

What's Growin' On . . .

The BCMGA Newsletter

October 2003

Vol. 3, Iss. 10

At the Meeting:

Congratulations!!! - We have new MG graduates -

Barbara Brown	Christine Kern
Viki Brushwood	Ellen Pedisich
Gary Gardener	Lana Sands
Marti Graves	Jeannette Shane
Kitty Gray	Sandra Taylor
Ted Jagen	Patty Varnado

We're glad you made it. Thanks for all of your hard work!

2004 Officers - At the November meeting we will be voting for 2004 officers. The officers will be installed at the December meeting, which means they'll be ready to go when 2004 hits. Here is the list of nominees:

President - John Alcorn
1st VP for Volunteers - Don Gerard
2nd VP for Programs - Donie Stowers
Treasurer - Ted Jagen
Secretary - Judy Wood
State Reps - David and Pam Peltier
State Rep alternates - Evelyn Moon and Christine Kern

Fall Plant Sale - Despite the weather issues for the Fall Plant Sale, BCMGA cleared about \$1,100 on it. We are still selling plants out of the greenhouse on Tuesdays and Fridays and will continue to do so as long as we still have plants left. If you need some more plants - and who doesn't? - go check them out at the greenhouse!

At the Demonstration Gardens:

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

**Mark your calendars for these
November work days:**

November 4	November 7	November 11
November 14	November 18	November 21*
November 25	November 28	

*Third Friday

Spring Training Class:

The Spring MG Training class is scheduled to begin on February 10 and run through March 18. Paula Craig and Pat Gerard are finalizing speakers right now. The February 24 class will be the field trip to Mercer Arboretum, so if you are interested in attending, put it on your calendar now, so you don't forget.

Junior Master Gardeners:

Last Friday, October 24, the Groovy Gardeners were at the greenhouse and were working hard. They installed a "Junior Master Gardener" garden between the "big tree" garden and the heart shaped rose bed. They

were helped by Viki Brushwood, Barbara Ross, Barbara Brown, Ray Michalik, John Alcorn, Smitty Smith and Don Gerard. (If anyone was missed, blame it on Don's memory!) Smitty also showed them how to root hibiscus, and they each took home at least two potted cuttings each.

Calendar of Events:		2004 Dates:	
<i>*see below for details</i>		<i>new items in bold</i>	
2003 Dates:			
October 31-		January 13:	January Meeting
November 2:	Fall Festival of Roses-Antique Rose Emporium	January 16:	Third Friday
November 2:	Native Plant Society of Texas Field Trip*	January 24:	Haak Winery Pruning Day Seminar*
November 4:	Hands On 5: Ecological Pest Management	February 10:	February Meeting
November 6:	Attracting Butterflies and Hummers	February 10-	
November 7:	East Texas as a Unique Ecosystem	March 18:	Spring MG Training
November 10:	How to Start a Community Garden	February 20:	Third Friday
November 11:	November Meeting	February 24:	MG Training Class Field Trip to Mercer Arboretum
November 12:	Plant Now for a Beautiful Spring*	March 9:	March Meeting
November 15:	Battening Down the Frost Cloth: Being Prepared for the Worst Winter Ever*	March 19:	Third Friday
November 16:	Native Trees of the Gulf Coast Prairies*	April 3:	Spring Plant Sale
November 17:	How to Start a Community Garden	April 13:	April Meeting
November 18:	Brazoria County Pecan Show	April 16:	Third Friday
November 18:	Hands-On 6: Irrigation For Gardeners*	April 17:	TAMU Hort Gardens Spring Plant Sale
November 21:	Third Friday	April 17, 2004	
November 22:	Poinsettia Celebration*	May 6-8:	State MG Conference
November 22:	Coastal Prairie Stewardship Symposium*	May 11:	May Meeting
December 9:	December Meeting	May 21:	Third Friday
December 18:	Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat*	June 8:	June Meeting
December 19:	Third Friday	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

Native Plant Society of Texas Field Trip to Davis Hill State Park in Liberty County - Date: November 2. The group will meet at 8:30 am 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.

Lunch Bunch: Plant Now for a Beautiful Spring - Date: November 12; Time: 12:00 p.m. -1:00 p.m.; Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Bring a sack lunch and join Suzanne Chapman to learn what to plant now for a beautiful spring. Don't be one of the many people who wait until it is too late to plan and plant a spring garden. This class will help ensure your yard is the envy of the neighborhood.

Battening Down the Frost Cloth: Being Prepared for the Worst Winter Ever - Date: November 15; Time: 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Learn how to prepare your yard for winter. Are you ready for the first frost of the season? Will you know what to do before or after a freeze? Do you know which plants need protection and those that do not? Attend this program to be prepared for the worst winter ever, even if it doesn't happen this year.

Native Trees of the Gulf Coast Prairies - Date: November 16; Time: 2:00 p.m.; Location: Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston; Phone: 713-681-8433. Speaker: J. Kolenovsky, Native Plant Society; Learn about the native trees of the Gulf Coast Prairie. See some stunning color photographs that illustrate how big they get, and what wildlife they attract. Free.

Hands-On 6: Irrigation For Gardeners - Date: November 18; Time: 6:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). Grow a beautiful garden while protecting the watershed and reducing the load on our natural resources. Be able to vacation in July without losing your landscape investment. Summer is the perfect time for using a water-conserving irrigation system, but winter is the perfect time for planning it and installing it. This class compares several types of irrigation systems, helps you learn how to select the proper system, design the layout, install, and maintain an economical and practical home irrigation system.

Howard Starr is a mechanical engineer, high school teacher, and a certified Organic Vegetable Specialist who has installed several irrigation systems including Leaky Pipe. Angela Chandler is a certified Master Gardener who has taught micro-irrigation for three years. She is the owner of a local drafting company - providing piping services to industry for 28 years.

Poinsettia Celebration - Date: November 22-23; Time: 10.00 a.m.-4.00 p.m.; Location: Loop 577 – 1808 South Horton Street, Brenham; Phone: 979-836-0084.

Coastal Prairie Stewardship Symposium: Patching the Remnants, A Conference of Prairie Managers and Volunteers - Date: November 22; Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Location: Brazos Bend State Park. Historically, Texas Coastal Prairies were a blanket of plants and grasses that stretched thousands of acres as far as the eye could see. Now there are only tattered remnants scattered here and there. If you would like to learn how you can become a Prairie Steward for one of these remnants, please join us at for an introduction to the Coastal Prairie Stewardship Program, advanced prairie training, and Prairie Remnants In Need. Cost: \$7.00 includes park admissions (\$3/person), refreshments and lunch, and materials. Limited enrollment. Registration deadline: November 10th. For more information, and to receive a registration form, contact Tracie Teague (TMN-COT) at tteague@academicplanet.com.

Creating a Certified Wildlife Habitat - Date: December 18; 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.

Haak Winery Pruning Day Seminar - Date: January 24, 2004; Time: 9:00 am; Location: 6310 Ave. T, Santa Fe; Phone: (409) 925-1401 or (409) 925-0976. Come out and get expert pruning tips from the Winemaker and Grape Grower, Raymond Haak. COST: Free to attend. Bring Pruning Shears-can take home vines to start your own grapes!

Master Gardeners interested in a field trip to the vineyard, please contact Sandra Smith or Paula Craig by phone or email.

News to Know:

Volunteer Hours - Don't give your hours to Mark Snyder anymore. He's taking a break from the fun. Don Gerard has taken it over. Please turn in your hours to Don at the next meeting or mail them to him.

The Heritage Garden - If you would like to volunteer in The Heritage Garden at Varner-Hogg State Historical Park, in West Columbia, please contact Ellen Pedisich. Your time would count as MG volunteer time.

Lapel Pins - Anyone wanting a lapel pin of the MG logo should contact Paula Craig. They are \$5 each, and supplies are limited.

Plant Donations - Sherry Summers' son is working on his Eagle Scout project which entails refurbishing the Angleton gazebo where we usually have our plant sales. It has been repainted, and he wants to add more plants around it, especially ones that attract butterflies and hummingbirds. If you have any plants to donate to a worthy cause, contact Sherry Summers.

Future Meetings - Our November meeting will be a regular meeting and the speakers will be William and Becky Carter who will have a presentation on bamboo.

Don't forget that in December we will have our pot luck Christmas dinner and gift exchange. While you start your Christmas shopping, keep your eyes open for a garden related, non-gender specific gift, if you want to participate in the gift exchange.

Electronic Newsletter - If you haven't already done so, please get your email address to Don. In order to save postage and paper, we need as many people as possible to get their copy of the newsletter electronically.

Congratulations! - MG Lillie Licklider's daughter, Rachel, was named Brazoria County Fair Queen.

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 - Smitty Smith – "Travelin' Man":

from Viki Brushwood

Smitty is our featured Gardener. He is originally from the northeast Louisiana town of Rayville. Growing up he moved around frequently and went to 14 different schools. Smitty served in the Navy from August of 1952 to 1956 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid, which is now a museum in New York City. After he met Iris, a Houston girl, they married and moved to Angleton in 1956 where they have lived ever since. He worked for Dow as an operator and retired after 39 years. They have 2 children, 1 grandson and 2 great grandsons. Smitty and Iris have traveled to all 50 states and 2 US Territories (Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico). His favorite state to visit is Alaska. They have also gone on over 41 cruises. Wow! They do love to travel.

I asked Smitty where the best garden was that he has seen. (Of course I am sure he meant after our MG Demo Gardens and Greenhouse!) He said the best was Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC. He recommends it to anyone going up to the Northwest. (If you would like to find out more information on Butchart Gardens go to: <http://www.butchartgardens.com/main.php>. There is a description and history at this website.) When asked why he became a Master Gardener? He said he has always like flowers and gardening and tried to join the first class but it was full. So he joined the second class. His main interest is helping out at the greenhouse, demo gardens and plant sales. At home he has many plants and trees. His main interest is citrus. Although he also has banana plants, pecans trees, persimmons, and Asian pears just to name a few. He has vegetable and flower gardens too. Besides gardening at home and with the MG's, he also is a carpenter. He has donated potting benches for the plant sales and is quite talented. Smitty enjoys Country Western music the most but enjoys all kinds of music except rap. Smitty's advice to all of us is "Try anything - you never know what will work!" I enjoyed chatting with him, and I promise all of you this picture is after I asked him to smile! He is a sweetie!



On the Herbal Side - Carrots:

from DiAnna Munson

Medicinally speaking, carrots have been around since the Greeks and Romans ruled the world. The original carrot was a long thin yellow root with a very strong scent. The carrot we know today is from Holland. It is shorter, plumper and darker in color due to years of cultivation for a vegetable that is hardy, easily grown and retains most of its nutrients after harvest.

Carrots contain vitamin A, folic acid, iron, potassium, magnesium, manganese, sulfur, copper, carotenes, and pectin. It is an adaptogen in that it regulates the bowel. It is high in fiber and fluid to relieve constipation. It is also filled with astringent properties that make it good for diarrhea. Raw carrots contain active enzymatic actions that reduce the poisonous effects of listeria and salmonella. Carrots are used to treat chronic fatigue, anemia, poor immune defenses, poor night vision, mental fatigue, stomach ulcers, and intestinal problems. A little known use - it is a good way to increase milk production in new mothers. The beta-carotenes present in carrots are an excellent source of antioxidants and are used to prevent infection and cancers in the lung. It is also thought to lower cholesterol in the blood. Mixed with other ingredients such as cucumber, strawberries, etc., carrots make an excellent beauty treatment that rejuvenates the skin on the face and neck. Carrot juice also helps relieve eczema and acne.

Carrots With Rosemary

2 Tbls. butter
1 red onion
1 can carrots, sliced
1 rounded Tbls. rosemary, chopped
5 Tbls. yogurt
pepper, to taste
1 Tbls. parsley, chopped

In a saucepan, melt the butter and add the onion, cook until soft. Add carrots, rosemary and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes. Drain (reserve juice for soup or stew). Add yogurt. To serve, sprinkle with parsley.

Garden Checklist - November/December:

- ✿ Place orders for seeds this month so you will have them available when you are ready to plant. Also by ordering early you will be sure to get the varieties you want. Store in a closed container in the lower part of your refrigerator until time to plant.
- ✿ Evergreen plants frequently suffer from lack of moisture during those occasional winter dry periods that occur in Texas. Adequate soil moisture provides the best protection you can give your plants against winter cold injury.
- ✿ Now is an ideal time to plant pansies. Select a sunny site having well prepared soil.
- ✿ Plant pansies, calendulas, flowering kale, snapdragons, stock, sweet alyssum and larkspur for early spring color. It is best to use started plants at this time. Select short, stocky plants with good green color.
- ✿ Clean, repair and oil garden tools and equipment. A coat of linseed oil on wooden handles will help preserve the wood.
- ✿ Drain the gasoline from power tools and run the engine until fuel in the system is used.
- ✿ November through February is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. In the Panhandle planting is often delayed until February or early March.
- ✿ Protect tender plants by covering with structures made of wood frames and covered with clear plastic film. If a severe freeze is predicted use an outdoor type extension cord and a lightbulb placed under the cover. It will usually provide sufficient heat to protect the plants if the cover is well constructed.
- ✿ Christmas poinsettias will soon be available. Don't be misled by the scare stories about the poisonous qualities of these beautiful plants. Plant scientists at Ohio State University have proven through extensive testing that they are not poisonous. There is, however, the possibility that some individuals may be allergic to certain plants including the poinsettia. (See accompanying story in this issue of Horticulture Update)
- ✿ Bare spots under trees or other heavily shaded areas? Consider using shade tolerant ground cover in those areas. English ivy, Algerian ivy, Monkey grass, liriope, or vinca are excellent choices.
- ✿ Continue planting spring flowering wildflowers in early November: bluebonnets, Drummond phlox, rudbeckia and coreopsis can still be sown.

Source: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/nov02/art9nov.html>

Date: October 28, 2003

In The Garden - Organic Fire Ant Baits Available, Effective:

COLLEGE STATION -- Organic fire ant baits are on the market and are as effective as conventional baits, giving consumers another option in control.

"The ants collect it like they do any other bait, and it kind of short-circuits their nervous systems," said Dr. Charles Barr, fire ant specialist with Texas Cooperative Extension.

The only active ingredient for organic fire ant baits is spinosad, also known by its trade name, Conserve, Barr said.

Spinosad is considered organic because it is produced from a bacterial fermentation process that produces a toxin, which is extracted and put into bait at very low concentrations. It works by disrupting the ant's nervous system, Barr said.

The spinosad baits works as well as conventional baits, particularly in small areas, or as an individual mound treatment.

"It's a fast-acting bait, similar to Amdro, a conventional bait," he said. Maximum control should be achieved in two to four weeks.

With individual mound treatments, control is usually seen in about a week.

Spinosad products cost about the same as conventional baits at about \$8 to \$10 per pound, and it can be purchased at garden and lawn outlets.

"You may have to ask for it, however," he said.

They can be broadcast or used as an individual mound treatment. To broadcast bait -- whether it is organic or conventional -- use a small hand-seeder that lightly scatters the bait at a low rate, he said.

Generally speaking, most people would want to put it out in the fall and spring, because temperatures are generally warm and ants are foraging.

"The only sure-fire way to tell if it's time is to put a little bit of it out and see if the ants come to it," Barr said. "Generally, if it's less than 65 degrees, ants will not be foraging."

Baits should not be put out in the heat of the summer.

Spinosad is available in baits produced under the brand names of Ferti-lome and Justin, as well as others.

Source: <http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/ENTO/Apr0703a.htm>
Date: October 28, 2003

Give it a Grow - Marie Daly Rose:

An easy-to-care-for polyantha rose, 'Marie Daly' is the latest rose to be named a Texas Superstar.

"Marie Daly is our best dwarf landscape rose, and when fully grown it's 3 feet high and 3 feet wide and has few thorns," said Dr. Steve George, Texas Cooperative Extension horticulturist at Texas A&M Dallas. "It has beautiful semi-double pink blossoms with rich green foliage and is very fragrant."

The flowering shrub, which is very easy to grow, has successive flushes of bloom from spring to frost. It is winter hardy throughout Texas and should be planted in day-long full sun where it can get good air movement over the leaves. Fall is an excellent time to plant roses.

Marie Daly is a new variety of Marie Pavie, an old garden rose which dates back to 1888. Marie Pavie is a superb polyantha rose with white blossoms, George said. The only difference between the two is Marie Daly's distinctly pink color.

Marie Daly is an outstanding performer in almost any soil type, both acid and even highly alkaline clays and possesses good disease tolerance and resistance to insects, he said.

"Polyanthas produce small flowers in large clusters and are primarily used in containers and for mass plantings or borders."

Marie Daly is also being designated as EarthKind. George explained that Extension's EarthKind designation is given only to thoroughly tested plant materials which help create beautiful, productive landscapes that require minimum maintenance while providing maximum environmental protection.

For more information on the Texas Superstar program or to find the nearest official Texas Superstar retailer, go to <http://TexasSuperstar.com>

Source: <http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/HORT/Sep1703a.htm>
Date: October 27, 2003

Driven to Garden: New License Supports Horticulture Students:

Writer: Kathleen Phillips, (979) 845-2872,ka-phillips@tam.u.edu

Contact: Dr. Doug Welsh, (979) 845-8568,dougwelsh@tam.u.edu

COLLEGE STATION – Those whose vehicles regularly stop at plant sales, who pull over-sized wagons between rows of greenery at nurseries and who think 12 growing months a year would be great – now you can advertise your passion for gardening.



The Texas Master Gardener license plate now is available.

And while driving the message home – floorboards covered with pots and bags of soil – the license plate will help ensure the next generation of horticulturists to continue garden education.

Money made from license plate sales will fund graduate student assistantships and activities of Texas Master Gardener, a program of Texas Cooperative Extension. A \$30 fee charged on top of the regular vehicle registration fee provides \$22 for the Texas Master Gardener effort and \$8 for administrative costs of the Texas Department of Transportation.

Texas Master Gardeners began in the late 1980s as a network of volunteers, trained by Extension, to enhance Texas horticultural and environmental programs across the state. By the end of 2002, Texas Master Gardeners included 5,300 volunteers in 106 counties, according to Dr. Doug Welsh, Extension horticulturist as state Master Gardener coordinator.

"This volunteer service is the equivalent of 168 full-time employees making a \$5.3 million benefit to the state," he noted. The program also supports Junior Master Gardener, through which some 65,000 Texas children each year explore gardening curriculum in all subjects from science to art.

"I can hardly wait to see other vehicles across Texas sporting the license plates," said Welsh, who already has ordered plates for his family's cars.

Welsh said the idea of the plate came from the Master Gardener group in Bell County and was in development for two years before passing through the state Legislature this year. With the idea of using money for scholarships, he said, came the idea to training graduate level horticulture students in volunteer management.

"That (volunteer management) is an emerging field. It is cutting edge in the academic world," Welsh said. "Extension has been managing volunteers for 100 years, but we are just now beginning to educate our employees to have the skills necessary to manage these people."

Volunteers have become increasingly important for many Extension programs, he said, because funding limits prevent the agency from getting larger to support the increasing needs of state residents. The number of Master Gardener volunteers has grown from 50 in 1987 to 5,000 in 2003, he noted, so Extension personnel who work with those people would benefit from knowing the best ways to manage the 350,000 plus hours of service given each year.

"That is our future -- multiplying our efforts. There has never been a greater need in volunteers than now," he said. Texas Department of Transportation's Vehicle Titles and Registration Division offers a variety of speciality plates, such as collegiate, organizational and the military. For some of the plates, a person must meet certain criteria to purchase. But most organizational plates, such as the Master Gardener, can be purchased by anyone who wants to support and promote the group, according to Roger Polson, transportation department spokesman.

"For the organizational type, we have about 165,000 currently registered vehicles in Texas with those kind of plates," he said.

Personalization of Texas license plates was first allowed in 1965. Plates with special designs and fees that support organizations were first available in 1990, he noted.

The first organizational plate in the United States was in Florida for the Space Shuttle Challenger.

Depending on the organization and its followers, a specialized license plate can provide a healthy income. Some 19 million vehicles are registered in Texas every year, Polson noted.

"The State of the Arts plate is most popular in Texas," Polson said. "Revenue from 1994-2002 was \$2,072,578. We currently have 24,000 vehicles registered. They obviously are a shining example. There are others that have been successful as well."

Plates can be ordered at any time, regardless of when a vehicle's registration is due. The fee is payable upon ordering, but the total is prorated to keep with vehicle's registration schedule. Polson said unlike regular license plates, the specialized plates belong to a person, not the vehicle.

"If you sell the car, the plates stay with you," he said. Fees for the specialization are renewable annually.

To apply for this specialty plate, go the Web at <http://www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/specialplate.htm?nbr=117> or get form VTR-999 in local county tax assessor-collector's offices.

For more information on the Texas Master Gardener program, see <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/mastergd/index.html> or call Welsh at (979) 845-8568.

Source: <http://agnews.tamu.edu/dailynews/stories/HORT/Oct1703a.htm>

Date: October 26, 2003

Recipe - Catfish Court Bouillon

from Gary L. Gardner Sr.

Cajun pronunciation: coo-be-yon

This is very good with other types of fish such as Red Snapper and Red Fish. I have made it mostly with Red Snapper, since we have more of that. The batch served at the BCMGA supper was made from Redfish The original recipe was called Catfish Court Bouillon, so that is what I call it. The original recipe came from Paw Paw's Restaurant in Lake Charles, Louisiana. They had left out some of the important ingredients, such as how much roux. I think I finally have it about right.

5 lbs. broiled or boiled fish fillets (I usually use more, since people tend to seine out the fish when serving themselves)

1 cup finely chopped bell pepper

1 cup finely chopped white onions

1 cup finely chopped celery

4-15 oz. cans tomato sauce

1+ gallon of fish stock

2 tbs. finely chopped fresh parsley (or dried if fresh isn't available)

1/2 cup of finely chopped green onions (just chop up the whole bunch)

1 tbs. worcestershire sauce

2 tsp. salt

2-1/2 tsp. red pepper

2-1/2 tsp. black pepper

1 tsp. garlic salt

3 tsp. paprika

2 cups peanut oil for roux

2 cups flour for roux

4 bay leaves

KNORR fish flavor bouillon cubes

ZATARAIN'S concentrated shrimp and crab boil

1. Boil the fish in 5 or 6 quarts of water with 1 tbsp. or so of Zatarain's shrimp and crab boil, a cut-up onion, some cut-up celery, black pepper and some cubes of Knorr fish bouillon cubes, 1 cube per 2 cups water, for 20-30 minutes. The fish tends to break up, so keeping it together in cheesecloth is handy. After it is cooked, take it out of the stock pot and separate it to keep it from sticking together. Set it aside.
2. Prepare the vegetables and set aside. You don't have to measure exactly. If you have a little more than called for, add it rather than throw it away.
3. Make a roux out of the flour and peanut oil. Get the oil hot in a large heavy cast iron skillet or large sauté pan, add the flour, stir like crazy the whole time to keep it from scorching and cook until it is the color of peanut butter. This usually takes at least one cold beer. If you burn or scorch the roux, throw it out and start over.
4. When the roux is just right, dump all of the vegetables in and keep on stirring. Scrap the bottom and side often. Cook at least 5-10 minutes until the vegetables are well cooked and caramelized.
5. Start adding the fish stock to quench the roux/vegetable mixture and keep on stirring.

6. At this point, I usually dump the mixture into a large stock pot and add all the rest of the ingredients except for the fish and bay leaves and simmer for 25 minutes.
7. At this point, I transfer the mixture to a large electric roaster, add the cooked fish in a single layer and bay leaves, cover and simmer for another 30 minutes, being sure to scrape the bottom and sides to keep the fish from sticking. It is hard to keep the fish from breaking up into smaller pieces, but try. However, it will be just as good if it does.
8. Skim off the excess oil and serve over rice.

Happy Birthday!

Happy November Birthday Wishes...

Viki Brushwood - November 20

Cecile Johnson - November 21

Barbara Burkhardt - November 28

Happy December Birthday Wishes...

Tom Nolan - December 7

Christine Kern - December 17

Barbara Bruyere -December 19

Sherry Summers – December 20

Sandra Taylor - December 21

Thomas Collins - December 28

Kirby Rapstein - December 31

Thanks - Anna Gawlik, 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