



GRAPEVINE
GARDEN CLUB
 Established 1932



GARDEN CLUB of the YEAR

2011, 2014, 2015

Member of
 National Garden Clubs, Inc., South Central Region,
 Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., District II,
 and Garden Club Council of Ft. Worth

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

February 2021

Citizen Science

What if you find something outside but don't know what it is? How do you find out? What if you could share that discovery with others to excite them about nature as well? Citizen science is one way to address each of those questions. One particularly useful tool is iNaturalist, an online network with an associated app where participants document all of the living organisms around them, share that data with the rest of the naturalist community, and learn a lot in the process. **In preparation for our program, download the iNaturalist APP on your phone and try it out yourself in your own backyard.**

In this issue —	Page
Virtual Meeting: Citizen Science	1
President's Message	2
Slate of officers	3
Workshop: Pruning with Toni Moorehead	3
"Good to Bee" Spring Plant Sale	4
Membership and January Door Prizes	5
Wall-Farrar Trail Tidy-Up Photos	6
Wildflower and Painted Churches Tour Canceled	6
Conservation Corner:	
Gardening For A Healthy Planet	7-8



Our speaker, Sam Kieschnick, is an urban wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife. He previously worked as a nature educator with the City of Mansfield at Oliver Nature Park, as a naturalist at the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, as a science interpreter with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, as a botanist with BRIT, and as an instructor at Weatherford College. He has a master's degree from Tarleton State. As an urban wildlife biologist, Sam's focus will be on three a's: awareness, appreciation, and action.

Grapevine Convention Center
1209 S. Main Street

Please Note: Please watch our website for information about upcoming events!

Our February 23rd meeting will be virtual, via Zoom.

President's Message

It feels as if we are all waiting! Waiting to move up on the list for COVID shots; waiting for that first shot; waiting for the second shot; waiting for the masking/social distancing restrictions to be relaxed; waiting for a new project to pique our interest or a new book to read.

But the natural world around us is not waiting. The migrant visitors that have spent the winter are still gorging on seeds and the last berries that cling to our native plants. Gail Manning's January program on beneficial insects gave us a new appreciation for the treasure trove under the leaf litter we have conveniently left on the ground. Both our resident and visiting populations of birds are finding eggs and larvae to supplement the suet in our feeders. Our migrants are anticipating the perfect time to begin that long journey to their breeding grounds to procreate. If our backyard habitats have done a good job, these travelers will have the energy they need to continue their species.

The buds on our plants are beginning to swell with the promise of the future of their species—each bud containing the unique genes that will form a leaf or a flower for that specific plant. Those of us who garden get to see these miracles every single year.

So we will patiently wait with new appreciation as the miracles of the natural world unfurl around us. Because the natural world does not wait.

∞Dinah Chancellor



Flowering Quince



Black Hickory

GGC LEADERSHIP

Officers 2021 – 2022

President – Sheri Jones (pending February election)

1st VP Programs – Linda Robbins

2nd VP Membership – Rachel Howe

3rd VP Communication – Pam Braak

Recording Secretary – Robin Pond

Corresponding Secretary – Marcy Blagg

Treasurer – Dinah Chancellor

Publicity – Margaret Meharg



GGC February Workshop
Friday, February 12th @ 11:00 a.m.
Hands-on Pruning Tutorial with
Toni Moorehead

Tarrant County Master Gardener Association teamed up with GGC's Toni Moorehead at Countryside Bible Church in Southlake, Texas to film best practices for pruning shrubs. Over 25 shrubs and plants are highlighted in the video. The video will be presented on Friday and Wanda Stutsman will be able to answer any questions that come up.

Please plan to join in by 10:50 a.m.

Go to www.grapevinegardenclub.org home page for the link to the zoom workshop.

See You on Friday!!!



Good to Bee Plant Sale



Change in date!!!

Thursday, April 22
Member Appreciation Day 9:00-1:00

Friday, April 23
Closed to Restock

Saturday, April 24
Open for Everyone 9:00-1:00

Sunday, April 25
Closed for Cleanup

Bee a love and sign up to work on one of our Plant Sale Teams! Since we cannot sign up at our meetings, please contact our following Team Leads who desperately need volunteers!

Set Up - Linda Krimm and Suzi Guckel
Volunteer Consultant Coordinator - Karen Rice
Garden/Bird Books - Catriona Noble and Carol Lee
Plant Cleanup before Sale - Terry Curcio
Plant Holding Area - Robin Pond and Irene Binyon
Refreshments - Evelyn Urbanosky and Mariam Ward
All Contact info is in our GGC Yearbook

Between now and then please:



Bee aware of plants coming up in your garden that you are ready to donate and pot



Bee sure to fertilize your already potted plants, give them a sunny spot and protect them from frost.



Bee sure to let friends and family members know about our sale!!!!

Need a dig? Call Suzanne Hurst to schedule
Want to be on the dig team? Call Darlene O'Flaherty
Questions? Contact Queen Bees - Cecilia Mitchell or Annemarie Garlin

Please refer to GGC's website for full calendar of club events.

<http://grapevinegardenclub.org/calendar>

Membership

*Another General Meeting, a few virtual guests and two more new members! How's that for a club flourishing even in times of social shut down! Wow!! We now have a total of **248** members!!*

There are 147 individual memberships and 48 family memberships for a total of 195 paid memberships.

Announcing our newest members!

Kellie & Doug Johnson of Grapevine. Kelli is interested in native Texas plants and flower arrangements!

January General Meeting Door Prize Winners!

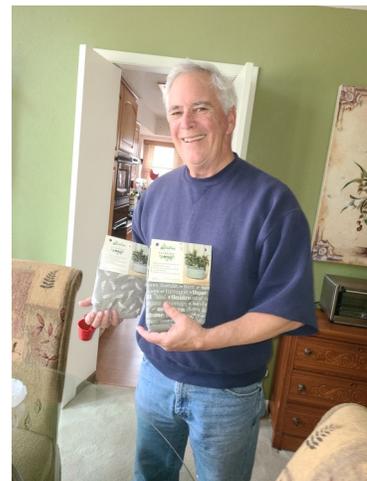
Congratulations!! 🙌 😄 🙌

*Susan Boelens
Donna Bufton
Chris George
Joe Krimm
Chuck Voelker and Karen Rice
Alexandra Evans*



Y'all won our door prizes at January's General Grapevine Garden Club Zoom meeting! Woo Hoo!! I sure had a lot of fun delivering them to y'all's doors!

Susan Holley, Membership





Suzi Guckel and Joetta King admire painted rocks during the Wall-Farrar Trail Tidy-up on January 25th.

Suzi Guckle, Ginger Jones, Joetta King, Joyce Quam and Karen Rice.



Wildflowers and Painted Churches Tour – April 6-8, 2021 – Cancelled

It is with sincere regret that it was necessary to cancel this tour due to the uncertainty and continuing concern regarding Covid-19. Several of the tour sites and restaurants we were scheduled to visit on the tour are either not open or unable to offer the activity we had scheduled.

Joetta King, Tour Coordinator



Conservation Corner:

Following are just a few of my favorite gardening tips for a healthy planet.

1.) Compost your household and yard wastes, including your leaves in the fall. Build up your soil first and foremost and the rest will come.

“If healthy soil is full of death, it is also full of life: worms, fungi, microorganisms of all kinds... Given only the health of the soil, nothing that dies is dead for very long.” ~ Wendell Berry

I love this quote. It reminds me of “the rotting log” science experiment that we did several times when my son was younger. Have you ever looked under a rotting log, either in your backyard or at a nature preserve? That dead log is so full of life! It is the perfect cycle of life, just as Berry said.

2.) Plant native plants and well-adapted plants. Avoid non-native invasive plants. Native and well-adapted are easier to grow, less prone to pests and drought conditions, plus feed native wildlife. A few of my favorite natives...

Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium*) is not a true grass, but is a beautiful native wildflower with grass like foliage and light blue flowers.



Winecups (*Callirhoe involucrata*) is a sprawling native perennial that blooms in the spring.

Penstemon *tenuis* grows to roughly three feet tall and is attractive to pollinators. In the photo above, it has seeded itself at the base of a holly tree and has grown up through the holly.

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3.) Plant flowers, shrubs and trees that are beneficial to pollinators, birds and other native wildlife. Feed the birds! Research your local area and try to have a buffet available year-round. Plant a tree (or three) on your property. Avoid junk trees such as Bradford pear and opt for natives, such as oaks or redbuds. Research which native trees are best for your property. There is a tree perfect for any yard, whether large or small.

4.) Garden organically. Invest in a good insect guide book for your region and research insects before reaching for the insecticide. The majority of insects are harmless. The few that are harmful (such as aphids and hornworms) can generally be treated organically. Always try organic methods first and foremost. In our 26 years gardening on this property, I have yet to find a pest that I couldn't eliminate easily and cheaply via organic methods. Avoid pesticides, insecticides and herbicides whenever possible. Research what weeds you have in your garden and look at natural remedies for them, if you can't stand them. But know that even the hated dandelion (though not native) is a great food source for humans and a good source of nectar for bees and butterflies.

5.) Plant extra for those few "garden pests" that you actually want to attract. People are always amazed that I plant extra for caterpillars to munch down on, but planting host plants is the basis of a great butterfly garden. Last year, we had over 50 caterpillars of the swallowtail butterfly on the fennel in my front garden. Decide what wildlife you want to attract into your garden and then plant for them. Plant it and they will come!

6.) Reduce your lawn size. Expand your garden beds. In general, lawns are the biggest consumer of water and fertilizer in the world. This is the topic for a whole 'nother post at a later date! Ditch the gas powered mower for a reel mower, which adds a zen-like ambiance to mowing. We have used the same reel mower for 26 years now! We have the blades sharpened every few years, which is the only upkeep it needs.

7.) Allow wild areas on the edges of your property whenever possible. This area is the perfect habitat for wildlife of all kinds. I leave the stalks of coneflowers, penstemon and turk's cap up through the winter, as songbirds use the stalks to land on them and feed on the seeds. I allow these plants to reseed along our back fence line as they are good cover for small mammals, birds, lizards and insects.

I will close with this quote...

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people" ~ Franklin D Roosevelt

I hope that each and every one of you can (safely) get out into nature this week.

*Submitted by Suzie Agnew,
previously published on the blog: the melodious garden*