



President's Appreciation Report: Loving Garland Green Board Members – Sept 2015

We have a great organization and we have traveled miles from our beginning steps almost two years ago today.

In less than two years the Garland Community Garden has grown from one four by eight foot square foot garden (32 square feet) to over 3,000 square feet of planted garden beds.

We are increasingly involved in various projects with the youth in our community. Among our activities we have developed the curriculum for two garden building projects for our school children K-5: URBAN GARDENS FOR KIDS – Community Garden and URBAN GARDENS FOR KIDS – Butterfly Garden. We are also working with a group of high school age students to assist them in building a butterfly habitat for their high school.

One of the reasons for our remarkable progress in such a short time is due to the leadership, participation and innovative contributions of our board members—both new and old and I would like to honor and recognize them in this report.

Elizabeth Berry
President Loving Garland Green
Oct 31 2013 to Oct 31 2015



Charles Bevilacqua Member of the Board and also a Founding Member

Charlie is by far the most dedicated and enthusiastic member of the LGG Board. He is also one of our founding members—with us since our very first meeting.

Charlie's business career path is broad and deep. His experience out of college includes developing corporate retail training and troubleshooting to improve quality control in retail chain outlets. In addition, Charlie has owned and operated several small businesses. C and P Towing here in Garland is included among them. Today, Charlie's son runs this business. Like many of the members of Loving Garland Green, he has a passion for gardens and local agriculture. He has been gardening since he was a teenager in Iowa. From 1999 until 2010 Charlie, a Master Gardener trained in Hurst County owned and managed his 85-acre farm near Greenville, Texas. His property included a commercial grove of 75 pecan trees.

Without Charlie and his $\frac{3}{4}$ ton Ford truck, the Garland Community Garden would not be half the garden it is today. Charlie has hauled tons of mulch and compost in his truck over the past two years. A conservative estimate would be about 30 tons. In addition, Charlie has helped to set up every single MarketPlace event, every garage sale and all community events where LGG has been represented.

Thank you Charlie for all your support and dedication to Loving Garland Green! You have walked the entire road with me—every step of the way. There are no thanks adequate for all that you've done.

HERE IS THE SHORT LIST OF CHARLIE’S CONTRIBUTIONS:

- Installed numerous square foot gardens in the yards of Garland residents as part of our “Another Urban Garden Program.”
- Made several presentations for our community and local schools on behalf of Loving Garland Green.
- Charlie has built two important additions to the Garland Community Garden: Our Loofah Tunnel and an approximate 40 foot long, three foot wide waist-high garden bed—filled with sweet potatoes that should be ready about Halloween time.
- An excellent cook, Charlie often brings treats to our meetings—so good in fact that members of the North Garland High School Key Club have asked him to assist them in baking goodies for our first responders on 9/11.



August 29 2015 – Charlie demonstrates how to peel a loofah to members of the North Garland High School Key Club.



Charlie single handedly built the loofah tunnel in the spring of 2015. It is one of the outstanding features of the Garland Community Garden.



Anita Opel Treasurer – and Founding Member

We certainly would not be where we are today without Anita who brought her corporate financial experience to Loving Garland Green to serve as our Treasurer. Anita keeps everything straight for us when it comes to managing our finances. As testimony to her excellent management and handling of our money, we have over \$2,000 in our local bank account.

In addition to serving as our treasurer, Anita also chairs our Sustainable Living Committee. Her great ideas and creative mind have made enormous contributions to Loving Garland Green. We can always count on Anita to go above and beyond in completing her action items. **Thank you Anita! We never could have made it this far without your contributions and your beautiful positive energy.**



Anita busy pulling weeds in the Medicine Wheel Garden – July 2015



Margie Rodgers, Member of the Board and Founding Member

Margie is another member of the board who helped found Loving Garland Green. Like Anita, Margie too is a creative spirit whose ideas have helped to grow our organization. Her thumb is so green I think it may glow in the dark. One of Margie's recent contributions to Loving Garland Green is a spiral herb garden for the Garland Community Garden that she built with the assistance of one of our members, Marie Mathias. Margie and her husband Gene have hosted numerous Loving Garland Green yard sale fundraisers over the past two years. These sales have been one of our primary sources of funds to help sustain the Garland Community Garden and our other projects. Like Charlie, Margie has helped to set up just about every one of our public events. In addition, both she and Gene have donated numerous of their handcrafted yard art for sale at the MarketPlace in downtown Garland.

**Thank you Margie for all your support and loyalty to Loving Garland Green!
You have helped to make our organization what it is today!**



May 2015 – beginning the Spiral Garden build.



Robert Opel Member of the Board and founding member

Robert has been a Loving Garland Green member since our beginning. Like many Americans, health and nutrition have moved to the forefront of priorities in Robert's life. He and his wife, Anita, now produce delicious vegetables from raised garden beds in their back yard which also hosts a compost pile to provide fresh rich organic material for growing new plants. Robert's heritage includes a grandmother whose talents in the garden not only fed her family, but several neighbors as well. She would be happy to know that her grandson is finally getting dirt under his fingernails and learning about beneficial bugs and insects. Robert brings his many talents to Loving Garland Green--not the least of which is actual experience at getting food to grow in the stubborn clay that most of us in the DFW area face when establishing our gardens. Robert can also tell us a thing or two about beneficial insects and the roles they play in our gardens. His enthusiasm and positive energy have been a boost to our organization throughout the past two years. **Thank you Robert for all your positive support and helping to grow Loving Garland Green into the community friendly organization that it is today.**



Chris Savage – Vice President Loving Garland Green

Chris joined us in early 2015 and we are glad to have him! Chris is a Senior Tax Associate at ACS and a graduate from Texas Tech.

The Vice President's duties include filling in when the President is not available and taking over all responsibilities related to that office. Chris has already demonstrated his leadership skills in chairing two of our meetings this spring. He has taught our members about a soil-making technique called terra preta. The photo above shows Chris working in the garden on our July 2015 workday. That day Chris single-handedly turned the compost in all our bins—a two-hour and thirty-minute job!



Jane Stroud, Officer of the Board – Secretary

We are happy to welcome Jane as an officer of the board this year. She is no stranger to community service, Jane also is Director of the [New Conservatory of Dallas](#) and she is also a member of [H.R.A. Wilderness Assets](#)

In addition to other contributions as an officer of the board, the Secretary is responsible for taking meeting notes and sending them to the membership for their review at least 24 hours prior to the following meeting. Jane has already made many valuable leadership contributions to Loving Garland Green--including two member presentations on the topic of growing sweet potatoes.

Jane and her husband, Robert have generously supported Loving Garland Green this year with financial contributions. **Thank you Jane! Thanks to your generosity we will soon be able to install a drip irrigation system down at the Garland Community Garden.**



Jane Stroud, Loving Garland Green Board Officer, with students from North Garland High School Key Club releasing butterflies - August 31, 2015.



Our Honorary Board Member – Mayor Douglas Athas

The photo above shows Mayor Athas drilling screws into a trellis for one of our “Another Urban Garden” beds for Garland residents.

Our mayor, like many mayors of large cities, understands the importance of urban agriculture in his city and its relationship to the health and growth of the local economy. But our Mayor goes the extra mile and helps to install "Another Urban Garden" at the home of a local Garland family.

As President and one of the founding members of Loving Garland Green and one who is familiar with all the back stories of the creation of our organization, I can say unequivocally that without the solid and continuing support of Mayor Athas that not only would we not have a Garland Community Garden, it’s highly likely that Loving Garland Green would also have fizzled out along the way.

THANK YOU MR. MAYOR FOR ALL THAT YOU DO AND ALL THAT YOU CONTINUE TO DO FOR US AND FOR OUR COMMUNITY! WE APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR ASSISTANT BETH DATTOMO TOO!