



Meeting Items of Interest:

Our speaker this month was Barbara Ray who gave us some wonderful landscaping ideas. She had a great slide presentation, showing pictures of her own flowerbeds as well as many other beautiful gardens she has visited.

The Christies need volunteers to sign up for refreshments for the September and October meetings. If you can help, please give them a call or sign up at the next meeting.

New guidelines for recertification were presented and voted on. Watch for details in next month's issue.

Demonstration Gardens:

mark your calendars for these	August 2	August 9	August 17	August 27
August work days:	August 3	August 13	August 20	August 30
	August 6	August 16	August 23	

Work Days - Tuesdays, Fridays, 1st Saturday and 3rd Saturday.

Here are some ways to help at the Demonstration Gardens: The greenhouse/demonstration gardens need a few things to make them even more beautiful:

Stepping Stones: We are in need of stepping stones. The plain concrete stones run about \$.97 to \$1.07 a piece. You can paint them with acrylic paint and seal them (put your name on them if you like), or bring them plain and we'll paint them. If every MG could donate one stone, we'd have a really great garden area.

Yard Art: We also are looking for "yard art". If you have an old garden bench you no longer use, we'd love to have it. Decorative planters, gazing balls, large stones, etc. Please, no "you can make such and such out of this" projects. We need the finished product.

Plants: We'd also like more plants. We'll take any plant you have too many of. Here are a few suggestions:

Datura and Brugmansia (Angel Trumpets)	Hamelia (large type, not dwarf)
Hibiscus	Butterflyweed (red or orange milkweed)
Lantana	Althea
Celosia	Vinca

Do you have any shreddables? - We have purchased a used 8HP chipper/shredder to help with composting. It's been put to use shredding materials coming out of the veggie garden and some of the materials that were already in the compost bins. We will take shreddable materials from your residence - NO LIMBS, PLEASE. Materials need to be free of items that may damage the machine (i.e., rocks, nuts, bolts, ...) Some pecan leaves are fine, but we do not want material consisting of 100% pecan leaves.

Vegetable Garden - The veggie garden is on the decline thanks to stink bugs, horn worms, squash bugs and fungus. We did sell some vegetables at the Angleton farmer's market and made approximately \$45. This money will be used to purchase gas/oil for the chipper/shredder, lawnmower and tiller.

Pumpkins - We are going to try our luck with growing pumpkins again. Hopefully we will have some HUGE jack-o-lantern pumpkins come fall if we can keep the fungus and squash bugs off them.

CEMAP - The plants have been planted and the beds have been manicured. Ted Cooper has made a really nice bench to put here. The bed looks good - come and see it.

Courthouse Rose Beds:

Pat Cayer has been unable to weed the Courthouse rose beds as some family members have had some serious health problems. She asks that if anyone can find some time to go by and pull few weeds - please do. It seems

like a lot for one person, but two or three could get them in a very short time. It really is a shame that the sign says "Maintained by Brazoria County Master Gardeners," and it looks so bad with the weeds. You have to go very early, or after 5 pm, or weekends to get a parking place close. Please don't feel that you have to be on the Courthouse Rose Committee to help out.

Mark Your Calendar: <i>*see below for details</i> <i>**tentative dates</i> <i>***see June issue for details</i>	
2002 Dates: August 6: Taking the Classroom Outdoors* August 6-7: Landscape Irrigation Auditing and Management*** August 13: August meeting August 17: Strictly Gingers Workshop*** August 26: Irrigation Water Management of Commercial Landscapes*** August 28: Introduction to Landscape Irrigation Design Software*** September 10: September meeting September 12: Fall Master Gardener Classes begin September 11/12- November 13: Master Naturalist Classes begin	2003 Dates: February 11**: Spring Master Gardener Classes begin April 5: Pecan Grafting Field Day at Varner Hogg April 19**: Spring Plant Sale September 9**: Fall Master Gardener Classes begin September 20**: Fall Plant Sale

Taking the Classroom Outdoors - Tuesday, August 6, all day. Cost: \$25. Location: HISD Marcile Hollingsword Science Resource Center. 13250 Summit Ridge (just east of Butler Stadium on S. Main). To register or for information call Urban Harvest at 713-880-5540. You can also get information from their website: www.urbanharvest.org/upcoming/index.html.

DATES DATES DATES - If you know of any upcoming events I can put on this list, please let me know. It is helpful to everyone to know of workshops where we can get some continuing education hours.

In The Garden:		
All About Clingers, Twiners and Scramblers Source: www.gardeners.com/gardening (slightly modified)	by Kathy LaLiberte	June 2002
<p>Growing up rather than out is a good way to save space in the garden. You also get to enjoy lots of great plants such as sugar snap peas, pole beans, moonflowers, bougainvillea, and clematis. And, a vertical structure adds a whole new plane of visual interest. But when it comes to matching climbing plants with the right kind of support, many gardeners are baffled. Why won't pole beans and tomatoes climb up a lattice frame? Why won't sweet peas and clematis climb a pole? The answer is that climbing plants climb in particular ways: some wrap, some adhere, and some curl. Here's how to recognize which plants do what:</p> <p>Tendrils. Peas are a good example of a plant that uses TENDRILS to climb. Tendrils are skinny, wiry structures that actually reach around in the air until they come into contact with something they can grab. Once contact is made, the tendril curls, forming a coil that allows the plant to adjust the degree of tension or pull on the support. There are two kinds of tendrils. Stem tendrils (which passionflowers and grapes have) are shoots that grow out of the stem. Leaf tendrils (which peas have) look very similar, but the tendrils are actually modified leaves that emerge from a leaf node. Like a rock climber scaling the face of a mountain, plants with tendrils need handholds in the form of horizontal supports. Netting works well for plants with tendrils, as long as the mesh is more than 2" square. I once used some bird netting that we had lying around and it definitely didn't work. Branches have long been a popular material for creating trellises. This works well as long as the branches are bushy and not just smooth. Morning glories, pole beans, honeysuckle and clematis are some of the many plants that TWINE. There are two important differences in twining plants: they either have twining leaves or twining stems. Plants with twining leaves, such as clematis, use their leaves like tendrils. The young leaves of these plants are able to twist around slender wires, string, twigs or other leaves. The key is to provide a thin enough support for the leaf stem to curl around. A lattice made of 1-inch wide slats won't work for leaf twiners.</p>		

Twining stems twist around whatever they touch, be it a pole, branch, wire or gazebo. The stems will wind clockwise or counterclockwise, depending on the species. There are loosely twining stems such as gourds, and strongly twining stems such as thunbergia, wisteria, morning glory, jasmine and Dutchman's pipe. Some of these vines can grow very large and become extremely heavy. Wisteria is famous for pulling down porches and garden structures. Bougainvillea and climbing or rambling roses are two of the many plants in the SCRAMBLERS category. These plants have long, flexible stems that make them look like vines, but they can't climb on their own. Though they sometimes have thorns that help them grip neighboring stems, if you want these plants to "climb" up a trellis, arbor, or pergola, you will need to tie them in place with wire or sturdy string.

Adhesive Pads. Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) and Virginia creeper (*P. quinquefolia*) have stem tendrils, but instead of curling around things, these tendrils have touch-sensitive ADHESIVE PADS at the ends that allow them to stick to almost any surface. Plants with adhesive pads can climb up the face of a building or the trunk of a tree. If not provided with a vertical support, they will just as happily crawl sideways, attaching themselves to anything in their path.

Clinging Stem Roots. The last group of climbers use CLINGING STEM ROOTS to attach themselves. The stems of these plants produce a cluster of short, stout roots that cling to surfaces of almost any kind. The roots can damage paint work and mortar if you try to remove the plant from a structure. Examples of plants with clinging stem roots include climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*), most ivies such as English ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Irish ivy (*Hedera hibernica*), and also euonymus.

So there's a quick look at the weird and wonderful world of climbing plants. In case you find it all a bit overwhelming, check below for a list of common plants and how they climb. Have fun!

Stem Tendrils

Passionflower (*Passiflora*)

Grape (*Vitis*)

Ampelopsis glandulosa

Twining Leaves

Clematis

Climbing nasturtium (*Tropaeolum polyphyllum*)

Rhodochiton

Scramblers

Bougainvillea

Cape leadwort (*Plumbago*)

Climbing rose (*Rosa*)

Adhesive Pads

Cissus

Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus*)

Leaf Tendrils

Sweet peas (*Lathyrus*)

Cobaea scandens

Chilean glory flower (*Eccremocarpus scaber*)

Twining Stems

Pole Beans

Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia*)

Bittersweet (*Celastrus*)

Wisteria

Morning glory, Moonflower (*Ipomoea*)

Jasmine (*Jasminum*)

Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*)

Black-eyed Susan vine (*Thunbergia*)

Clinging Stem Roots

Euonymus English ivy (*Hedera*)

Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*)

Future Speaker: Next month we will have a presentation on ponds.

Note from the Editor:

Here's how to reach me for newsletter contributions. The deadline for contributions is the Friday after our monthly meeting

Thanks - Anna Gawlik, Editor/Historian

Happy Gardening!!!

Paula Craig
CEA - Horticulture
Brazoria County