



Letter from our President:

Get out!

With only a few minor revolts, the state committees are established for this year. Thank you to all of the attendees at the February Board of Directors meeting for getting out into the atrium and taking an interest in our state committees. Much needed help has been offered. The committee chairs seem to be happy.

One chairperson asked if there was a list of annual conference years and locations. Here are some of them. If anyone can fill in with other years, locations or corrections, let me know: 2015 Bell; 2014 Permian Basin; 2013 Cameron/Hidalgo; 2012 Bexar; 2011 Hood/Somervell; 2010 Dallas; 2009 Harrison; 2008 Montgomery; 2007 Hill Country; 2006 Brazos; 2005 Denton; 2004 Nueces; 2003 Smith.

As spring unfolds, get out there and spend time with other gardeners. Spend time in your gardens, too. Rejoice in every fresh leaf and every new flower. Keep in mind that all of the storms and late freezes only make gardening in Texas that much more interesting. And finally, to really mingle with gardeners and plants, come to the annual conference in May in Collin County. The welcome mat will be out.

Mary Means
2016 President



Waltz Across Texas

Submitted by Barbara Porsch

Coming to a TMGA Board meeting is literally a "Waltz Across Texas" for those of us in the Permian Basin Master Gardeners (Ector/Midland Counties). We can't just pop over after breakfast. This is a "Day Trip". But as we make the 7 or 8 hour drive the day before, we love experiencing the changes in scenery and plant materials along the way. And, we also know the best potty stops, restaurants, nurseries and farmer's markets along the way, in case any of you ever need recommendations.

And since we are able to arrive early, we always enjoy helping Eleanor with her duties at the sign-in tables, giving us the opportunity to meet and visit with more of the delegates from around the state. It is that camaraderie that we appreciate so much. It is so interesting to learn

MEET THE HENDERSON COUNTY MG'S!

Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA) has taken to heart the mission of providing horticultural-related information to their communities. Educational articles are featured in HCMGA newsletters sent bi-monthly to over 500 email addresses, and weekly articles are published in two local newspapers.

The HCMGA annual Summer Series, provided free to the public, offers educational programs on a wide range of horticultural topics. Last year, the series included programs on pollinators, vegetables, and herbs. The HCMGA Fall Conference is also free to the public. This program is traditionally planned and implemented by the current year's interns.

A demonstration garden in the East Texas Arboretum was designed and is maintained by HCMGA for the public's enjoyment and education. Named the DREAM garden for Design, Research, Educate, Apply and Maintain, this garden is a favorite destination for locals as well as visitors to East Texas.



A children's garden at the South Athens Elementary School educates over 400 students in 27 classes from pre-K through fifth grades. The children are given short lessons in addition to experiencing planting seeds, weeding the beds, or harvesting the many vegetables they grow there.



from other Master Gardeners about what they are doing and especially how they are doing it. We always gain some valuable information to help in our activities back home.

At the meeting on February 4, President Mary Means had all of the committee chairs promote their committee and solicit members. As Chair for the Conference Planning Committee I was pleased to see an interest not only in the committee but possible locations for the future.



We were so pleased to hear Donna Hagar announce that the donations for the Master Gardener Earth-Kind® Garden within The Gardens – Texas A&M University is now at \$129,363. Donations are still coming in with almost two years left on our pledge commitment of three years. Check out The Gardens [website](#) for more information. On this site, we were especially pleased to see that the Lead Donors are from Midland.

Having hosted the 2014 TMGA Conference, we are especially excited about attending the 2016 Conference in McKinney as just attendees. Jim Ewoldsen, Chair, gave a rousing promotion that should get everybody to sign up quickly. I know we all have, and are looking forward to it.

Jayla Fry and Nicky Maddams do a wonderful routine promoting the 2017 cruise. Together with Stacey Jarmon, a Denton County Master Gardener and Meeting Procurement Specialist, they answered many, many questions that were on everybody's minds.

If you are lucky, you don't go home empty handed. Stacey Jarmon distributed plants as door prizes, and Mary Means brought several flats of branching broccoli that she had grown to give out as door prizes.

We are looking forward to our next Director's Meeting which will be held at the 2016 Conference. As usual, that necessitates a "Day Trip" through different areas of Texas, meaning different areas to explore, critique and enjoy.

PAST DUE: The [Officer/Director Roster](#) and [Charter Agreement](#) submissions were due January 31st. [Dues](#) payments were payable by March 1, 2016.

Please submit your Milestone Master Gardeners to Outreach Chair Eleanor Tuck at etuck@sbcglobal.net. This includes Master Gardeners with 15, 20 or 25 years active service as of December 31, 2015. We will be recognizing these members at the Conference in May.

To fund these educational projects, HCMG hosts two fundraisers each year. The HCMGA Spring Conference features well known horticulture experts, and is another educational opportunity for the public. Dr. David Creech, Director of the Stephen F. Austin (SFA) Gardens, is the speaker for 2016.

HCMGA also hosts a Plant Sale each year. Every HCMGA member contributes in some way, either by growing plants from seed, propagating new plants, dividing plants from their own gardens, or by volunteering to be cashier, label plants, or answer the public's questions. The plant sale allows the public to put education into practice by growing plants in their own gardens.

Submitted by:
Lydia Holley, President
Henderson County Master Gardener Association

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If your chapter has not yet been featured in the TMGA newsletter, we invite you to submit an article to the editor, Nicky Maddams, at [tmga.news@gmail.com](mailto:tmga.news@gmail.com) for inclusion in a future newsletter.

#### UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

|                                                   |           |       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| <a href="#">Specialist: Vegetables</a>            | March     | 10-12 |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Irrigation Efficiency</a> | March     | 21-23 |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Propagation</a>           | April     | 21-23 |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Rainwater Harvesting</a>  | April     | 27-29 |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Composter</a>             | June      | 22-24 |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Earth-Kind®</a>           | August    | 3-5   |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Texas Superstar®</a>      | September | 20-22 |
| <a href="#">Specialist: Vegetables</a>            | November  | 9-11  |

There are many [events](#) popping up all over the state. Have you checked them out? Have you submitted your event to share with others?

|                                                              |       |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|
| <a href="#">Gregg County Spring Gardening Seminar</a>        | March | 5  |
| <a href="#">Waller County Spring Fling Gardening Seminar</a> | March | 5  |
| <a href="#">Aransas/San Patricio Plant Sale</a>              | March | 18 |
| <a href="#">Henderson County Spring Conference</a>           | March | 31 |
| <a href="#">Smith County - First Tuesday in the Garden</a>   | April | 5  |
| <a href="#">Henderson County Plant Sale</a>                  | April | 23 |



## Buds and Bark: Earth-Kind® in the Park

Submitted by Dawn Oldfield, CCMGA PR Chairperson

*"Most people don't see the sun, soil, bugs, seeds, plants, moon, water, clouds, and wind the way gardeners do."  
Jamie Jobb*



*Snow on the Prairie by Jim Ewoldsen*

In case you haven't heard, the Collin County Master Gardeners Association is hosting the **2016 Texas Master Gardener State Conference!** Plans for the conference are bursting into bloom! The three day event will be held at beautiful Myers Park and Event Center in McKinney, Texas from **May 17-19, 2016**.

If you've always wanted to go to a State Master Gardener Conference, this is the one to attend! The **2016 Texas Master Gardener State Conference** is a wonderful opportunity to engage with people who share your love of gardening, attend educational workshops and presentations by some of the nation's top horticultural experts, and be inspired by acres of award winning research and demonstration gardens that will be coming alive with new growth and color.

### Tick tock, tick tock - Conference Countdown:

If you haven't signed up yet, what are you waiting for? The month of May will be here before you know it. And, as the saying goes, "the early bird gets the worm." Jim Ewoldsen, 2016 Conference Co-Chair says, "We are limiting registration for the conference to the first 800 registrants. The available space dictates this limit. I would advise anyone who wants to attend the conference to register now. If they wait, we might not be able to meet their accommodations. I promise this is a conference they won't want to miss!"

With over 15 presentations, multiple workshops, and 7 tours currently on the roster, there are a wide variety of topics and events that will appeal to MGs on all levels. All of these educational activities will inspire you personally, but more importantly will open you to new ideas for teaching and sharing research-based gardening with others in your community. Visit our [website](#) to follow our evolving itinerary.

### Also in the Area:

Don't forget to explore additional local North Texas attractions if you have time. The Heard Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, the Dallas Arboretum, and the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens are a must for any tourist's (especially a garden enthusiast) list. You won't want to miss two local nursery gems, either. Shades of Green in Frisco and Pucketts's Nursery in Allen are truly unique. Both are offering 10% discounts to Master Gardeners who show their badge!

### What does the 2016 conference cost?

|                                          |          |
|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Sign up January 1 through April 15, 2016 | \$200.00 |
| Sign up April 16 through May 17, 2016    | \$225.00 |

### Your conference fee includes:

- At least nine hours of higher education opportunities (**NEW** to the schedule is the hands-on **Garden Journaling** workshop presented by the amazing Mary Nell Jackson. \$20 fee includes class and materials)
- Lunch Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday
- Reception Tuesday evening
- Awards Banquet Wednesday
- Tours (check the [website](#) to see itinerary for all inclusions)
- So much more!

Make your reservations for the **2016 Texas Master Gardener State Conference, Buds and Bark: Earth-Kind® in the Park** now.

Keep up to date with what we're up to by visiting our [website](#). Please email [txmq2016@ccmgatx.org](mailto:txmq2016@ccmgatx.org) or call 214-425-5612 with questions. There will be plenty of opportunities to earn CEUs, and just have some fun! Follow us online for up-to-date details on [Facebook](#), or [Instagram](#) – [txmgstateconf2016](#).

