
BCMGA NEWS

March 2002

Volume 2, Issue 2

April 13 - Spring Plant Sale:

How are your plants coming for the Spring Plant Sale? If they are ready to be taken to the Greenhouse, you can take them any time. Please be sure they are labeled, so we know what they are. *When is the latest you can bring plants to the Greenhouse?* - April 12.

If you have several of the same plants (about six or more), either Cindy Erndt or Donie Stowers needs to know what kind they are for the brochure. Please email or call either of them with your information as soon as you can. They want to download pictures and write a brief description of the plants, so they would appreciate it if we gave them plenty of lead time.

FEELING CRAFTY???? - Come to the Extension office on Tuesday, March 26, and Thursday, April 4, at 4:30 and help make stepping stones, painted pots, and gourd birdhouses. One craft work day has already taken place and many projects were started, but there is still a lot to do, and volunteers are needed. Bring along any acrylic paint, brushes, glue and scissors you have. The crafts are being specially advertised for this plant sale, so we need to be prepared.

On March 21, Cindy, Donie and any others who were interested made a trip to Treeseach Farms to pick out plants. FYI - Barbara Ross said that Treeseach has a beautiful demonstration garden, and if you ever have the opportunity to go there you should do so.

April 12 (Friday) is a great day to go to the Greenhouse. Much help will be needed in preparation for the plant sale, such as labeling and organizing the plants. Donie will be there by 8:00 a.m. Also on Saturday, April 13, volunteers are needed to move the plants from the Greenhouse to the Gazebo. Report to the Greenhouse at 7:30 a.m. if you can help.

Demonstration Gardens:

Standing work days at the Demonstration Gardens have been established. The calling list won't be invoked to remind everyone about them, so please make notes on your calendars for the day(s) you want to come:

Day	Time	Who to look for
Every Tuesday	7:30 to 12:00	Ray Michalik
Every Friday	7:30 to 12:00	Ray Michalik
First Saturday	7:30 to 12:00	Smitty Smith
Third Saturday	7:30 to 12:00	Donie Stowers and/or Carol Farmer

NOTE: There will be no reminder calls about this, so--

**mark you calendars for these
March and April work days:**

March Work Days:

March 21
March 26
March 28

April Work Days:

April 2	April 11	April 23
April 4	April 16	April 25
April 6	April 18	April 30
April 9	April 20	

Compost Pile - When you are working at the Demonstration Gardens, if you have something to compost and there is a cover on the compost pile, just throw your stuff on top of the cover. If you have non-compostable items, put them next to the dumpster.

Vegetable Garden - I understand that the veggie gardens are ready and some plants are in. REMEMBER - All

Master Gardeners who want to put something in the spring vegetable gardens are welcome to come out and plant.

Meeting Items of Interest:

Waverly Jefferson was our speaker for March. He gave a presentation on growing tomatoes and showed some pictures of a greenhouse of a Danbury resident, which was set up right in his tomato garden. It was made out of pvc pipe, plastic and - *you won't believe it* - duct tape. Not only is it easy on the budget, but it works very well and it doesn't take up any extra space in your yard.

WELCOME NEW INTERNS! We had some of our new interns present for the meeting. It's great to have you with us.

THANKS, THANKS and **MORE THANKS** to Barbara Ross and Pat Gerard for the all work they did on our spring classes.

We have a new Publicity Coordinator - Ron King. Thanks, Ron, for volunteering for this job.

The Spring 2001 class will graduate in April. Everyone in that class needs to double check their volunteer hours to make sure they've completed their hours and have turned them all in.

Barbara Ross is trying to get in touch with: Ruth Meisinger
Anise Schonert
Janice Sims

Please give her a call if you haven't already spoken with her.

Mark Your Calendar:

March 26: Craft Work Day 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 28: Citrus Workshop*
April 4: Craft Work Day 4:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
April 6: Pecan Grafting Field Day*
April 8: Our April meeting will be held on Monday instead of Tuesday, April 9
April 12: Preparation for Plant Sale at Greenhouse 8:00 a.m.
April 13: Spring Plant Sale

*see *Upcoming Events* section for more details

Upcoming Events:

****These seminars and workshops will count toward your hours.****

Citrus Workshop - Thursday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. Brazoria County Extension Office. John Panzarella will give a presentation on propagating and growing citrus on the Gulf Coast. At the seminar, you can discover which citrus varieties do well in Brazoria County, practice grafting techniques and learn about their care and maintenance. There will be refreshments, door prizes and literature available. To register or for additional information, call Paula Craig. \$5.00 fee.

Pecan Grafting Field Day - Saturday, April 6. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m., and the program begins at 9:30. At 11:00, graft wood will be available for a small donation. Both fruit and pecan tree grafting will be discussed. Location: Varner Hogg State Park, 1527 FM 2852, West Columbia. **2 CEUs.**

News and Information to Know:

HOTLINE TIME - It's time to start signing up for the hotline. You can sign up at the meeting or call Sandra Smith at the office. It helps out tremendously, and researching those answers is a good way to learn something new.

Where/how do I turn in my hours? (1) Bring them to the meeting; (2) Leave them in the Master Gardener office; or (3) Mail them directly to Mark Snyder, who keeps track of them.

Gardening Stuff:

Thanks for Pat Cayer for her submissions.

The Web: In case you didn't know them, here are some helpful A&M websites:

horticulture:	aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu
turfgrass information:	aggie-turf.tamu.edu
insect information:	entowww.tamu.edu

Do you have a favorite gardening website? Email it to me to share it with everyone.

Do you need a shot? All gardeners should make sure that their tetanus booster is current. The tetanus spore lives in soil and can enter your body through an opening in your skin. A small scrape or cut is all it takes.

Do you know where your gloves are? Always wear rubber gloves when handling sphagnum (especially if you are a rose grower). Sporotrichosis is a chronic infection caused by the organism *Sporothrix schenckii*, is a fungus present worldwide in soil, on plants, in decaying timbers, hay and among other things, on ordinary sphagnum moss. It enters the body through an ordinary cut, usually on the hand, and spreads along the lymph vessels. It produces hard nodules under the skin. If left untreated, it can spread throughout the body (even to the lungs) and becomes difficult to cure. This information is not meant to scare, but to make gardeners aware in order to take precautions.

Question: What are those little green caterpillars that are dropping out of the oak trees?

On the Personal Side:

GET WELL to Ernie Jahnke who has a broken leg. We hope you heal quickly!

Do you email Gwen Collins? If so, she has requested that when people send emails they send short non-political, non-ethnic and non-funny emails - basically, keep them short and personal. If you come across funny emails, etc., you think she would enjoy, print and save them for Gwen when she returns in August.

Note from the Editor:

Thanks for all of the positive feedback on the newsletter. I really appreciate it.

If you have information to share with the rest of the Master Gardeners such as gardening tips, articles, plants to share, thank you's..., or even questions you need answered, please let me know.

Thanks - Anna Gawlik, Editor/Historian

Please note - I changed the submission day deadline to Friday instead of Sunday:

The deadline for submissions to the newsletter is 6:00 p.m. on the Friday after our monthly meeting.

Happy Gardening!!!

Paula Craig
CEA - Horticulture
Brazoria County