

## **UTA Retirees Club**

### **Meeting Minutes**

*January 12, 2016*

*Next meeting:* February 9, 2016, 10am-noon; location TBA

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#### **I. Announcements**

President, Rita Thompson stated that we will have to change our meeting room due to pending construction at the MAC. We have been offered the use of Room 133 but Rita will check on other options since Room 133 is very large with bad acoustics. The executive committee will meet before the next meeting to discuss a new meeting location as well as officers for next year.

#### **II. Discussion**

Harley Courtney introduced our speaker Sher Dunaway. Sher is a master gardener with the Tarrant County Master Gardeners Association. Her program was titled *Urban Gardening*. Urban gardening is gardening in limited space in either containers or plots of ground. Many urban gardens are shared by communities or groups such as schools. She discussed being creative when planting your garden, choose unusual containers such as a bicycle basket or an old horse trough, create raised beds for convenience, choose decorative sheds to house plants and tools. Use items such as a wine cork on a fork to label herbs and flowers. When choosing your plants be sure to choose plants that have similar needs such as sun, soil and water. Some plants require insects to pollinate and grow. Bees, butterflies and humming birds can be attracted by the plants you choose and by insect/bird houses, feeders, and water sources such as bird baths. *Butterfly puddling* is a method for providing water. Put sand in a shallow dish and keep it moist. Chickens are also beneficial to gardens and will eat mosquitos; you can keep up to 3 chickens in the city (no roosters). Sher discussed *Victory Gardens* which were popular during World War II. These are gardens planted in private or public areas to help supplement the food supply. She explained *Companion Planting* or the three sisters: plant the corn, plant the pole beans when the corn is five inches high then plant the squash five days later. Sher recommended a product called Super Thrive to add to your plants.

#### **III. Roundtable**

At the conclusion of her program, members asked questions and added comments. It was stated that a small amount of vinegar in your water sources will keep the mosquitos away. There are also plants that help repel mosquitos and other insects such as the citronella plant. Sher will provide hand-outs including organic spray pest solutions and when to plant in Texas to be sent via e-mail to all members.

Submitted by Rosanne Minyard, secretary