

What's Growin' On . . .

The BCMGA Newsletter

February 2003

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At the Meeting:

Speaker - Our speaker for February was Dr. Art Imperial who spoke on daylilies. (When I retire I wonder if my yard would even begin to compare.) Dr. Imperial gave us some great information on daylilies and showed us some beautiful photos of flowers.

Budget Matters - Tommie Holt presented budget information and new spending and reimbursement procedures. See "Budget and Reimbursements" below for all the details.

Charitable Contributions Committee - The Budget Committee recommended to the Board that a Charitable Contributions Committee be appointed to set criteria and amounts for charitable contributions, including scholarships. Being a 501-C corporation BCMGA needs to be utilizing some of its financial resources for the good of not only this organization, but of the community. If you are interested in being on this committee, contact Don Gerard, Tommie Holt or John Alcorn.

Junior Master Gardener Program - The Budget Committee also recommended to the Board that BCMGA pay for books for the Junior Master Gardeners in Danbury, at a cost of about \$20.00 per book for about 6 children. The Danbury Elementary students are not able to afford to pay for the books they need to complete the Junior Master Gardener course. The books are to be kept at the school for use by future students. A motion was made at the meeting to pay for the books. They have been donated in memory of Lee Wilson, who passed away earlier this year. He was the County Agent for Jackson County and Wharton county for 31 years and then served here in Brazoria county for 19 years.

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 BCMGA.

State Competition - We missed the deadline of early February deadline to submit an application for the State Association project awards, so we can't submit anything this year. That means we have an entire year to plan and prepare for our 2004 submission! However, volunteers are needed to help, including a committee chairman. Tom Harris is on the committee and Donie Stowers is helping out in an advisory capacity. More help is needed. If you are interested, contact Paula Craig or Don Gerard.

Volunteer Hours - GET YOUR 2002 HOURS TO MARK SNYDER! They need to be in to Mark ASAP, so he can get them to Paula for reporting to the State Association. We were informed at the meeting that the state reimburses the horticulture fund \$14.95 per hour for Master Gardener hours. The horticulture fund pays for workshops and seminars.

Mark provides reports on volunteer hours to Paula on a monthly basis, so we need to start turning in our hours every month. For 2003 hours, you can bring them to the next meeting, leave them in the basket in the Master Gardener office, or mail them to Mark. (I understand that online hours reporting is in the works!)

Please read "Volunteer Activity Form" below for a tiny tidbit on how to properly fill out the form. You may be as surprised as I was!

Master Gardener of the Year - If you would like to nominate someone for Master Gardener of the Year, please turn the nomination into Paula by the end of February, including a statement as to why you think your nominee should be the winner.

Care Coordinator - Viki Brushwood's title has been changed from Welfare Liason to Care Coordinator. She needs to know your birthday, so please get it to her. Also, remember to contact her if you have a serious event going on in your life.

Survey Form - Don Gerard provided a revised Survey Form. Please complete it and return it to him at the next meeting. The purpose of the form is to try to determine the projects in which there is interest and provide some amount of coordination among them.

Help Request for Bed Landscaping and Installation - The Brazoria Area Child Health (BACH) Early Childhood Intervention in Angleton needs a "landscaping crew" to design low maintenance beds. Installation of the beds is set for April. Blue Bonnets nursery will donate the plants. If you are interested in this project, contact Paula.

Extension Office Beds - The project will first focus on the front beds and the south side of the building to the roadside of the side door. All current plant materials will be removed. Paula is working with Commissioner Clawson to have the holly plants removed and landscape timbers moved and hopefully this will happen on February 24. If the holly removal is on schedule, Roundup will be applied on March 6, and fill dirt will be put in on March 20 or 27. After that, we will install an irrigation system. There is a problem of the rain gutters overflowing, which can be solved with a good design. If anyone has any experience with installation of irrigation systems, their assistance would be greatly appreciated. Plants are needed that can handle a western exposure--no morning sun and brutal afternoon sun. Brazoria County friendly plants--perennials please. Containers may be installed at the entrance to dress up the doorway. If you have time, experience and/or plants to share, contact Don Gerard or Paula Craig.

Spring Plant Sale:

REMEMBER: The Spring Plant Sale is April 12.

Approximately 54 flats of 48 plants each were planted for the sale. Most of them have sprouted and are doing great. The plugs from Parks have been planted with some of them in hanging baskets. Volunteers are needed to check on the sprouts and plugs at the greenhouse on Mondays, Thursdays and one day of the weekend to see if the plants need watering or if there are any problems. Cindy suggests that two or more people share a day, especially on weekends, for safety reasons, when nobody is there for safety reasons. Also if two people share days they can either go at the same time or alternate, weeks which would take less time; and it would leave one person available if the other can't make it. As far as watering procedures, the seedlings still need to be watered by hand with a watering can. As they get larger, the sprinkler system may be turned on. If you can go and check on the plants, please let Cindy know, so she won't have to keep calling people to go there. Also, if you get there and there are any problems, let Cindy know ASAP.

Cindy may bring some of the plants are getting to be too big to the next meeting to sell. Also, Pam Peltier will probably be bringing tomato plants to sell also.

There will be work days at the greenhouse to transplant, water and maintain the new seedlings on Friday, February 28, and Wednesday, March 5, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:30ish a.m. If you have plants for the sale and no place to keep them, either of these days would be a great time to bring them to the greenhouse. You can deliver your plants and help transplant sprouts at the same time! If you do bring plants from home, please mark them, so Cindy and Donie will know what they are for the brochure. Also, remember to bleach any pots you use for Plant Sale plants.

If you are interested in going to Treeseach to order plants, March 14 is the trip day. Let Cindy know if you would like to attend.

Jeanette Shane is in charge of the Plant Sale raffle. The raffle budget is \$100, and \$50 of that will go for the potting bench which Smitty will be making. Jeanette intends to get items donated as much as possible. If you would like to help, you can contact Jeanette.

Budget and Reimbursements:

from Tommie Holt

BCMGA 2003 Budget -

The committee chairs presented their budgets as follows:

Plant Sale Expenses	\$ 6,000.00
Greenhouse Expenses	\$ 2,400.00
Gardens and Beds	\$ 1,200.00
New Master Gardner Training	\$ 3,600.00
Advanced Training	\$ 200.00
Office	\$ 200.00
Total	<u>\$ 13,600.00</u>

Income for 2003 should be at about the same level as 2002, approximately \$13,000.00 to \$14,000.00. Income for BCMGA is derived from three sources. Please realize these are estimates only:

Plant Sales	\$ 11,000.00
New Master Gardner Training	\$ 3,600.00
Dues	\$ 1,200.00

All of the above are best estimates. After this year we will have better data to determine income and expenses.

Summary of Income & Expenses for 2002 -

Income other than Dividends	\$ 13,828.70
Dividend Income	\$ 136.85
Total Income	\$ 13,965.55
Total Profits for 2002	<u>\$ 139.31</u>

At the end of 2002 we had about \$8,000.00 in checking and savings accounts. Approximately \$3,000.00 will be used for the plant sale. Another \$1,800.00 will be used for new Master Gardner training this spring.

Changes in Accounting and Reporting System -

--The reasons for the following changes are twofold:

1. The committee chairs did not feel that they had control of the money for which they were supposed to be responsible. They wanted to know what they were spending, who was spending it and for what it was being spent.
2. The BCMGA is now a 501-C organization and is subject to scrutiny by the State of Texas and the IRS. Consequently, we need to have a good handle on what we are doing with our money. They can come in and audit us at any time. We need to be prepared with good documentation.

--The following changes in accounting were approved by the Board and will be effective immediately:

1. Any purchase over \$50.00 must have written approval by the committee chair prior to purchase. (Can approve via phone/email). If you are purchasing for a project that does not have a committee chair, contact Tommie Holt for approval.
2. All purchases, prior to bill payment (this includes reimbursements to members), would have a form attached and filled out. The form is to be supplied by the committee chair. The committee chair must sign this form prior to Treasurer paying the bill. All purchases will be routed through committee chair prior to payment.
3. A form for Item 2 has been generated by the Budget Committee and is available from the committee chairs.
4. The Treasurer will pay bills on the 1st and 15th of the month.
5. Reimbursement bills held more than three months will not be paid. These items can be considered a contribution to the BCMGA and are tax deductible.
6. Reports on income and expense will be issued to the committee chairs on a monthly and quarterly basis.
7. Sales Tax:

Sales Tax certificates are available at the Extension Office and from committee chairs. Certificates will be supplied by the purchaser to the seller. As of this date, sales tax will not be reimbursed. A list of firms with BCMGA Sales Tax Certificates is being developed, updated and furnished to committee chairpersons.

All of the above was presented to the BCMGA Board and was approved as presented.

At the Demonstration Gardens:

Thanks - We need to give a big thanks to Barbara Brown's son, Lenny who is in the A/C and heating business. He repaired the Rainbow Room heater, installed the transformer and donated the thermostat. Now we know who to call if we are in need of A/C or heater repairs. He did a great job for us - what a lot of help!

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

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

Calendar of Events:

**see below for details*

new items in bold

2003 Dates:

February 28:	Plant Sale Work Day	April 24-26:	Texas Master Gardener Annual Meeting
March 1:	Water Smart Landscaping Workshop	May 3-4:	1 st Annual Granbury Garden Tour
March 1:	Fresh Flowers and How They Grow	May 13:	May Meeting
March 1:	Colorful Landscape*	June 7, 14,	
March 1-2:	Azalea Trail*	21, & 28:	Farmers Market
March 1:	Native Plant Spring Symposium*	June 10:	June Meeting
March 5:	Plant Sale Work Day	June 18-21:	International Master Gardener Conference
March 8-9:	Azalea Trail*	July 8:	July Meeting
March 11:	March Meeting-officer installation	August 12:	August Meeting
March 11-13:	Greenhouse Tomato Short Course	September 9:	Fall Master Gardener Classes begin
March 14:	Trip to Treesearch	September 9:	September Meeting
March 20-21:	March Mart*	September 20:	Fall Plant Sale
March 20-21:	Gulf Coast Gardener Forum	October 4-11	Brazoria County Fair
	Flower Show*	October 14:	October Meeting
March 25:	Field Trip to Mercer Arboretum	November 11:	November Meeting
April 5:	Pecan Grafting Field Day at Varner Hogg*	November 18:	Brazoria County Pecan Show
April 8:	April Meeting	December 9:	December Meeting
April 10:	Tropicals Program*		
April 12:	Spring Plant Sale		

Colorful Landscape - Date: March 1. Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th, Houston. Mary Herr of Herr's Landscaping be giving a presentation. Phone: 713-861-5702.

Azalea Trail - Date: March 1-2 and March 8-9. Start Location: River Oaks Forum of Civics, 2503 Westheimer. For tickets and additional information contact the River Oaks Garden Club: 713-523-2483.

Native Plant Spring Symposium: Historic Flora of Texas - Date: March 1. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Location: Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The Wildflower Center and the Native Plant Society of Texas bring you the best experts in the field to discuss the history of plant life in Texas. Workshops will follow covering: plant identification, seed care, landscaping, madrones, and butterflies. Find out about fees and registration for the symposium at www.wildflower.org or call 512-292-4200.

March Mart - Date: March 21-22. Time: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Location Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens,

22306 Aldine-Westfield. Major plant sale featuring natives, gingers, shrubs, trees, etc. Call 281-443-8731 for information.

Gulf Coast Gardener Forum Flower Show - Date: March 21-22. Time: 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. on Thurs., 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Fri. Location: Maxim Bank, League City. Admission is free. Call 713-946-5263 for information.

Pecan Grafting Field Day - Date: April 5. Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Location: Varner-Hogg State Park, 1527 FM 2852, West Columbia. Grafting demonstrations, speakers, graftwood and grafting supplies, literature and door prizes! Pesticide applicators can earn 2 general CEUs. This event is free to the public.

Tropicals Program - Date: April 10. Time: 6:30 PM. Location: Brazoria County Extension Office. Gary Outenreath, Horticulturist for Moody Gardens will present a program on tropicals, including, but not limited to, plumeria. This event is free to the public.

News to Know:

Spring Master Gardener Training Class - Let's welcome the 13 people who are enrolled in the new training class. It's great to have them with us:

Barbara Bruyere - Pearland
Kathy Walton - Rosharon
Shelley Waguespack - Pearland
Beverly Noble - Pearland
Carole Atkins - Angleton

Frank Jolly - Brazoria
Robert Brown - Pearland
Henry Willis - Clute
Howard Woodard - Cedar Lake
Barbara Greeley - Pearland

There are several new speakers for these classes, and all Master Gardeners are invited to come and join any of the sessions.

The class will be going to Mercer Arboretum on Tuesday, March 25 if any of the members would like to accompany the class, they will be leaving the Extension office at 7:00 a.m. The class starts at Mercer at 9:00 a.m.

Lazy Gardener Calendars - Tommie Holt still has about 30 Lazy Gardener Calendars available for purchase. The cost is \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for non-members. Only one per member, please. Remaining copies will be sold at the Spring Plant Sale.

Volunteer Activity Form - There appears to be some confusion regarding the separation of the "travel" time. This heading is actually a "double entry" column in that it is separated out but should also be counted as part of the "work" time. I think this can best be illustrated by an example: If you travel 30 minutes to the greenhouse, work 3 hours at the greenhouse and then travel 30 minutes home, your travel time is 1 hour to be listed under the "Travel" heading, and your total time spent on the "Greenhouse" project is 4 hours (three plus one), so 4 hours should be entered under the "Greenhouse" heading. Thanks to Don Gerard for this clarification. (I found out I've been recording hours wrong for my whole Master Gardener life!)

Master Gardener T-Shirts - If you are interested in ordering a Master Gardener t-shirt, there will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting. The color choices are khaki, blue or white. The cost of the shirts will be \$10 each for S, M and L. XL is \$11, and XXL is \$12. You'll need to pay for the shirts when you order. You can pay with cash or checks; checks should be made payable to BCMGA. Barbara Brown will be collecting the payments and placing the orders. The shirts should be available for pickup at the April meeting.

Volunteer Project Contacts - If you have questions about or are interested in volunteering to help with a particular Master Gardener project, this list should help you. If in doubt about who to call, ask Paula:

Plant Sale:	Cindy Erndt
Master Gardener Training:	Pat Gerard
Greenhouse and Gardens:	Ray Michalik
Extension Office Gardens:	Don Gerard
Bylaws:	Carol Farmer
Awards and Recognition:	Paula Craig

Don Gerard
Newsletter: Anna Gawlik
Jr. Master Gardeners: John Alcorn
Court House Rose Garden: Pat Cayer
Care Coordinator: Viki Brushwood

Photo Opportunies - Tommie Holt is looking for photo opportunities. Spring is the time of year when almost everyone has something that would make a nice photograph. Whenever you have a beautiful and/or unusual flowering plant, Tommie would like to take its picture. Also, as the vegetable gardens start to produce they make excellent subjects, as do butterflies and insects. He will share the photos with you. Give him a call or email when you have something you think he may like.

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

In The Garden:

A Celebration of Roses Was a Success

from Don Gerard

Despite rain, thunder and lightning, there was a "full house" turnout for the first annual "Everything's Coming Up Roses" workshop sponsored by the Texas Parks and Wildlife at the Varner-Hogg Plantation. Speakers were Master Gardeners Gil Livanec, Barbara Ray and Pat Cayer, assisted by Pat and Don Gerard and Patty and Eric Varnado. Refreshments were prepared by Ellen Pedisch, and the Emcee was Roger Woolsey. Presentations included preparation of beds, taking cuttings, planting cuttings, pruning and treatment of pests and disease. There were approximately 30 attendees, including many Master Gardeners who showed up to learn and to support their fellow members.

From Paula Craig to everyone who helped in "pulling it all together-they all deserve a huge thank you."

Hibiscus Spring Care

from Marti Graves

Many of you may have hibiscus shrubs that you planted and then forgot about and just watched them bloom. If they are not as productive as when first planted, here are a few tips that can easily improve your bloom count and the look of the bush. You can Watch the weather guessers on TV or use a "Wive's Tale" to determine when it is safe from frost but now is a great time to prune. Remove all tips that have been damaged by frost. It is a good time to thin out unruly branches back to a main stock, keeping upward growth and shaping the bush to your favorite shape. Hibiscus will bloom best on new growth, so do not be shy with the clippers. But, don't take off the top of the bush in one drastic cutting or you will have blooms only off the sides. Contrary to many flowering plants, hibiscus does not like a high middle number on the fertilizer ratio. You can find fertilizers specially formulated for hibiscus at Teas, WalMart and other garden centers. Many of these are 12-4-18 or 9-3-12 formulas. If you do not want to go with a specialized formula, use any even ratios such as 12-12-12. Apply this granular fertilizer once per month during the growing season. Then sit back and watch them bloom.

Overnight Scentsation

from Barbara Ray

The space rose (Overnight Scentsation) is a mini rose that is very fragrant. It went into space with John Glenn in 1998 on the Columbia. At the World Rose Conference I got to see the NASA slides of the rose in a sealed glass container in space. They had robotics that had needles that absorbed the fragrance of the rose and were withdrawn into sealed cylinders so the fragrance would not be contaminated. The International Flavors & Fragrance Company then made the perfume to be sold. The perfume is sold by Shiseido and the name is Zen. The rose scent is mixed with other scents so it doesn't smell like pure roses. It is very unusual, and you have to be careful to only use a little. Houston is the nearest place to get it.

The Company had another rose "Jenny-O" and a rice flower plant on the Columbia on this last flight. They were investing heavily in studying how weightlessness alters their metabolisms to produce aromatic oils. They want to understand how gravity fits into a plants growing conditions along with light, water and nutrients to determine a flower's fragrance.

Rose Propagation by Double Pot Sand Method

from Pat Cayer

Materials:

Large outer pot (minimum of 1 gal. plastic recommended)

Small (2 1/2" to 3") Clay inner pot

Course Sand (#3 or #4 mortar sand recommended)

Cut newspaper/foam disk or mulching material (to prevent sand from seeping through holes in large pot and still allow water to seep out)

Hot glue gun/glue stick or silicone sealant

Rooting hormone (powder or gel)

Small artist brush (or watercolor brush)

Labels (cut mini-blinds work great) & pencil/pen

Xacto knife or single edged razor blade.

Small amount of bleach & rubber gloves (about 1/2 cup to one cup for 5-gallons water to sterilize pots)

Instructions:

1. Seal bottom hole on 2 1/2" to 3" clean, dry, clay pot with hot glue or silicone sealant (hot glue dries faster).
2. Put mulch or cut newspaper in bottom of gallon pot and add mortar sand to 1" of rim.
3. Place small pot in center and push down to same level as outside pot. Add sand between pots level with top of pots. Fill inner pot with water and let some spill over to wet the sand this first time.
4. Take cutting with 5 or 6 good nodes (depends on node spacing), angle cut the end, notch/slit bottom two nodes and brush all with hormone.
5. Use pencil or small dowel/stick to make hole in the sand close to inner pot and stick in cutting (four or five to a gallon pot).
6. Label with name of rose (and maybe date).
7. Place in an area that gets only morning sun at this point.
8. Keep clay pot filled with water. Water seeps out in a few days (refilling depends on porosity of clay pot and temperature).
9. Pull and discard any cuttings that turn black. In 4 to 6 weeks you can check on rooting progress by carefully lifting clay pot, if you so desire.
10. In 2 to 3 months, when roots have formed well, carefully remove the cutting with a weeder tool or narrow spade and put in an adequate sized pot with good potting soil. There are several good soils recommended for roses.

Note from Pat: This is not an original idea.

Lake Jackson Roses

from Barbara Ray

History of the Roses: A woman from Needville gave the rose to Virginia Brunner Chesney (Tissie Schwebel's mother) when she was nine years old. She died at age 89 in 1997. So we know the roses are at least that old. Tissie gave the roses to Joe Marshall who worked at the Post Office when it was built. He and Jock Davidson planted them. Jock was from one of the early families here and great rosarian.

When the Post Office was moved several years ago the new Postmaster did not want them at the new building. Joe called me because I had taken care of them several times when they had been in distress from

wrong treatment. I started talking to the Postmaster and Post Office owner about moving them rather than having them destroyed because so many people had told me how much looking at the flowers meant to them when they were depressed, had a bad day or many other stories. After about 2½ years I was told I could have the roses. Bryce Carleton, our city Parks Director helped me by bringing a crew and equipment and after an entire day of work the roses are now in their new home at the Charlie Ballard Memorial butterfly garden between the library and the Civic Center.

Happy Birthday!

February Birthdays -

Betty McMillan - February 9
Lana Sands - February 15
Peggy Burthold - February 24
Pam Peltier - February 24

March Birthdays -

Carol Farmer - March 2
Charles Hollenshead - March 3
Barbara Ray - March 4
Gil Livanec - March 9

If you haven't already given Viki your birthday please get it to her.

Happy Gardening!!!

Newsletter Editor: Anna Gawlik



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