

# THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Volume 11, Issue 3

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## Concho Valley Master Gardeners



### President's Message

By Carolyn Mason

Thank you Concho Valley Master Gardeners for the many volunteer hours you have provided this year. Be sure you are sending monthly tallies into Allison. Soon Rudi will begin collecting the 2011 dues from the active Concho Valley Master Gardeners. Dues are \$5.00 with \$2.00 going to the Texas Master Gardeners Association and \$3.00 going to Concho Valley Master Gardeners. Dues must be paid by the last day in December so that the Treasurer can turn them into the TMGA in a timely manner. Please remember that each of us must do more than just pay dues to maintain status as a certified Master Gardener. Once you have completed the initial training and 50 hours of service, you must complete six (6) hours of continuing education and 12 hours of volunteer service annually. Allison has some discretion so if you need to be

inactive up to two years, please communicate with her.

The Nominating Committee needs your input. They have the challenge of slating candidates for the office of President, Treasurer, and one State Director. Please think about who you would like to see in these positions and pass the names on to the committee members Carol Diminnie (H-949-4188), Judi Perkins (H-651-5861), and John Jones (H-896-1607). If you would like to be considered for one of the positions, please make your interest known. If you would like to know more about these positions please speak with current or past officers. Some of the past presidents include Rudi Wallace (the current treasurer), Kay Thompson, Lynne Alexander, and Ferd Koehn. I know even fewer of the past treasurers. Norma Cummings has served in this position as well as Helen Martin &

Mary Chatfield. Rudi Wallace is the current Treasurer. For information on the State Director position, please talk with Sandy Rogers or Don Piwonka.

We would like to have a rain barrel workshop as a fall fund raiser. We need barrels so if anyone knows of possible sources of barrels, please let Kay Thompson (H-653-9329) or myself know. If the source is local, we can arrange to pick up small or large quantities of barrels.

Hope to see many of you at the meetings and volunteer activities.

Carolyn  
Mason



The philosopher who said that work well done never needs doing over never weeded a garden.



### Water Conservation Success!

By Kay Thompson

We started a wonderful education process last fall with two rainwater harvesting seminar/workshops. As you know the rain barrel workshop was a great success with 100 barrels assembled and sent home with participants. The workshop was submitted for an award as an Educational Workshop at the State Meeting and took 1st place.



In addition we gave two barrels away at the home and garden show, the winners were very excited to get their barrels home. A rainwater harvesting simulator was designed and constructed by the Master Gardeners for the atrium at the AgriLife Research Center. The Rainwater Brochures are displayed there for take home information as well.

We are currently collecting barrels for another workshop this October. If you find any blue or black barrels please contact Carolyn Mason or my-

self. Thanks to all that have aided in these opportunities to spread the word about water conservation.





# In Appreciation to CVMG Family Members by Sandy Rogers



If you have been present at various CVMG events in the past, you have probably noticed some very dedicated NON-CVMG's hard at work, usually in the background and always willing to do whatever is asked of them. These are the wives, husbands, siblings, children and even parents of our Concho Valley Master Gardeners, and quite honestly, our program just wouldn't be the same without them.

They are the folks who hook up their trailers and haul supplies to and from parts unknown (sometimes leaving before daylight and returning after dark), bring their tractors, welders and other equipment to complete landscape, rainwater catchment and greenhouse projects at the 4-H Center and other locations in the Concho Valley, assist with all duties at plant sales, photograph MG's at work on projects, prepare and serve food items for special events, and the list goes on and on. We all know what a

great organization we have, and much of our success is due to these wonderful family members. So, when you see a spouse, son, daughter or other CVMG family member sharing their time and talents in any way, please give them a big pat on the back to let them know we appreciate them!



# DEMO Gardens Underway by Kay Thompson



With the rock pile moved and stacked (YEA!), thanks to the MG's and 4H families that successfully cleared the area, we are ready to begin implementing the plans drawn out for the area. A committee has been put together to plan the pro-

gress on developing the demonstration area beds at the 4H Center. The committee has put plans in place to develop beds that will aid in the education of native and adaptable plants grown in West Central Texas.



With one bed complete, waterlines are being installed by extension staff and county inmates to allow rainwater and well water at each bed. We will work towards completing one bed at a time. The beds will each have its own theme, a sensory bed (completed), salvias, roses, Texas Superstars, a Vertical Garden and a wildscape for wildlife bed. In addition we will complete the landscape on the Westside of the

building. Currently we are in need of a bulk amount of mulch to replenish the existing landscape around the building. Watch for emails on volunteer opportunities to help with these areas as well as plant needs as they develop.





## Spotlight on Gardener: Howard Benes by Doreen Grimes



Howard Benes knew something he was doing was playing havoc with his lawn. The more he fertilized the worse it looked.

He heard about a new class for master gardeners and investigated. When he enrolled for the class he felt desperate. Maybe, just maybe he thought, he might learn something that would solve his problem. What he learned was much, much more than he had hope for.

What did Howard learn? First of all, he has learned to be more “green” in his approach to growing things. Now since taking the class, he has learned to think not just about how he nurtures plants, lawn & so on, he tries to take care of the environment and in doing so benefits everything he grows as well. All that fertilizer he had been using was detrimental to his lawn and to the environment as well.

Howard is a member of the latest mas-

ter gardener class. He is a native of San Angelo and a graduate of Lake View High School and a 1974 graduate of A.S.U. with a major in computer science.

After working for a number of years at a desk job, he is enjoying not only gardening but pursuing his hobbies of hunting and fishing. Since he & his wife have a place on Lake Buchanan, he has ample opportunity to enjoy boating and skiing as well. And, he enjoys snow skiing in season. He and his wife have 2 sons, 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Howard says that he went into Master Gardeners for his own benefit – to manage his own personal gar-



dening needs. But according to him, the class was an eye opener and he learned so much more than expected.

What does he enjoy about the MG program? The people, the opportunities for continuing exchange of ideas and gardening tips, and just associating with a great group of people are all important facts related to this program. And he wants to thank all the people involved in starting the master gardener program in Tom Green County several years ago, and for the hard work everyone does to keep the program going now. He also expressed appreciation for Allison’s efficient job of coordinating the program now.

←Howard in action with one of his favorite pastime hobbies-boating. Enjoying time with youngest grandson—Reed (4 yrs old).

## Comments from Allison

The year is already halfway over, believe it or not, and so far it’s been a great one for the Concho Valley Master Gardeners.

The plant sale was the best ever, bringing in important funds needed to provide programs and education to the community. A huge thank you to everyone involved! The library garden crew is going strong, and a lot of progress has been made on the 4-H center grounds and demonstration beds. These are just a few of the many wonderful projects that the CVMG’s have going on: to date, you have contributed over 1,400 volunteer hours to the community, worth almost \$30,000!

Each of you makes a huge impact in the community by participating with the CVMG’s and I really appreciate all you do.



Be sure to stop by the A&M Research center north of town to see the atrium; the Landscape Committee that signed up for that project did a fantastic job renovating the atrium and the flower bed around the brick sign. There is a now very unique and beautiful rain-water harvesting demonstration featured!

Please remember to mark your calendar and spread the word on the upcoming



ing **Landscape Workshop**. This annual event will be held this year on September 20, 21, 27 & 28. Signup is taking place in the Extension office and will be held at the TG 4-H Building on both those Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:30 PM to 9 PM. If you know interested persons who might want to know about plant materials and correct landscaping techniques, please have them contact the office. Cost is \$45 per family.

All CVMG’s are invited to participate at discounted cost-\$30. Dr. Steve George, Hort Specialist will again bring his lively humor and expertise to share during these sessions. Volunteers will be needed to help register at the door and help provide snacks. Watch your e-mail and attend the CVMG’s meetings to sign up or learn more on this annual event.





## Fall Vegetable Gardening

by Allison Watkins, CEA-Hort

Everyone gets really excited when spring comes around, when winter is finally over and we can get outside and start planting. But believe it or not, fall is just as good, if not better, for vegetable gardening. I really encourage each of you as Master Gardeners to promote fall vegetable gardening to the community this year. The only drawback to fall gardening is that it can be hard to find transplants, since nurseries don't carry very many this time of year. To overcome this issue, there will be a **Fall Vegetable Gardening Fair** on August 28 to educate the public on the benefits of fall vegetable gardening, and there will be plants available for sale.



Fall is such a wonderful time for gardening because insect pests are starting to decline, instead of increase like in the spring. Also, as the plants are maturing and crops are ripening, the weather becomes mild



and cooler, which helps the final stages of growth and production. And finally, one of the best reasons to do fall gardening - it is usually more pleasant to be outside in the fall when it's cooling down.

Transplants are preferable over seeds for fall gardening because you will get the crop sooner and be certain to harvest before the first frost. It can be tough to establish transplants in the garden in July and August, but as long as they are adequately watered they will be fine. During the first two weeks, water lightly and frequently. If needed, they can be shaded in the afternoon until they harden off. After they are established, start fertilizing. Get as much healthy growth as possible to ensure a large harvest in the fall.

Late July and early August is a good time to plant tomatoes,

peppers, cucumber, eggplant and squash. Some later fall vegetable options would be snap beans, beets, broccoli, brussel sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, swiss chard, and collards. These should all be planted around September to October. Leafy greens such as spinach & lettuce can be planted any time during the cool season, from October to March. It's good to stagger the planting of these plants every 2 weeks, so that there is always something to harvest.

It is often surprising that fall gardening can be so successful, and that you can grow almost all the same vegetables as a spring garden. A fall garden does not just have to be cabbage and broccoli; tomatoes, squash, and most all of the favorite spring gardening crops can be grown very well.



### Spotlight on Gardener: Shirley Quincy

by Doreen Grimes

When Shirley Quincy began talking about gardening, one of the first things she said was "I love dirt! I love working in the dirt." There are the words of a true gardener! Shirley observed her grandmother growing vegetables and flowers and learned many of her early gardening skills from her.

Shirley grew up on a ranch near Bastrop where her father was ranch foreman for W.W. McAlister who was mayor of San Antonio at the time. When she retired from her job at University of Texas as recreational sports administrator, she and her husband bought 4 acres on the edge of San Angelo where she can enjoy her love for growing things. They have 1 son who lives in Austin and a granddog.

Before moving from Austin, she had heard about the Master Gardener group in Travis County. After moving here, she read about the Tom Green Master Garden-

ers in the local paper and decided to investigate. She discovered not only informative classes but a wonderful group of really good people. Shirley sometimes found the classes to be overwhelming but she enjoyed the different aspects of gardening presented in class and she found the learning environment to be rewarding. The camaraderie among the members, people from all walks of life, added to her enjoyment. She finds associating with people with similar interest and the exchange of ideas a continuing learning experience.

Shirley loves the volunteer approach that the Master Gardeners offer. She especially enjoyed working in the plant sale this spring. She was totally surprised by the number of people who patronized the sale. She has also volunteered at the TAMU Research

Center with the rainwater project.

When I asked Shirley about her interest and activities outside of gardening, the first thing she mentioned was renovating houses. She also mentioned refinishing furniture, "poking around" in the shop, reading, biking, walking, and lots of activities that keep her moving.

Allison Watkins was mentioned by Shirley several times not only for her gardening skills, but for the energizing spirit injected into the classes. Shirley loves the knowl-

edge she learned, the people who constitute the membership and the feeling of being welcomed into the group.



## Flash from the Past by Janice Alexander- Admin. Assistant



In doing some individual research for myself and the office – I came across several interesting points of facts that seem interesting and related to the MGs and in recognition of the tremendous work the Concho Valley Master Gardeners have done over the years. The first class was held in the spring of 1999 and began their “first” project with the West Branch Library garden.



I have not been able to find a complete list of officers during the first year but communication in the form of “informal” newsletters or letters themselves

began in the spring of 2000. The Concho Valley Master Gardener logo was adopted several years later after one of the local members sketched a simple yet informative logo to represent gardening here in West Texas. Recently (in celebration of 10 years of service to the community) Susan Stanfeld highlighted, re-colored and emphasized the items within the logo. Many members are not even aware of what was included within this drawing which includes a bluebonnet bloom, trowel, pick and water hose.

I also found an article in the Standard-Times from June 7, 1999. Staff writer-Que Lam-wrote the following story in recognition of the MGs and included a picture of volunteer workers at the Garden. Hope this will bring back memories for those older members and inspire the new members.

### **TWO PLOTS & A PLAN: Master Gardeners making progress growing their own field of dreams**

Two plots of land, each with a small end and a large end, lay side by side in a field next to the West Branch Library. The beginnings of a pumpkin patch fill one plot, while the other has rows of herbs, sunflowers, marigolds and other plants. The small ends of the plots point to a large pecan tree. More garden sections are planned.

“Eventually it’ll look like a wagon wheel and these are the spokes,” explained Deborah Vinson, a member of the Concho Valley Master Gardeners

In April, the group-some 20-plus volunteers with the County Extension service-got permission from the Tom Green County Commissioners Court to create a demonstration garden in the empty field.

By May, the Master Gardeners had gotten started. “We tilled it up, staked out the design and then we started planting,” Vinson said. “We picked what we knew we could get up and growing.”

Horticulturist John Begnaud, of the Extension Service, had telephone poles that the gardeners

used to outline the wheel. The poles also serve as places to sit in the garden.

On the outside of the wheel, the gardeners have started collecting leaves and grass clippings in a depression in the field. In the fall, they plan to show amateur gardeners how to compost.

In July, the volunteers will lead the final activity for the children’s summer reading program. “We’re going to read some stories on gardening, and we’re going to let the kids plant sunflower seeds,” Vinson said.

The emphasis of the demonstration garden is on education rather than beauty, though some flowers have been planted. The group will promote fall gardening programs for adults and, hopefully, a pumpkin patch for the children.

“We want to show more vegetables and herbs in this garden,” Vinson said. “We want people to learn something when they come to the garden....We want to show techniques that will make people’s gardening easier.”

Vinson can think of a variety of reason to garden. “I’ve heard it’s the no. 1 hobby in the nation – that people like to grow things,” she said. “...You just can never pay money and get a tomato as good as a tomato in your back yard. There’s just something in gardening that attracts a wide variety of people.”

Getting things to grow on the type of soil the library field has can be challenging, but among the group’s members is a wealth of experience in gardening in San Angelo. Beside that, a neighbor of the library, Charles A Rose, for years worked on a garden on the same land and had amended the soil. “So we knew it was good soil,” Vinson said. The Master Gardeners plan to carry on Rose’s tradition at the location. “because we’re an organization that can continue to grow, we can continue the garden,” Vinson said.

Rose, now 91, still lives across the street from the field, where he kept a garden from the late 1970s to about 1995. “But I got too old to do as much work as was required...” said Rose, who had retired from the furniture business in 1968. He said he was thrilled to hear about the new garden. “I’m just tickled to death. I’m glad they’re watering out there because that means my pecan trees get water too. Oh, it’s great,” he said with enthusiasm.

Seven pecan trees, each planted on one of Rose’s birthdays, stand in the field. The oldest tree has become the center of the Master Gardeners’ wheel. Rose planted the tree on his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in March, from a nut he found along Spring Creek southwest of San Angelo. The native pecan won several first- and second-place awards from Rose in local, regional and statewide pecan

shows in the early 1990s.

Rose planted a tree in the field when he turned 76, 77, 78 and 79. For his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, a garden club planted a pecan tree in his honor. The seventh tree came last year, when a group of home health-care nurses planted one for his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Though Rose had quit gardening in the field, he continued to water the trees.

In the beginning, the field had mesquite trees, which were cut down. Weeds replaced the scenery. Rose talked the county commissioners into allowing him to use the library’s water to grow a garden, but he spent much of his own money for the other materials.

Every year, in a lot about 100 by 150 feet, Rose would feature a different type of flower: holly-hocks, zinnias, daisies, day lilies, gladiolas. It wasn’t only a flower garden. Rose grew plenty of vegetables

“In the garden, I grew tomatoes, corn, watermelon, peas, beans, okra, squash, strawberries....Did I say cantaloupe?? I grew cantaloupe. I grew some beets and turnips....Anyhow, I grew a lot of vegetables over there,” Rose said.

He gave several hundred pounds of sweet potatoes to Meals for the Elderly and picked peas and beans to give to people, who were glad to accept them. He gave fruit trees a try, too – peach, plum, apricot, apple and almond. But the underground was too hard for the roots to penetrate. “There’s a layer of caliche that’s down quite a ways,” Rose found out. “When those fruit trees hit the caliche, they were done with.”

Rose was able to overcome the difficulties in growing a garden in the field, but he doesn’t want his secret to success published. He said he is afraid people will think the idea is crazy.

The former furniture store owner has had a green thumb for decades, however. “There’s two things I like about it: the exercise out in open air, and having things to eat,” Rose said.

“I started gardening when I was 5 or 6 years old with my grandmother,” Rose recalled. “I’ve always grown some type of garden-some things, everywhere I live.”

Asked if he enjoys planting the flower that share his name, Rose smiled coyly and said, “I have a preference for planting roses. I don’t make a big deal out of it.”

*(Continued on page 6)*

Rose has "retired" from gardening in his own yard, although a few plants remain. And Rose, who still can't quite accept the price of paying someone else to mow his lawn (more money than he used to make in a day, he said), continues to cut the grass himself.

His wife, 79-year old Inez Rose grew used to sharing her husband with is love of gardening. "I'd wake up in the morning and look out the window, and he'd be working across the street," she recalled.

Charles Rose received letters, phone calls and many visitors to his library garden. West Branch Library manager Dorothy Stapleton keeps in the building an album of photos she has taken of Charles Rose's garden. "The library patrons, they loved (his garden). The patrons would stop and he'd chat with them. He always had time for people, Mr. Rose did," Stapleton said.

The long-retired man maintains a rosy outlook on life though. Charles Rose's latest interest has been reading the many books given to him for birthdays and Christmases. He said he just finished a book he received as a gift in 1979.

But when the Roses see the Master Gardeners working in the library field, the couple cross the street to visit with the volunteers. And Charles Rose said he even has "scratched around a little" in the new garden.



West Branch Lib. Garden—2002 ▶

## Volunteer Opportunities & Calendar of Events

Wk of Aug 9th—Planning meeting for Rainbarrel Workshop, contact Carolyn Mason; for donation of supplies— contact Kay Thompson

Aug 10— CVMG Biz mtg, 4H Bldg, 5:45 PM

Aug 13—Lunch & Learn, TGC & City Employees, Commissioners Court-room, 12-1 PM, Lawn Care Info

Aug 16—Lunch & Learn, sponsored by People/Plant Connection, \$5 each, Open to Public, Courtroom, 12-1 PM, Lawn Care

Aug 27, 30 —Lunch & Learn, 12-1pm, Courtroom, Planting Wildflowers

Aug 28—Fall Landscape Fair, 4H Bldg—All day

Sept 10, 13—Lunch & Learn, 12-1 PM, Courtroom, Tree Care

Sept 20, 21, 27, 28—Landscape School, 4H Bldg, 6:30-9 PM

Oct 2—Rain Barrel Making Workshop, 4H Bldg

Oct 8, 18—Lunch & Learn, 12-1, Courtroom, Composting

Oct 22, 25— Lunch & Learn, 12-1, Courtroom, Winterizing Landscape

Nominations for CVMG Officers—Contact Carol Diminnie, Judi Perkins or John Jones or current officer.

Volunteers for Jr. Master Gardeners—contact Allison Watkins

Payment of Yearly Dues—\$5 each; contact Rudi Wallace or Extension Office at 113 W. Beauregard, 76903

Volunteer for Inventory—MG tools & supplies; contact Elaine Briley

### CONCHO VALLEY MASTER GARDENERS

*Doreen Grimes, Editor*



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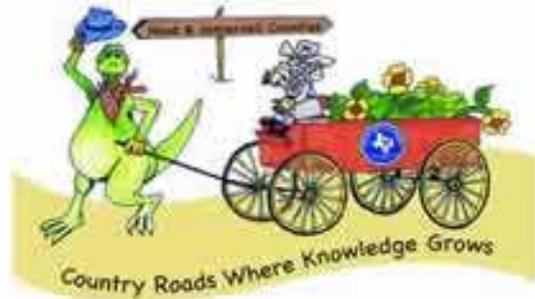
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### Somervell County Master Gardeners and Lake Granbury Master Gardeners are excited to be co hosts for the

2011 Texas Master Gardener Conference  
April 27-29, 2011

at the Somervell County Expo Center in Glen Rose, Texas. Saddle up and come on down!!! Plant your boots in Glen Rose for a real Texas Hoe Down. This will be a real fun boot scootin' affair.



### Texas Master Gardeners 2011 State Conference