



Proud member of National Garden Clubs,  
Texas Garden Clubs, and District V  
*The nation plants, designs,  
and works to help the  
environment - together!!!*

Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, September –  
May  
9:30 – 11:30 at College Station WW Facility  
2200 North Forest Parkway College Station, TX  
77845

**NEWSLETTER : OCT. 2016**

**CALENDAR OCT/NOV**

- Oct 1 – 9 – AMGC trip to Guatemala Friday
- Oct 7 – AMGC Board Meeting 1-3
- Oct 14 – AMGC Regular Meeting 9:30 Program  
by Charlene Perry of Dig It Organics on  
“Composting with Worms”!
- Oct 18-19-20 Fall TGC Convention, El Paso, TX
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – Make a Difference Day R.Carter Park
- Oct 28<sup>th</sup> – AMGC Board Meeting 1:00-3:00 pm  
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- Nov 4- TGC District V Fall Meeting-Georgetown
- Nov 5- World Fest
- Nov 6 – Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov 11- AMGC Regular Meeting 9:30 Program  
by Dr. Mark “Merriwether” Vorderbruggen, on  
Edible Landscaping Plants



NGC: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
TGC: [www.texasgardenclubs.org](http://www.texasgardenclubs.org)

**2016-2017 OFFICERS**

**Texas Garden Club of the Year  
(Bronze) 2013, 2014, 2015**

President  
Helen Quinn

VP Programs:  
Michelle Ramotowski

VP Yearbook  
Sherron McKenzie

VP Community Events  
Sherry Ellison

VP Hospitality  
Greta Merrit

Recording Secretary  
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Joyce Wilkinson

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Michele Wehrheim  
Immediate Past President  
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## SPECIAL BUTTERFLY EVENT OCTOBER 9

We are having a planting day at Bee Creek Park, 1900 Anderson, on **Sunday, Oct 9, at 3 pm**. We need donations from Garden Club members of butterfly nectar and monarch host (milkweed) plants. Let Jane Cohen know by Oct 1 if you have plants that you will donate. You may bring them that Sunday afternoon or if I need to pick up, let her know.

BUTTERFLIES  
in the  
BRAZOS

### OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

**PLAN:** To order bulbs not purchased last month. Pot up plants to add color indoors during the winter.

**PRUNE:** Cuttings of Shrimp plant may be taken now for winter houseplants. Root-prune wisteria that failed to bloom. Apply superphosphate, cover cuts with soil or peat, water thoroughly.

**PLANT:** Madonna, Calla, Easter and Regal Lilies, Amaryllis, anemone and ranunculus, strawberry plants. Divide Shasta daisy, ajuga, forget-me-nots. Plant all hardy annuals, sweet pea and pansy. Transplant seedlings that are large enough. Daylilies and amaryllis may be divided and replanted.

**FERTILIZE:** Give mums a feeding of liquid fertilizer now and keep well watered. Lawns and roses. Add superphosphate to daylilies. Add compost to beds.

**SPRAY AND DUST:** A good dormant oil may be used where you saw scale last season.

**BLOOMING:** Cosmos, mums, dahlia, plumbago, roses, alliums, pyracantha, Michaelmas daisy.

**VEGETABLES:** Beets sow through 10/20; Carrots through 11/30 (if you have tight clay soil, try a short variety like Danvers Half Long, or plant in containers, Leaf Lettuce through 11/30. Plant a row a week – “succession planting” extends the

harvest considerably! Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, all the leafy greens, can be planted now, but use plants if you have them rather than seed. And don't forget Garlic and Radishes!

### **HERBS:**

Due to our mild winters, many herbs are happier now than in the hot summer. Cilantro in particular loves the cooler weather, but basil not so much! Don't forget to harvest and use your herbs!

### *What do Worms and Birds have in common?*

*Worms make compost for us to improve our soils and grow better plants for the birds to eat (and of course you know what the Early Bird does!!)*

**The October Program is “For the Worms” and the October Exhibit is “For the Birds”.**



We're bringing attention to what gardeners can do to help our feathered friends. We hope you'll participate in the display at our October A&M Garden Club meeting. Members are invited to bring a bird house to add to the display. Think creative. Consider using recycled material. Should be something you would be willing to display in your own yard.

## MONARCH MOMENT

First and foremost, here is one thing you absolutely must do now if you are growing Tropical Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*).



It may seem like “cruel and unusual punishment” but these plants must be cut back to the ground before the migrating Monarchs come through this month to make their journey south to Mexico. If you leave these plants growing, the Monarchs will be tempted to stay a while to mate and lay eggs, but because this is not their normal reproduction season, the caterpillars will be prone to contracting *Ophryocytis elektroscirra* (OE), a protozoan parasite which lives in the leaves of the *A. curassavica*, and which has been attributed in part to the drastic decline of the Monarch. So, cut the plants down to the ground, and each time you see leaves appear between now and about February, cut them off! New leaves that appear in February/March will be free of the disease and safe for the returning Monarch to lay their eggs on and hatch out into healthy,

beautiful butterflies! Native milkweeds do not harbor this parasite.

There was another Monarch Butterfly Habitat Community Meeting on September 8 with our partners BV Texas Master Naturalists, D.A.R., College Station Parks & Recreation, USDA/TAMU, Monarch Gateway and representatives from other organizations. Among other things, a plan of action was discussed, as were goals, sites for future butterfly gardens. More information will be forthcoming, and the next community meeting will probably be in February.

Our September meeting Program was given by Dr. Craig Wilson – wonderful attendance, with over 50 people there – and great information.



Dr. Wilson brought examples of nectar plants, milkweeds, seeds, live caterpillars, a chrysalis yet to hatch, even a (deceased) Monarch with a tag on it!

Now we start preparations for next year's Monarch return!

On September 26 Jane C. and Barbara Keller-Willy had a small segment on local television to promote the October 9<sup>th</sup> planting:



## LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL September 26-27, 2016

Once again A&M Garden Club volunteers helped with registration, food services, administering the exam, and general host duties. And had a great time doing so, under the guidance of Registrar Michele Wehrheim and Community Events Chair Sherry Ellison. This school is one of the several National Garden Club Schools (others are Environmental Studies, Flower Show, Gardening Study).

### ROCK PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



**HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS TO :**  
Michele W. 1<sup>st</sup>, Sharon B. 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
Linda K. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Millie P. 31<sup>st</sup>



Club members delivered tropical milkweed, blue mistflower, a trailing rosemary plant, zinnia plants, and pink yarrow for the students to plant in their new butterfly gardens on 9/10/16. You should park and go look sometime at their gardens. It is a lovely area with a pond and tables. There are many mini-gardens and trees wind around the pond and tables. They added many plants today.

The children painted river rocks to sell to raise money to buy seeds and plants. We will have some of their rocks to put on our Ways and Means table, and put the money for them in a separate container for them. These will be great for anchoring our information sheets at outdoor events.

### SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

**October 22** – Make a Difference Day at Richard Carter Park

**November 5** – World Fest at Wolf Pen Cr.

**SHERRY E. NEEDS MORE  
VOLUNTEERS FOR THESE DATES –  
SIGN UP AT THE OCTOBER MEETING!**