

What's Growin' On . . .

The BCMGA Newsletter

November 2002

Vol. 2, Iss. 10

November Meeting Items of Interest:

WOW! What a spread we had at our November meeting. Tommy Holt and his wife made delicious gumbo - more than we could eat - and the rest of us brought all kinds of tasty dishes. Thanks to the Holts for all their work and to everyone who brought food. It made our feast a wonderful treat for everyone.

Extension Office Beds: So far Ted Cooper, Pat Gerard and Marvin Petter have built a bed around the flag pole in front of the Extension office. Paula planted Weeping Yaupons, and Don and Pat Gerard, Larry Lewis and Mark Synder helped plant the beds along the sidewalk. Paula has been working on a landscape design which includes a bog garden along the road, a pond in one area and other areas for bulbs, herbs, grasses, native plants, butterfly garden, and roses. There is a place for a vegetable garden on the left side of the building. Commissioner Clawson has told Paula that he is willing to work with us on this project. He said he would have some of the county workers remove the shrubs from the front of the building, and we will have beds for other plants. We are excited about improving the looks of the Extension Office surroundings. Recently, we learned that the 4H people are interested in helping us with this project. Larry Miles, the 4H agent, has an enthusiastic group of young people. If you want to be notified of future workdays for this project, contact Don.

Christmas Party - At our December meeting (Dec. 10) we will have our Christmas party. Ham will be provided, so please bring a side dish or dessert. Spouses are welcome to attend, but please RSVP for them by Thursday, December 5, so enough ham is ordered. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a generic garden-related gift at a cost of \$10-\$15. Don't put your name on the gift. It will receive a number at the meeting for the exchange.

Junior Master Gardener Program - A new committee has been formed to work on the Junior Master Gardener Program. John Alcorn is the coordinator and Smitty Smith and Sherry Summers are also on the committee. The plan is for the committee to meet once a month (time and day to be determined by the committee members) to learn how to work with the kids and get their Junior Master Gardener groups organized. Right now, the program works with the 3rd through the 8th grades. The groups have a text that has eight chapters covering all aspects of gardening. There are individual, group and community programs that the children must do. John has talked with the Alvin 4H and a group of Angleton home school mothers, both of whom are interested in the program. John is excited to get this going and is pleased with the Master Gardener interest in the program so far. Contact John if you are interested in joining this committee.

Survey - Don Gerard handed out a survey form with a list of BCMGA projects. He asked that everyone read through the list and on the back fill out the form indicating which projects interest you and the times and days you can participate in them. Please complete the form and return it at the December meeting. If he doesn't receive a form with your name on it, he will haunt you until one is turned in! This form is not a commitment to work. It is to determine interest in various projects.

2002 Elections - Here are the new officers for 2003:

President:	John Alcorn
1st Vice President:	Don Gerard
2nd Vice President:	Sherry Summers
Secretary:	Judy Wood
Treasurer:	Tommy Holt
State Representatives:	Pam and David Peltier
Alternate Representatives:	Pat and Don Gerard

Demonstration Gardens:

Status of Interagency Agreement - Paula, Rich Tillman and Gil Livanec went to Texas A&M to meet with Ken Pounders, who is in charge of the Research Station at Angleton. The bottom line result of the meeting is that Ken Pounders is not interested in pursuing any written document (i.e., our Interagency Agreement). From further discussions it was determined that Ken is not aware of any plans by Texas A&M for the Research Station other than continuation of the current program. The Research Station has a contract do genetic research with cattle that will take 4 to 7 years to complete. After that, the future of the Station is unknown. As to how BCMGA might proceed, Ken expressed his positive support of BCMGA efforts in the past and for the future. Any new projects or programs are to be coordinated and approved according to BCMGA guidelines and discussed with the Texas A&M local representative prior to implementation. Should any problem be encountered, then Paula, as Horticultural Agent, would resolve it with Ken. Ken is also willing to spend some money on road repair and a parking lot. Paula is working with Commissioner Clawson and the Road and Bridge Dept., which will provide an estimate of the costs.

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

mark your calendars for these	December 3	December 6	December 10	December 13
December work days:	December 17	December 20	December 21	December 24
	December 27	December 31		

<p>Mark Your Calendar: <i>*see below for details</i> December 6: GCBO Christmas Sale* December 10: December meeting</p>	<p>2003 Dates: January 14: January Meeting - awards and recognitions January 28: Little League Turf and Pesticide Training, Alvin Community College February 11: Spring Master Gardener Classes begin April 5: Pecan Grafting Field Day at Varner Hogg April 19: Spring Plant Sale June 7, 14, 21, 28: Farmers Market September 9: Fall Master Gardener Classes begin September 20: Fall Plant Sale October 4-11: Brazoria County Fair November 18: Brazoria County Pecan Show</p>
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GCBO Christmas Sale - The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory will hold its annual Open House Christmas Sale and Silent Auction Friday, December 6. The Nature Store will be open from 10 am to 7 pm with all items tax free (8%) and members get an additional 10% discount (or save 18%). The Silent Auction will feature over 80 items, some one of a kind, and will be open from 4 pm to 7 pm. To reach the GCBO: go to Lake Jackson; at the intersection of FM 2004 and Hwy 332, travel North toward Brazoria for 0.25 miles; the entrance is on the left just before crossing Buffalo Camp Bayou. Call 979-480-0999 or go to www.gcbo.org for more information. The GCBO is a non-profit organization for the conservation and study of birds.

Miscellaneous Master Gardener Business:

Tiller for Sale: Marvin Petter has a Troy garden tiller to sell. It is a "Horse" model, is eight years old and is in good condition. He's asking \$250 for it. If you are interested, contact Marvin.

Texas MGA Quarterly Meeting: This is a reminder to our Master Gardener Delegates that the next quarterly delegates/board meeting of the Texas Master Gardener Association is on Saturday, December 14th at 11 am in the Horticulture/Forestry Sciences Building at Texas A&M University, College Station.

Roster: Please check your information on the BCMGA roster at the next meeting. If any changes need to be made, contact Carol Farmer.

Habitat for Humanity: Following is a letter to the editor of a local paper. I thought everyone would enjoy reading it.

Thanks to a new Habitat partner

Dear editor,
Habitat for Humanity of Southern Brazoria County welcomes a new partner.

The Brazoria County Master Gardeners volunteered to do the landscaping on house No. 38 at 505 Thomas J. Wright in Angleton.

With plants donated by Nursery Outlet, their expertise in selecting low maintenance,

drought resistant plants and David Shackelford's generosity, they came up with a plan and executed it almost alone.

Their original strategy was interrupted by Fay, but employing gracious flexibility and good will they were able to have the landscaping done a day before the dedication.

Thanks to the Master Gardener representatives who participated: John Alcorn, Carol

Farmer, Grace Ann Hines, Barbara Ross, Mark Snyder, Carol Wenny and Waverly Jefferson, retired county extension officer, master gardener and Habitat volunteer, showed up to assist with the project. Thanks to all.

Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh
T.J. Norris
Weldon Zgarba

In The Garden:

Seed Catalogs: If you are interested, here are some places to get seed catalogs. Thanks to Pat and Don for sharing their list. If anyone else wants to add their favorites, just let me know.

Park's Countryside Gardens
1 Parkton Ave
Greenwood, SC 29647-0001
800-845-3369
www.countrysidegardens.com

Old House Gardens
536 Third St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-4957
734-995-1486
www.oldhousegardens.com

Burpee Seeds
W. Atlee Burpee & Co.
Warminster, PA 18974
800-888-1447
www.burpee.com

Mellinger's Inc.
2310 W. South Range Rd.
North Lima, Ohio 44452-9731
800-321-7444
www.mellingers.com

Select Seeds
Antique Flowers
180 Stickney Hill Road
Union, CT 06076-4617
800-684-9310
www.selectseeds.com

Sweet Briar Nursery & Gardens
13999 FM 2305
Belton, TX 76513
254-780-4233
www.vvm.com/~reid/seeds.htm

Happy Gardening!!!

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