

# What's Growin' On . . .

## The BCMGA Newsletter

March 2003

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### At the Meeting:

**Website** - Eric Varnado will be in charge of updating and maintaining the website for BCGMA.

**Publicity** - Sandra Taylor has volunteered to help Paula Craig with BCGMA publicity.

**Habitat for Humanity** - Anyone interested in working with the Habitat for Humanity Projects should get in touch with John Alcorn for further information. Carol Farmer, Barbara Ross, Mark Sydner, Carol Wenny, Donie Stowers, and Grace Hines have been working with the Habitat group.

**Charitable Contributions Committee** - Sandra Taylor and Patty Varnado are in charge of the Charitable Contribution Committee. Let them know your ideas.

### Master Gardeners Receiving Recognition and Awards For 2002:

Barbara Ross (515.5 hours) and Pat Gerard (607.8 hours) were named BCGMA Master Gardeners of the Year. What an incredible amount of time they've given to our organization. Thanks to Pat and Barbara for the hard work and dedication.

<u>Name</u>	<u>2002 Hours</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>2002 Hours</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>2002 Hours</u>
Nella Montgomery	50.8	Sandra Loper	74	Glenn Comiskey	128.9
Linda Sanders	51.5	Barbara Ray	76.8	Karen Endersbee	133.3
Judy Wood	52	John Alcorn	82.3	Carol Farmer	148.5
Tom Collins	54	John Rosser	85.5	Clayton Terry	159.8
Greg Marsh	60	Kirby Rapstein	91	Barbara Burkhart	176.9
Ted Cooper	61	Leroy Walker	94	Lawrence Lewis	219
Phillip Hollenshead	62	Marvin Petter	97.5	Cindy Erndt	252.5
Roland Johnson	65	Gil Livanec	105.5	Donie Stowers	293
Barbara Brown	65.8	Mark Snyder	109	Pat Cayer	310.4
Cheryl Vining	69.5	James Smith	115.5	Don Gerard	312
Betty McMillan	70	Anna Gawlik	128.7	Ray Michalik	425
Tommie Holt	71.4				

Paula recognized several people for their help. Since I missed the meeting, I asked her to email the list to me, and the following is what she sent. It all comes off the top of her head, and she said she knows there are some missing. Basically, she wants to thank all of the people she relies on to make things happen and get things done:

John Rosser for his work on the hotline. He is at the office every Monday or Tuesday for four hours. He also tallies up the calls each month and sends me a report on how many calls we got for each topic (lawns, fruit trees, etc.)

Mary Lou and Jim Christie (Host & Hostess of the Year) who make sure there is food, drink and supplies for every meeting.

Ray Michalik who has faithfully shown up at the greenhouse for the last three years, often under uncertain conditions, and kept things going. Ditto for Barbara Ross and Larry Lewis.

Cindy Erndt has done a fantastic job organizing the plant sales. Wow!

Barbara Brown received the award for intern of the year. She has done a great job with JMG, the community gardens and everything she volunteers for (which is a lot).

Donie Stowers is always here to help--with plant sales, committee work, programs, etc.  
Pat and Don Gerard, Barbara Ray, Gil Livanec, Pat Cayer for their help with programs and training.  
Swede Swenson, the Don and Pat Gerard and Pat Cayer for their help with the rose gardens and lots of other stuff.

Sherry Summers for being a great speaker coordinator.

Leroy Walker for his work on the gardens in Sweeny.

John Alcorn, great President and organizer of the JMG group.

Smitty Smith and Ted Cooper for their work at the greenhouse, for building birdhouses, work benches, signs, trellises-whatever we need.

## **Spring Plant Sale:**

**REMEMBER:** The Spring Plant Sale is April 12.

***A Note From Cindy*** - Everyone, please take a look at your flower beds for extra plants for the Plant Sale. Many of them may have babies or re-sprouted and can be potted up for the sale. Now and the next few weeks is a great time to pot the plants. This will give them time to recoup and look great by sale time. Please let me know what kind of and how many plants you will have, so we can get a description in the brochure. If you need 1 gallon pots, there are plenty in the greenhouse for use. If you let me know, I will bring some to the next meeting for you.

***Work Days*** - March 28 (Friday) and April 2 (Wednesday) - We will meet at the Greenhouse for final transplanting and trimming of plants for the sale. We have done so well that we have to move up some of the plants to quarts!

April 9 (Wednesday) - Treeseach will deliver plants to the Extension Office. We will advise on the time of arrival. A trailer and people are needed for the unloading of the plants.

April 11 (Friday) - In the afternoon we need 2 to 3 people to set up boundary tape at Veterans Gazebo. People and trailers are also needed to load all of the greenhouse plants and take them to the Extension Office to store overnight behind the locked gate.

April 12 (Plant Sale Saturday) - We need someone to take charge of moving ten tables to the Gazebo the day of the sale and then returning them after the sale is over. We will also need people to move the plants to Veterans Gazebo on Saturday morning of the sale. We will get started at daybreak. Gates will open at 8:30 a.m., and we have to have all the plants unloaded before then.

Please contact Cindy Erndt if you can help on any of these days. Especially call if you have a trailer. She needs to know how many trailers we will have. Also, she is looking for two to three shade covers for the cashiers and raffle chair to use.

***Plant Sale Raffle*** - Jeanette Shane has been working hard to get prizes for the raffle. Here's a list of what we have so far:

- Master Gardener "Smitty" - hand crafted planting bench
- Master Gardener Peltiers - wheel barrow planted full of plants
- Joe's Barbecue/Alvin - \$25 gift cert for dining at Joe's
- Stanton's Feed Store/Alvin - \$10 gift certificate for merchandise of choice at Stanton's
- Treescape/Alvin - gift certificate for garden statue worth approximately \$30
- Trees of Manvel/Manvel - \$35 gift certificate for 15-gallon tree or crepe myrtle of choice
- Brazos Landscape/Angleton - gift certificate for 1 yard of mulch worth approximately \$25
- Good Earth /Alvin - gift certificate for 2 yards of material of your choice worth approximately \$50
- Evergreen Nursery/Angleton - plant
- Lazy Gardener calendar
- The Bayou Planting Guide
- 2 hanging baskets
- 2-wheel garden cart
- hand pruner
- Ortho Problem Solver Book
- 2-1 gallon plants
- 6-4 inch square plants

We also have two cash donations: Leo Torres-Attorney/Alvin and Joseph Hunter-Attorney/Alvin. We will use these donations to buy things for the raffle.

Rather than having the drawing at the end of the Plant Sale, we will start drawing raffle tickets at 9:00 a.m. and then every thirty minutes after.

**At the Demonstration Gardens:**

Some of you may already know that Texas A&M is closing the Experiment and Research Station. You are probably wondering, "WHAT IS THE FATE OF THE MASTER GARDENERS?" According to Paula Craig and Rich Tillman, A&M has agreed to continue supplying electricity for us to operate. So it will be business as usual. There will be a meeting with the TCE, the County and A&M that will decide our fate, but so far everything is looking good for us.

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

<b>mark your calendars for these</b>	April 1	April 4	April 8
<b>April work days:</b>	April 11	April 15	April 18
	April 22	April 25	April 29

<b>Calendar of Events:</b>	
<i>*see below for details</i>	<i>new items in bold</i>
<b>2003 Dates:</b>	
<b>April 1:</b>	<b>Training Class - Dr. Don Renchie-Pesticide Use and Safety</b>
<b>April 1-2:</b>	<b>Florescence*</b>
April 5:	Pecan Grafting Field Day at Varner Hogg*
<b>April 5:</b>	<b>Amaryllis Society Show and Sale*</b>
<b>April 5:</b>	<b>Discover Water Gardening*</b>
<b>April 5:</b>	<b>Plant Swap*</b>
<b>April 5-6:</b>	<b>Antique Rose Emporium Open House*</b>
<b>April 5-6:</b>	<b>Bonsai Society Show*</b>
April 8:	April Meeting
<b>April 9:</b>	<b>Jurassic Gardening*</b>
April 10:	Tropicals Program*
<b>April 10:</b>	<b>Houston Rose Society Meeting*</b>
<b>April 11:</b>	<b>Gardening in Strange Places*</b>
April 12:	Spring Plant Sale
<b>April 12:</b>	<b>Alvin Garden Tour*</b>
<b>April 19:</b>	<b>Earth Day Celebration*</b>
<b>April 19-20:</b>	<b>Peckerwood Garden Open Day</b>
April 24-26:	Texas Master Gardener Annual Meeting*
<b>April 26:</b>	<b>Herb Day Educational Symposium*</b>
<b>April 26-27:</b>	<b>Through the Garden Gate Garden Tour*</b>
May 3-4:	1 <sup>st</sup> 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

**Florescence** - Date: April 1-2. Time: 10-7. Location: Museum of Fine Arts-Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main. Phone: 713-523-2483. Joint flower show of River Oaks Garden Club and Museum of Fine Arts.

**Amaryllis Society Show and Sale** - Date: April 5. Time: 9-5 Location: Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive.

**Plant Swap** - Date: April 5. Time: 9-5. Location: Mercer Arboretum Picnic Pavillion, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Phone: 281-443-8731. Join other gardeners for food, shop-talk and swapping of plants and seeds. Everyone is welcome. RSVP to Jennifer Burns at [csc\\_jdbf@shsu.edu](mailto:csc_jdbf@shsu.edu) or 936-294-3846 (day) or 936-435-0888 (evening).

**Discover Water Gardening** - Date: April 5. Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11<sup>th</sup>, Houston. Alton Temple of Buchanan's will be giving a presentation. Phone: 713-861-5702.

**Antique Rose Emporium Open House** - Date: April 5 (9-5:30) and April 6 (11:30-5:30) Location: 10,000 Highway 50, Brenham. Phone: 979-836-5548. Celebrate spring with a variety of activities: a string quartet will be playing in the garden; local artists will be showing their artwork in the chapel; free refreshments; barrel train rides for children; local bbq available. Open house activities will continue through April on the weekends. Call or visit the website: [www.antiqueroseemporium.com](http://www.antiqueroseemporium.com) for more information.

**Bonsai Society Show** - Date: April 5 (9-5) and April 6 (11-4). Location: Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive.

**Jurassic Gardening** - Date: April 9. Time: 12-2. Location: Mercer Arboretum 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Phone: 281-443-8731. Bring a sack lunch and join local plant expert, Bob Pierce, to learn how to grow prehistoric plants. A special tour of Mercer's Prehistoric Plant Walk follows.

**Houston Rose Society Meeting** - Date: April 10. Time: 7:30 p.m. Location: Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. Website: [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org).

**Gardening in Strange Places** - Date: April 11. Time: 9:30 a.m. Location: Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. Presentation by Dr. Sam Cotner. Houston Garden Federation event.

**Alvin Garden Tour** - Date: April 12. Time: 10-4. Location: start at Marguerite Rogers House Museum, 113 E. Dumble, Alvin. Phone: 281-393-1538.

**Earth Day Celebration** - Date: April 19. Time: 9-5. Location: Brazos Bend State Park, 21901 FM 762, Needville. Phone: 979-553-5101. Games, Exhibitors, Demonstrations, Live Animal Programs, "Hands-On" Activities, and Educational Programs dealing with nature and conservation.

**Texas Master Gardener Annual Meeting** - Date: April 24-26. Location: Harvey Convention Center, Front Street, Tyler. Agenda includes: April 24: various tours available prior to registration and reception in the evening; April 25: tour of choice in the morning with speakers in the afternoon; April 26: tour of choice in the morning followed by lunch and Jr. Master Gardener Awards with break out sessions in the afternoon. On April 27, there will be a Home Garden Tour, which is open to the public. If you are interested in attending or would like further information, you can check out the following website: <http://extension-horticulture.tamu.edu/county/smith/mg/2003.htm>, or call Keith Hansen, County Extension Agent for Smith County at 903-535-0885 or 903-535-0884. The deadline for confirmed registration is April 1.

**Herb Day Educational Symposium** - Date: April 26. Time: 9-2. Location: Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. Reservations: 713-513-7808.

**Through the Garden Gate Garden Tour** - Date: April 26-27. Time: 1-5. Location: start at 112 Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. Tickets: 281-992-4438. Heritage Gardeners event.

## **Junior Master Gardeners:**

*from Viki Brushwood*

The Junior Master Gardeners are seeking helpers, and this is an easy and fun opportunity to get your volunteer hours in. Right now, we are small, but will be expanding with other groups in the future.

Our "Groovy Gardeners" class comes to the Extension Office on the third Friday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. It is a great group of kids who are really interested in gardening and learning. In either late April or May the "Groovy Gardeners" will be going to an Angleton nursing home to help the Sr. Citizens with potting plants. We need volunteers to help with this activity. It will take about an hour or two of time and mainly will be overseeing the Junior Master Gardeners.

Call/email now to become an occasional or monthly volunteer for Junior Master Gardeners' monthly class meeting. If you are interested in joining us with our "Future" Master Gardeners contact Viki Brushwood. It doesn't require any special knowledge to help out, and any help would be appreciated.

## **News to Know:**

***Interns Need to Check Their Hours*** - If you are were in the Spring 2002 Training Class, please be aware of your hours. Graduation is coming up soon, and we would hate to see anyone not be able to graduate because of a few missed hours. Although we are in the process of tracking your hours, it is a good idea to check your records. You will know if you have any you need to finish up, and you will also be able to compare to make sure all of your hours have been recorded.

***Spring Training Classes*** - The Spring Training Classes are going great. All current BCMGA members are invited to attend any of the classes. See "Calendar of Events" section for dates and topics.

### ***Would you Like to Teach a Class? Here are Two Instructor Opportunities -***

**Brazosport College:** Gemi Powell of Brazosport College has approached Paula and BCMGA with a proposal. She would like to incorporate some gardening classes in the Brazosport College Community Education program there. Each program would be about 3 hours. It is believed that it will be a "paying job" but this has not been confirmed. Ms. Powell envisions setting aside some section of the college property as a garden for "hands on" type training rather than having a three hour lecture. She had hoped to have a course or two for the spring. Since there is not much spring left and not much gardening is done during the summer, she would be interested in getting a program started for the fall. This is a call for anyone interested in preparing and teaching a gardening class (anything having to do with horticulture) at Brazosport College to contact Don Gerard, Paula Craig, or John Alcorn. If there is enough interest, a meeting will be set up with Gemi Powell to develop some kind of schedule.

**Brazoria First Assembly Church:** Diane Cerny of Brazoria First Assembly Church is looking for someone to talk to a group of 12 to 20 seniors on gardening. If you are interested, you can contact Diane Cerny or Pastor Ron Hogan. Please let Don Gerard, Paula Craig, or John Alcorn know if you do help out with this

***Video: Raised Bed Gardening by Dr. Sam Cotner*** - A big search is on for this video. If you've borrowed it from the office, please contact Donie Stowers. She's been looking for it and would be thrilled if it would turn up!

***Speaker for April Meeting*** - Jay Kolenovsky will return for our April meeting to speak on ornamental trees and to give a demonstration on rock making. He will also have his books on native plants available for sale, so you may want to bring the check book.

***New Texas Master Gardener Websites*** - The Texas Master Gardeners and the Junior Master Gardeners have new websites <http://texasmastergardeners.com> and [www.jmgkids.com](http://www.jmgkids.com).

***2005 International Master Gardener Conference*** - Pam Peltier said that Galveston County has proposed sponsoring the 2005 International Master Gardener Conference and has suggested that it be a cruise.

***Calling all Writers*** - The newsletter is a looking for volunteers. It's a great way to get in some volunteer time - and you don't even have to leave your house. We need more gardening related articles for the newsletter. Would you like to write about a particular plant you like, seasonal gardening activities, composting, your experiences in the garden, gardening tips, organic pest control, your favorite nurseries (local or long distance) or horticultural site. It would also be great to have some articles focusing on various native plants - a different one each month - or articles on butterfly gardening, how to make bird baths, trellises or painted stepping stones. I could probably just keep listing and listing ideas. Write just one article, or if you are feeling particularly wordy, create your own column! You all have gobs of information and ideas, please share with the rest of us!

The articles don't have to be exceedingly long - one paragraph is fine if that's all you have time for. Please do provide sources if you take information from books or websites. You can type it up in an email and email it to me or you can write it out on paper and give it to me at the meeting or mail it to me. The deadline? - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday after our monthly meeting. It just doesn't get much easier than that!

## In The Garden:

**New Fungicide Cleared for Use on Blackberries and Strawberries** - The 2003 edition of E-17 "Fruit and Nut Disease Control Products for Use in Texas" is available online only. The website address is: <http://tcebookstore.org/browse.cfm?catid=123>. A new fungicide cleared for use on blackberry and strawberry is Cabrio®, a BASF product that contains the active ingredient pyraclostrobin. Pyraclostrobin is in a class of fungicides called strobilurins. At least three chemical companies are developing these type compounds. Strobilurins are broad spectrum fungicides with low mammalian toxicity (very safe). Other strobilurin fungicides on the market are 1) kresoxim - methyl (Sovran®, Cygnus®); 2) azoxystrobin (Abound®, Quadris®, Heritage®); and 3) trifloxystrobin (Flint®, Gem®, Compass).

Now, what is significant about Cabrio? It may help control rosette on blackberry. Rosette is a fungal disease that causes sterility and has been extremely difficult to control with fungicides. Current research has shown Abound to be highly effective, but it is not cleared for use on blackberries. Since Cabrio is similar to Abound, it may prove effective for rosette.

**Oak Tree Death Subsided Just As Predicted** - During the drought years of 1998-2000, Hypoxylon canker was responsible for killing numerous red and post oaks in East Texas. Since Hypoxylon Canker is a stress related disease, watering during drought stress is the only means of control.

Most trees show no sign or symptom of being infected. Once symptoms develop, death is quick and sure. Death is so sudden leaves stay attached. Rainfall amounts and distribution have been normal the past two years. Subsequently, Hypoxylon Canker has subsided. With the good rainfall so far this year, 2003 should be another light year for the disease.

**Fire Blight on Pear** - Fire blight incidence has been light to moderate the past two years following epidemic levels in 1999 and 2000. 2003 will probably be a repeat of the past two years. No prolonged, warm event took place in January or February, which is often responsible for triggering fire blight. However, cloudy, wet conditions have prevailed leading up to bloom. I would be more concerned if the wet conditions were coupled with warmer temperatures. Warmer and dry weather will hasten and shorten the bloom period. The fire blight bacterium is spread during bloom, so the shorter the bloom time the better. The long range forecast for March is below average temperatures and above average rainfall.

## Featuring Master Gardener - Leroy Walker:

*from Viki Brushwood*

*This is a new monthly article for the newsletter. Viki Brushwood has volunteered to interview our members and share a write up with the rest of us. We thought this would be a great way to get to know our fellow MG's.*

Leroy Walker is a Master Gardener from the class of 2000. He is originally from Velasco, which is now known as Freeport and resides in Sweeney. Leroy and his lovely wife, Sue, celebrated their 57th Wedding Anniversary on March 22. He was in the Army during WWII and was an Asst. Gunner for a Tank Destroyer and received the Purple Heart. After retiring from Borden Dairy as a Milk Route Salesman, Leroy and Sue helped maintain a cemetery for 12 years. He was also actively involved in scouting for 45 years. Now, Leroy's time is devoted to his garden, Master Gardeners and the Lions Club, in which he has been active for 25 yrs. What a fabulous garden he has, with a vegetable bed and many prolific fruit trees, including Meyer lemons (It has so many - one branch has a cluster of 11), tangelos, oranges, apples and more. He has taken classes and specializes in composting. When he was first asked why he wanted to be a Master Gardener, Leroy responded that he wanted be able to do something with the gumbo. He did tell me that we do need more composters. Leroy Walker certainly is a gardening success!

# *Happy Birthday!*

**April Birthdays -**

**David Peltier - April 6**

Anna Gawlik - April 18

**Roy Compton - April 20**

Tommie Holt - April 24

**Paula Craig - April 28**

Barbara Brown - April 29

**Donie Stowers - April 29**

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

## ***Happy Gardening!!!***

Newsletter Editor: Anna Gawlik



Paula Craig  
CEA - Horticulture  
Brazoria County