

February 2021

**Letter To Membership
From Jane Bowman, TMGA Board Secretary**



Good Afternoon, Master Gardeners,

I am your current secretary for the TMGA state board of Directors. I am also one of the association's yearly auditors and have been a Delegate from Williamson County for several years. President Louie McDaniel has generously offered to serve another term and the state officers have agreed to help him out and write some of the monthly letters for the newsletters.

I enjoy gardening with both vegetables and perennials. One of our local MGs gave a presentation on Attracting Beneficial Bugs to your Garden. I am in the process of turning my landscape into an Insectary. I find it fascinating to learn about the relationships between plants and insects. Plants work to attract beneficial insects when provided with the correct environment. One thing, I learned this year was when my okra was covered in little clear to opaque balls that looked like tiny eggs. It was the plant producing them and it is the sign of a healthy plant. "These are sap produced by the plant to attract beneficial bacteria to the leaves for better disease resistance and plant nutrition." (from UBC.ca)

Of course, for any insects to come, they need to have a food source. So you will need to monitor your insects and plants until the beneficials have a chance to get to work. As you can also guess, there are certain flowers which work better than others to attract the beneficials. Be aware they also attract some pests but the beneficials take care of them.

As we are limited in travels this year, it is a good time to do some research and learn something new. Whether you do a gardening journal or not, you can take pictures and share them with your county agent and other gardeners. You also may want to write an article for the newsletter.

In closing, please make sure you have the correct contact information turned into the state association for your officers and directors. This is a small way you can help your state's officers and chairpersons get information to you.

Happy Gardening,
**Jane Bowman, Williamson County
Texas Master Gardener Association Secretary**

AgriLife On-Line Learning

[On Line Learning Opportunities](#)

Plants and Gardens

Most of the classes are free, some have fees.



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

A grape, berry and fruit tree propagation workshop will be held online from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 5 on the Zoom platform.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service program is \$20 per person, and registration is required. [Deadline to register is Feb. 3.](#)

Stay Updated on State Association Information

WEBSITE

www.txmq.org

FACEBOOK

[Texas Master Gardener Association](#)

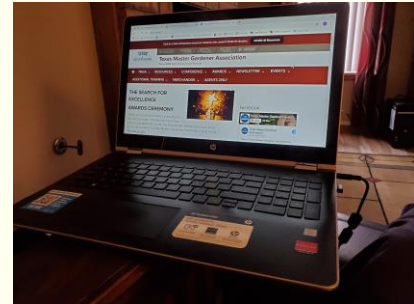
YouTube



**Upcoming Deadlines
March 1, 2021
Association Dues**

On-Line Learning

With COVID-19, on-line learning for our children has become an everyday event. What about Master Gardeners? As we approach the future, continuing to provide education for our Master Gardener interns becomes more of a challenge. What has been your association's experience with on-line learning? Please share your experiences (good and not so good) and we'll compile the suggestions. Don't worry, "names will be changed to protect the innocent." Becky Trammell, Newsletter Editor (lotrvt@gmail.com)



Covid-19 Information

[AgriLife Extension Information Hub](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)



Association-Sponsored Training

To submit an event for the website calendar and for the monthly newsletter: [Fill out and submit the online form](#)

See all [Events on the TXMG.org Website](#)

FEBRUARY

February 6th; 10:00 am-11:30 am

[Keys to Success in Fort Bend County Fruit Production – Virtual Event](#). This free talk is a live, online presentation open to the public. Topics will include best planting, culture, and maintenance techniques, as well as an overview of the varieties offered at the fruit tree sale. Registration is required.

February 9th; 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

[#TMNTuesdays Session with Dr. Doug Tallamy](#). Now that spring is almost here, it's time to start planning for your outdoor space. [Registration is now open.](#)

February 9th; 10:00 am to 12:00 am

[Pocket Prairie Landscapes Kick Off 2021- Travis County](#) Kick off program of 2021 educational series. Virtual training limited to first 100 registrants.

ADVANCED TRAINING*

February 12 - 26 (Three Consecutive Fridays, 12th, 19th, 26th)

[Advanced Training – Trees and Tree Care](#); 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Virtual training; Sponsored by Resource Connection of Tarrant County

***NOTE: TMGA HAS SUSPENDED REIMBURSEMENT FOR ADVANCED TRAININGS.**

Master Volunteer Entomology Advanced Training Certification

The Master Volunteer Entomology Advanced Training Certification is going virtual this year! Over the course of 8 weeks and over 32 instructional hours, you can gain a greater understanding of entomology, integrated pest management in the garden, landscape and home, be able to identify common insects, spiders and arthropods in Texas, learn about butterfly gardening and native pollinators and much more. iNaturalist training, invasive insects to watch in Texas, medical entomology, using dichotomous keys for identification will also be covered.

The registration fee includes a field guide, two additional identification tools, loop, many other resources and guides, pin once certification is complete, and an optional collecting kit (net, forceps, killing jars, killing solution, pins, spreading board, magnifier, collecting instructional booklet, pen, labels and collection box).

[Click here for more information.](#)

Aggie Horticulture Facebook

Videos from past Facebook Live events and new offerings can be found here. Latest events include strawberries, pecans, Junior Master Gardener activities (apple tattoos and loofah gourds), and fall planting tips.

FEATURED: [What's Growing on at the Tyler Botanical Gardens](#)

Wednesdays & Fridays at 1:00 pm on the [Aggie Horticulture Facebook Page](#) watch live information sessions!

[Aggie Horticulture - Events](#)



Master Gardener Outreach

Hello out there in Master Gardener land.

Please let me introduce myself. I am Barbara Porsch (Midland/Ector Counties - Permian Basin Master Gardeners) and have recently been asked to lead the **TMGA Outreach Committee**. Thankfully, I inherited some capable MGs who worked on this previously and have recruited a few new people. Our job is to act as the liaison between **TMGA** and the individual chapters to help them file all the necessary documents in a timely manner. This is a plea to all units to make sure that you have completed the necessary documentation. As of Jan 29, only 68 rosters have been filed. The charter docs have 45 filed by the agent and 56 filed by the president. No milestone docs have been filed yet, but now that the link is working properly we anticipate lots of entries there.

Please go to txmg.org and click on resources and then forms. All necessary forms are there to be filled in electronically. An exception is dues which have to be mailed so that it is in the hands of the treasurer by March 1.

I have enjoyed visiting with some of you via phone and e-mail, and can't wait until we can all get together again at a Board Meeting or Conference. If you need any assistance don't hesitate to call or email me. I am more than happy to help, and I am sure that the MG who originally contacted you will be also.

Thank you for all your work with Master Gardeners and for compliance with these filing requirements.

Barbara Porsch

432-683-4474 (if answering machine picks up, please leave a message)

bporsch@sbcglobal.net

State Coordinator Update

Howdy Master Gardeners,

I'd like to introduce Julia Minter, the new Texas Master Gardener Program Assistant. Julia is a recent graduate of Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Horticulture and a minor in International Development in Agriculture. Julia has worked as a student worker for the Master Gardener program for the past year. I'm so excited that she has stepped up into a greater role. Her primary responsibilities are to plan a virtual conference in 2021 and secondary grow and maintain our social media presence. I know you all will love Julia for her character and work ethic. I am so happy to have her working for the program.



Thanks,

Jayla Fry

Texas Master Gardener Coordinator

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Travis County Master Gardener Selected TIME Magazine Finalist

Read more [HERE](#) about Ian McKenna, 16 year old **Travis County Master Gardener**.



Director's Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for 9:00 am

Friday, February 5th

ZOOM

WATCH EMAIL FOR ZOOM INFO AND UPDATES

Master Gardener Emeritus

Sue Adee – Smith County

Master Gardener 1994 – 2014 (deceased)



Sue Adee was in the first Master Gardener class in 1994, and has been deeply involved with the organization from the beginning until the present. Sue led the creation of the Smith County Master Gardener Association in 1994 and was its first president for 2 terms from 1994 to 1996. She was the driving force behind creating the "Squirmy Worm Recycles" program in 1995, creating a classroom vermicomposting curriculum for teachers to use, and then worked to get it into local schools. The program eventually became a resource for many interested in vermicomposting, not only in Smith County but across the State.

Beginning in 1996, Sue played an integral and leadership role in planning and developing what eventually became the I.D.E.A. Garden, a multi-functional demonstration garden in the Tyler Rose Garden, which was dedicated in 1999, and expanded in 2001. This garden has received many awards, and Sue has continued to lead the overall development and maintenance of the garden as a co-chair. In 1999, Sue attended the International Master Gardener Conference where the I.D.E.A. Garden was awarded the Search for Excellence Award.

Sue was instrumental in the creation of an online data base to teach people about the plants in the I.D.E.A. Garden and how they performed in the garden. This led to the creation of a plant selector on the easttexasgardening.tamu.edu website. She headed up a team to develop the annual Fall Garden Conference which draws attendees from across east Texas, providing hundreds of people educational gardening information. She is also the inspiration for the upcoming regional Master Gardener conference in 2015. Sue has given educational programs all around Smith County and surrounding areas to diverse groups, sharing her vast knowledge of plants, about the I.D.E.A. Garden, and encouraging people to become Master Gardeners. She mentored every class of incoming Master Gardeners as they worked with her in the I.D.E.A. Garden and other projects. Sue has volunteered over 4000 hours with the Smith County Master Gardeners over the last 20 years.

Texas Master Gardener Association Awards: Individual Master Gardener of the Year – 1998; Project Award (IDEA Garden) – 2000; Visual Art (I.D.E.A. Garden Video) – 2000 Smith County Master Gardener Association Awards: Master Gardener of the Year in 1996 and 1997; Master Gardener with most hours in 2000; Lifetime Award – 2003; Golden Work Gloves Award – 2011; Sage Award – 2013

Submitted by Smith County Master Gardeners.

You are receiving this
email because you are
a Texas Master
Gardener

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