

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Wow! The 2017 State Conference Cruise and Awards Luncheon is over. So many firsts for TMGA that turned out fabulous!

Galveston Master Gardeners - what a great job! Moody Gardens - my stay was great, full of smiles, hellos and so accommodating!

Hats off to Nicky and all her helpers that set up the cruise!



Now, how does your garden grow? Most plants and shrubs are showing off right now with their best blooms! Veggies are setting blooms or are already producing! Yummy! Can't wait for fresh veggies! My veggie garden is late so just now getting blooms!

I love gardening with all the sweat, dirty fingernails, garden feet, aching back/muscles and sunburn! So off to my garden I go to enjoy all the blooms!

See you in College Station on the 2nd Saturday in August for next Directors Meeting.

Hugs!
Peggy Rogers



CRUISE CONFERENCE RECAP:

The 2017 TMGA Annual State Conference was a great success with many guests asking for another, longer cruise in the future! Thank you to everyone for such kind comments. We had glitches, but we kept right on going! I just came home from my local association meeting and the ones that sailed highly recommended everyone attend next time!



The Carnival Valor set sail at 4:00pm on Thursday, April 27th. After the required muster drill, we met in the Ivanhoe Theatre for a Welcome Reception. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Director, Dr. Douglas Steele, provided a great 20-minute comedy routine while beverages and hors d'oeuvres were passed.

We had four educational sessions on Friday, learning about wine making and grape growing; tropical fruits; taking your garden through droughts AND floods; and behind-the-scenes tricks when filming a TV segment.

Saturday saw many people either peruse their way around Cozumel, or join a tour - botanical gardens, snorkeling, chocolate tours and speed boating, to name a few!

On Sunday morning, the private screening of *Symphony of the Soil* was delayed when the ship could not provide the pre-arranged equipment. Thankfully a member of the ship's staff had his personal PlayStation aboard and we were able to show the documentary after the last session. A gaming system saved the day! The afternoon sessions covered lesser-known beneficials in the garden, and tips on traveling to gardens outside the state.



The Annual Awards Banquet, hosted by the Galveston Master Gardeners was held on land after the cruise disembarkation at the beautiful Moody Gardens Hotel and followed by exploration of the Moody Gardens and other local tours.

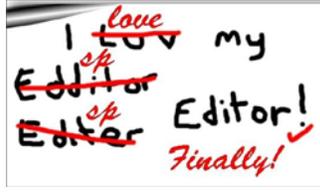
Watch for photos and video conference coverage in our June newsletter.

[SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS](#)

[SPECIALISTS](#)

[MILESTONE MASTER GARDENERS](#)

WANTED: NEWSLETTER EDITOR



The Texas Master Gardener Association is seeking a newsletter editor. Do you have excellent grammar, spelling, and computer skills? Since moving to our digest format, our readership has increased significantly and now takes less time to produce but does require monthly commitment. If you are interested in this position or have any questions, please email Nicky at tmga.news@gmail.com and attach a sample of your work.



**HONOR THE PAST
CELEBRATE THE PRESENT
EMBRACE THE FUTURE**

APRIL 4-6, 2018

Plan now to attend the 2018 Conference at Texas A&M University in College Station! We will be celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Texas Master Gardener Program in Texas as well as the unveiling of The Gardens, to which the associations across Texas donated over \$140,000 for the naming rights to the Earth-Kind® Garden. This is going to be a fabulously extraordinary event!

We want to honor YOU! You, the volunteer who has so selflessly given to this incredible program, to your community and to the state of Texas. Come and meet the gentleman who created the program itself in 1972, and discover how it came to Texas! Meet the Director of Horticulture from Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC. We'll have general sessions, engaging break-outs and fascinating tours! If you have never attended an annual conference in the past, make this one your first! Watch our [introductory video](#) to learn more!



Texas A&M University Campus circa 1978

SPECIALIST TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

[First Detector \(Plant Pathology\)](#) - May 8-9 in Arlington, TX
[Tree Care](#) - May 17-19 in McKinney, TX
[Junior Master Gardener](#) - August 1-4 in Corinth, TX
[Vegetables](#) - October 17-19 in San Antonio, TX



UPCOMING EVENTS:

[Smith County - Heat-Loving Plants](#) - May 5
[Cypress Basin - Plant Sale](#) - May 6
[Travis County - Inside Austin Gardens Tour](#) - May 6
[Denton County - Spring Garden Tour](#) - May 13
[McLennan County - Annual Plant Sale](#) - May 13
[Henderson County - Cooking with Flowers](#) - May 16
[McLennan County - Peace, Love and Milagros](#) - May 17
[Henderson County - Learn at the Library](#) - May 18
[McLennan County - Downtown Farmers Market](#) - May 20
[Smith County - Home Garden Tour](#) - June 3
[Texas Beekeepers Association Summer Clinic](#) - June 10

RHINE RIVER CRUISE

If you attended Janet Carson's session about garden travel aboard the ship, you heard about her Rhine River Study Cruise in August 2018. Several Master Gardeners asked for information and here it is: [Rhine River Cruise](#).

**International Master Gardener Conference
2017
July 10-14, 2017
Portland, OR**



Don't delay! Some hotels and tours have already sold out.

On offer at the 2017 International Master Gardener Conference are 44 concurrent session classes ranging from front yard gardens to soil as a habitat to garden photography, 16 tours including a pre-conference tour extending into the arid regions of eastern Oregon, and extra add-on events such as a mini film festival. There are options for anyone! **Some hotels and tours have already sold out**, so don't delay registering [here](#).

