

What's Growin' On . . .

The BCMGA Newsletter

April 2003

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At the Meeting:

Speaker - Jay Kolenovsky was back to speak at our April meeting. He gave a great presentation on native Texas trees of the Gulf Coast. Jay also suggested checking out the following websites:

- ☉ www.tpwd.state.tx.us/oak_prairie/urban/wildscapes.htm - This site has information on native plants, including deer resistant plants, tips on making a wildscape, and books on native plants, wildflowers, bugs and butterfly gardening.
- ☉ www.urbanharvest.com - Urban Harvest is a non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening communities through gardening. Their website has a list of classes available, a directory of gardens, a list of resources and more.

Wildlife Refuge - John Alcorn read a letter from the Wildlife Refuge thanking everyone who volunteered at the second annual Family Day at the Refuge. It was a very successful event.

Spring Training Class - The spring training class has been completed. We want to welcome all of the new interns:

Robert Brown - Pearland	Barbara Bruyere - Pearland
Barbara Greeley - Pearland	Frank Jolly - Brazoria
Lori Matthews, Galveston	Frances Mount, Houston
DiAnna Munson, League City	Beverly Noble - Pearland
Shelley Waguespack - Pearland	Kathy Walton- Rosharon
Henry Willis - Clute	Howard Woodard - Cedar Lake

Powerpoint Seminar - Marti Graves has offered to give a presentation on how to use Powerpoint for any interested members of BCMGA. If you are interested, you can contact Marti.

Graduation - At our May meeting (May 13) we will have graduation for last year's spring class. We will also have a potluck dinner and plant/bulb swap, so come prepared. Everything will begin at the usual time. In the event of rain, it will be held at the TCE office.

Have You Seen It?

- If you have A Book of Bamboo, please contact Viki Brushwood. She's looking for it.

- If you inadvertently took home a pair of clippers from the greenhouse, please return them. They belong to Barbara Ross.

Extension Office Gardens - The holly bushes have been removed, and Round-Up has been applied. The next task is to find someone with a large tiller so we can get the roots from the hollies dug up. If you have a tiller you would like to volunteer, contact Don and Pat Gerard.

Spring Plant Sale:

Thanks Thanks Thanks

Many thanks to all the Master Gardener volunteers that worked so hard to make the Spring Plant Sale such a smashing success. Thanks to those who helped select the Treesearch plants, who helped plant seeds, nurture them, transplant them, etc. Thanks to those who helped load the trailers, haul the trailers, unload the trailers, set up tables, make signs, set up signs, check out customers, assist customers, arranged for raffle prizes, sold raffle tickets, donated raffle prizes and anything else we have left out.

Cindy Erndt, John Alcorn and Don Gerard

Master Gardener Plants a Bargain

from Cindy Erndt

What has always amazed me is the variety of plants that Master Gardeners bring to the Plant Sale. As we were unloading on Saturday morning of the sale, more and more plants were put on the tables, all raised by you. There were rare ornamentals such as dahlias, in bright pink; unusual vegetables such as swiss chard; miniature roses from cuttings; herbs such as Greek oregano and yarrow; Louisiana iris; gingers and a lot more. Some of the plants sold so quickly, I didn't even see them put on the tables. Not only was there wonderful variety, the plants were beautiful, too. They were in clean pots, filled with soil and labeled. Your plants showed the care and nurturing that you had put into them. It was obvious to me that you had transplanted your plants well before the sale to ensure top condition. Our customers loved your plants! They bought plant after plant and at a bargain price, too. Thanks to all Master Gardeners that brought their beautiful, well cared for plants to our sale.

Let's Recycle

For the Plant Sale we bought new 4" and 1 quart pots, and a lot of the greenhouse plants were in them. If you have any of these pots, please return them to the greenhouse, so we can recycle them.

Plugs are a Success!

from Cindy Erndt

For the Spring Plant Sale, we purchased 4 flats of plugs at wholesale from Parks. The burgundy verbena and double impatiens were planted in hanging baskets. The tilt a whirl coleus and carita angelonia were planted in one gallon pots. All of the plants were nurtured in our Greenhouse by fellow Master Gardeners. The impatiens baskets were beautiful with our timing perfect for the sale. The verbena baskets were just coming into bloom. The baskets were a big hit, selling all but one before noon. All the angelonias also sold out early. Our profit margin was much greater on these plants.

If you have a suggestion or idea for the next plant sale, please send it to Cindy Erndt or Donie Stowers.

At the Demonstration Gardens:

The Demonstration Gardens need some weeding between now and the May meeting to be held there. Barbara welcomes all the help she can get.

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

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

Calendar of Events:

**see below for details*

new items in bold

2003 Dates:

May 3-4: 1st Annual Granbury Garden Tour
May 3: Butterfly Gardening*
May 3: Perennials & Old Roses*
May 4: National Wildflower Week Begins
May 4: Wildflower Walk*
May 10: International Migratory Bird Day Celebration*
May 13: May Meeting
May 14: WaterSmart Landscaping*
May 16-18: Oleander Festival*
May 17: First Aid for Trees*
May 18: Hibiscus Society Show*
May 24: Daylily Tour-Dr. Imperial*
May 25: Cactus Society Show and Sale*
May 24-25: Oleander Festival*
May 28-
June 1: **Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference***
May 31: Deadline for Redneck Yard Art Contest

June 7, 14,
21, & 28: Farmers Market
June 7: Favorite New Perennials*
June 10: June Meeting
June 16-21: Sprouts*
June 18-21: International Master Gardener Conference
July 5: Buchanan's Annual Scratch & Dent Sale
July 8: July Meeting
August 2: Gorgeous Gingers*
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

Butterfly Gardening - Date: May 3. Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th, Houston. Phone: 713-861-5702. Nancy Greig of the Cockrell Butterfly Museum will be giving a presentation.

Perennials & Old Roses - Date: May 3. Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: The Arbor Gate, 15635 FM 2920, Tomball. Phone: 281-351-8851. Presentation by Bill Welch.

Wildflower Walk - Date: May 3. Time: 2:00 p.m. Location: Houston Arboretum. Phone: 713-681-8433. Presented by Ray Parker, Native Plant Society. Take a walk to identify some of our common Texas wildflowers. Free.

International Migratory Bird Day Celebration - Date: May 10. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: Houston Arboretum. Phone: 713-681-8433. This event is an invitation to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. Events include free tours, children's art contest, migration hopscotch, puppet shows and demonstrations of wood carving of birds. Free.

An Herb Affair - Date: May 10. Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: Antique Rose Emporium, San Antonio Display Gardens, 7561 East Evans Rd., San Antonio. Phone: Robbi Will (210-651-4565). Comal County Master Gardeners will be there to demonstrate how to make herbed vinegars and pestos, as well as herbal bread and butters. They will also be showing how to make dream pillows, tussie mussies, bath milks and natural dyes. In the spirit of giving, your optional can food donation will accepted on behalf of local food banks.

Water Smart Landscaping - Date: May 14. Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble. Phone: 281-443-8731. Join Carol Cammack of the TCE as she talks about water-smart landscaping. Prepare for the summer by learning which plants and landscaping techniques require less water and help preserve natural resources.

Oleander Festival - Date: May 17-18. Location: Moody Gardens Visitors Center, One Hope Blvd., Galveston. Phone: 409-770-9077. 2003 Oleander Festival flower design exhibit, plant and garden vendors' sale, floral photo contest exhibit, gardening lectures.

- Date: May 24-25. Location: The Bishop's Palace, 14th Street at Broadway Avenue, Galveston. Phone: 409-770-9077. 2003 Oleander Festival patio plant sale, oleander gardens bus tours.

First Aid for Trees - Date: May 17; Time: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Location: Mercer Arboretum 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Join landscaper Bill Hynek as he discusses how to plant and care for trees and what to do if problems occur.

Hibiscus Society Show - Date: May 18. Time: 1:00 p.m to 4:00 p.m. Location: East Harris County Activities Building, 7340 Spencer @ Kyle Chapman, Pasadena. Free.

Daylily Tour - Date: May 24. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Location: Home of Dr. Art Imperial, 33 Lake Road, Lake Jackson. Directions should be available at our May meeting.

Cactus Society Show and Sale - Date: May 25. Time: 2:00 p.m. Location: Houston Arboretum. Phone: 713-681-8433. Members of the Cactus Society will be on hand to consult on general care of cacti and succulent plants. A portion of the proceeds from the sale benefit the Nature Center's educational programs.

Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference - Date: May 28 through June 1. Location: Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches. In association w/ the Cullowhee Native Plant Conference. Learn about gardening with native plants while attending field trips, lectures and networking. For more information, contact Dr. David Creech, 936- 468-4343; e-mail: dcreech@sfasu.edu; Peter Loos, 281-362-1107; e-mail: info@ecovirons.com; Elyce Rodewald, 936-468-1832; e-mail: erodewald@sfasu.edu; or visit the website: www.sfasu.edu/ag/arboretum/events/fileformats.htm

Favorite New Perennials - Date: June 7. Time: 10:00 a.m. Location: Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th, Houston. Phone: 713-861-5702. Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms will be giving a presentation.

Sprouts - Date: June 16-21; Location: Texas Cooperative Extension Office, 21017 County Road 171, Angleton, Texas. Registration deadline: May 1. Sprouts is a special Master Gardener class that offers you the opportunity to become a certified Master Gardener and to serve your school and community. Participants will learn, through hands-on workshops, how to link gardening to standards-based curriculum. You will receive the Master Gardener Handbook and a special Junior Master Gardener curriculum, "Health and Nutrition from the Garden," along with free seeds. Tours include a school vegetable garden, habitat garden and native plant nursery. For further information, contact Paula Craig.

Gorgeous Gingers - Date: August 2. Time: 10:00 a.m.; Location: Buchanan's Native Plants, 611 E. 11th, Houston. Phone: 713-861-5702. Linda Fields of Pecan Lake Farms will be giving a presentation.

News to Know:

Successful Seminar - BCMGA interns, Viki Brushwood and Marti Graves, had a seminar for the senior fellowship at the Brazoria First Assembly Church on April 16th. They gave a slide presentation and talk about hibiscus and the Master Gardener program to a small group of active seniors. The group asked very good questions and seemed to enjoy the presentation and blooms.

Volunteer Opportunity - Jane Fraley, President of Brazosport Garden Club, would like some Master Gardeners to go to the school where she works and advise the school with regard to their ecology center, which contains pond/bog and wildflower areas and a vegetable garden. The teachers are in need of some advice on what to do with a part that is overgrown with Ruellia, the tall variety, and with some small trees that have been mowed over.

If you are interested in helping, check with Don Gerard. He should know if anyone has gone out to the school. If this opportunity is still available and you want to take advantage of it, you can email Jane Fraley. Also, let Don know if you get involved.

Calling all Writers - The newsletter is STILL looking for articles. Some more general gardening articles would be great. It doesn't have to be anything that involves heavy duty research. You could even just tell us what's going on in your garden!

On The Herbal Side:

from DiAnna Munson

This is a new monthly column for the newsletter. DiAnna Munson, one of our new interns, has volunteered to share her knowledge of herbs with the rest of us.

First, some background information: Received BSN from UTMB at Galveston; R.N. for 22 years, 16 of those in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit as a preceptor/educator for staff and new hires; Six years ago, received certifications in medicinal herbal studies from Britain and Australia. In addition to the notes and lecture materials from herbal studies attended, the following medicinal herbal references are used:

Nursing Drug Handbook Series Herbal Medicine Handbook, Springhouse Corp. 2001
PDR for Herbal Medicines, Second Edition, Medical Economics Company
Professional's Handbook of Complementary and Alternative Medicines, Chales W. Fetrow, Pharm,D, Juan R. Avila, PharmD, Springhouse Corp. 1999
Ortho's All About Herbs, Ortho Books, an imprint of Merredith Books, 1999

Just for Fun:

- ✿ As a general rule of thumb - If an herbalist is healthy and lives long enough to publish a book, then the herbalist is considered to know the herbs written about and is credible.
- ✿ Herbal signatures are a system of characteristics which help identify the herb and its functions.
 1. Color:

Yellow blooms are generally used for liver, gallbladder, and all urinary problems and tonics that rid the body of toxins and infections.

Reddish flowers are all good "blood purifiers." The color red indicates the astringency or the healing effect of certain herbs. The active ingredient of many of these herbs are considered to be antibiotic in nature.
 2. Growing Conditions:

Herbs that grow in an area with a lot of "gravel" would indicate that the plant would be used in treating illnesses that have to do with "stones or gravel" in the boyd, i.e., kidney stones or gallstones. Herbs found growing in mucky, swampy, or wet grounds are good to use in treating excessive mucous excretions, such a s respiratory problems dealing with asthma, colds, coughs and rheumatic disorders.
 3. Texture and Shape:

Herbs that have a soft texture to them would be useful for treating swollen or inflamed areas. Herbs with thorns or are "prickly" are used in disorders where there is sharp pain. Herbs that have a root structure resembling the human torso are used as total body tonics.
- ✿ As a good modern herbalist, I use none of these. I rely on scientific research and medical tests to choose herbs for specific uses. But, it is fun to see how many of the herbal uses, verified by research, do fall into the above categories.

Featuring Master Gardener (Intern)- Marti Graves:

from Viki Brushwood

Our featured Master Gardener this month is actually a very active intern, Marti Graves - Hibiscus Queen.



Marti is originally from Pittsburg and fled to Florida to avoid the cold winters and shoveling snow. She had decided to move to San Diego, but when she stopped in Houston she didn't leave. After arriving on a Wednesday, Marti had a job by the following Monday as a Special Ed Teacher. Her mom is active in an American Hibiscus Society chapter in Pittsburg and talked Marti into joining the Lone Star Chapter in Houston, where she is a Charter Member. A couple of years ago, Marti and Greg, her husband of 13 years, moved from Suburbia out into the country in Manvel. While looking for property she decided she had to have a couple of acres and a backyard with a southern exposure for her plants. Even before they finished unpacking, they built their greenhouse - a sign of a truly dedicated gardener! She is very knowledgeable about Hibiscus plants so if you have any questions, she is the one to ask. She can be identified

by always wearing shirts with a hibiscus design. Marti is very multi-talented and has offered to hold a workshop on Power Point for the MG's to teach us how to use the computer program for presentations. When asked why she is becoming a Master Gardener she said wanted to learn more and, perhaps, turn a hobby into a business (a project she is still working on). Marti thinks the best thing about the MG program is learning about more plants and developing friendships with people who have similar interests. We are happy to have her!

If there is someone you would like to see featured, please contact Viki.

Last month Viki had sent me a picture of Leroy Walker but I wasn't able to get it to work, so here's Leroy's picture. Sorry for the delay:



Happy Birthday!

May Birthdays - Howard Pickle - May 9
 J.W. Christie - May 10
 Cheryl Vining - May 10
 Ted Cooper May 20
 Ted Jagen - May 21
 Pat Gerard - May 25
 Donna Underwood - May 30
 Patty Varnado - May 30

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

Happy Gardening!!!

Newsletter Editor: Anna Gawlik



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