



# ECHO

## Extension's Community Horticultural Outreach

September–October 2006

Hello Friends,

This summer has tested our horticulture resolve, but it looks like we're going to make it. I am proud of the talks you have given, the questions you have answered and the information that you have shared with fellow citizens during this time of heat and drought. You continue to make a positive impact in Collin County and beyond.



This year's Collin County Master Gardener Training is off to a wonderful start. We've got 32 enthusiastic Interns, and we are all learning a bunch. Attending the training classes is a super way to get a few Continuing Education credit hours and welcome the new Interns. Master Gardeners can earn 3 CE hours for morning sessions and 2 CE hours for afternoon sessions.

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all individuals without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.

Speaking of lots of learning, I was fortunate enough to attend the 2006 International Master Gardener Coordinator Conference this past June in Illinois. This conference was attended by over 100 State and county MG Coordinators from all over the United States. It was a fun time of sharing ideas and experiences. From the many "nuggets of truth" that I brought home, I'll share a couple of the highlights. Dr. Bridget Behe, a Michigan State University Horticulture Professor, gave an interesting talk entitled "The Changing Face of the American Gardener." Some key points that she made were: 1. the American population is aging, 2. our population is becoming more ethnically diverse, and 3. surveys show stable to slightly increasing home ownership. Behe pointed out that if we recognize these trends, we can better identify and serve our target audiences by adapting our programs to fit their lifestyle. Another exciting talk was given by Dr. Rick Durham from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Durham spoke about the "eXtension" internet-based resource for teaching, research and Extension. This Web resource boasts of "national strength with a local focus" by pooling resources and information from across the Nation to provide clientele research-based information anytime day or night. This resource is not yet fully functional, but it is well on its way. To learn more about eXtension, go to [intranet.eXtension.org](http://intranet.eXtension.org) and click on the "about" link.

Collin County Master Gardeners, keep up the great work!

Landry Lockett, CEA-Horticulture,  
Texas Cooperative Extension

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## 2006 National Children and Youth Gardening Symposium By Nancy Furth

This event, hosted by the Missouri Botanical Garden, and sponsored by the American Horticulture Society was educational, thought-provoking and inspirational. The symposium is held annually at selected locations throughout the United States. It draws both professionals and volunteers who share the mission and, in my case, desire of bringing children closer to nature through gardening. Attendees came away with a fresh awareness of developments and opportunities in the field by attending workshops, listening to lectures, and participating in tours. The Symposium's atmosphere provided on-going networking opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with children's garden designers, curators, educators, and program leaders from around the country. With almost three hundred in attendance, it was well-represented by Extension educators and Master Gardeners from all over. From my home state of Texas, I enjoyed meeting Randy Seagraves, Curriculum Coordinator for the Junior Master Gardener Program and Doris Trotter of the Bexar County Master Gardener Association and Youth Gardening Program Coordinator for Cooperative Extension in the San Antonio area.

Peter H. Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden, opened the conference with an enlightening address. Described by TIME magazine as a "Hero for the Planet," Dr. Raven champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and animals and is a leading advocate for building a sustainable environment. In his keynote speech "A sense of Place: Personal Reflections" he gave a provocative perspective on historical events and statistics leading to the enormous challenges and environmental consequences facing the world today. The address set the tone for the three-day conference. An article by Dr. Raven entitled: Science, Sustainability and the Human Prospect can be found at: [http://www3.villanova.edu/environment/earthday2005/Raven\\_Science\\_2002.pdf](http://www3.villanova.edu/environment/earthday2005/Raven_Science_2002.pdf)

The evening's Keynote speaker was Richard Louv, author of the book Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder. Richard Louv is a journalist focused on family, nature, and community. He came up with the term, "nature-deficit disorder", he said, "to describe an environmental ennui flowing from children's fixation on artificial entertainment rather than natural wonders." Those who are obsessed with computer games or are driven from sport to sport, he maintains, miss the restorative effects that come with the nimbler bodies, broader minds and sharper senses that are developed during random running-around at the relative edges of civilization.

He goes on to say, "When you think about it, human children for eons of history went outside and played and worked in nature for much of their childhood. In the space of two or three decades in Western society, that's in danger of disappearing." On May 9, 2005, on the CBS Early Show, co-anchored by Harry Smith he stated: "Never before in our history have children been so separated from nature. They can tell you anything about the Amazon rain forest, but they can't tell you about the last time they went out in the woods and watched the leaves move."

I want to thank Dorris Trotter for allowing me to share this excerpt from an article she wrote for her Master Gardener Newsletter in Bexar County. It states: "Mr. Louv praised the 270 conference attendees for their efforts to teach children about nature, the environment and gardening. He called these efforts 'sacred work.' His book and presentation revealed: Direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development. Environment-based education can dramatically improve standardized test scores, help develop problem solving, and many other skills today's children are plugged in to technology but out of touch with the natural world being "nature-deficient" can be directly linked to rises in obesity, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and depression. Additional disturbing effects include "weaker physical strengths and immune systems, emotional stress and a lack of caring about nature that could alter the way that future generations relate to and ultimately care for nature, wildlife and the environment."

*(Continued on page 3)*

(2006 National Children and Gardening Symposium, continued from page 2)

I will be glad to lend my copy of his book to anyone interested in reading it.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2005/05/09/earlyshow/living/parenting/main693852.shtml>

<http://kindernature.storycounty.com/display.aspx?DocID=20064171345>

The Missouri Botanic Garden opened to the public in 1859 and is the oldest continuously operated botanical garden in the country. One of the highlights of the first day's symposium schedule, and of the conference, was the chance to explore the newly opened Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden and participate in a Q&A session on the creation of the garden.

The next afternoon's schedule offered a tour of Shaw Nature Reserve, an extension of the MBG located 35 miles southwest of St. Louis. This outdoor laboratory provides environmental education, ecological research and public enjoyment of the natural world. While at the Reserve, we attended a session describing the overnight residential facility and their program aimed at designing and implementing experiences that integrate with school curricula. We hiked to see a wildflower garden, viewed a variety of ecosystems and learned about such topics as which native plants are used for medicinal purposes and journaling.

On the final day of the conference I attended a morning session on Designing Outdoor Environments for Children given by Lolly Tai and Mary Taylor Haque, two of the authors of a new book with the same title. This power point presentation will be available in PDF format, and I have purchased the book for use by our members.

Before spending the afternoon on photography at the Botanic Garden, I attended another of the final sessions which was given by Jane Taylor, founding curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Garden at Michigan State University. Her talk was entitled "Discovering Our Roots for Shoots", and it was so inspirational that I hope to use it to begin a new children's gardening program here in Collin County for CCMGA.

My immediate goal is to use the knowledge and resources gained at the conference to develop an introductory indoor program using story-telling and hands-on projects that will eventually expand and be flexible enough to meet the specific needs of individual groups both indoors and out. The scope of the entire program will include the JMG programs as well as a menu of other kids' gardening activities to complement and improve our group's ability to meet the particular needs of children in Collin County. I am calling this program '**Rooting Kids in Nature**'.

If you would like to take part and/or find out more about this new program, please contact me by e-mail at [n.furth@verizon.net](mailto:n.furth@verizon.net) or by phone at (972) 491-2176. I would love to hear from you, have your assistance, *and* include your ideas. Planning meetings will be scheduled during the coming weeks with everyone in mind. Please check your e-minders for specific dates.

Quoting Doris' final message in her article:

"Classroom gardens and youth programs should be an important part of our volunteer efforts and outreach. Because Master Gardeners are at the forefront of community education, perhaps *all of us* should resolve to focus more on this very important aspect of enlightening the families in our sphere of influence!"

I'll close with this statement by Richard Louv:

*"We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories,"* Louv writes.  
*"These are the moments when the world is made whole."*

## Spotlight on Dutch Elm Disease - An American Problem in Texas

By Candace Fountoulakis

As part of a recent workshop presentation to the Texas Urban Forestry Council, Jared Martin, Environmental Review Analyst for the City of Flower Mound, Texas presented a lecture on Dutch Elm Disease (“DED”). Mr. Martin has put geographic information systems, (“GIS”) to work in his investigation of this devastating disease recently confirmed in his town not far from Collin County’s western edge. What he had to say should alert us as master gardeners to this very real threat to our native trees in North Texas as well as arm us with useful defenses.



As with many plant problems in North America, the origin of this pestilence was European, discovered in American Elm trees (*ulmus Americana*) planted all over the continent in urban landscapes. The disease was detected on our shores in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The vector or carrier of this fungal disease, as in the case of oak wilt, is another beetle, or beetles, those being the elm bark beetle, either native or European type. Both are small but feed in different areas of the elm, finding their way under the bark to mate and form galleries to raise their young. They spread the fungus with their travels from tree to tree, and the disease can also be transferred through root grafts between trees. This phenomenon proved fatal for thousands of street trees planted in neighborhoods in the eastern third of the United States, and resulted in roughly 56% of native elms (mostly American) being lost. Our native Texas cedar elm (*ulmus crassifolia*) is also susceptible, as are the winged and slippery elms but not to the degree of the American species.

The City of Flower Mound confirmed their first case of DED in 2005 and is in the process of identifying and sampling more suspected cases. It had long been thought that DED was not active in Texas but unfortunately, this has proven untrue.

Symptoms of DED include “flagging” in the crown (individual branches die, leaving a flag of dead leaves among live ones) or at the end of branches, vascular streaking (seen in the woody stem of a branch) and the telltale beetle galleries under the bark. (see accompanying photograph). The fungus clogs the transportation of water and nutrients to the crown, resulting in eventual death.



This photograph shows a number of “brood galleries” (or ‘nurseries’) of the European elm bark beetle which display a vertical central tube with radiating smaller tubes. The same tree is shown in the next photo; notice the bark is gone, probably due to a combination of birds feeding on the insects and the death of the tree itself.

These photos were taken in western Plano in the winter of 2005

Although treatment of the disease once confirmed has not proven effective, management of it can provide ways to reduce its spread. Again, these techniques mirror some of those used to combat oak wilt.

Identification of the fungus comes first, with a positive match meaning the next step is removal and sanitation. The best method so far has proven to be cutting and burning of diseased trees with trenching for prevention of spread through root grafts.

Chipping and burying of the wood also is effective if a burn ban is in place, as is prevalent in North Texas due to our continuing drought. Experts warn not to use the wood for mulch or to stack logs for firewood if they still have intact bark. The vector beetles live under the bark and can remain even when the tree is dead.

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A live elm can be a breeding site for the beetle even though the tree may not be infected with DED. Once an infected tree is dead, however, there is no way to collect samples for identification of the fungus, so samples have to be taken for testing from live trees suspected to harbor the fungus.

So what can we do as master gardeners to help residents of Collin County combat this disease? We can recommend choosing resistant varieties of elm (Chinese or lacebark, *ulmus parvifolia*), planting other species of trees, avoiding monocultures where rows of the same species are planted side by side, observing proper pruning techniques and timing, avoiding overpruning which stresses trees and makes them more likely to be targeted

by pests, and cleaning tools between trees when pruning. These techniques can curb the spread of this dreaded disease and preserve more of this most elegant American icon in our own backyards.

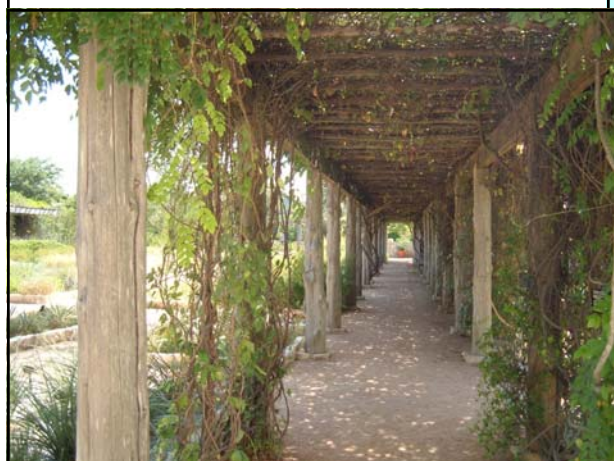
## Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

By Kathleen Brooks [brooksjohn@comcast.net](mailto:brooksjohn@comcast.net)

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is a wonderful place to visit, even in August! A seminar by Austin Energy's Green Building Program was held there last month and Dick Peterson presented some new ideas in gardening. They suggest we use "Hydrozones" in planning a well-designed landscape. The natural rainfall zone will be the largest area of the property. The regular watering zone will be only an oasis viewed and enjoyed daily.

Mr. Peterson suggested phasing in new or renovated landscaping. Phase 1 would include the front yard, the most public area. The backyard would be phase 2 and side yards phase 3. The total area is planted at once giving all plants the extra water and attention they need. This replaces the idea of planting trees for phase 1, just watering them and coming back in next year to do it again. Their idea uses water more efficiently.

Native plants, rainwater harvesting and mulching were all stressed. Organics and IPM were mentioned too. The following websites were suggested: [growgreen.org](http://growgreen.org) and [organiclifestyles.tamu.edu](http://organiclifestyles.tamu.edu). The Wildflower Center is [wildflower.org](http://wildflower.org).



Photos by: Kathleen Brooks

## *Where Art and Nature Come Together*

**By Nancy Furth**

Inside the Climatron and at locations within the gardens at the Missouri Botanical Garden, I recently had the wonderful opportunity to view a custom-designed exhibit simply called Glass in the Garden, Chihuly. Dale Chihuly, inspired by his mother's love of plants, and fascinated by the glass architecture of conservatories, has transplanted his monumental architectural installations in recent years into the garden. The exhibit is site-specific and takes advantage of the vistas and vegetation of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Chihuly's ideas are executed both in the glassblowing studio and in building sculpture from the glass parts. Chihuly works in series, developing an idea through experimentation, and thus forming a related body of work. I thought you would enjoy seeing some of this magnificent show which continues through Oct. 31, 2006. You can learn more online about the artist and his art at [www.chihuly.com](http://www.chihuly.com).

I would like to have brought a gift piece back for all of us, but prices for the smaller pieces began in the thousands of dollars! Jokingly, my husband remarked, "Take two, they're small!"

## *Chihuly's Glass in the Garden*

*Photos by Nancy Furth*



# The Love Apple

By Mary Nell Jackson

As the Texas summer temperatures rise above 100 you can usually find me inside where it's cool reading a good book, or thinking of the cooler days to come. The garden needs my attention but the weather prevents me from doing anything except early morning duties preformed quickly before the heat settles in. I rummaged through my library recently to find a good gardening book to capture my attention. As I perused, an article on tomatoes caught my eye. I settled in and before I knew it I was devouring any and all I found on the history of the tomato.

After reading all the jokes about pronouncing the word, the interesting facts intrigued me.

Where did the tomato come from? Would you recognize the names love apple, Moor's apple, golden apple or wolf peach?

Most evidence supports the tomato's origin being Central America. The Aztecs of Central America called a tomato, "xitomatl" and wild Central American tribes called it "tomati". No one is sure how the plant traveled to Central America. It could have spread in a field of maize and beans cultivated by natives. The natives traded seeds and this could have been a possibility. The Aztec mixed tomatoes with chilies and ground squash seeds and one writer mentioned that this sounded like the world's first recipe for salsa.

The book "From Wolf Peach to Outer Space" written by Karen Davis Cutler states that the earliest mention of the tomato in European literature is found in an herbal written by Matthioli in 1544. He described tomatoes (or as they were called in Italy, pomi d' oro meaning

golden apple) and wrote that they were "eaten in Italy with oil, salt and pepper". This proves that the first tomatoes to reach the Old World were a yellow variety referring to the mention of golden apple. Red tomatoes were said to be introduced by two Catholic priests many years later. It has not been documented but believed that early tomatoes were probably small fruit. It also has been suggested that early cultivars had a rough skin.

Sam Cox's article, "I Say Tomayto, You Say Tomahto" states that by 1623 four types of tomatoes were known: red, yellow, orange and golden. The first cookbook to write about tomatoes was published in Naples in 1692. The large

red type of tomato was mentioned in writings in the 1700's and by 1752 English cooks used tomatoes somewhat sparingly, in the flavoring of soups. Earliest records of marketing tomatoes are from the early 1800's in Europe.

The tomato was misunderstood early on because it was associated with the poisonous members of the Solanaceae family; henbane, mandrake and deadly nightshade. According to old Ger-

man folklore, witches used plants of the nightshade family to evoke werewolves. The common German name for tomatoes translates to "wolf peach" and was avoided for obvious reasons. The claim was it looked as inviting as a peach.

Another problem was that the wealthy used flatware made of pewter, which had a high lead content. Foods high in acid, like tomatoes, would cause lead to leech out into the food, resulting in lead poisoning and death. The poor people, however, ate off of plates made of wood and did not have this problem. The lower class and Italians consumed more tomatoes during



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*(The Love Apple, continued from page 7)*

this time with little or no health risks. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Carl Linnaeus' nomenclature for the tomato was *Lycopersicon esculentum*, which means, "edible wolf peach". This name change made the tomato much more popular.

The invention of pizza brought the tomato into the limelight. The story goes that pizza was created to celebrate the visit of Queen Margarine, and the three ingredients used represented the colors of the new Italian flag: red was the tomato sauce, white was the mozzarella cheese and the green was the basil topping. It was called Pizza Margarine and is still the standard for pizza ingredients today.

By the 1800's Europeans began to immigrate to America and bring the tomato with them. New Orleans cuisine is reported to have introduced the tomato by 1812, but suspicion about the fruit remained in some areas.

In 1820 Colonel Robert Gibbon Johnson announced that at noon on September 16, he would eat a bushel of tomatoes in front of the Boston courthouse. The story goes that thousands of spectators came to watch him die after eating the poisonous fruits and were shocked that he lived because they had been told he would foam at the mouth, have brain fever, and get cancer from having the tomato stick to his stomach. This story was taken from an old farm journal, believe it or not! I do, however, think the Colonel could have announced he would eat only a small basket full instead of a bushel; we are not privy to any stomach ache rumors upon his return home.

By the end of the Civil War, tomatoes were common in American gardens and included in the first Fanny Farmer cookbook which was published in late 1890's.

If the scare of tomatoes being poison wasn't enough, another debate was brewing over whether the tomato was a vegetable or fruit. This debate went all the way to the Supreme Court in *Nix v. Hedden*. The real issue was a tax issue, if the tomato was a vegetable it could be taxed under the Tariff Act of 1883. The court's botanical knowledge ruled that 'tomatoes are

specialized reproductive structures that contain seeds, in other words, fruits. The court ruled on the side of the American farmers.

The ruling stated:

"Botanically speaking, tomatoes are the fruit of a vine, just as are cucumbers, squashes, beans and peas. But in the common language of the people.... all these vegetables, which are grown in kitchen gardens, and ....are usually served at dinner in, with or after the soup, fish or meats....and not, like fruits generally, as dessert."

Tomato eating and growing in western countries began to increase by the early 1920's, in part due to the introduction of mass canning. Canning of tomatoes was first written about in 1847 in Pennsylvania. Juice extractors were invented in the 1920's. A young Joseph Campbell found a market for canned tomatoes products and went on to make millions with his soup company.

Tomato eating continued in the late 1960's even after the sci-fi movie *Attack of the Killer Tomatoes*. It scared no one from consuming the veggie but is said to have entertained millions.

Politics entered into the tomato conflict in 1981 when the USDA chairman declared ketchup to be a vegetable in order to justify the Reagan administration budget cut in the school lunch program.

Sam Cox says, "the latest buzz surrounding tomatoes is the benefits of lycopene, the major carotenoid contained in tomatoes that is responsible for the deep red color. Lycopene has been touted as a potent anti-oxidant. Studies have confirmed that people who consume increased amounts of tomato products experience marked reductions in cancer risk."

It is hard for anyone to imagine in 2006 that the tomato that plays such a big part of our diet would ever be considered poisonous. But we do now know the world is round instead of flat! If you have a favorite tomato you have grown or bought, saving tomato seeds are an easy and economical way to reproduce your future crop.

Tomatoes are self-pollinated vegetables,

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*(The Love Apple, continued from page 8)*

meaning that the male and female parts are in the same flower. Tomatoes usually pollinate their own flowers, requiring no aid from insects.

To save seeds from your favorite varieties:

Cut the tomatoes in half and squeeze the pulp into a bucket or large bowl. Place the container in a warm spot and let the seeds and pulp ferment for 3 to 4 days. After this amount of time, the pulp will come to the top and the seeds will sink to the bottom. Fermenting the seeds is necessary to produce quality seeds as the fermentation process kills many diseases and disintegrates the anti-germination gel that encases the raw seeds.

After 3-4 days add more water and stir vigorously, pour off the pulp and drain the seeds in a sieve. Wash the seeds thoroughly with water to remove the excess pulp. Place the seeds on a glass (not paper as they could stick to paper during the drying process) dinner plate to dry, stirring them every day to insure that they dry thoroughly. Be sure to label the different varieties.

After 10-15 days your seeds should be dry. When they are dry, put them in an air-tight zip-lock bag and store in a cool dry place. I prefer coin envelopes for my seed storage; these can be purchased at office supply stores. Remember to

label your bags or envelopes! All seeds tend to look alike and memory fails the gardener when dealing with many seed saving techniques.

Tomato seeds should keep for 5-10 years when stored properly.

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## Garden Checklist for September/October

By: Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist  
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

(The following information was compiled from the 2005 information available at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>)

- Rejuvenate heat stressed geraniums and begonias for the fall season by lightly pruning, fertilizing, and watering.
- Caladiums require plenty of water at this time of year if they are to remain lush and attractive until fall. Fertilize with ammonium sulfate at the rate of 1/3 to 1/2 pound per 100 square feet of bed area, and water thoroughly.
- Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture. Hollies will frequently drop their fruit under drought conditions.
- Remove weak, unproductive growth from crape myrtles and roses to stimulate new growth for all beauty.
- Prune out dead or diseased wood from trees and shrubs. Hold off on major pruning until midwinter. Pruning now may stimulate tender growth prior to frost.
- Sow seeds of snapdragons, pinks, pansies, and other winter flowers in flats for planting outside during mid to late fall.
- Prepare the beds for spring flowering bulbs as soon as possible. It's important to cultivate the soil and add generous amounts of organic matter to improve the water drainage. Bulbs will rot without proper drainage.
- Divide spring flowering perennials such as irises, shasta and oxeye daisies, gaillardias, canna lilies, daylilies, violets, liriopes, and ajugas.
- Fertilize and groom verbenas, perennial salvias and lantanas by lightly pruning and removing non-vigorous wood, to stimulate a long and productive fall season.
- Christmas cacti can be made to flower by supplying 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness and cool nights (55 degrees F) for a month starting in mid-October. Keep plants on the dry side for a month prior to the treatment.
- As they begin to dry naturally on the plants, cut ornamental gourds and store in a well ventilated, dry place for several weeks prior to use.

### October

- Fall is often one of the best times to enjoy rose blooms in Texas. Lightly prune hybrid teas, floribundas and modern garden roses and fertilize them in early fall for an abundant display until hard frost.
- October is a good time to reduce the insect and disease potential in next year's garden. Clean up the garden, removing all annuals that have completed their life cycle. Remove the tops of all herbaceous perennials that have finished flowering or as soon as frost has killed the leaves.
- October through November is also an excellent time to purchase bulbs while you still have a good selection in the garden center.
- Chill tulip and hyacinth bulbs in the refrigerator until mid or late December before planting. The lower part of the refrigerator is best. Do not leave bulbs in airtight plastic bags during refrigerated storage.
- Plant bulbs in well prepared beds so the base of the bulb is at a depth that is three times the diameter of the bulb. In sandy soil, set slightly deeper and in clay soils less deeply.
- Holly plants with a heavy set of fruit often suffer a fertilizer deficiency. An application of complete fertilizer late this month can be helpful and provide a head start next spring.
- Start collecting leaves for the compost pile. Be sure to have extra soil available so that each 6 inch layer of leaves may be covered with several inches of soil. Always wet the layer of leaves thoroughly before adding the soil. Add about one pound of a complete lawn or garden fertilizer to each layer of leaves to provide the necessary nitrogen for decomposition.
- Keep Christmas cactus in a sunny spot where night temperatures can be kept below 65 degrees F. Buds will drop if you allow night temperatures to go above 70 degrees F or if you allow the plant to become excessively dry. They should also be kept in total darkness from 5:00 pm until 8:00 am for about 30 days in October to initiate flower buds.
- If you have saved seeds of your favorite plants, allow them to become air dry, then place them in an airtight container and store in the refrigerator. Be sure to label each packet carefully. Remember, seed from hybrid plants will seldom resemble the parent plant. Prepare beds for planting pansies when they become available at the garden centers. They need a well-drained soil and exposure to at least a half-day of sun. It is best to use started plants, as seeds are difficult to handle.
- If you are planning to save caladium tubers for another year, dig them in late October, and allow to dry in a well ventilated but shady area. After 7 to 10 days remove leaves and dirt, then pack in dry peat moss, vermiculite or similar material for storage. Pack tubers so they do not touch each other. Dust with all-purpose fungicide as you pack. Place container in an area where temperature won't drop below 50 degrees F.

This article appeared in the September/October 2005 on-line issue of *Horticulture Update*, edited by Dr. Douglas F. Welsh, and produced by Extension Horticulture, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System, College Station, Texas.

## 2007 Master Gardener Conference to be in Kerrville, Texas

The Hill Country Master Gardeners will be hosting the 2007 Master Gardener Conference. The conference will be held April 12-14 at the Inn of the Hills Resort and Conference Center. The Host hotel ***Inn of the Hills Resort & Conference Center*** is officially **sold out** (all 165 Rooms).

Rooms are available at:

**YO Ranch Resort and Conference Center**

2033 Sidney Baker

Kerrville, Texas 78028

Reservations: (877) 967-3767/(830) 257-4440

Reservation Code: Texas Master Gardeners

Single and double rooms \$87. Family rooms and suites also available. Free wireless internet, on premises restaurant/bar, outdoor pool, hot tub, pets allowed, tennis, old-fashioned shaded veranda, historic lobby, historic chandeliers.

[www.yoresort.com](http://www.yoresort.com).

Plenty of rooms are still available at the YO Ranch; however they are selling fast, so we recommend making your reservations now. This is developing into one of the largest conferences ever. You'll be privy to great speakers, tours and workshops, plus you cannot beat the Hill Country in the springtime.

Reminder you can still purchase raffle tickets for a chance to **"Win a 2-night stay at the Inn of the Hills Resort & Conference Center! Raffle tickets still available"** Purchase online - 3 chances for \$10.00. <http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org/>

Conference information is available on the Hill Country Master Gardener web site at: <http://www.hillcountrymastergardeners.org/index.html>



## **Wanted: A Few Good Master Gardeners to serve as Executive Officers for 2007!**

The nominating committee is accepting nominations for Executive Officer candidates for 2007.

The executive officer positions are: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Volunteer Support Coordinator.

Officers will be elected at the October meeting, installed at the November meeting and assume their duties upon installation. If you are interested in serving or would like to nominate someone, please contact:

Glenn Mieritz (972) 658-3858 / [gmieritz@gmail.com](mailto:gmieritz@gmail.com)

## **Notes of Thanks....**

*The following note was for the Collin County Master Gardeners participation in the Green Home Fair in Frisco.*

Thank you for attending our annual Green Home Fair. It was a pleasure meeting all of you. I hope you had a wonderful time and will consider joining us again next year. Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve the Fair. I estimate that we had between 1,500 and 2,000 in attendance, lower than last year. However, I feel that many of those attending were there for the "green" aspects as opposed to the car show or health & safety. Thanks to those who donated raffle prizes for our drawing. I had about 30 winners and almost 300 raffle entries.

Best regards,

Ryan J. Middleton  
Planning Technician  
Comprehensive & Environmental Division  
Planning & Development Services  
City of Frisco  
6859 Main Street  
Frisco, TX 75034  
972 335-5580 x 158  
Fax: 972 335-5549  
[www.friscotexas.gov](http://www.friscotexas.gov)

*The following was sent to Sara Garretson and the Horticulture Therapy volunteers:*

Master Gardeners, c/o Sara Garretson

What a lovely altruistic project for your group to undertake. I know how much I appreciated my special delivery. You've planted a seed as well. I intend to propose it to the Allen Retired Teacher Educator Association (AREA). I will accord all credit to your group.

Thank you again for the Posey—made me feel like a lady.  
Regards,  
Hamilton Hall & My Hip

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

**Help Line:** The shifts are from 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Contact Sheila Nelson at (972) 548-4232, Monday through Friday.

**Speaker's Bureau:** To volunteer as a speaker or an assistant for talks, contact Dorothy Ingram at (972) 335-1525 or [dtingram@webtv.net](mailto:dtingram@webtv.net). The Speaker's Bureau schedule is noted on the calendar on the CCMGA Web site: <http://www.ccmgatx.org/>

### **This and That**

**Meetings:** September 28, 2006, at the Heard Museum in the Laughlin Room. Collin County Master Gardener, Carrie Dubberly will be speaking on Herbs.

**Save the Date:** The CCMG Graduation celebration and dinner will be held on November 30.

**Calendar:** The monthly calendars are now available on the CCMGA web site at <http://www.ccmgatx.org/Association/Calendar.htm>

Other events of interest can be found on the Texas Master Gardeners web site at [www.texasmastergardeners.org/events/events.html](http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/events/events.html)

### **2006 Intern Class Schedule**

Class is from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

September 5	a.m./p.m.	Native Plants	Charlene Rowell
September 12	a.m./p.m.	Woody Plant ID / Arboriculture	Steve Houser
September 19		No Class	*Optional Organic Gardening Talk with DCMG*
September 26	a.m. p.m.	Internet Resources Landscape Design	Lockett TBA
October 3	a.m. p.m.	Vegetable Gardening Plant Propagation	Dr. Dotty Woodson Dr. Dotty Woodson
October 10	a.m. p.m.	Annuals and Perennials Field Trip to Shades of Green Nursery	Nancy Furth
October 17	a.m.	Fruit and Nut Trees	Dr. Jim Kamas
October 24		Various Topics	Collin County MG's
October 31	a.m./p.m.	Plant Pathology	Dr. Kevin Ong
November 7		Course Review Project/Committee Overview Telephone Answerline Practice	Lockett and MGs Lockett and MGs Lockett and MGs

## **Heritage Rose Foundation Conference, October 11-13**

### **American Rose Society National Convention and Rose Show, October 13-16**

Submitted by Deborah Jolly

The Heritage Rose Foundation and the American Rose Society have coordinated back to back conventions at the Hotel InterContinental in Addison, October 11—16, 2006.

The American Rose Society National Convention will be offering a Consulting Rosarian School on Friday, October 13 which is included in the conference registration fee. The speakers and topics covered are:

Dr. David Reed — Soils— Professor Texas A&M  
Baldo Villegas — Pesticide Safety — Entomologist, ARS Master Rosarian  
Dr. Kevin Ong — Diseases of Roses — Texas A&M Research Center -Dallas  
Kim Engler — Pests of Roses — Texas A&M Research Center in Dallas  
Dr. Turner Hasty— Fertilizers — Consulting Rosarian, Retired Physicist  
Lynn Martin— Pruning — Consulting Rosarian, Master Gardener

Another program of interest to Master Gardeners is the EarthKind™ Seminar which will be held on Saturday, October 14. After registration, this FREE seminar will thoroughly describe the Texas Cooperative Extension EarthKind™ Rose and EarthKind™ Soil Management Systems. This comprehensive training program features lectures by Dr Steven George, the originator of the EarthKind™ Rose research and other key participants in the EarthKind™ project. This seminar's training is essential to participate in the upcoming National EarthKind™ Rose Trials, the largest scientific rose trial ever conducted anywhere in the world! After lunch, the EarthKind™ Seminar continues with presentations by Mike Shoup of the Antique Rose Emporium, Mark Chamblee of Chamblee Roses and Gaye Hammond, President of the Houston Rose Society. **Please note that this EarthKind™ Training does not qualify as Master Gardener Specialist Training.**

The web sites for these organizations provide registration forms and more details. The Heritage Rose Foundation web site is:

<http://www.heritagerosefoundation.org/> The American Rose Society web site is:  
<http://www.dallasarsconvention2006.org>

Master Gardeners attending the Consulting Rosarian School or the Earthkind sessions will be eligible for continuing education credits. Master Gardeners who would like to volunteer a minimum of three hours during the ARS convention can attend the conference at a reduced rate of \$32. **These volunteer hours will not count towards Master Gardener Volunteer Hours.** The regular registration fee is \$75. Contact Barbara Martinez at 214 797-3443 or [barbaramartinez@comcast.net](mailto:barbaramartinez@comcast.net) or [Barbara.martinez@dallascityhall.com](mailto:Barbara.martinez@dallascityhall.com) for more information.

## Scotland Tour Opportunity

Join our friendly group of Texas Master Gardeners, family, and friends on our second tour to Scotland. Dale Groom, Dallas County extension horticulturist, will be with us again thus the tour qualifies for CEU'S.

The "HIGHLANDS & ISLANDS, CASTLES & GARDENS" tour of Scotland is for 10 days plus two travel days - August, 29th to September, 9th, 2007. Heather in full bloom, gorgeous scenery, castles, gardens, spectacular Isle of Skye, mystical Orkney where some sites pre-date the pyramids, Rosslyn Chapel, cathedrals, ancient celtic and historical sites, and much more.

For itinerary and information contact Marcia Gillen, member of Dallas County master gardeners at: [mmchunt@webtv.net](mailto:mmchunt@webtv.net) or (214)357-7826.

**Thanks to ECHO Newsletter contributors:**

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