



PGS Officers

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President's Corner

Fellow Members,

It was exciting to see such a large turnout at our September kick-off meeting. Not only were there familiar faces but many new members as well. It was interesting and informative to hear everyone tell of their gardening dilemmas, and describe what they are choosing for their project and why. Isn't it reassuring to know that we're not alone as we strive to overcome challenges presented by Mother Nature?

Michael Bosco with Soil's Alive was an excellent speaker to start off a season that's been titled "From the dirt up!" We learned that a gardener's best friend should be the earth worm, air is just as important as water, compost and mulch are critical, and grubs aren't enemy number one as many of us thought.

Sharon Duquemin and Julie Dove showed us how to start looking for the potential in any area. They peaked our interest in learning more about the design principals of balance, variety, focal point, color, texture, scale and line.



Whether you're a returning member or new to the Perennial Garden Society, Wendi and I want to say welcome. We hope to make it an enjoyable year that brings new knowledge along with new friends.

Beckie Underwood

Local Gardening Events

- 9/26—Designing the Landscape, Dallas Arboretum
- 9/19-11/1—Autumn at the Arboretum, Dallas Arboretum
- 10/10—Fall plant sale—Ft. Worth Botanic Garden
- 10/17—12th Annual Butterfly Flutterby, Grapevine

From the dirt up - Creating the Master Plan

I hope that everyone has picked their project. As you work on your drawings, remember that we need to approach it in steps. First, think



about what you want the area to be – a sitting area, an abundant flower garden, a shed that needs to be camouflaged, a side yard transition? Then, make your base map. Make sure that you include everything that's already there – outline

of the house, the shed, the property lines, sidewalks, fences, etc. Next you're going to use tracing paper and draw in your "inventory". What's the drainage? How does the sun impact? Now, step back and analyze the site. How do the things you noted in your inventory impact your thoughts on your design? Remember, Sharon mentioned she realized that she had a slope to her yard, and that impacted her decision on whether or not she could add a sitting area.



Creating the Master Plan (cont.)

Now create the bubble diagram. Use a new piece of tracing paper, and draw in areas where you want to add things. For example, “planting bed” could be one of your bubbles. Don’t detail what you want in the bed – that’s the next step. The bubble diagram should give you an idea of where you might want “shrubs”, “trees”, “sitting area”, etc.

We’ll start the October meeting with a presentation on the final 2 steps in the process converting your bubble diagram into your preliminary design and then adding the additional detail that

will create the final design. We will then work in small groups with Sharon, Julie and team to help detail out how you will fill in those bubbles. We’ll look at the lines of the “planting bed”, what the dimensions of the “sitting area” will be. Then we’ll finally get to the stage where we decide what we’ll plant!

As we go through the rest of the year, we’re going to learn more about trees and shrubs, hardscape and color. Each meeting will help you further refine what goes into your Master Plan.



October Garden Tips

Refrigerate tulips and hyacinths until Dec. 15th at 45 degrees F. Plant pansies, pinks, snapdragons, flowering cabbage, flowering kale and blue-bonnet transplants, once the temperatures begin to fall. Trees and shrubs will be marked down in many nurseries as they prepare for winter. This is an outstanding time for planting. Complete division and replanting of daylilies, iris,

violets, Shasta daisies coneflowers and other spring-flowering perennials early in the month. Remove spent flower stalks from mums as their blooms fade. Tidy other perennial plantings by removing dying stems and seed stalks. Give poorly shaped evergreen shrubs a minor trim to help them look better. Save more major pruning until late winter.

**Next meeting
October 14—
Beckie Underwood’s
house**

1407 Whispering Dell Ct.
Southlake

November PGS Meeting

The November meeting will be held at Judy Anderson’s house. Steve Huddelston, Director

of the Ft. Worth Botanical Garden, will talk to us about trees and shrubs.

Save the Date! November Field Trip!!!

To follow up our discussion of trees and shrubs, we’re planning a field trip to Metro Maples in Mansfield on **November 18**. They have a display garden with over 50 varieties of Japanese and sell over 75 varieties.

By mid-November the maples should be putting on a very colorful show and it will also be a great time to plant them. Watch the October newsletter for more details.



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.