



# *Through The Grapevine*

November 2025

**Pam Penick**

*Garden author and advocate  
for climate resilient gardens*

With the increasing weather extremes Texas is experiencing—ranging from heat waves to a deep freeze, from droughts to floods—how should gardeners adapt? Drawing from the visionary landscapes in her new book, ***Gardens of Texas***, Pam will show how gardeners and designers across the Lone Star state are embracing change, shifting their plant palette, nurturing wildlife and finding deeper joy in the process. Discover practical strategies for creating gardens that weather the storms and grow stronger—and how cultivating resilience in your landscape can also cultivate it in yourself.

Pam will be autographing copies of her books. Other titles by Pam include ***Lawn Gone!*** and ***The Water-Saving Garden: How To Grow a Gorgeous Garden With A Lot Less Water.***

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***Our next meeting is November 18, 2025***

***Please note that our November meeting date is the 3rd Tuesday!***

Social and refreshments: 9:30 a.m.      Program: 10:00 a.m.

Grapevine Convention Center at 1209 S. Main Street

## President's Message

Have you looked outside?! (Silly question!! You are gardeners!) It seems that in the past day or two the trees have dressed themselves in gorgeous autumn colors. Last month, on my train trip upon the Rocky Mountaineer and to Park City in Utah, the aspens and maples were brilliant in reds and shimmery golds—a nice contrast to the evergreens they live among.

Last month in my President's Message, I addressed migration. With dwindling food supplies to our north, birds must adapt, migrate or die. The migrants who arrive in our area are exhausted, hungry and must compete with our year-round residents to survive. This month will address how we can enhance our backyard environments to make them a haven for these visitors. Don't forget that birds need water!

Please be sure to check out the list developed at our GGC Forum in April, 2019, "[Augmenting bird feeders with native plants...](#)" I would like to highlight the first suggestion in the Additional Information section: ***Don't trim spent flowers (deadhead) until January. Leave for birds.***

Right now, though, as hungry migrants are arriving, we need to make sure our bird feeders contain what they need. Most backyard visitors fall into two categories: suet or seed eaters. Birds who eat suet are often those who eat insects when insects are active in our yards. Virtually all winter birds will utilize suet at some point—as a high energy food. Seed eaters fall into several categories: the larger species enjoy larger seeds, such as sunflower seeds. Be sure to shop for black oil sunflower seeds. Although they are a bit more expensive, they include nutrients the less expensive varieties do not have. Our smaller winter birds (goldfinches and pine siskins) need fresh thistle seed. (Nyjer is the kind we have used.)



Our calendar of GGC events looks busy but wonderful! Don't forget to register for our Holiday Luncheon on December 9<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Lancaster Theatre in downtown Grapevine. We have a true musical treat in store for us! Our program for the general November meeting brings Texas author, Pam Penick. At this meeting, you will have a chance to purchase a copy of Pam's book, ***Gardens of Texas: Visions of Resilience From The Lone Star State***—a “must have” for every gardener who lives among us. Our own Toni Moorehead's garden is featured in this book! Lots to look forward to! See you soon.

💚 ***Dinah Chancellor***





## Texas Arbor Day Celebration

A team of Citizen Foresters and Grapevine Garden Club members helped other community volunteers as they planted trees at the November 8th Arbor Day Celebration. The event was held at Meadowmere Park. Participants learned about the proper way to plant a tree and had a beautiful day to enjoy the event.

~ Karen Rice



Above photo: GGC members – GGC Pam Braak, Citizen Foresters Kimberly Evans, CF/GGC Karen Rice, GGC Greg Braak, Keep Grapevine Beautiful/GGC Cindy Harris and CF/GGC Nancy Lewis.

## 2025 Veterans Day Parade

The weather was perfect for Grapevine's Veterans Day parade and there were lots of people along the parade route. The truck was decorated and our President was full of patriotic energy for the tour down Main Street. The GGC turnout was small, but we served the Club well. We handed out seed packets to the small children—some were disappointed that it wasn't candy, but their parents understood and were grateful.

Thanks to Robin, Dinah and Miriam for their participation. Next year in only a year away.

~ Chuck Voelker



GGC president  
Dinah Chancellor

At left: Dinah Chancellor, Chuck Voelker, Miriam Ward and Robin Pond

## In Memoriam: Joan L. Stewart, Honorary Life Member 1932-2025

It is with sincere regret that we announce the passing of Joan Stewart on November 3rd. A Memorial Service will be held at Lucas Funeral Home Chapel, 700 W. Wall Street, Grapevine, Texas, on Thursday, November 20th at 10 a.m.

Joan Stewart's contribution to the Grapevine Garden Club was acknowledged as an Honorary Life Member in 2022. The listing of an officer and chair responsibilities over 40 years can't truly reflect how involved Joan has been in the club's projects and activities but they include: Scholarship 1985-87; Excursions 1987-91; 3<sup>rd</sup> VP 1988-89, 1999, 2000; 1<sup>st</sup> VP 1989-91; Ways and Means 1991-92; President 1992-93; Grapevine Beautiful 1992-94; Arbor Day 1994-2001.

Our members became familiar with Joan's love of gardening with the many visits we made to the Stewart home. It was the site for a membership brunch in 1990 when the Grapevine Sun wrote, "Blue carpet juniper, roses, crape myrtles and several other plants can be viewed in the three-leveled, terraced backyard of the home of Roy and Joan Stewart. A covered porch and decking surrounding a greenhouse provided the setting for the membership brunch and garden party." The Stewart greenhouse was also the location for preparing the members' horticulture entries for Flowercade for many years. The Stewart garden was featured in one of GGC's public garden tours that raised money to support civic and scholarship programs. If guests wanted to have a yard with no lawn to mow and plants that require minimal watering, the Stewart garden illustrated what was possible. Indeed, Joan's appreciation for adapted and native plants prevailed throughout her life and many thrived after her move to assisted living, including the spring bluebonnets and summer purple cone flowers that lined the driveway



Joan graduated from North Texas State with a BA and earned a Master's degree at TCU before serving as an art teacher and reading specialist in public schools. After retiring as a fifth grade teacher at Cannon Elementary in 1984, she volunteered as a tutor in Bennie Gilliam's Timberline Elementary classroom for over 20 years. In 2006 the Timberline PTA presented Joan their "Friend of Children" award. As Pamela Price wrote in *Grapevine's Most Unforgettable Characters*, "Although Joan is a 'retired teacher,' she lives the philosophy of 'once a teacher, ALWAYS a teacher!' So, it isn't surprising that any chance she had, Joan served as a docent for children's groups visiting the Grapevine Botanical Gardens.

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*Arbor Day 1991*

In addition to her involvement with GGC, Joan was very active in Women's Division of the Grapevine Chamber of Commerce serving as chair of the New Teacher Luncheon for Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, organized a project to provide school supplies for deserving children in Grapevine and participated in the Christmas Spirit project with GRACE to help senior citizens. Joan was honored as the Woman of the Year in 1997-1998. In 1994, Joan was one of the charter members of the newly created Baylor Medical Center Women's Advisory Council. (Later renamed the Baylor Women's Council.) Joan was also a charter member of the Nash Farm Committee. In 2022, Roy and Joan received the Lifetime Member Award from the Grapevine Historical Society in recognition of outstanding service and contributions. Joan was a member of the Bay View Club, a cornerstone of local history since 1925, and which she lovingly referred to members as her sisterhood.

Joan was preceded in death by her husband, Grapevine Councilman Del Roy Stewart in 2023, and son David Randall "Randy" Stewart who died at age 3. Their two daughters, Kerri Thomson and Kimberly Prochnow, live locally.

*~ Joetta King, Historian*



GGC members Chuck Voelker, Donna Young, Jeff Young and Joetta King. Karen Rice not pictured. Photograph from our September 29th Trail Tidy-Up.

## Wall-Farrar Adopt-An-Area Trail Tidy-Up November 24th at 9 a.m.

You all are invited to walk with us on the Wall-Farrar trails as we canvass for litter. This is our bi-monthly community Adopt-An-Area service project named GGC Trail Tidy-up. We will meet the beginning of Thanksgiving week on Monday, **November 24th at 9 a.m.** Location is the Wall-Farrar Nature Trail in Grapevine. Parking is allowed courtesy of Church at the Cross at 3000 William D Tate Ave, Grapevine, Texas 76051. Hope to see you on the 24th!

~ Karen Rice and Robin Pond, Coordinators

## Keep Grapevine Beautiful ECO Talk

### Mission: Forest Watch!

What do flying planes and planting trees have in common? Our January ECO Talk guest, Mike Sills, is not only an Urban Forester—he's also training to be a mission pilot with the Civil Air Patrol. His work helps protect our forests from above spotting forest fires, detecting tree diseases and monitoring pests. He is also planning a volunteer fly-in tree planting event! [Registration opens one month prior.](#)

Wednesday, January 7, 2026, from 7 to 8 p.m.

Stewart Hall at the REC of Grapevine, 1175 Municipal Way



## Gardeners Corner

### Craft Fair Recap

This year's fair went very well! I hope you all got to visit with the vendors as they had some wonderful items for sale. The vendors all had excellent sales and said it was a lot of fun meeting and talking to the members. I hope you will consider something at next year's Craft Fair. (Photos on page 12.)

### Christmas gifts!

Here at the Gardeners Corner we have a lot of items perfect for the Festive Season. The Lavender Ridge Farms selection of lavender-infused products make wonderful gifts and stocking stuffers. And let's not forget our range of gloves and tools for your gardener friends and families. Remember, our November meeting is your last chance to purchase items until January 2025! We look forward to visiting with you just before or after the main meeting.

~ Alexandra Evans and Catriona Noble,  
Gardeners Corner

# Grapevine Garden Club Bird Identification Signs Dedication

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, a short ceremony was held at Lake Grapevine to dedicate three bird identification signs that were created by GGC in memory of Dr. Ray Chancellor. The ceremony took place at the site of the C. Shane Wilbanks trail installation.

GGC combined money from the GGC 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary fund and the Ray Chancellor memorial fund. Additionally, the club received a \$3,000 grant from the Fort Worth Audubon Society (FWAS) to pay for this project.

Ray frequently led birding walks around the Lake Grapevine area and these signs are a tribute to him and all the knowledge he shared about our wonderful local ecology. The three bird signs each have a different set of birds depicted, all of which are unique to their nearby habitat. The signs can be found (one each) on the C. Shane Wilbanks trail, Acorn Woods Park trail and Snakey Lane trail.

The GGC bird sign committee members are Linda Robbins, Ella Barber, Karen Stephenson, Robin Pond and Karen Rice. This project was in coordination with Grapevine Parks and Rec (PARD) and Morgan Denny, Lake Parks Manager. PARD supplied the sites and the mounting pads and installed the signs. Attending the presentation was GGC President, Dinah Chancellor, other GGC members, Grapevine PARD and FWAS Board members.



At left: Morgan Denny, Lake Parks Manager presenting.

Dinah Chancellor and Joetta King seated.

GGC members and FWAS members standing.



At left: GGC bird sign committee:

Karen Rice, Linda Robbins, Ella Barber and Karen Stephenson. Not pictured Robin Pond.

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At left: Grapevine Garden Club members at the dedication of bird identification signage along Lake Grapevine on October 1, 2025.

Below: Dinah Chancellor, GGC president.



At left: Members of the Audubon Society of Fort Worth

At right: Dinah Chancellor (third from left) with members of the Grapevine Parks and Rec department





*Grapevine Garden Club recognizes and celebrates members who have been members for 25 years or more by designating them as members of the Silver Circle.*

## Silver Circle Honoree: Barbara Williams

Member since 2000 ~ 25 Years

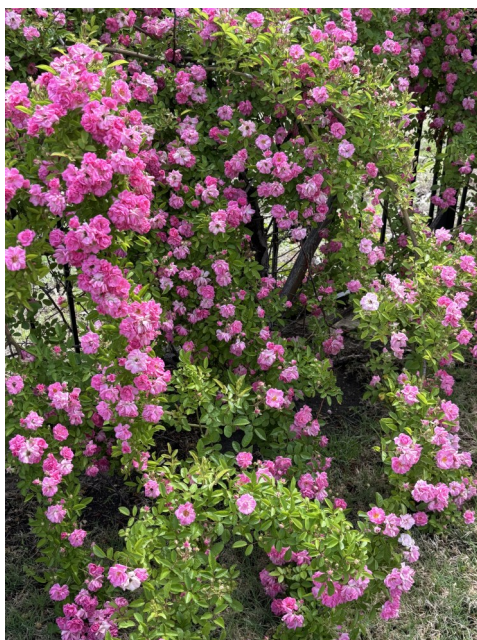


Barbara moved around a lot for 28 years due to her husband Roy's position with Boys Scouts of America, living in seven different cities and twelve homes before moving here in August 2000. Thanks to the invitation from other BSA wives, who were club members, she quickly joined GGC.

She served on the board as Outreach Chair for two years. Over the years she helped with both the spring and holiday luncheons, participated in Flowercade including transporting the entries to and from Fort Worth, and volunteered at West Texas Street and Butterfly Flutterby. She opened her garden several times for garden tours.

Barbara moved into a house with a garden that was just green, and she loves colorful flowers, so she was always a big supporter of the plant sale, being possibly the top spender at those first few sales as her big SUV stuffed with purchases would attest. Barbara always loved the Trips and Tours and participated in the long-distance ones to Longwood in Pennsylvania, the Biltmore in Asheville (North Carolina) and to Savannah (Georgia) as well as Sanibel (Florida), San Antonio (Texas), Arkansas and others. She has enjoyed attending many Gardeners on the Go tours and luncheons over the years because of the companionship of like-minded people. Now 25 years later she does not volunteer as much, but she always looks forward to the meetings to hear the speakers and to share a smile and some chit chat with fellow members. GGC has been a highlight of her last 25 years and has provided her with much joy and gardening information as she continues to plant and enjoy her garden in yet another new home.

Flowercade  
entries:  
Swiss chard  
and Peggy  
Martin rose





# West Texas Street Work Day



Thanks to everyone that volunteered for the fall West Texas Street work day! We pruned perennials, pulled and dug weeds, planted our winter annuals and put down mulch. The beds look fabulous thanks to you all!!

~ Leads: Debbie Boyle, Nancy Lewis, Pam and Greg Braak, Susan Stanek and Bruce Herndon

~ Irene Binyon and Robin Pond, West Texas Street Chairs



## Bird Resources on GGC's website:

[Feeding Birds In Your Backyard](#)

[Southlake Cove Ecosystem Journal](#)

[Backyard Habitats](#)

Adult Harris Sparrow photograph taken at Western Meadowmere Park, from the Southlake Cove Ecosystem Journal linked above.



## HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD

### Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>  
Social 10:30 a.m. ~ Lunch 11:00 a.m.  
At the Lancaster Theatre

**\$25**

Deadline to sign up and pay is December 1<sup>st</sup>

Italian Pasta Bar Catered by Bartley's  
Entertainment: Grapevine High School Choir  
*A donation basket for GRACE will be available.*

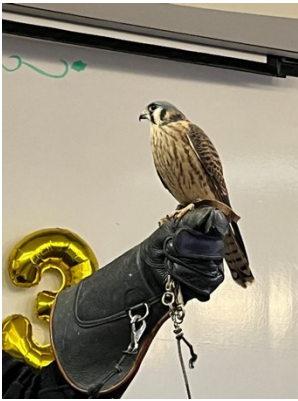




# Blackland Prairie Raptor Program

**Saturday, January 24, 2026**

Once again, the Grapevine Garden Club and the Grapevine Public Library are partnering to bring you the Raptors Program in honor of Bird Sanctuary Week. So, save the date: Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the Grapevine Library to meet up close and personal with an owl, a vulture, a kestrel and/or a hawk. Be sure to bring your kids, your grandkids and friends because this program is a wonderful thing to experience.



Blackland Prairie does an outstanding job rehabilitating these birds of prey and releasing them back into the wild or, if that is not possible, those birds have a safe home right there at Blackland Prairie.

*~ Questions? Contact Suzi Guckel, I'm in the book*

## GGC Annual Plant Sale

Hello and Happy Fall! The 2026 GGC Plant Sale is scheduled for **April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

We'd like to announce the theme for the sale .....

*"For The Birds"*

The flyer is a work in progress and will be presented early next year.

Other news:

- 1.) A GGC workshop title '**DIG IT...How to support GGC Plant Sale from Your Garden**' will be offered on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026. A team of plant sale dig pro's will be on hand to advise how anyone can dig from their garden and pot up from 1-100 plants. We hope to have a great crowd and widen our donated plants for the sale.
- 2.) Volunteer sign up sheets will be available at the November 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. Please swing by the Plant Sale table at the back of the room.
- 3.) Dig Kits.....Soil, pots and coffee filters will be provided (upon request) starting this month. Please contact Michelle Terry, Judy Sutherland or Karen Stephenson to set a time to meet at the Botanical Garden greenhouse.
- 4.) COMING SOON..... A Preferred Plant Name list will soon have a place on the GGC website. More information on this when it is published.



## GGC Craft Fair

