



PGS Officers

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President's Corner

Fellow Gardeners,

Now that the kids are back in school and we're all anticipating cooler temperatures, our thoughts will soon turn to our gardens. Be sure you circle September 9th on your calendar for the start of the Perennial Garden Society's new season. You're aware by now our season will be titled "From the Dirt Up" and will be a sequential series focusing on creating and implementing your personal design. Our first meeting will be held outside in the Pavilion at Liberty Garden and will feature Sharon Duquemin (yes, our Sharon who has a degree in Landscape Architecture from Texas A&M) and Julie Dove, City of Southlake Parks Supervisor (degree from Texas Tech in Ornamental Horticulture). They will be presenting a program we've called Design 101. In addition to Sharon and Julie starting our design phase, Michael Bosco, founder of *Soils Alive* will speak to the group about the importance of getting our beds off to a good start with the right soil prep.

Please note, because of the dual program speakers and the number of new members that joined over the summer, we will kick off this first meeting at 9:00 a.m. This will provide time to enjoy breakfast while we all get acquainted (or re-acquainted!) and allow a little extra time for our speakers.



Wendi and I look forward to the start of the new season and seeing everyone on the 9th - don't forget to bring your preliminary site plan description.

Beckie Underwood

Local Gardening Events

- 8/29—Orchid Society Sale—Ft Worth Botanic Garden
- 8/28-8/30—Ft. Worth Home and Garden Market Show—Ft Worth Convention Center
- 9/6—Gardening 101, North Haven Gardens
- 9/19—Iris & Daylily Sale, Ft Worth Botanic Garden
- 9/26—Designing the Landscape, Dallas Arboretum

From the dirt up - Is your soil alive?



As you move away from feeding your plants to feeding the soil, you will be encouraged to know that gardening actually becomes easier. The natural balance in a healthy, sustainable soil food web makes for healthier plants that look great and are more pest and disease-resistant, too.

The bottom line is that all plants do better in soil that is alive with beneficial soil microbes. Yet until recently, we didn't realize just how much we were doing through conventional gardening practices to promote a soil environment that was anything but alive. The implication of these facts soon became clear. Using high-salt, dehydrating, chemical fertilizers can kill fungi and bacteria at the base of the soil food web and impacts larger

Is your soil alive? (cont.)



members as well.

In an eco-friendly garden, our best asset is healthy soil. That means feeding the billions of beneficial microbes and other subterranean creatures the diet they need to thrive and multiply

Organic matter sums it up but, specifically, compost, aged manure, mushroom compost and leaf mold is a good place to start. Join us on September 9th to learn more about keeping your soil alive.



This Month's Garden Tips

Prune spent flower stalks and blossoms to encourage re-growth. Vegetable gardeners can start planting the cool season plants (broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, lettuce, carrots, radishes, etc. Use pest control ONLY when you have pests. Organic products such as garlic-pepper tea, orange oil, diatomaceous earth, and molasses are

effective controls...or try ladybugs, praying mantis, green lacewings, or beneficial nematodes. Water infrequently if possible (since we are at stage one of water rationing) Foliar feeding of plants okay this month but wait to fertilize until September.

Is anyone interested.....

We are not going to have time in this year's program to address ponds—design, installation, maintenance. But we could schedule a special

workshop, if we have enough interested members. If you would like to participate, please notify Wendi or Beckie.

October PGS Meeting

While the September meeting will help us come up with our preliminary design, the October meeting will be all about refining our landscape plan.

Sharon, Julie and Wendi will work with us in small groups to help us complete our design ideas. The meeting is October 14th, at 9:30, at Beckie Underwood's house.

**Next meeting
September 9 at Liberty
Garden—basic design
principles and soil
prep. 9:00 am**



The Perennial Garden Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating its members on gardening topics specific to the North Texas area. The primary focus of the group is native and adapted drought tolerant perennials and grasses. Our purpose is to promote, encourage and share ideas with other gardeners regarding the implementation of native and adapted perennial in the suburban Texas landscape.