

Over the Garden Gate



www.txmga.org/wichita

Volume IX, No 2, February, 2017

From JoAnn:

Our February program will be on Seeds, Seeds, Seeds! I hope to have someone talk to us about the Seed Saving program at the Library. They'll explain how and what to do, and what not to do, to successfully save your seeds.

Don't forget to bring a gardening item to donate to our give away baskets for our table at the Home & Garden Show.

Also, we have a vacancy for a State Director that we'll need to fill. If you are interested or would like more information, please call JoAnn. We'd like to take nominations and vote at our meeting.

(See the bottom of page 4 for State Director information.)



Left: Holly bushes full of bright red berries, photo by Gail W. Center: Meet Angela Haisten, Office Associate for the County Extension Office. She's a local gal from Thornberry. Gina went back to school. Right: Waiting for Dinner, photo by Mary R.

Local Events

February 7, 5:30pm: The Wichita County Master Gardener Association meets at Rolling Meadows, 3006 McNeil, in the Media Center upstairs. The program will be Seeds, Seeds, Seeds! Bring a gardening item to donate to our gift baskets.

February 10, 9:30am: The First African Violet Society of Wichita Falls meets at University United Methodist Church, 3405 Taft, WF.

February 16, 5:30pm: The Burkburnett Garden Club meets at First Bank, in their Community Room. Our program will be given by Gail Elmore.

February 25, 9am-6pm & 26, 11am-5pm: Arts Alive Home & Garden Show at the MPEC. Come & help!



Enter your volunteer (15) & Training (6) hours in the MG volunteer management system <https://texas.volunteersystem.org/>

Association Contacts: JoAnn Plaxco, President, 692-8742; Anne Dohrer, Vice-president, 692-9022; Ann Keen, Secretary, 544-2279; Ernie Putthoff, Treasurer, 592-5463.

State Directors: Virginia Krebs and Mary Barry alternates: Barbara Mannen and Bonnie Jones.

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Interns' Corner



Don't know if anyone else has had the problem of water freezing in the standpipes of their water collection systems but I did because of snowmelt off the roof last year. Since my tanks are full, I removed the plug on the standpipes and put my old barn gutters under the openings in order to get the water away and to trees. There was no room on one; so I stuck a piece of PVC in the opening and braced it so the water force would not shoot it off (drop of 11 feet). The water on that one falls into a small pond waterfall component and from there into the gutter. Photos and comments by Mary R.



These are a few of the items inside the greenhouse/nursery. Temperature goes from about 50 degrees to up near 100 at the peak of the day. I'm going to be installing an automatic venting window to help dissipate some of the heat.

3 varieties tomato sucker clones: beefsteak, cherry sweet 100, yellow pear, these were picked suckers from my garden before frost saved from 2016 garden rooted in potting mix which I will transplant and use as parent plants to help propagate into my 2017 garden.

4 varieties pepper bushes: peperoncini, red bell, yellow bell, chile

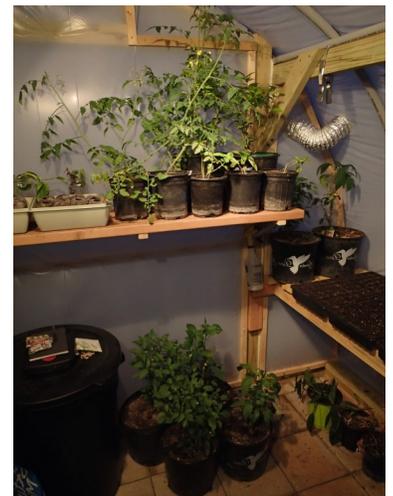
2 Mexican key lime trees, just purchased/pruned in Nov 2016.

Jiffy pot starts of more tomato plants: cherry, yellow pear, red pear.

In addition, I now have eleven 72-spot seedling trays for a total of 792 seedling capacity for my nursery.

As of this writing, I have seeds started of arugula, red Russian kale, roma tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, lavender, rosemary, cilantro, spinach, mustard, milkweed, 2 additional pepper varieties.

Photos and comments by Ben W.



Greenhouse/Nursery details:

The first picture is early November 2016. The greenhouse/nursery is located in my backyard which is on the eastern side of my house. It is fastened to the west side of my yard barn/shed, which has an insulated wall and a 20A exterior outlet. The nursery door wall is south facing. I know, it does not receive maximum sunlight, but that is not its primary purpose as a nursery. The outer size is about 8x8 or 64 sq ft.

The hoop construction is 1" PVC Conduit, since it is UV stable. Normal PVC becomes brittle very quickly. The major parts of construction are ground contact treated wood with a double-4x4 lapped base. The conduit fits inside galvanized metal pipe pieces inside holes drilled in the 4x4 base and are held in place with screws. Anywhere a fastener could be in contact with the outer plastic, it is wrapped with multiple layers of duct tape. 1x2s and 2x2s treated strips are used as fastening strips for the plastic sheeting.

The plastic sheeting is 6 mil painter's plastic. It is not UV resistant so I expect a re-do next year or perhaps the following year to UV resistant greenhouse plastic. On top goes another 6 mil covering, so in total I have a 12 mil greenhouse, which also has interior air blown in between the two layers via a blower fan. All seams are fastened and it is constructed rather air tight to keep out all drafts. All gaps are sealed either with caulk or spray foam.



The blower fan is a old 1200W microwave exhaust fan--which surprisingly is wired as 120V AC and uses relatively little electricity for as much power/strength it has. Old microwave fans are the most powerful fans you can't buy because they're too expensive to buy on their own. I have a picture of it--it is the black painted device with a switch on the bottom. Zero cost. It takes air from the top of the house and pushes air between the two layers. To bridge the air layers from top to sides, I use dryer hose--cheapest.



Of importance in a greenhouse is a thermal mass to store heat to help take it through very cold nights. Dug out, lying in the base of the 4x4s is about 2 cubic yards drainage rock/block material. Concrete pavers sit on top of the rock providing almost 2-3 tons of mass in total of the rock and the pavers. To assist with heating during this first season, I use a small 1500W space heater on a timer and low setting and monitor the conditions with a WIFI thermometer so I can check it anywhere at anytime. Photos and article by Ben W.



Master Gardener Specialist Training by Beth Turlington

Once you have become a certified Master Gardener, you have the opportunity to attend advanced training in disciplines within Master gardening. The classes are usually 3 days, some are 5. The areas covered include Vegetable Gardening, EarthKind Landscaping, Irrigation, Rainwater Harvesting and Entomology, to name just a few.

Classes are hosted in counties around the State with MG chapters, usually at the AgriLife facility in that county. The courses are taught by AgriLife Agents and staff, Professors from A&M and industry professionals. They can be as close as Fort Worth and as far as Galveston.

You will come away with a head full of new information, as well as loads of reference materials and contacts within the Extension Service to help you along the way. Depending on the instructor, you will have either a project to complete or a specified number of volunteer hours to complete, within a year from your class. You will turn your information in to the instructor when you've completed your requirements. Certificates are presented each year at the Annual Texas Master Gardener Conference. For those who do not attend, your certificate will be mailed to your County Agent.

Once you've completed class, it is expected that you will return to your home county, and teach what you have learned, to your fellow MG's and the public. That can be accomplished in a number of ways, including, writing newspaper articles, doing presentations for local groups, working with youth in the community as well as working in our MG booth at the Home and Garden Show and the Farmers Market.

Our Association budgets monies each year that will cover the cost of the course registration fee. Depending how many people go in a given year, you will receive all or part of that fee. Travel, meals and lodging are up to you (part of your registration fee generally covers several meals during the class). Payment is made at the end of year. The Texas Master Gardener Association will also pay you \$50.00 when you meet the requirements for certification.

Training opportunities are listed on the Texas Master Gardener web page, www.txmg.org, on the right hand side. They will also be in our newsletter each month.

Having gone to four of these, I can tell you, that you will meet MG's from all over the state, make some really great friends, get to know the instructors, go to new places, and have a really good time to boot!

Duties of a State Director

"As an Incorporated entity, affairs of the Corporation are managed by a Board of Directors. Each Association member will elect two members to serve on the TMGA Board of Directors, as well as two alternates. Each Director receives one vote, two total per county." This is a direct quote from the New Officer/Director packet, available on the TMGA Web Page, under Resources. Got to www.txmg.org to view the document in its entirety.

As a director, you are asked to attend four quarterly meeting, three in College Station, one at the annual TMGA Conference. Because we are more than 250 miles from the Texas A&M campus, you have the option of staying home, and attending via **Go To Meeting** on your home computer. David Graf will contact Jayla Fry to have that information emailed to you if you choose that option. If you choose to drive, you will receive up to \$200 per trip for all expenses. The dates for the meetings in College Station are generally the first or second Saturday in February, the second Saturday in August, and the first Saturday in December. Those dates are decided by The TMGA Executive Board and announced at the December meeting for the next year. They are also posted on the TMGA web site.

Some of the duties associated with being a delegate include: voting on TMGA business, present any local association business and then present a report of each quarterly meetings business to your local association at their next monthly meeting. You are the communication link between the State Association and us.

State Information

Specialist Training – Vegetables

Date(s) - 02/08/2017-02/10/2017

1:00 pm-12:00 pm

Location

[Dallas Co. Texas A&M AgriLife Extensive Service](#)

The Vegetable Specialist program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of volunteer experts and educators. To become a certified Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist, you are required to attend the Vegetable Specialist training to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet service requirements described below. Training activities during the course will empower you to complete these service requirements.

For more information see the state MG website <http://txmg.org>