

Extension Changes Lives



in Dallas County

Summer/Fall 2009 Newsletter



Doug Andrews
County Extension Director

In this issue you will find that County Extension Agents in Dallas County were providing educational programs in a variety of subject matter areas to the citizens of Dallas County. Our unique network of professional staff and trained volunteers allowed us to reach 41,294 individuals with research-based information to enhance their quality of life in the areas of health and wellness, agricultural and horticultural production, youth development, family issues, and natural resources management. Many thanks go to all who support these efforts to educate our citizens on locally identified

Parent Education Classes



In support of the Asian community to strengthen healthy family relationships, Family and Consumer Sciences Agent, Wenhsing Cheng, collaborated with Pastor Timothy Fong of Lutheran Church of the Way in July 2009 and provided a series of parent education classes. Three parenting programs were presented in Mandarin Chinese. A total of 30 Asian

parents attended the programs and learned about communicating with their children, developing their children's self-esteem and positive discipline techniques.

Master Wellness Volunteers

Over 130 adults and youth received information related to healthy eating, the importance of regular physical activity, and the importance of sun safety by attending programs presented by Dallas County Master Wellness volunteers in July. Parkland Hospital employees, clients in Parkland's DeHaro Clinic Champs Program, and employees of Gulfstream

Aerospace learned how they could eat a healthy diet and adopt a healthy lifestyle by following MyPyramid guidelines; by increasing their level of regular physical activity and participating in activities that are fun as well as beneficial; and how by staying safe in the sun they can significantly lower their risk of developing skin cancer. Since 2003, community-minded volunteers have attended 40 hours of training, and given back 40 hours of volunteer service. Current volunteers serve in a variety of capacities as they extend the outreach of Texas AgriLife Extensions' health and wellness programs in Dallas County.

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Water Education



On Monday, July 20, 2009, Dallas County CEP-Family & Consumer Science Agent, Marvin Young, assisted by Ms. Sparkle Harris and Ms. Christine Twigg of the Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Service presented a water education program to 31 youth ages 5-8 at the Jubilee Park Community Center. The program, entitled, Freddy the Fish, taught youth that fish need cool clear streams in which to live. The program gave a great visual to show youth how different sources of pollution can affect clear streams and eventually make an unlivable habitat for wildlife. The youth also were shown how our trash, motor oil, and other pollutants can harm our water, fish, and other wildlife.

EARTH-KIND™ & WaterWise Demonstration Garden



Collaborative partners are one of the methods utilized to deliver best management practices to Extension's citizen clients. Real world best management practices utilized in demonstrations are additional vehicles in program delivery. When the two combine as it has with the EARTH-KIND™ and WaterWise Demonstration Garden at Commissioner Maurine Dickey's District 1 facility at 2311 Joe Field Road, Dallas, Texas 75229 the outcome is a winner. Commissioner Dickey has been and continues to be a strong Extension programming supporter. This is evident from multiple actions including recognizing the demonstration, Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Dallas County Master Gardener program by the recent stone engraved signage installed at the garden/facility entrance.

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Dallas County 2009 Master Gardener School

The 2009 Dallas County Master Gardener volunteer training School continues its quality presentations. During August 2009 specific presentations included; "Trees for North Texas", "Tree Insects and Diseases", "Tree Selection, Planting and Care", "Introduction to The World of Plants", "EARTH-KIND™ and WaterWise Landscape Color", "Vegetable Gardening for North Texas", "Fruits, Nuts and Berries for North Texas", "Turf Grass; Selection, Planting, Insects, Diseases and Care for North Texas", "Rainwater Harvesting" and "Rain Gardens". Presentations were conducted at the Texas AgriLife Extension-Dallas County office Learning Center, City of Dallas Farmers Market and the EARTH-KIND™/WaterWise Demonstration Gardens at Commissioner Maurine Dickey's facility. Class average was 59 attendees per class plus 26 volunteers who assisted in administering the classes. Student's comments included: "Excellent presentation!", "Loved Steve Houser and his team.", "Slides of diseases were very helpful." "Great class!", "The energy and enthusiasm of the lecturers were what helped keep our attention. We covered lots of material. I loved every minute.", "Judy was amazing!", "It just gets better and better.", "Raul - great!", "Each instructor took time to completely answer questions." "Dr. Parsons was fun! I wish we had him all day.", "Dr. Stein was the most engaging speaker so far."

Project SAVE (Skills Advancement Vocational Education)

On August 18, 2009, Dallas County Extension Agent-Natural Resources, Fred D. Burrell Jr., Extension volunteers and industry experts collaborated with 71 Dallas County Youth Village participants to conduct an Agricultural Literacy day. The thrust of the agricultural literacy event was to instruct participants about the importance of our nation's food, fiber and natural resources and our interdependence to our natural resources. Four educational stations set-up to demonstrate with the youth participants were as follows: Southwest Dairy mobile milking unit, forestry, natural fibers and Texas Farm Bureau agricultural commodities displays. Students were instructed with factual information about the importance of each commodity and its economic value and careers associated with each. As a result of this educational program youth participants engaged in the garden program have a better understanding of how dependent we are on our natural resources for our food, fiber and the numerous careers associated with each.



4-H & Youth Development HEAD * HEART * HANDS * HEALTH

On August 11, 2009 the Dallas County 4-H Club Managers met to gear up for the new 4-H Year! Club Managers from the Sunnyvale and Urbanites 4-H clubs shared how 4-H develops youth into community leaders and prepares them for future careers. Community members from Lancaster, Dallas and Seagoville attended to learn about the steps in chartering a 4-H club. The club managers were introduced to the new Dallas County 4-H website and blog, which can be found at: <http://dallas-tx.tamu.edu> and click on 4-H and Youth Development.



On August 11, 2009, Teresa Taylor, Program Assistant for 4-H and Youth Development conducted a teacher training for the Junior Master Gardener program. Ms. Taylor taught 18 teachers on Earth-Kind practices and Water Wise demonstration gardens at the demonstration gardens at Commissioner Dickey's office. These teachers will implement the curriculum during the school year, teaching Dallas County youth the importance of growing food using environmental friendly practices.



Distinguished Service Award

Dale Groom, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, and Doug Andrews, Dallas County Extension Director, both received high honors from the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association (TCAAA) and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Association (NACAA). The awards were presented in Portland, Oregon at the 94th Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference of the NACAA. This is the highest award presented by both associations and both recipients were nominated by their peers. Dale Groom received the Achievement Award which is presented to outstanding County Extension Agents with less than ten years of service. His citation reads, *"Dale has been providing innovative and effective educational programming in horticulture to industry, homeowners, and municipalities in Dallas County since 2004. His programming efforts have resulted in the adoption of new technology and practices which save millions of gallons of water, protect the environment, beautify the landscape and increase profitability. He has effectively educated over 100,000 people in the past 4 years."* Doug Andrews received the Distinguished Service Award, reserved for those with more than 10 years of service. Doug has served in Extension for more than 32 years in six counties. His citation reads, *"Doug has provided innovative and effective programs in agriculture that resulted in the adoption of new practices and technologies to increase profitability and enhance environmental stewardship. He was instrumental in bringing the first comforter technology to local agricultural producers in Atascosa County, Texas. He worked with local farmers and groundwater conservation districts to bring low energy precision irrigation (LEPA) technology to south Texas and worked with Extension specialists and allied industry to introduce transgenic crops to central Texas."*



County Extension Director —Doug Andrews
and Horticulturist, Dale Groom

4-H Process Training for Youth

On Monday, September 28, 2009, Community Council of Greater Dallas provided the setting for the Dallas County 4-H Charter process training. The meeting was coordinated by Dallas County CEP – FCS agent, Marvin R. Young and was attended by seven youth-serving agencies from Dallas County. Mr. Young was assisted by a wide array of professional 4-H agents including Tamra McGaughy, Tim Sandles, Shannon Johnson, Cassius McAlester, specialists Ms. Gail Long, and volunteers representing Dallas, Tarrant, Waller, and Fort Bend Counties. This diverse group provided 4-H policies, procedures, steps for chartering, and other important information for the development and maintenance of “official” 4-H clubs. The agenda included, but was not limited to, steps in the chartering process, defining 4-H, adult/volunteer application process, leader expectations, educational opportunities and scholarships, various 4-H projects/activities, 4-H Connect, and the Texas AgriLife – Cooperative Extension collaboration. As stated by Ms. Gail Long, CEP 4-H Specialist from Prairie View A&M University, “This training was a great idea that may have to be undertaken by other counties. It provided a comfortable and comprehensive approach for recruiting new 4-H audiences. It allowed them to see 4-H from different perspectives.” Ms. Gail Long commended Marvin Young and Tamra McGaughy, 4-H Agent/Texas AgriLife, for the cohesive working relationship they have developed to serve the youth and youth-serving agencies of Dallas County.

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4-H Expansion in Dallas County

On Tuesday, September 29, 2009 the St. Monica’s 4-H Club organized, chartered and elected officers for the first time. Youth from Saint Monica’s Catholic School are excited about learning more on poultry, leadership and community service by participating in these 4-H project areas. The inaugural meeting hosted 19 participants ranging from third to eighth grade. It will be great to see these youth develop and grow into community leaders.

Project SAVE

September 15-17, 2009, Dallas County Extension Agent-Natural Resources, Fred D. Burrell, Jr. and a host of Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist volunteers collaborated with the Dallas County Youth Village to conduct three evenings of horticultural training classes to 18 adjudicated youth. The thrust of the training was to teach participants the principals of vegetable gardening. The training course is taught once a quarter to incoming youth. This training affords youth participants the opportunity to learn the basic principles of vegetable gardening and learn about careers related to each stage of our nation’s food and fiber supply from seed to table. The gardening program is one component of Project SAVE (<http://www.youthvillagefoundation.org/programs.html>). The gardening and horticultural program is three fold: educational, therapeutic, and vocational. Youth participants were instructed in the following areas: how to read a seed packet, soils, plant requirements, entomology, and cultural practices for vegetables, water conservation and basic knowledge about related career paths pertaining to our food and fiber supply from seed to table. The goal of the program is to facilitate a sustainable vocational horticulture program at the Dallas County Youth Village and to empower youth with educational opportunities, life and career skills, promote pro-social behavior and realize community benefits through collaborative efforts among community partners. Each participant received a certificate of completion stating that they have successfully completed the horticultural training program which can be presented to potential employers after they are released for employment at area restaurants, nurseries, florists, and grocery stores.

In cooperation with....

Dallas County Commissioner’ Court

Jim Foster
County Judge

Maurine Dickey
Commissioner, Pct. 1

Mike Cantrell
Commissioner, Pct. 2

John Wiley Price
Commissioner, Pct. 3

Kenneth A. Mayfield
Commissioner, Pct. 4