

# What's Growin' On . . .

## The BCMGA Newsletter

September 2003

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### At the Meeting:

**Brazosport College Teaching Opportunity** - Master Gardener, Kathy Walton, who has recently been named the Director of Community Education at Brazosport College, asked for help in teaching a fall gardening class at the College. The class will begin mid-October and meets two times a week for four weeks. Everyone agreed that this would be a great opportunity to reach out to the community. John Alcorn volunteered himself and said he would recruit others. If you are interested, contact Kathy or John.

**Roster** - Don Gerard is trying to update the roster. He needs your name, address, phone no., email address and birthday. **If your address used to be a route number and has changed to a county road number, you need to contact Don ASAP.** Mail will no longer be sent out to addresses that contain a route number as the post office no longer delivers them.

**BCMGA Website** - Newsletters are now on the website. Within the next couple of months those with email (if Don Gerard has your email address) will be notified by email when the current newsletter is available for viewing rather than receiving the newsletter by mail. **Help us reduce paper and postage costs: If you have internet access but Don doesn't have your email address, please get it to him!** If you haven't already visited it, the website url is: [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/brazoria](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/brazoria).

**Seminars and Workshops** - The *Hooked on Tropicals* seminar was such a success (the meeting room was filled to capacity) that Paula wants to have monthly seminars in the summer and have several more throughout the winter. A Seminar Committee has been established to work with Paula to make sure everything is ready for seminars, i.e., microphone and any other equipment is set up, copies of handouts are made, etc. Marti Graves is the committee chair. If you are interested in working on this committee, get in touch with Marti.

**October Meeting** - The Fall 2002 MG class will be graduating. We will be having a potluck dinner and plant swap, so bring good food to eat and any extra plants you have. It will be held at the Extension Office rather than the Demonstration Gardens.

**Nominating Committee** - At the October meeting, a slate of candidates will be presented for the officer election to be held in November. Officer installation will take place in December rather than January.

### Fall Plant Sale:

What a wild time for the Fall Plant Sale. Originally set for September 20, the big rain tried to wash everything away. The Master Gardeners who made it to work at the sale were undaunted, however. Plants were returned to the Demonstration Gardens and set up in the barn and Gwen Collins was left at the gazebo to let people know where to find the plants. Then, on the 27<sup>th</sup>, it happened all over again. Major work was done at the Demonstration Gardens to get it in shape and get everything organized. According to John Alcorn, it was one of the best fall plant sales we've had. Thanks to everyone who worked so hard over those two weeks to make it happen - twice!

### At the Demonstration Gardens:

**New Equipment** - Our additional space at the Demonstration Gardens means that there is more grass to mow, so Ray Michalik is looking for a tractor mower to purchase.

**Planting Ahead** - Henry Willis planted some gourd seeds along the fence line behind the head house, so they will be ready for the Spring Plant Sale.

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

<b>Mark your calendars for these</b>	October 3	October 7	October 10
<b>October work days:</b>	October 14	October 17*	October 21
	October 24	October 28	October 31

\*Third Friday

## Calendar of Events:

*\*see below for details*

*new items in bold*

### 2003 Dates:

Sept 29-Oct 1:	Advanced Hort Food Crops Symposium
October 4-11	Brazoria County Fair
October 4:	Daylilies
<b>October 4:</b>	<b>Galveston County MG Plant Sale*</b>
October 7:	Hands On 3: Fertilizing Fundamentals
October 8:	Tool Talk
<b>October 10-12:</b>	<b>Fall Texas Home &amp; Garden Show*</b>
<b>October 11:</b>	<b>Fort Bend County Garden Tour*</b>
<b>October 11-12:</b>	<b>Fall Plant Sale and Gardening Festival*</b>
<b>October 12:</b>	<b>Men's Garden Club of Houston Plant Show &amp; Sale*</b>
<b>October 12:</b>	<b>Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip*</b>
<b>October 13:</b>	<b>How to Start a Community Garden*</b>
October 14:	October Meeting-Pot Luck/ Graduation
October 17:	Third Friday
<b>October 17-18:</b>	<b>Tropical Extravaganza*</b>
<b>October 18:</b>	<b>Camille's Inside Look At The Salad Season*</b>
<b>October 18-19:</b>	<b>Garden Festival of Roses-Antique Rose Emporium*</b>
<b>October 19:</b>	<b>Organic Composting*</b>
<b>October 20:</b>	<b>How to Start a Community Garden*</b>
<b>October 21:</b>	<b>Hands On 4: Growing Transplants With A Focus On Tomatoes*</b>
<b>October 23:</b>	<b>Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat*</b>
<b>October 25-26:</b>	<b>Oktober Gartenfest*</b>
October 31-	
November 2:	Fall Festival of Roses-Antique Rose Emporium*

### 2004 Dates:

<b>November 4:</b>	<b>Hands On 5: Ecological Pest Management*</b>
<b>November 6:</b>	<b>Attracting Butterflies and Hummers*</b>
<b>November 7:</b>	<b>East Texas as a Unique Ecosystem*</b>
<b>November 10:</b>	<b>How to Start a Community Garden*</b>
November 11:	November Meeting
<b>November 17:</b>	<b>How to Start a Community Garden*</b>
November 18:	Brazoria County Pecan Show
November 21:	Third Friday
December 9:	December Meeting
December 19:	Third Friday
January 13:	January Meeting
January 16:	Third Friday
February 10:	February Meeting
February 20:	Third Friday
March 9:	March Meeting
March 19:	Third Friday
April 3:	Spring Plant Sale
April 13:	April Meeting
April 16:	Third Friday
May 6-8:	State MG Conference
May 11:	May Meeting
May 21:	Third Friday
June 8:	June Meeting
June 18:	Third Friday
July 13:	July Meeting
July 16:	Third Friday
August 10 :	August Meeting
August 20:	Third Friday
September 14:	September Meeting
September 17:	Third Friday
September 18:	Fall Plant Sale
October 12:	October Meeting
October 15:	Third Friday
November 9:	November Meeting
November 19:	Third Friday
December 14:	December Meeting
December 17:	Third Friday

**Galveston County Ornamental and Preenial Sale and Seminar** - Date: October 4; Time: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; 8:00 a.m.-Seminar by Bill Rhode; Location: 5115 Hwy. 3, Dickinson; Phone: 281-534-3413, Ext. 1, 409-762-8621, Ext. 5096.

**Fall Texas Home & Garden Show** - Date: October 10-12; Location: Reliant Center, Houston; Phone: 713-529-1616.

**Fort Bend County Garden Tour** - Date: October 11; Phone: 281-341-7068. Master Gardener event.

**Fall Plant Sale and Gardening Festival** - Date: October 11-12; Time: 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.; Location: Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin; Phone: 512-292-4100. Fall is the perfect time to plant native plants and seeds, and this festival is the perfect way to get expert advice and a great selection for your garden.

**Men's Garden Club of Houston Plant Show and Sale** - Date: October 12; Location: Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston; Phone: 713-681-8433.

**Field Trip to the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge** - Date: October 12; Time: 8:30 a.m. Organized by the Native Plant Society of Texas. The group will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Houston Arboretum parking lot. Bring rubber boots, a lunch, mosquito spray, and plenty of drinking water. For more information, contact Flo Hannah at [fhannah@wt.net](mailto:fhannah@wt.net).

**How to Start a Community Garden** - Dates/Times: October 13 (4:00-6:30 p.m.) or 20 (1:00-3:45 p.m.); November 10 (4:00-6:30 p.m.) or 17 (1:00-3:45 p.m.); Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). Have you or your group been thinking about starting a community garden at a school, place of worship, in a park, or on vacant land? In this class you will learn about the history of community gardens, the basic ingredients for a successful one, how to get them planned and started and problems to avoid. Pre-registration is required two or more working days in advance. Gary Edmondson is the School & Youth Gardens Coordinator for Urban Harvest. Dr. Bob Randall, the director of Urban Harvest, has advised over 150 community gardens over the last 15 years.

**Tropical Extravaganza** - Date: October 17-18; Time: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Location: Jerry's Jungle Gardens, 712 Hill Road, Houston; Phone: 281-272-8612. Free.

**Camille's Inside Look At The Salad Season** - Date: October 18; Time: 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). Discover how to grow gourmet quality salads. There are hundreds of great lettuces and many other possible ingredients. Learn about bed preparation, salad crops and specific growing tips. This is a hands-on (in the soil) workshop - so wear your gardening clothes and bring your gloves. Participants will receive a bag of mesclun mix seeds. Camille Waters grows and markets salad crops to Houston's top restaurants. Stories about her gardens have appeared in many magazines and newspapers.

**Garden Festival of Roses** - Date: October 18-19; Location: Antique Rose Emporium, San Antonio Display Gardens; Contact: Robbi Will: 210-651-4565.

**Programs for Saturday, October 18** - 9:30 a.m. - Getting to the Root of Propagation (How to root your own roses successfully) by Glenn Schroeter; 11:00 a.m. - Creating a Texas Country Garden by Dr. Bill Welch; 1:30 p.m. - Dio de los Muertes (Celebrating this Mexican Custom Through Food and Herbs) by Lucinda Hutson; 3:00 p.m. - Romancing the Rose by Jim Johnson.

**Programs for Sunday, October 19** - 1:00 p.m. - Pioneer Roses (Results of breeding the best of our roses) by Mike Shoup; 2:30 p.m. - Bulbs That Light up Your Life (Best bulbs for naturalizing and growing in this area) by David Will

**Organic Composting** - Date: October 19; Time: 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.; Location: Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston; Phone: 713-681-8433. Presentation by Jay Kolvenovsky. Free.

**Hands On 4: Growing Transplants With A Focus On Tomatoes** - Date: October 21; Time: 6:15-8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). Every spring and fall gardeners search the stores for the right varieties of peppers and tomatoes. Often, they settle for a poor selection of non-organic, expensive transplants. In this class, learn to grow transplants from seed with everything from a greenhouse you build to a light you can buy for less than \$15 that will grow 100 plants. Diane Norman is co-owner of the Arcadia Nursery & Farm. She grows and sells organic transplants and vegetables.

**Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat** - Date: October 23; Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; Location: City of Bellaire, Recreation Center, 5125 Laurel, Bellaire; Phone: 713-662-8280. Presentation by Jay Kolvenovsky. Fee: \$20 - Bellaire residents, \$30 - Houston residents; Digital Powerpoint. Handouts.

**Oktober Gartenfest** - Date: October 24 and 25; Location: Winedale, Texas (Fayette County, Central Texas); Registration Information: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/sep03/ofest03.html>; Lectures of interest to Texas gardeners and native plant enthusiasts, covering topics such as the traditions, trends, and plant palette of Cottage Gardens, Garden Design, citrus, figs and vegetables suitable for our area of Texas, and details of methods utilized to maintain historical gardens such as those of Bayou Bend in Houston. There will be a tour of several local gardens after the presentations. Texas Master Gardeners may earn 8 hours of recertification credit by attending the Saturday lecture series.

**Fall Festival of Roses** - Date: October 31-November 2; Location: Antique Rose Emporium, Independence Display Gardens; Contact: Lynn Smith: 979-836-5548.

*Programs for Friday, October 31* - 10:00 a.m. - Clone Your Own: Propagating your Roses by Glenn Schroeter; 1:00 p.m. - The Lynn Lowery Legend by Mary Ann Pickens; 2:30 p.m. - Ten Best Roses for Texas by Nancy Kohlman.

*Programs for Saturday, November 1* - 10:00 a.m. - Lost Beauties by Daphne Filiberti; 11:30 a.m. - Celebrations for the Day of the Dead by Lucinda Hutson; 1:30 p.m. - The Patchwork Garden by Marcia Tatroe; 3:00 p.m. - Roses of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by Keith Zary.

*Programs for Sunday, November 2* - 10:00 a.m. - Bird Habitats for Texas by Mike Manson; 11:30 a.m. - A Botanist's eye: Redoute and the Art of Floral Illustration by Barney Lipscomb; 1:30 p.m. - Folly, Jolly and Holy Moly by Mike Shoup; 2:45 p.m. - Book Signing: Wildflowers of Texas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, by Gayeta Ajilysgi.

**Hands On 5: Ecological Pest Management** - Date: November 4; Time: 6:15-8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). Learn how to manage pest problems in your landscape and garden by enhancing and restoring landscape ecology. You will learn how to provide habitat to attract and sustain beneficial organisms. These destroy your pests. Specific plants, insects, habitat requirements and management techniques will be covered. Feel free to bring pictures or a baggy filled with your latest insect problems (leaves or insects). Ron Breland is owner of Organoscapes, a natural landscape and maintenance company and has many years experience in organic insect control. Dr. Bob Randall is author of Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro-Houston. He specializes in vegetable and fruit gardening.

**Attracting Butterflies and Hummers** - Date: November 6; Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; Location: City of Bellaire, Recreation Center, 5125 Laurel, Bellaire; Phone: 713-662-8280. Presentation by Jay Kolvenovsky. Fee: \$20 - Bellaire residents, \$30 - Houston residents; Digital Powerpoint. Handouts.

**East Texas as a Unique Ecosystem: From Big D to the Big Thicket** - Date: November 7, 2003; Time: 7:00 p.m.; Location: Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin; Phone: 512-292-4100. Speaker: George Diggs, Member of the faculty at Austin College and lead author of Illustrated Flora of East Texas and Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas. Free lecture organized by the Botanical Research Institute of Texas and hosted by the Wildflower Center.

## **News to Know:**

**Volunteer Hours** - Please turn in your hours. You can bring them to the next meeting or mail them to Mark Snyder.

**Newsletter Articles** - I'm looking for articles for the "In the Garden" (tell us about your garden, something to do in ours, or any other garden news/information) and the "Give it a Grow" (tell us a particular plant you find interesting or would like to share with everyone) sections of the newsletter. If you would like to contribute an article for these sections, or any others, you can email me or mail to me. My information is at the end of the newsletter. Your input is what makes the newsletter better.

**Website Contributions** - If you have any particular websites you enjoy visiting, please email the url to me and I will add it to our "Links" page. If you would like to contribute an article, you can email it to me. For articles, please include sources, if any. If you include a picture with your article which is not one taken by you, please make you have permission to share it electronically. Finally, if you take any pictures at any Master Gardener

events they can also go on the website. Just make sure that any people in the picture say it's ok with them if they are on the internet.

### **Meet a Master Gardener - Talented Cindy Erndt:**

*from Viki Brushwood*



Cindy was born in Dallas, attended Texas Tech, and graduated from U of Houston with a degree in Biology. She worked for NASA in their toxicology lab and then Amoco's Chocolate Bayou Lab. She has lived in Clear Lake, Dickinson and has been in Alvin since 1973. Cindy met her husband, Tony, at a get together for people who had an interest in learning Scuba Diving. Together they have 4 children and eight grandchildren (ages between 3 and 14). Cindy joined the MG class of 2001. Why? Because she was interested in becoming a Master Naturalist and at that time the program hadn't started. Lucky for us! She thought she knew a lot about gardening until she took the MG classes. She has no regrets and loves working with the Master Gardeners. She says meeting all of the people has been the best! She loves exchanging stories at work breaks and has a lot of fun! She was talking with a group of MG friends and one said I have so many pots to plant that are on my patio and everywhere, and the other two people said the same thing and Cindy thought "Me too! I feel better that I am like everyone else!"

Donie Stowers and Carol Farmer (both former Plant Sale Chairwomen) took a group of people to Treesearch and Cindy went along to see what it was all about. It was great fun and there were so many plants to learn about. Cindy grew up with a mom who loved to have garage sales and she thought "I can do this!" So now she runs the plant sales and puts in many hours of preparation. At her first plant sale she took home a small leftover plant labeled "4 O'Clock" and planted it in her garden outside her kitchen window. It didn't do very well. The second year it didn't do well either so she forgot about it. This year, however, it grew into a 5 foot high naturalized hibiscus with huge 8" pink flowers. Yes, apparently it was mislabeled and she is happy to have it. Cindy said "Don't always believe what is on the label."

She has a wonderful garden, pond, greenhouse and vegetable garden. (She uses Space City fertilizer and it works!) Her greenhouse is filled with hibiscus. Cindy has also joined the Lonestar Chapter of the Hibiscus Society. Cindy's other talents include bow hunting deer, oil painting, helping her husband with his business and her sweet poodle Juliette (who likes to guard her while she is working in the garden). I don't know how she finds the time to do all of her activities but am glad she is a Master Gardener! Thanks for all of your work! I could listen to her stories for hours. She is a joy!

### **On the Herbal Side - Jicama**

*from DiAnna Munson*

Also known as Yam Bean, Mexican Potato, or Mexican Turnip, Jicama is a legume grown for it's large tuberous roots which can be eaten raw or cooked. It is a very good source of vitamin C, but is used as a colon cleaner. Because of it's high fiber content, it acts like a scrub brush to remove built up waste products in the lower bowel, thus giving it the reputation as a "Fat Flusher"! (The reason for this article - with the holidays zooming in fast, this is an addition to "fancy fair" that will help keep you healthy during the holidays.)

#### **Jicama Slaw**

1 pound jicama, peeled and cut into thin strips  
1 red onion, thinly sliced  
1 carrot, grated  
1 cucumber, cut into thin strips  
1 cup parsley, chopped  
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar  
1/2 teaspoon dill  
3 Tablespoons flaxseed oil  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
juice of 1 lemon

In a large bowl, place jicama, onion, carrot, and cucumber and set aside. In a jar, put parsley, vinegar, dill, oil, garlic, and lemon juice and shake well. Pour dressing over jicama mix and toss lightly. Variations: Add 1/2 sliced shole fennel bulb for a n intriguing taste sensation and substitute lime juice for the lemon. Try adding tossed pumpkin seeds or sunflower seeds to the slaw.

I hope you enjoy!

# *Happy Birthday!*

## **Happy Belated September Birthday Wishes....**

Ray Michalik – September 4 (THIS WAS A BIG ONE!)

**Mark Snyder – September 10**

Leroy Walker – September 10

**Barbara Ross – September 12**

Roland Johnson - September 20

**Mary Christie - September 21**

Cindy Erndt – September 21

**Carole Wenny – September 26**

## **Happy October Birthday Wishes...**

Pat Cayer – October 1

**Evelyn Moon – October 22**

Roger Woolsey – October 22

**Marti Graves – October 25**

Anna Gawlik, Newsletter Editor

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

The Brazoria County Master Gardener Association shall not be affiliated with any commercial enterprise for the profit of an individual member or group of members. No member shall use their position with the Association to further the manufacture, distribution, promotion or sale of any material, product or service in which they have either a direct or indirect financial interest.



Paula Craig  
CEA - Horticulture  
Brazoria County