



March 2018 Newsletter

# The Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park



Thursday, March 22nd, 6:00—8:30pm

Don't miss Paul James, "The Gardener Guy", as he headlines an entertaining fundraising event benefiting the Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park.

Tickets are \$89 with sponsorships available as well. Online registration is at [www.tulsagardencenter.com/events/gardenthyme](http://www.tulsagardencenter.com/events/gardenthyme).

Be sure to bring your gardening questions and join us for zany fun at Woodward Park!

# From the Executive Director

## Raise the Roof



If you've ever tried your hand at managing renovations in an older home, or any home for that matter, you've likely experienced the cringing sensation that you're playing out a real life role from the *Money Pit* movie.

I had one of those moments recently at The Mansion at Woodward Park during the start of our late February rains. As I was positioning a bucket on the grand staircase to catch leaking roof water, I swear I felt just like Tom Hanks as he danced around a gaping hole in his ceiling laughing manically at the sheer absurdity of it all. I even went back and watched the *Money Pit* again last weekend just so I wouldn't feel so alone in the continuing plight of roof leaks and ceiling damage at The Mansion.

Hosting literally millions of visitors since her doors opened to the public, The Mansion at Woodward Park is a unique beauty full of artistic craftsmanship and intricate detailing that you just don't see anymore. Unfortunately, though, the opposite side of that coin is that any major repairs to the historical ceilings just can't be performed by a general contractor. When the roof leaks and the ceilings sustain damage it isn't as simple as replacing a bit of sheetrock, as these ceilings are ornate with gold leaf, wood carvings, and hand-molded plaster detailing.

I can tell you from firsthand experience, watching water drip from her ceilings while gorgeous plasterwork falls to the marble floors can be extremely distressing and disheartening, but that certainly doesn't mean something can't be done to stop the damage from multiplying. This is why the Tulsa Garden Center board of directors is organizing a fundraising effort to "Raise the Roof" and preserve one of our communities' most valuable historical treasures, not to mention the primary source of nonprofit income which supports the educational mission of the Tulsa Garden Center and Linnaeus Teaching Garden!

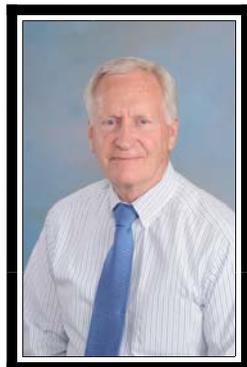
At the end of the day, though, the one thing I know for certain is that time and again, The Mansion at Woodward Park has played host to the same storybook ending that played out in the *Money Pit*, an elegant wedding at a stunning home surrounded by a family and friends, all ready to help the newlyweds celebrate and "Raise the Roof"!

If you would like to help us "Raise the Roof", please consider a tax-deductible donation to help us preserve this community jewel for the next 100 years.

*Laura Chalus, Executive Director*

# Oregon Grape Holly (Mahonia)

When I was a boy, I was utterly captivated by historical accounts of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, an amazing journey of discovery launched from just outside St. Louis in the summer of 1804.



Thomas Jefferson authorized the expedition following the purchase of the vast, unexplored Louisiana Territory. Jefferson chose his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, an intelligent man and seasoned frontiersman, to lead the expedition. Lewis selected William Clark, a noted draftsman and mapmaker to be his co-captain.

The two men, along with a band of helpers, made their way up the Missouri River to present day Three Forks, Montana and finally on to the mighty Columbia River that empties into the Pacific.

Not generally known is that Jefferson wanted more than a mapping of the area and a report of its indigenous people. He also wanted detailed information on native plants and animals of the area. Jefferson was, after all, a big time gardener. His beloved Monticello plantation was home to a very diverse plant collection for that time.

Lewis and Clark obliged the president. Of the 172 new plants (mostly seeds) they collected along the Columbia



River Basin, one (Oregon Grape Holly) eventually became a garden favorite of a young nation and its still highly valued in gardens today.

Oregon Grape Holly (*Mahonia aquifolium*) is neither a grape nor a holly. However, its dark blue fruit does resemble clusters of grapes and its ruffled foliage resembles that of some hollies. This tough and beautiful shrub is native along the coast of British Columbia to the northern coast of California. It's the official state flower of Oregon.

In late winter, bright yellow flowers open at the tips of slender branches. And by early summer, bluish grape-like berry clusters are formed at end of branch terminals.

Oregon Grape Holly is a broadleaf evergreen shrub growing five to six feet tall. It has virtually no insect or disease problems; it's hardy as far north as Kansas City and it has excellent drought tolerance. While it tolerates full sun, I think the foliage of this evergreen shrub is more attractive when planted in garden locations that receive full morning sun and afternoon shade.

Oregon Grape Holly is a cane-forming multi-stem shrub. Every two to three years it's wise to remove one third of its oldest canes at ground level. This rejuvenates the plant and encourages new canes to spring-up from the base along with vibrant new foliage.

Modern plant breeders have developed a number of dwarf and compact growing cultivars of Oregon Grape Holly. Landscape uses include: mixed shrub borders, mass plantings, screening and pot culture. I have a beautiful six year old specimen growing in a large decorative pot on my patio. Twice weekly watering, a light spring trimming, and a yearly application of Osmocote fertilizer has kept it healthy and attractive.

I rarely walk past Oregon Grape Holly without thinking of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. What a great adventure that must have been and what a great plant they introduced to American gardeners.

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Barry Fugatt is Director of Horticulture at the Tulsa Garden Center & Linnaeus Teaching Garden. He can be reached at 918-576-5152, e-mail: [bfugatt@tulsagardencenter.com](mailto:bfugatt@tulsagardencenter.com)

# Ornamental Grasses

Grasses, once given slight attention, have moved to the forefront of the garden in recent years. Their leaves, seed heads, and changing colors grab the gardener's attention. When chosen wisely and used with care, grasses can endow the garden with show stopping appeal-requiring little work in return. The variety of species available have made them an integral part of garden design. Discover the versatility of ornamental grasses in your garden year-round using these books.

*Designing with Grasses* (Timber Press, 2011) shows gardeners what grasses are available but also how to design with them, supported by maintenance techniques and design checklists. It gives names of grasses best for a variety of situations including low-maintenance and drought-tolerant gardens. Although the authors are British, U.S. specific discussions and images are abundant. Technical advice and helpful tables are combined with the great photography. The extensive A-Z directory profiles more than 450 grasses, rushes and sedges, with instructions on growth and care.



*Encyclopedia of Grasses for Livable Landscapes* (Timber Press, 2007) describes the qualities of grasses in private gardens and the challenges of using them in public landscapes. Practical information on selection, planting, and propagation is also provided. The bulk of the book is a comprehensive A-Z encyclopedia of grasses and grass look-alikes. With more than 1000 photographs, each plant entry includes advice on maintenance and cultivation. This book has something for gardeners at all levels of expertise and experience. It is surely to be a definitive re-

source for these popular and versatile plants.

*Gardening with Ornamental Grasses* (Horticulture Books, 2004) covers selection, purchase, propagation and maintenance. Practical information on plant schemes for shade, prairie, containers and summer borders aid the gardener.

The comprehensive A-Z section of grasses help readers select plants for their garden scheme. Color photographs add to the beauty and value of this detailed book. This book will inspire amateur gardeners and enthusiasts to undertake more in-depth projects.



Providing essential and helpful advice, *Timber Press Pocket Guide to Ornamental Grasses* (Timber Press, 2004) gives a source list with more than 330 beautiful photos. This will help the reader to select and choose grasses in a wide range of situations and climates. This handy compact format covers 530 species and cultivars with cultivation information and descriptions. This is an ideal reference to take to the nursery or garden center. The wide assortment of plants features varied textures, forms, sizes, and flowering time.

Mary Moore  
Tulsa City-County Library

# Volunteering at Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park

By

Dylan Axsom

Volunteering is one of the most important and rewarding things a person can do. Until I received the Tulsa Achieves scholarship from Tulsa Community College in 2016, the only volunteering I had done was mandatory work that I did to clear a speeding ticket from my record. Since then, I've volunteered at several places around Tulsa. Some of the first places I volunteered at were non-profits like the Air and Space Museum and Catholic Charities, but when I worked at Spring Fest 2017 with the Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park, they quickly became my favorite.

My dad worked for the City of Tulsa for almost 10 years, dealing mainly with the gardens at Woodward, so the park has usually been a part of my life. Though I'd always been aware of it, I never fully realized that the park was so much more than just a swing set and nice roses. Upon my first volunteer day, I quickly learned of all of the different parts: the mansion, the greenhouse, the carriage house, the Historical Society building, all of the gardens, and more. I was taught the history of the nearly 100-year-old mansion, what the land originally used to be, and how the different pieces of the park came together.

After having volunteered at the park for almost a year now, I've worked with tons of different people. The Garden Center team, workers with the City of Tulsa, regular volunteers, and members of several gardening clubs are just a few I can name, and they've all taught me different things about Woodward. The history of the property and the

community around it is a big reason why I keep coming back.

Another reason is that, as a 20-year-old, I am seeing our natural world change in ways that it shouldn't. I know that as a young person I have the power to make a difference on the future of our planet's health, and I believe that I have to do my part to keep it in good shape. It's no secret that most of the gardeners and plant-lovers are on the higher end of the age spectrum, so I also see it as a duty and opportunity to move into those people's places. It's also no secret that interest in horticulture education has been on decline for the past several years, even though taking care of nature and plants will be a key to managing the population and environment in the near future. Universities across the globe are experiencing a decline in horticulture programs, and even TCC recently ended that degree option.

On the lighter side though, volunteering is just fun and makes you feel good, especially when you can find the right place to donate your time to. Not getting paid to work isn't usually ideal, but knowing that those few hours of work goes to a good cause is much more valuable, and the experience of working with genuine people is something not everybody gets to experience on a regular basis. The amount of knowledge there is to gain is immeasurable, and the relationships a person can build can open doors that nobody would have even thought possible.

What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have never been discovered.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Ongoing Classes & Events

Every Monday

**Tai Chi Chuan Yang Form—Slow Set**



Tai Chi is a slow, graceful, rhythmic exercise which promotes good health, bone density, and balance while the gentle twisting improves flexibility and circulation.

\$15 per month for TGC members or \$20 per month for non-members.

**Beginner Class—4:45—5:45pm**

**Advanced Class—6:00—7:00pm**

(Prior experience required for Advanced Class.)

Call 918-576-5155 for more information or to enroll.

First, Second, Fourth and Fifth Mondays

**Let's Talk Gardening!**

The Tulsa Garden Center Garden Study Group meets for informal discussions about gardening and nature in general. The Study Group meets from 12:00—1:30pm. There is no charge to attend this Study Group. Reservations aren't required.

Every Wednesday—7:00—8:00pm

**Ballroom Dancing**

Every Wednesday evening, the Tulsa Garden Center will sponsor Ballroom Dancing sessions.

Nedra Smith will lead participants in dancing the Waltz, the Rumba, the Foxtrot and the Swing Dance. \$35 per 4 classes or \$10 per single class. Unaccompanied dancers are welcome. Reservations are required.



Call 918-576-5155 for more information or to enroll.

Every Wednesday—4:45—5:45pm

**Strength and Mobility Training**

Strength training can ward off age-related muscle loss, keep your bones strong, promote mobility and function, prevent falls, and help combat depression and cognitive decline. Karen Nelson leads the participants in low-impact, body-friendly exercises.

\$15 per month for TGC members or \$20 per month for non-members.

Call 918-576-5155 for more information or to enroll.

Single Classes & Events

Thursday, March 1, 6:30pm

**Tulsa Area Daylily Society**



Terry and Yadria Lopp of Windswept Farm and Gardens will present a program on their daylilies at the March 1st meeting. The program will be presented at 7:00pm followed by an auction of their daylilies.

Contact: Kathryn Earle at 918-804-0748  
[kathrynearle1@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynearle1@gmail.com)

Friday, March 2, 10:00am

**Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs**

Will present a lecture by David Hillock, Oklahoma State University Master Gardener Coordinator, Department of Horticulture and Landscape, followed by a pot luck luncheon.

Contact: Marillyn Lay at 918-246-9656  
[mnhlay@cox.net](mailto:mnhlay@cox.net)



Monday, March 5, 10:00am

**Tulsa Garden Club**

Join members of The Tulsa Garden Club for the program



“Plant with Purpose” by Carla Grogg of Grogg’s Green Barn. Mike Perkins of Up With Trees will also present a report on Conservation and Roadside Beautification.

Contact: Marillyn Lay at 918-246-9656  
[mnhlay@cox.net](mailto:mnhlay@cox.net)

Tuesday, March 6, 6:30—8:00pm

**Flower Arranging Class**

Learn to arrange flowers from your garden into centerpieces that will enhance your living space or special event. Toni Garner of Toni’s Flowers and Gifts will lead this workshop. All flowers and a container will be provided. The workshop fee is \$100. Online registration is available at: [www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/](http://www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/). Registration is required.



Single Classes & Events

Monday, March 5, 5:30pm

**Oklahoma Native Plant Society**

Lynn Michael, Northeast Chapter Chairman will provide details of the April Bioblitzes, planned for each region.

Monday, March 11, 1:30pm

**Tulsa Orchid Society**

The program will be on the orchid genus *Barkeria* by Dr. Robert Marsh. Dr. Marsh is involved in popularizing the *Barkerias* and establishment of them as a mass market plant. The genus *Barkeria* consists of only about 15 species which are found as native plants in southern Mexico to Guatemala and Panama.



Contact: Jack Heflin at 918-496-3432  
[Elenia.heflin@gmail.com](mailto:Elenia.heflin@gmail.com)

Sunday, March 11, 2:00pm

**The Tulsa Rose Society**

Bingo For Roses!

Complimentary snacks and drinks will be served. There will be 2 sessions of play and cards will be offered at \$5 each during each session. Proceeds will support the society's rose show, our scholarship program and the Tulsa Garden Center and Rose Garden. Come have fun and win roses!



Contact: Gordon Beck at 918-409-9033  
[GordonLeeBeck@yahoo.com](mailto:GordonLeeBeck@yahoo.com)

Monday, March 12, 6:30—8:00pm

**What are Heirloom Vegetables and Why Are They Important?**

Lisa Merrell, The Tomato Man's Daughter will discuss heirloom vegetables and seeds and which tomatoes and vegetables grow best in Tulsa. This lecture is free to Tulsa

Garden Center members and \$5 for non-members. Online registration is available at: [www.tulsagardencenter.org/events/](http://www.tulsagardencenter.org/events/). Registration is required.



Tuesday, March 13, 6:30pm

**Green Country Water Garden Society**

A light meal and friendship are offered at 6:30pm. At 7:00pm Kim Donar from WINGIT (Wildlife in Need Group in Tulsa), a non-profit partner of the Tulsa Audubon Society will give a program explaining their mission.



WINGIT's purpose is to rehabilitate native wildlife that have been found orphaned, sick or injured. They try to remedy the needs of the bird or animal and release it back into its natural habitat.

Members of the Water Garden Society will also be available to answer your water garden questions.

Contact: Joe Dutton @ 918-518-5340  
[duttontravel@gmail.com](mailto:duttontravel@gmail.com)

Thursday, March 15, 7:00pm

**Tulsa Perennial Club**

Sandy Schwinn, Conservation Specialist with Monarch Watch will discuss how to "Create a Backyard Butterfly Sanctuary". The public is welcome to attend at no cost.



Contact: Diane Beckert at 918-606-7256  
[Diane.beckert@jmwsettlements.com](mailto:Diane.beckert@jmwsettlements.com)

Saturday, March 17, 10:00am

**Growing Cool and Warm Season Vegetables**

Learn from an expert! How to grow vegetables that will be the envy of your neighbors. This lecture is free to Tulsa Garden Center members and \$5 for non-members.

Online registration is available at: [www.tulsagardencenter.org/events/](http://www.tulsagardencenter.org/events/). Registration is required.



## Single Classes & Events

Sunday, March 18, 1:30—3:00pm

### Irrigation and Drainage - How-to Class

Join the Tulsa Garden Center for a how-to class taught by Eric Hightower, Irrigation, drainage and Lighting Manager for Tom's Outdoor Living, on proper installation and maintenance of your drainage and irrigation systems.



One lucky attendee will receive a one-hour on-site visit from Mr. Hightower that includes a full run-through of your home sprinkler system. This lecture is free to Tulsa Garden Center members and \$5 for non-members. Online

registration is available at: [www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/](http://www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/). Registration is required.

Tuesday, March 20, 12:00pm—1:00pm

### Tulsa Garden Center Library Book Discussion

Come join us during your lunch hour for this entertaining and informative discussion. Sandy Cox reviews the book "Gifts From the Herb Garden" by Emelia Tolley and Chris Mead. Every herb lover will find new reasons to appreciate these useful and versatile plants and share the bounty & beauty of their herb garden.

This book discussion is FREE to the public and held in the Tulsa Garden Center Library. Reservations aren't required.

Thursday, March 22, 6:00—8:30pm

### Garden Thyme with the Gardener Guy

Don't miss Paul James, "The Gardener Guy", as he headlines an entertaining fundraising event benefiting the Tulsa Garden Center at Woodward Park.

Individual tickets are \$89 with sponsorships available as well. Be sure to bring your gardening questions and join us at Woodward Park.

Online registration is available at: [www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/gardenthyme](http://www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/gardenthyme).



Sunday, March 25, 1:30—3:30pm

### Grow Your Own Mushrooms

Why do people eat mushrooms? For their nutritional value, for their flavor, for their texture, and as a religious practice. What-

ever your reason, learn how to grow mushrooms at home to ensure their edible integrity and to provide a reliable source.

The admission fee is \$35 for Tulsa Garden Center members and \$40 for non-members. A pre-drilled log and mushroom spores will be supplied to all attendees.

Enrollment is required. Online enrollment at [www.tulsagardencentral.com/events](http://www.tulsagardencentral.com/events)



Monday, March 26, 6:00pm

### Calligraphy Guild of Oklahoma

Making Wedge Brush Flowers.



Tuesday, March 27, 7:00pm

### The Hosta Connection

Kim Toscano Holmes will give a presentation on adding a Japanese garden to your landscape using plants that grow well in Oklahoma.

Contact: Carol Puckett at 918-355-4281  
[osu295@cox.net](mailto:osu295@cox.net)

Wednesday, March 28, 6:30—8:00pm

### Do You Want a Garden but Don't Know How to Begin?

Karen Watkins will instruct this class. Sun and Shade requirements, soil pH, plant compatibility, inter-planting ornamentals and vegetables, and the use of native plants will be the topics covered.

This lecture is free to Tulsa Garden Center members and \$5 for non-members.

Online registration is available at: [www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/](http://www.tulsagardencentral.org/events/). Registration is required.



Thursday, March 29, 7:00pm

### Green Country Sierra Club

Do you want to know more about the Wind Catcher wind farm project of PSO. Attend this meeting to hear the Vice President of External Affairs of

PSO explain the project and how it will benefit Tulsa and Oklahoma. There is No Charge to attend.

# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00pm Cacti & Succulent Soc. Mtg. 7:00pm Tulsa Area Daylily Soc.	2 10:00am Tulsa Council of Federated Garden Clubs Mtg.	3
4	5 10:00am Tulsa Garden Club Regular Meeting 4:45—5:45pm 6:00—7:00pm TGC Class Tai Chi 5:30pm Oklahoma Native Plant Soc. Mtg. 7:00pm Green Country Bonsai	6 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Member Activities 12:00—1:30pm "Let's Talk Gardening" 6:30—8:00pm TGC Class "Flower Arranging"	7 4:45—5:45pm TGC Class Strength & Mobility 7:00—8:00pm Ballroom Dancing	8 7:00pm Tulsa Area Iris Soc. Mtg.	9	10 9:00am—12:00pm Tulsa Area Iris Society Judging School
11 Daylight Savings Time Begins 1:30pm Tulsa Orchid Society Mtg. 2:00pm Tulsa Rose Soc. Mtg.	12 4:45—5:45pm 6:00—7:00pm TGC Class Tai Chi 6:30—8:00pm TGC Class "Growing Tomatoes and Herbs"	13 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Regular Meeting 12:00—1:30pm "Let's Talk Gardening" 6:30pm Green Country Water Garden Society Mtg.	14 4:45—5:45pm TGC Class Strength & Mobility 7:00—8:00pm Ballroom Dancing	15 7:00pm Tulsa Perennial Club Mtg.	16 1:00pm Nat'l. Assoc. of Parliamentarians Regular Meeting	17 10:00am—12:00pm TGC Class "Growing Warm and Cool Season Vegetables"
18 1:30—3:30pm TGC Class "Irrigation and Drainage"	19 4:45—5:45pm 6:00—7:00pm TGC Class Tai Chi 7:00pm African Violet Society Regular Mtg.	20 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Member Activities 11:00am Anne Hathaway Herb Society Mtg. 12:00—1:30pm TGC Book Review "Gifts from the Herb Garden" 7:00pm Audubon Society Regular Mtg	21 4:45—5:45pm TGC Class Strength & Mobility 7:00—8:00pm Ballroom Dancing	22 6:00—8:30pm Garden Thyme with the Gardener Guy	23	24
25 1:30—3:30pm TGC Class "Growing Mushrooms"	26 4:45—5:45pm 6:00—7:00pm TGC Class Tai Chi 6:30pm The Calligraphy Guild Mtg.	27 9:00am Tulsa Herb Society Member Activities 12:00—1:30pm "Let's Talk Gardening" 7:00pm Hosta Connection Mtg.	28 9:30am Linnaeus Volunteers Monthly Meeting 4:45—5:45pm TGC Class Strength & Mobility 7:00—8:00pm Ballroom Dancing 6:30—8:00pm TGC Class "Beginning Gardening"	29 7:00pm Sierra Club Meeting	30	31