horticulturist
- Garey Wylie - Johnson County Master Gardener

More Info. coming soon contact: Garey Wylie gareywylie@charter.net or Johnson County Extension Office (817)556-6370



In keeping with the slogan “get excited—get involved—have fun”

As chairman of the Out Reach Committee I am excited and hoping to get involved to a point where the committee and I can have fun.

to With this in mind I was searching for a method that could get more people involved in reaching out the TMGA membership. In recent years Marva Beck has done an outstanding job in traveling the state in response to requests for help. Wanting to build on the concept of “Out Reach” I thought by dividing the state into four geographic regions it would make it easier to cover the state. After trying to divide Texas into North, South, East and West it dawned on me to use the twelve districts used by extension. After all, we are to serve our local extension office which is a part of one of these districts.

Using the 12 districts as an organizational tool I contacted people who are active in the Board of Directors. To try to make it easier for representation on the committee I decided to have a member and an alternate member from each district.

While the number of Master Gardener Associations has a wide range in membership it is important for all areas to be represented.

If you are a member in the following districts and would be willing to serve on this committee, please use this address gsammermann@gvec.net to contact me.. District 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, and 12. If you are not sure which district you are in ask your CEA.

As a committee member you would be involved in the following ways:

1. Serve as a liaison between local associations and TMGA.
2. Should a local association have problems, be available to offer suggestions to help solve the issue.
3. Contact counties with Master Gardener program, but not TMGA membership.
4. Contact local associations that dropped out of TMGA membership to receive feedback as to way they dropped out and what can be done to regain their membership.
5. Help develop a list of advantages for membership in TMGA
6. Search for ways to help associations from re-inventing the same wheel.
7. Work on ways for directors to meet other directors, visit, brain-storm, and widen personal contact with other directors across the state.

It is my desire to use 2008, to develop these goals and any others suggested by committee members as well as members of TMGA.

George Ammermann, Chairman Out Reach Committee gsammermann@gvec.net



February 2, 2008 - Spring Vegetable Gardening and How to Sharpen your Tools

10:00 AM - Noon West Rural Community Center 8656 Hwy. 71 W, Build. A, Austin TX
Travis County Master Gardeners

Spring Vegetable Gardening and How to Sharpen your Tools Enjoy juicy ripe tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, mouth watering cantaloupe...straight from your own garden. Learn how to plant and maintain a spring vegetable garden in this free seminar. Patty Leander will share her gardening knowledge which will include composting, vegetable varieties that perform well in Central Texas and recommended planting times. Her seminar is loaded with the basic facts and helpful ideas. Inexperienced and experienced gardeners are welcome.

Make the job easier and faster with a sharp tool. Learn basic tool sharpening methods from this demonstration given by Bill Boytim. Go home with the knowledge needed to do this project yourself.

The facility is located 1 mile west of the “Y” in Oak Hill. It is across the highway from the street named Covered Bridge. This FREE seminar is sponsored by the Travis County Master Gardener Association in partnership with the Texas Cooperative Extension. For more information call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardener’s desk.

<http://www.tcmastergardener.org/html/events.html>

Texas Master Gardener Association 2008 Director's Meeting Schedule

Horticulture/Forest Sci Bldg #1506
Parking lot #74 off Olsen ST
College Station, TX

Date	Time	Location
Thur, Apr 24, 2008	TBA	Conroe (State Conference)
Sat, Aug 02, 2008	11:00am-3:00pm	College Station
Sat, Dec 06, 2007	11:00am-3:00pm	College Station

2008 TMGA Officers



President
Garey Wiley
Johnson County



First Vice-President
Doug Quicksall
McLennan County



Second Vice-President
Lynn McKillop
Fort Bend County



Secretary
Brenda Cunningham
Dallas County



Treasurer
Homer Babbitt
Parker County



Feb 20, 2008 - Everything Is Coming Up Roses! - Austin, TX

Travis County Master Gardeners

7:00 PM – 9 PM Zilker Botanical Garden 2220 Barton Springs Rd. Austin, TX

Everything Is Coming Up Roses! Earth Kind Roses Earth Kind is an important designation given to select roses by the Texas A&M University Agriculture program. Earth Kind Roses have been through rigorous statewide testing and evaluation by a team of horti-

cultural experts and found to possess the high level of landscape performance and outstanding disease and insect tolerance/ resistance.

Talk will include illustrations of a number of Earth Kind Roses plus information on site selection, soil amend-ments, and bed preparations. Pruning and Rose Care Pruning rose bushes is intimidating to many garden-ers, but actually very good for the plants. Becoming an accomplished rose pruner takes time and practice. Learn about properly pruning plus the basics of rose care. This FREE seminar is sponsored by the Travis County Master Gardener Association in partnership with the Texas Cooperative Extension. For more infor-mation call 512-854-9600 and ask for the Master Gardeners desk.

<http://www.tcmastergardener.org/html/events.html>



Bluebonnet Master Gardeners

The Bluebonnet Master Gardeners composed of Austin, Washington, Colorado and Fayette counties certified 16 of 20 Interns from the 2007 Master Gardener Class on December 1, 2007.

The class is pictured here with Austin County Extension Agent Philip Shackelford sitting at the front of the group.



Mar 08, 2008 - Lawn & Garden Show - Cleburne, TX

Johnson County Master Gardeners "Lawn & Garden Show"
9:00am - 4:30pm - Cleburne Civic Center
Contact: James Pollard (817) 240-2604 More info. later



Bell County Master Gardeners

Bell County Master Gardeners are saddened by the unexpected death of Deanna Rankin. Deanna's four acre garden overlooking Lake Belton was shown many times on the spring and fall garden tours and also on the Blooming Belton garden tour.

Deanna was on the board of directors, the garden tour committee and was a joyful inspiration to all. Deanna was an artist as well as a gardener and this talent was very obvious in her beautiful garden. Her spring garden was spectacular with poppies, roses and daisies and her fall garden showed off roses, salvias, turkscap, other native plants and birds and butterflies.



Bell County Master Gardeners

Lawrence Cox receives Life Membership from Bell County President Dr. Gy Okeson. This honor is bestowed from the board of directors to individuals who consistently work for the success of the goals of the organization. Mr. Cox is the Greenhouse Coordinator and a member of the class of 2000. He was also honored for over 1000 hours of volunteer service.



Bell County Master Gardeners

Ilene Miller, one of the organizers of the Bell County Master Gardener program started in 1997 was honored with Life Membership at the association's Christmas party held at the Bell County Expo in Belton December 13th.



Bell County Master Gardeners

Bell County Greenhouse Manager, Karla Tomaka, operates a busy greenhouse. She hosts 2 veggie sales and 2 plant sales a year. These are big money makers for the organization. She has initiated greenhouse 101 classes which take place the first Wednesday of the month. These classes involve a different subject each time- propagation refresher, proper watering, insect/disease treatment, etc. First Wednesday is called Burger Wednesday

because the master gardeners are treated to burgers after work and classes are finished. *Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry BCMGA Corresponding Secretary*



Bell County Master Gardeners

Bell County Greenhouse Production Manager, Annette Ensing, has compiled a greenhouse procedure manual outlining and explaining procedures, maintenance, planting schedules, greenhouse hygiene, etc.

Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry BCMGA Corresponding Secretary



Bell County Master Gardeners

Bell County Master Gardener Crystal Fisher receives certificate from President Dr. Gy Okeson. Crystal is the former Greenhouse Production Coordinator and was honored for providing over 1000 service hours to the association. She is an accomplished artist and is working on decorative/informative panels to be attached to the cabinets in the greenhouse as her current project. *Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry BCMGA Corresponding Secretary*



Harris County Master Gardeners - Precinct 2

The Second Tuesday of each month the Harris County Precinct 2 Master Gardeners hold a free evening educational program for the public, called the Green Thumb Series.

January 8th at 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Vegetable Gardening

February 12th Growing Fruits and Nuts

Southeast Church of Christ, 2400 W Bay Area Blvd, Friendswood, TX 77546

For more information visit our website at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu> or call (281) 991-8437

The Fourth Wednesday of each month the Harris County Precinct 2 Master Gardeners hold an educational program, classes are free and open to the public:

On January 23rd Master Gardener Angela Chandler will present Fruit for Gulf Coast Gardens

10:00 a.m. The Meeting Room (on the Lakeside) at Clear Lake Park 5001 NASA Road 1, Seabrook, TX 77586

Free and open to the public

For more information visit our website at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu> or call (281) 991-8437

The Harris County Precinct 2 Master Gardeners Workshop: High Density Home Orchard Management on Wednesday, February 13th from 9am-1 pm at The Meeting Room at Clear Lake Park, 5001 Nasa Rd 1, Seabrook, TX 77586. Learn techniques that will allow urban gardeners to quadruple the amount of fruit you can grow without buying a single square foot of land. Class is size limited, be sure to register early. Registration deadline Jan. 29, 2008 or until class is full, fee \$15.00. For more information visit our website at: <http://hcmgap2.tamu.edu> or call (281) 991-8437



Bell County Master Gardeners - Honor Members

Master Gardeners Honor Members One hundred and eight Bell County Master Gardeners celebrated Christmas and honored members with service awards at the Bell County Expo Center December 13.

Bell County Extension Agent Dirk Aaron and Bell County Master Gardener President Dr. Gyman Okeson presented service awards to sixty-one master gardeners.

- Dr. John Curtis, State Representative Dianne White Delisi, Ilene Miller and Lawrence Cox were honored with Life Membership for their contributions to the organization. This is the highest honor that the Bell County association can bestow on a member. These master gardeners were in the first Master Gardener class of 1997 and consistently contribute to the master garden program.
- Lawrence Cox of Killeen and Crystal Fisher of Temple earned recognition awards for more than one thousand service hours.
- Johnny Buck of Florence, Mary Ann Everett of Temple and Ursula Nanna of Harker Heights received certificates for more than 800 service hours.
- Awards were also given to fifty-six other master gardeners for 100-400 hours of service.
- Mary Ann Everett received the Golden Trowel Award. Other master gardeners choose the recipient of this award presented for outstanding accomplishments to the organization and to the community.
- Mary Lou Edmondson, Annette Ensing, Karla Tomaka, Ken Richey and Mary Lew Quesinberry received the Green Thumb Award. Recipients of this award are chosen by fellow master gardeners as well.
- Ten-year pins were presented to Dyna Bailey, Walter Daude, Vera Greenfield, Linda Hunter, Patricia Roy-Jolly, Lisa Sebek and Donness Shine.
- Five-year awards were presented to Rita Bielick, Neil Cochran, Marlene Gillman, Sandra Jones, Deborah Martin, Gladys Newsom, Marty Portman, Mary Lew Quesinberry, Jeanne Richard, Sandy Street, Mickey Sweeden and John Womack.
- Walter Daude of Killeen received the Sharie Lanza Ambassador Award presented in appreciation for continued leadership and service to the Texas Master Gardener Association at the state convention in Kerrville last April. The Bell County Master Gardeners honored Mr. Daude with a certificate recognizing his award from the state association.
- Ilene Miller chaired the Silent Auction, which received over 150 donations from members and area businesses. The silent auction is an important fundraiser for the non-profit organization. The master gardener association is a volunteer development program offered by the Texas Cooperative Extension.

The next class of master gardeners begins January 2. These new interns will receive 75 hours of classroom training most of which is provided by Texas A&M professors. In addition they are required to perform 75 hours of volunteer service to become a certified master gardener. In exchange for their training, Master Gardeners work as volunteers to provide horticultural service and information to the community. Submitted by Mary Lew Quesinberry Bell County Master Gardener Association Corresponding Secretary 254-780-3625



Bell County Master Gardeners

Mary Ann Everett receives the Golden Trowel Award from Bell County Master Gardener President Dr. Gy Okeson. This award was presented at the master gardener Christmas party held at the Bell County Expo in Belton. Recipients of this award are chosen for their outstanding accomplishments to the association.



TMGA 5 Year Plan “Mentor Program”

Bunny Williams, Dallas County Master Gardeners

In an effort to provide innovative and effective tools for TMGA, we are searching for successful Mentor Programs in Master Gardener programs throughout the state. Does your Association currently have a mentor program? Is your Master Gardener program exploring the possibility of introducing a mentor program? Do you have some ideas on the benefits of a mentor program? Your experience, expertise and enthusiasm is requested to help TMGA develop a Mentor Program that can be utilized by our membership.

Dallas County Master Gardeners has a long history of providing a structured mentoring program to new students with measurable success. In recent years we've expanded those efforts to include speakers mentoring new speakers. This year a new long-term mentoring program related to our MG Training School has been adopted. DCMGs are pleased to participate with other counties in creating a Mentor Program that can be implemented by TMGA.

If your county has a current program or interest in developing a mentor program, your input will be appreciated. Our committee is forming, and your participation would be appreciated. Please contact Bunny Williams, Dallas County Master Gardeners.

Bunny Williams, Chair TMGA 5 Year Plan Mentor Program BellaDsign@sbcglobal.net



Lake Granbury Master Gardener

2007 Master Gardener of the Year - Arnold Blaylock (*pictured with wife Georgia*) is a person who sincerely gives of himself to help others. With his leadership the construction and development of the new one acre Demonstration Educational Research Garden has become a reality in 2007.

Arnold engineered features in the garden which provide a comprehensive educational venue for the community. Some of these features are: rainwater harvesting, composting, dual drip irrigation system for rainwater/city water, freeform and raised beds for 27 different types of garden, water features, garden for nationwide EarthKind™ Rose project and an open air activity/instructional center.

As he worked in the garden, he acted as a mentor to other Master Gardeners and visitors from the community. In addition to the development of the garden,

Arnold has made presentations on “Constructing Water Features for a Garden” and “Square Foot Gardening”. His contributions have helped the LGMG association continue its goal to support the Extension Office and serve our community.

Deadline for news for the February 2008 Web newsletter is **12 NOON** on January 21.
Contact editor Doug Richards with items to be published: dougrichards@peoplepc.com