

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Volume 10, Issue 1

Concho Valley Master Gardeners

January 2009



President's Message

By Carolyn Mason

First, I want to thank all of you for your vote of confidence in my leadership for the year. I will sincerely endeavor to meet your expectations. Second, I want to thank the officers who preceded me. Lastly and most importantly, I want to thank John Begnaud for starting the Master Gardener program here in the Concho Valley. His willingness to be the staff member has facilitated the many projects over the years. We wish him the best on the many projects he plans on pursuing during retirement including his participation as a Master Gardener! The outgoing officers and John have left office with the Concho Valley Master Gardeners with many projects underway providing my fellow officers and me with a great foundation. The greenhouse is steadily coming into being a functional greenhouse that will be used as we prepare for the plant sale.

As a result of the Master Gardener Classes in Fall 2008, we have 30 interns eager to fulfill their hours on their way to becoming full-fledged Master Gardeners.

Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas including completing the greenhouse, team leaders for the Library Gardens, preparing for and working at the upcoming plant sale, preparing and working at the Home and Garden Show, and other projects. At the recent meeting we charged Sarah Whitehill and Art Mavrode to investigate the developing and maintenance of a new website that should increase ease of communication. We expect a report at the March membership meeting.

We will be welcoming the new county horticulturist Allison Watkins at our March membership meeting. Allison is

a graduate of Tarleton and brings a variety of experience including greenhouse management with her.

All for now. I look forward to seeing many of you at future workdays on our many projects.

Carolyn Mason



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Meade



2009 Concho Valley Master Gardener Officers

The following list of officers for the 2009 year were proposed, presented and voted on during the November 2008 business meeting. Officers took over their respective position and duties beginning in January, 2009. Please feel free to contact any of them if you have questions or comments for the CV Master Gardeners.

President: **Carolyn Mason**

Vice President/Newsletter Editor:
Doreen Grimes

Secretary: **Debbie Vinson**

Treasurer: **Rudi Wallace**

Project Coordinators: **Elaine Briley** and **D'Aun Butler**

Directors: **Sandy Rogers** and **Don Piwonka**

As of February 1, 2009—**Allison Watkins** has become the County agent Horticulture advisor for the group. Congratulations to all and best of success for the new year.

Minutes: Concho Valley Master Gardeners – January 13, 2009; 5:30 PM Bi-monthly Business Meeting—Tom Green 4-H Building

I. President Carolyn Mason called the meeting to order at 5:30. The new officers and new class members present were introduced. John Begnaud announced the hiring of the new horticulture agent, Allison Watkins. She will start work on Feb 1, 2009. A get acquainted party was discussed. John Begnaud was given a certificate making him an honorary CV Master Gardener.

II. It was reported that the checking account balance is \$2948.78. \$816.35 of that balance is set aside for expenses and projects for the new class. Motion to accept the report was made by Lynn Alexander and seconded by Kay Thompson. Motion passed. Out going treasurer Norma Cummings reported that Jackie Swanson and Lisa Jost had reviewed the CVMG books and account. The officers will review the written report with recommendations and present it at the March business meeting.

III Sandy Rogers suggested that we set up our compost bins now in order to take advantage of material that may be going to the landfill. Bob White volunteered to coordinate this project. Debbie Vinson requested a committee be set up to oversee expenses for the new greenhouse. Demo McMinn, Rudy Wallace, Ferd Koehn and Loretta Burgess volunteered. Motion was made by Brenda White and seconded by Kay Thompson to allow \$750.00 to finish the greenhouse. Motion passed. Motion made by Bob Houck and seconded by Lynn Alexander to have Sarah Whitehill and Art Mavrode re-

search the CVMG website and bring a proposal to the March meeting. Motion passed.

The need for a policy on memorials for CVMG was discussed. Lynn Alexander, Brenda White and Janie Medina volunteered to present a proposal at the March meeting.

Pat Karmany gave a history of the Library garden and a reviewed the job of a coordinator. No one volunteered to coordinate this project. It was decided to advertise the job and hope for a coordinator at the March meeting.

Goals for 2009 were discussed. Art Mavrode suggested a garden based on Bismarck farms. The garden would be on the grounds of Fort Concho in memory of Fort Concho chaplains. The motion was made by Art Mavrode and seconded by Pat Karmany that we explore the possibility. Motion passed. Elaine Briley set up a sign up sheet for those interested.

Sandy Rogers reviewed the grant request for 4H grounds and greenhouse. She asked that the committee meet after the business meeting.

New class projects were presented. Lynn Alexander will work on an updated landscape plan for the 4H property.

The need for educational programming was discussed. Kay Thompson will work on a proposal for the March meeting.

The following announcements were made:

*Send hours and \$5.00 for dues to the Extension office now.

*There will be a wildlife landscaping workshop in Abilene on Jan 24th

*There will be a Barbeque dinner at the County Livestock shoe January 17th.

*Newsletter submissions should be sent now to the extension office or Doreen Grimes

*There will be holistic land management workshop the first week in March. hmitexas.org for more information

The next business meeting will be on March 10, 2009. A motion was made by Pat Karmany and Janie Medina to change the meeting time to 5:45. Motion passed.

Motion made by Brenda White and seconded by Bob Houck to adjourn. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned.

*Deborah Vinson,
Secretary*

**LAST CHANCE TO PAY
2009 DUES**

\$5.00 PER MEMBER

SEND BY MAIL OR

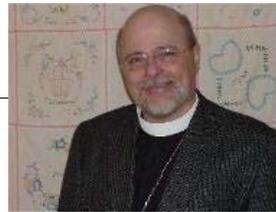
BRING BY THE

**TOM GREEN COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE**

**PLEASE SUBMIT TO
EXTENSION OFFICE
TOTAL SUMMARY OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS
FOR THE 2008 YEAR**

**DEADLINE FOR BOTH:
FEBRUARY 20TH**

Spotlight on Gardeners: ART MAVRODE



One of our newest Master Gardeners, Art Mavrode was born in Brooklyn, N.Y, but since his family moved to Miami, Florida when he was a baby his memories are more of Miami. He says that he is a diehard New York Yankees baseball and New York Giants football fan.

His education is rather varied, reflecting perhaps his penchant for a variety of different areas of interest. His undergraduate education work was in Secondary Education in Social Studies. His graduate work included Pastoral Theology, Information Technology, and Management Science. He attended Miami Dade Community College, The community College of the Air Force, and Florida International University. On the graduate level, he was a student at Troy State University (European Division), Hardin Simmons (Logsdon School of Theology), and the University of Dallas.

Art is a Spanish/English interpreter/translator as well as a tutor. His linguistic skills have been utilized by the U.S. Air Force, and as a contract interpreter/translator for SCOLA. Art retired from the Air Force in 2000. His formal linguistic training took place at the Defense Language School at the Presidio of Monterey, California and at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (advanced language studies).

Currently, Art serves as pastor of Zoar Community Church of Rowena, Texas and is employed as a Systems Administrator for General Dynamics Information at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

Art is married to the former Ronda Poehls of Miles, Texas. He and Ronda are the parents of four daughters and are enjoying their four granddaughters and one grandson.

When I asked him how he happened to become interested in gardening he replied, "I guess it's in my genes". His dad died when he was eleven years old but Art knew that his Dad had always had a great love for horticulture. In 1998 Art got into antique rose gardening. Despite physical restraints, he tries to do his share. His first experience with gardening included growing zucchini squash. It was then that he learned just how productive zucchini could be. He says, "I probably could have fed a small third world country zucchini!" It was then that he decided to learn more about gardening, not just gardening in general, but gardening in West Texas! He spent a lot of time poring over gardening books and magazines. Then his sister-in-law, Diana Treadaway, told him about the Master Gardening program so he "jumped at the opportunity to learn".

As you might expect, Art has a variety of hobbies. He especially enjoys singing. He proudly told me that his dad was a singer with the New York and Miami Lyric Operas. Art has had the unique opportunity to sing with the Baltimore Symphony Chorus in the opening season of the Myerhoff Symphony Hall in Baltimore, MD. He says that now his singing activities are more local with his church, the Ministerial Association of Miles, Texas and the surrounding area, and with the Karaoke Knights, a volunteer group of singers who perform at the Rio Concho Manor, Terrace, and Patio Homes. When the San Angelo Symphony Chorale was in existence, he

sang with that group as well.

Art is taking an active role in work as a volunteer at

Fort Concho. He was asked to become involved with the docent program since he had a great interest in the Chaplains of the U.S. Army of the West. He is doing a research project on the Chaplains of Fort Concho. Each Saturday, he can usually be found at the Fort Concho Chapel School house sharing the history of the chaplains with visitors.

Art says the Master Gardening program opened up a whole new world for him. Now he wants to share his knowledge as part of his service.

Here are Art's closing remarks: "Being a pastor of a rural church, I'd like to use my new found knowledge somehow in ministry. I am particularly concerned about the vanishing family farmers, but I am also heartened by the new influx of young families into rural America. In a time of heightened environmental awareness, it would be good for present and future generations to learn once again about the preservation of our earth. I would also like to see the establishment of Community Supported Agriculture which could help return us back to the earth and its beauty and bounty."

One more footnote: Art still be making a presentation to the Fort Concho Board of Directors this month on the proposed Chaplain's Memorial Garden. He will give his report the MG in our March meeting on the progress of this project.



Spotlight on New Advisor: INTRODUCING Allison Watkins

Welcome to Tom Green County's new County Horticulturist! Allison is a recent graduate of Tarleton State University. She plans to begin work on a master's degree online in August. Allison did her internship in Tarrant County and is all set to make a difference in Tom Green County. When I talked with her on



February 2 she was bubbling with enthusiasm and looking forward to becoming one of us.

Allison grew up in the Granbury area. She was homeschooled except for her junior high years when she attended public school. She helped her mother in gardening and is especially interested in greenhouse production and turf grass.

Her hobbies include classical music and landscape photography. She also likes to

bake -Yum!

Right now Allison is trying to get a feel for her new job, spread the word about good horticulture practices and discover what programs residents want and need. Our Master Gardeners look forward to working with Allison. Welcome!!



Master Gardener Projects

> The bi monthly meeting was Monday night at the 4 H building. On-going projects still open for volunteer opportunities are:

> The Greenhouse Construction Project - after work hrs and some weekends are available

> Greenhouse Propagation each Thurs morning at 9 AM; place City Greenhouse behind City Lumber also there will be a sale in April also volunteer hrs available

> New projects:

> West Library Garden - week-end hrs are available with this project

> Fort Concho Garden Exploratory Committee - This committee is looking at the possibility of establishing a garden at the Fort Concho grounds

> Compost Bin Project - This project involves establishing a bin near the new Greenhouse - some heavy labor involved

> Memorial Committee - this committee will oversee honoring fellow Master Gardeners that have past

> If you have not signed the list for the above projects, let me know which projects you are interested in and the project manager will be notified of your interest.

> Thanks - *Elaine Briley*
MG Volunteer Coordinator



Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success. ~Henry Ford

Comments from Allison:

Hello to all Master Gardeners:

This is Allison Watkins and I am pleased and honored to be hired as the new Horticulture Agent for Tom Green County. It is a dream come true for me and I am very excited. I look forward to getting to

know all the Master Gardeners and becoming involved in such a wonderful organization. I know I will learn a great deal from all of you and hope we can serve the community well together.

I want to Thank you for the wonderful welcome basket which was deliv-

ered on my first morning in the office. I surely appreciate all the 'goodies' and look forward to using them here in San Angelo and confirming the wonderful feeling of home among new friends. My e-mail address is:

aewatkins@ag.tamu.edu

Please feel free to contact me if I can help in any way.



"The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart."

~Elisabeth Foley

Timely Gardening Tips

Reprinted from "Through the Grapevine" - January 2002



► Prepare planting beds for spring annuals and vegetable crops. Incorporate plenty of organic matter such as peat moss, pine bark, compost or similar material to aid in loosening up tight clay soils.

► Dormant cuttings can be made of your favorite crapemyrtle, althea and figs and other shrubs this month.

► Sow seeds indoors for spring gardens. Petunias, begonias and all other slow growers should be sown in early January. Faster growing types such as tomatoes, marigolds and zinnias should

be planted later in the month.

► Transplant native or established trees or shrubs now while they're totally dormant.

► Water evergreen plants during winter dry spells. They will be better able to withstand unexpected cold periods if there is adequate soil moisture. Plants protected by a roof overhang are especially vulnerable.

► When transplanting bareroot trees and shrubs, prune tops back at least one-third to one-half.

► Was that lawn-mower or power tool in good working condition when last used? If not, this is an

excellent time to take it to the repair shop. It will then be ready when you need it. Repair shops usually become extremely busy in early spring.

► Fertilize pansy bed every four to six weeks. Use ½ pound of ammonium sulfate or 1/3 pound of ammonium nitrate per 100 square feet of bed area.

► Many flowers can be started from seed this winter outside. They include calendula, hollyhock, larkspur, nasturtium, poppy, snapdragon, stock, sweet pea, ageratum, and candytuft.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Home and Garden Show

March 28 & 29th

SA Coliseum

MGs to man a booth.

More info later



City of San Angelo Parks Dept—

Canna Give-Away

2nd Monday in March

(March 9th)

8:00 AM



Sunken Gardens

Limited supply
so come early.

**FIRST COME—
FIRST SERVED.**

Please be sure your 2009 dues are paid as soon as possible. It's only \$5.00! What a bargain!



Be sure to submit your volunteer hours to Loretta Burgess as soon as possible. Let's let the State know about all the good work we are doing!



Healthy Gardening Tips

By Sheri Delgado, RN—Reprinted from April 2004



Spring is just around the corner and in order to enjoy gardening, we must remember to take care of our bodies first.

Gardening provides moderate to strenuous, even challenging workouts. The twisting, turning, bending and lifting that are required can cause injury just as with any sport or exercise regime. It is important to warm up and stretch muscles properly beforehand. Exposure to the sun also affects our gardening activity.

Injury prevention is essential to main-

taining our physical health. Stretch, walk around, do simple tasks first and always use proper body techniques for lifting, bending, etc. Take breaks, drink plenty of fluids i.e. water, juice, Gatorade (alcoholic beverages dehydrate the body). Protect skin with high SPF sunscreen or use sunblock. Certain medications can cause increased susceptibility to sunburn or other skin conditions. Read labels or ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Gardening as with any sport has its pitfalls. Overdoing it can cause overwork of muscles and overexposure to sun leading to possible injuries.

As gardeners we can reap more than flowers and vegetables, we can also reap pain and injury if we are not careful.

The goal is to enjoy gardening while preventing or minimizing injuries. Take care and have fun!!!!

2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference

April 23, 24 & 25, 2009

Marshall, Texas

Make plans to join us for the 2009 Texas Master Gardener State conference that will be held in beautiful East Texas. The conference will feature world class azaleas, dogwood and crape myrtles, as well as unique bed & breakfast establishments, just to name a few. This year, something new, the EarthKind™ Rose Workshop, an all-day session will be presented the day before the '09 conference and will feature some of the most renowned experts in the EarthKind™ rose field!! Information on registration for this workshop will be added to the regular registration form, come a day earlier and don't miss-out on this added feature!



Harrison County Master Gardener Assoc.
See this link for more information:
<http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>

Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale

REMEMBER:



Saturday, April 4th

Begin: 8 AM til ?? Sold Out

Mark your calendars for this special event and contact Loretta Burgess if want to donate. Annual fundraiser for Concho Valley MGs.



Please keep the Extension office informed of any changes of your mailing address or of your e-mail address. If you change or obtain a new electronic mailing, the office would appreciate notification so that we can keep an up-to-date list for emergency notification mailings. All postal mailings are being kept to a minimum due to costs so we would appreciate any updates for electronic & regular mail.

CONCHO VALLEY MASTER
GARDENERS

Doreen Grimes, Editor



Tom Green County Extension Office
Concho Valley Master Gardeners
113 W. Beauregard

Phone: 325-659-6528
Fax: 325-659-6467

E-mail: tom-green-tx@tamu.edu

Update to New Members:

The Concho Valley Master Gardener newsletter "Through the Grapevine" is a quarterly publication used by the Texas AgriLife Extension office to keep up-to-date information for its members and associates. Any information contained herein is for information only. All publications will be sent out to the membership electronically unless no electronic address is available or otherwise noted through the Tom Green County Extension office.