

What's Growin' On . . .

The BCMGA Newsletter

January 2003

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January Meeting Items of Interest:

Speaker - Our speaker this month was Jay Kolenovsky who was quite an enthusiastic and motivational speaker. He gave a great presentation on the process he went through to landscape his yard over the years. Jay's yard is now a Texas Wildscape Demonstration Site, and you can view photos of it on his website at halpc.org/~garden/. In the event you were not at the meeting, if you ever have the opportunity to hear Jay speak, I highly recommend it. He is knowledgeable on many topics - and did I mention he was enthusiastic?

State Competition - The State Association presents awards to counties for submissions in the areas of publications, visual arts, multimedia, and Master Gardener activity, program or project. We are planning to submit an entry for publications and an individual Master Gardener. Tom Harris is on the committee to put together the submissions for BCGMA, and Donie Stowers is helping out in an advisory capacity. More volunteers are needed. If you are interested, contact John Alcorn.

Welfare Liason - Viki Brushwood has volunteered to be our Welfare Liason. If you have a serious event going on in your life (such as having to go to the hospital), let her know, and she'll inform the rest of us. She will also keep track of birthdays. A list was passed around at the meeting to write down your birthday. It will be passed around again in February as it didn't make it all the way around the group in January. You can contact Viki.

Nature Day Celebration - Volunteers are needed to help visitors make leaf impressions. Contact John Alcorn if you are interested in volunteering. See "Mark Your Calendar" section for more details on this event.

Lazy Gardener Calendars - BCGMA is purchasing 50 copies of the Lazy Gardener calendar. The cost will be \$5.00 for members who have paid their dues and \$10.00 for those who have not paid dues. When they arrive, you can purchase them from Tommie Holt at the meeting.

Texas Master Gardener Association - The State Association meeting is scheduled for April 24-26 and will be held in Tyler. Pam Peltier should have more details at the next meeting if you are interested.

Dues - It's time to turn in your dues for 2003. Tommie Holt must mail dues to the state office by the end of February. Dues are \$12 for individuals and \$16 for couples. Tommie accepts cash and checks. Make checks payable to BCGMA. You can bring your payment to the meeting or mail it to Tommie.

Officer Installation - At the March meeting we will have installation of our new officers.

Junior Master Gardener Program - John Alcorn reported that he has had great response to the Junior MG Program. So far the following people have volunteered to help out: Smitty Smith, Carol Wenny, Sherry Summers, Barbara Brown and Marty Graves. They meet the 3rd Friday of the month. So far, they are working with the Groovy Gardeners, a group of home school moms and children; and Danbury Elementary. If you are interested in joining them, contact John.

Host/Hostess List - The Christies need people to volunteer to bring snacks to the meetings. They need three people per month, and they will contact you ahead of time to remind you about it. Please sign up at the February meeting.

Spring Plant Sale: The Spring Plant Sale will be April 12 at the Angleton gazebo.

There was a plant sale workday on January 29 at the greenhouse to bleach pots and plant seeds. Eight people helped out washing and bleaching pots, filling them with soil, watering them, planting seeds and labelling them. They planted 44 packets of seeds. Thanks from Cindy to all who helped. On Wednesday, February 5, at 8:00 a.m. will be another workday to check on the germination of the seeds and plant about 30 seed more packets.

Cindy Erndt has asked everyone to plant a packet of seeds now, so we will have plenty of plants for the sale. The availability of plants at Treeseach will be limited as they are also starting plants from seed right now. Everyone is invited to the plant sale meeting on February 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension office. At that time, the date for the trip to Treeseach for plant ordering will be determined which will probably be some time around early March.

Demonstration Gardens:

Work Days - Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:30/8:00 a.m. until noon.

mark your calendars for these	February 4	February 7	February 11
February work days:	February 14	February 18	February 21
	February 25	February 28	

Mark Your Calendar:	
<i>*see below for details</i> <i>new items in bold</i>	
2003 Dates:	
February 11:	Spring Master Gardener Classes begin
February 11:	February Meeting
February 15:	A Celebration of Roses*
February 22:	Nature Day Celebration*
February 22:	Harris County MGA Tomato and Pepper Sale
March 1:	Water Smart Landscaping Workshop*
March 1:	Fresh Flowers and How They Grow*
March 11:	March Meeting-officer installation
March 11-13:	Greenhouse Tomato Short Course*
April 5:	Pecan Grafting Field Day at Varner Hogg
April 8:	April Meeting
April 12:	Spring Plant Sale - new date
April 24-26:	Texas Master Gardener Annual Meeting
May 3-4:	1st Annual Granbury Garden Tour*
May 13:	May Meeting
June 7, 14, 21, 28:	Farmers Market
June 10:	June Meeting
June 18-21:	International Master Gardener Conference
July 8:	July Meeting
August 12:	August Meeting
September 9:	Fall Master Gardener Classes begin
September 9:	September Meeting
September 20:	Fall Plant Sale
October 4-11:	Brazoria County Fair
October 14:	October Meeting
November 11:	November Meeting
November 18:	Brazoria County Pecan Show
December 9:	December Meeting

A Celebration of Roses - February 15, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location: Varner-Hogg Plantation (north of West Columbia on FM 2852). A workshop presented by Texas Parks and Wildlife to discuss and learn the techniques of pruning, rooting and planting roses. Hear guest speakers, collect handouts and take home cuttings. For more information call 979-345-4656.

Nature Day Celebration - February 22, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Location: Sea Center Texas; intersection of Plantation and Medical Drive in Lake Jackson. Includes both seminars and youth activities. Seminar topics: Yards and Neighbors Program-Environmentally Friendly Homes; Creepy Crawly Snakes and Gators; Habitat Gardening; Brazoria County-The Winter Wonderland for Birds; Native Trees in Urban Settings; Managing Your Land for Wildlife; Saltwater Fly Fishing. Youth activities: Story Time; Education Exhibits and Activities; Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt; Youth Saltwater Fishing; Introduction to Bird Watching. For more information call 979-292-0100 or 979-864-1558, ext. 112

WaterSmart Landscaping Workshop and Plant Sale - March 1, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Location: UH Clear Lake, Bayou Building. Learn about low maintenance, environmentally friendly landscaping techniques. Keynote speakers: Malcolm Beck and Heidy Sheesley. Workshop highlights: organic gardening, landscaping with native plants, landscape design, backyard composting, habitat landscaping, organic lawn care, organic pest control, bog gardening, plant selection and herb gardening. Registration forms are available at the Extension office. Fee: \$35 by Feb. 21; \$45 at the door; includes continental breakfast, lunch, classes, exhibits, booths, handouts, landscape plant sale and book signing. Space is limited. For further information, contact Chris LaChance at 281-333-5067 or c-lachance@tamu.edu.

Fresh Flowers and How They Grow - March 1, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: Freeport Library. Presented by Brenda Beust Smith, garden editor of the Houston Chronicle, writer of gardening books and Lazy Gardener's calendar. For more information, call the Freeport Library: 979-233-3622.

Greenhouse Tomato Short Course - March 11, 12 and 13. Location: Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum. Topics include: successful growing, greenhouse environment, insurance, costs and returns of growing, alternative greenhouse crops, disease identification, insect management, and marketing strategies. On the third day there will be a greenhouse tour. Fee: \$85 in advance; \$100 at the door; includes course, refreshments, lunch and dinner for 11th and 12th, and various publications. For further information, contact the TCE office.

1st Annual Granbury Garden Tour - The Hood County Master Gardeners will be hosting the 1st Annual Granbury Garden Tour. This event will take place May 3rd and 4th in Granbury and will feature six Master Gardener Homes and the Master Gardener Result Demonstration Garden. Homes that will be featured include a rose garden, organic garden, lakeside garden, a Texas Wildscape garden, shaded gardening, and a ranch style garden. The gardens will be open on Saturday from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. and Sunday from 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. The cost of the tour is \$5.00 each. Ticket ordering information will be sent out in February. There are several Bed and Breakfast Facilities in the Granbury Area for people to stay.

Miscellaneous Master Gardener Business:

Speaker for March Meeting - There will be a slide presentation by Dr. Imperial on day lilies at the March meeting.

Volunteer Hours - Enclosed with the newsletter you will find the list of volunteer hours for 2002. If you have some hours that you have not turned in, please get them to Mark Snyder. Master Gardener' are required to have a minimum of six hours of volunteer time and six hours of advanced training per year.

Texas Gardener Magazine - It is time once again to renew your Texas Gardener subscription. If you want to renew through BCMGA to receive the 25% discount, please bring your check payable to BCMGA for \$14.21 attached to your renewal notice to the next meeting. If you do not have a subscription, attach your check to a homemade order card containing your name and address. Bring the order forms to the next meeting and give them to Mark Snyder. If you can't make it to the February meeting, you can mail it to Mark.

Plant Photos - Tommie Holt is looking for photo opportunities of plants, in general, and flowers, in particular. If you have any unusual or very pretty flowers or plants please contact Tommie. In exchange for providing him the opportunity to photograph, Tommie will share the photos with you.

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

In The Garden:

Peckerwood Garden - 2003 open dates: March 15-16; April 5-6; April 19-20; May 3-4; May 17-18; June 21-22; September 20-21; October 4-5; October 18-19.

Wave of the Future? - Based on their research that landscapes with less grass uses less water, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is considering an ordinance limiting turfgrass planting for new construction. Right now SAWS has a rebate program for new home buyers which requires specific types of drought tolerant grass and trees and certain requirements for irrigation systems.

Fun Stuff:

Jacquelyn Marshall brought this salad to the Christmas party and emailed the recipe to me for everyone who requested it:

MANDARIN ORANGE TOSS

1/3 cup sliced almonds
2 T sugar
1/2 head iceberg lettuce
1 - 2 bunches fresh spinach

2 med. stalks celery sliced thin
1 or 2 green onions sliced thin
1 11 oz can mandarin oranges

Cook almonds and sugar over low heat stirring constantly until sugar is melted and almonds are coated. Cool and break apart. Place torn lettuce, spinach, celery and onions in a bowl. At the last minute pour dressing over and toss. Add orange segments and nuts mixing until coated.

Dressing:

1/3 cup vegetable oil
3T sugar
3T vinegar
1 T parsley

1/2 teaspoon salt
dash fresh ground pepper
dash (or two) of red pepper sauce

Shake all ingredients in a tightly covered jar. Refrigerate.

This is good just like it is written, but on the night I brought it I used the following:

- pecans
- a tad more sugar
- buttercrunch lettuce and the bagged baby spinach (doesn't matter as long as you get the contrast in color and texture)
- red onions - as many as you want
- more parsley (a "shared" plant from my first trip to the MG greenhouse)
- and since it didn't look like enough dressing....I put in about 1/4 cup dry white wine.

I use a small food processor to make the dressing.

Best regards,
Jacquelyn Marshall (intern)

Happy Gardening!!!

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