

# What's Growin' On . . .

## The BCMGA Newsletter

January 2004

Vol. 4, Iss. 1

### At the Meeting:

**Awards** - For 2003, the BCMGA members logged almost 7800 volunteer hours. WOW!!! That's a lot of time. In comparison, we had around 6000 hours in 2002; and around 5000 in 2001. According to Paula, almost 1000 of our 2003 hours were from Pat and Don Gerard.

A lot of awards were given out, and I wasn't able to write them all down, so if you received an award, and I don't have your name, I apologize. (Let me know who you are, and I'll put you in next month!)

Special Thanks - Tommy Holt, Swede Swenson, Mark Snyder, Judy Wood, Sandra Taylor, Cheryl Vining and Kathy Walton.

Side Note - Swede Swenson is retiring from the MGs. If you see him around, let him know that we'd still like to see him at the meetings. He doesn't have to go away completely!

For 100 or more hours of volunteer service - Pam Peltier, Ted Cooper, John Rosser, John Alcorn, Glen Comiskey, Patty Varnado, Jeanette Shane, Larry Lewis, Marti Graves, Viki Brushwood, Carol Farmer, Anna Gawlik, Ted Jagen, Donie Stower, Evelyn Moon, Ellen Pedisich, Ray Michalik, Barbara Ross and Barbara Brown.

As I said, I missed a lot of people. Let me know who you are! Email me, call me or tell me at the February meeting.

**Dues are Due** - It's time to get in your 2004 dues. Checks in the amount of \$12.00 should be mailed to Ted Jagen.

**Planning/Budget Meeting** - At the Planning meeting, a budget was outlined which was presented at the January meeting and was approved. If you have questions about it, contact Ted Jagen.

**Combination Open House/Vegetable Show/Farmers Market** - In an effort to bring the community out to the Demonstration Gardens on a regular basis, we will be hosting our first annual Open House on June 5. Along with the Open House we will be hosting a Veggie Show and Farmers Market. If you are interested in being the Chairman for this project, please contact Donie Stowers and let her know.

**Online Newsletter** - Some members are viewing this newsletter online. Those who do not have internet access are getting a paper copy. If you have internet access and are still receiving a paper copy by mail, please contact Don Gerard to give him your email address. You will then receive email notification of when the newsletter is posted on the BCMGA website, along with the link to the page you need. By doing this, we will be able to cut down on postage and paper costs.

**Master Gardener Cookbook** - We had such a wide array of delicious food at our December Christmas party, we talked about producing a BCMGA cookbook. I have volunteered to take on this project. I have already received many recipes, but more are needed, so please pull out your favorites and get them to me (either mail, email or bring them to the meeting).

**Texas Gardener Magazine** - If you paid for your subscription to the Texas Gardener Magazine through BCMGA last year, it's time to renew. The cost is \$14.21, so please bring a check in that amount made out to BCMGA to Mark Snyder at the February meeting, along with your renewal notice if you have it. If you don't already

have a subscription, you can order one now. Just provide Mark with your name and address when you give him your check.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature Celebration** - This will be held on February 21 at Sea Center in Lake Jackson. Paula is looking for volunteers for the Master Gardener table. People are needed anywhere from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with her.

### **At the Demonstration Gardens:**

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

**Accessories Needed** - Barbara Ross is always looking for items for the Demo Gardens such as stepping stones, bird feeders, bird baths, and yard art. If you have anything you can donate, she would love to have it. If you haven't been by to see the Tin Man, it is definitely worth a visit!

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

February 3	February 6	February 10
February 13	February 17	February 20*
February 24	February 27	

\*Third Friday

### **Spring Master Gardener Training:**

Spring training classes begin on February 10. If you attend any of the classes you will be able to receive advanced training hours. Here is the schedule, which is subject to change, so if you want to attend a specific class, you may want to confirm ahead of time. There are two sessions a day. The morning session times are from 9:00-12:00 and the afternoon session times are from 12:30-3:30.

Feb 10	AM Introduction and Orientation PM Plant Morphology and Identification	Paula Craig Paula Craig
Feb 12	AM Citrus – Grafting PM Soil Fertility	Bob Marx Tony Provin
Feb 17	AM Plant Disease ID and Management PM Insect ID and Management	Carlos Bogan John Jackman
Feb 19	AM Fire Ants & Pesticide Safety PM Habitat Gardening	Paul Nestor Glenn Olsen
Feb 24	AM Woody Ornamentals (Mercer) PM Annuals (Mercer)	Greg Harmison Greg Harmison
Feb 26	AM Perennials and Roses PM Turf Grass	Bill Welch Larry Rider
Mar 2	AM Landscaping Principles PM Organic Gardening	Carol Cammack R. (Skip) Richter
Mar 4	AM Propagation (Roses and Perennials) PM Vegetable Gardening	Barbara Ray Tom Leroy
Mar 9	AM Palms, Cycads and Tropicals PM Herbs (Propagation and Use)	Mike Morrison DiAnna Munson
Mar 11	AM Urban Trees PM Review MG program and requirements	Mickey Merritt Paula Craig

## **News to Know:**

**Volunteer Hours** - On March 1, the MG Annual Report is due, so if you haven't turned in your 2003 hours, please do so ASAP. Please turn in your hours to Don at the next meeting or mail them to him.

**Donate Some Blood** - When John Alcorn was in the hospital last year, they gave him 6 pints of whole blood and two pints of platelets. Anyone who wishes to donate blood could do so by designating it in his name: John Alcorn, Clear Lake Regional Hospital, Webster, TX. John is about to go through a new round of therapy soon and it would be nice to also have some extra in his name, just in case he needs it.

**Lost Master Gardener** - We seem to have lost touch with Tom Harris. If anyone has a current address, email or phone number for him, please let Don Gerard know.

**Welcome New and Old** - We would like to welcome transferee Tom Hamilton from Kings-Tulare County, California.

We would also like to say "welcome back" to Suzanne Jerabeck and Bonnie Calkins. Suzanne and Bonnie were both at last month's meeting, and it was great to see both of them!

## **Landscaping on the Go - MGs are Teaching at Brazosport College:**

The Brazosport College spring catalog says: "In cooperation with the Brazoria County Master Gardeners, Brazosport College is offering a series of workshops addressing landscaping topics relevant to the Gulf Coast Region. This spring, choose the topics that interest you and expand your knowledge of plants and gardening conditions in the area."

Thanks to the range of expertise and cooperation of several Master Gardeners, Brazosport College is able to form a partnership with BCMGA that is a fund-raiser and high-visibility opportunity for the Master Gardeners and solid class for Brazosport College. There are twelve sessions in the current series and learners may sign up for one, three, or the whole series. The classes are held at the Lake Jackson Center. Special thanks to all the Master Gardeners that are helping to make this program successful! See [www.brazosport.edu](http://www.brazosport.edu) and check out the non-credit schedule for the list of workshops (p. 22 of the catalog).

The following sessions are being offered:

<u>Class Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
Dirt Busters	Jan. 15	John Alcorn, David Peltier, Kathy Walton
Landscape Design	Jan. 22	Sandra Taylor
Turf	Jan. 29	Robert Brown
Citrus and Fruit Trees	Feb. 10	Gil Livanec
Vegetable Gardens at Their Best	Feb. 17	David & Pam Peltier
Roses are Red and Wonderful	Feb. 24	Pat & Don Gerard
To Bee or Not to Bee?	Mar. 17	Roger Woolsey - hopefully
Hummingbirds & Butterflies	Mar. 24	Barbara Burkhalter
Natural Habitats	Mar. 31	Kirby Rapstein
Ponds and Water Plants	Apr. 5	Richard Oliver
The Mysterious Hibiscus & Plumeria	Apr. 12	Marti Graves
Pecans	Apr. 19	tba

The Master Gardeners are volunteering to teach the classes offered at Brazosport College, but the college has to pay someone for teaching the course, so they are going to pay the BCMGA. The funds generated from this effort are to be used as scholarship funds.

## Calendar of Events:

*\*see below for details*

*new items in bold*

### 2004 Dates:

<b>February 3:</b>	<b>Folklore and Facts of Select Texas Native Plants*</b>	March 4:	Tomatoes: Varieties and Growing Tips for Gulf Coast Gardeners
<b>February 5:</b>	<b>19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vegetable Conf.*</b>	<b>March 6:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Annual Watersmart Landscaping Workshop and Plant Sale</b>
February 7:	Everything's Coming Up Roses	March 9:	March Meeting
<b>February 8:</b>	<b>Vegetation Tales*</b>	<b>March 9:</b>	<b>Palms, Cycads and Tropicals-MG Training-AM</b>
February 10:	February Meeting		<b>Herbs (Propagation and Use)-MG Training-PM</b>
<b>February 10:</b>	<b>Citrus and Fruit Trees-Brazosport College</b>	<b>March 11:</b>	<b>Urban Trees-MG Training-AM</b>
<b>February 10:</b>	<b>Plant Morphology and Identification-MG Training-PM</b>	<b>March 17:</b>	<b>To Bee or Not to Bee?-Brazosport College</b>
<b>February 11:</b>	<b>Lunch Bunch: A Year in Bulbs*</b>	March 19:	Third Friday
<b>February 12:</b>	<b>Citrus – Grafting-MG Training-AM</b>	<b>March 24:</b>	<b>Hummingbirds &amp; Butterflies-Brazosport College</b>
	<b>Soil Fertility-MG Training-PM</b>	<b>March 30:</b>	<b>Grafting &amp; Budding of Fruits &amp; Nuts*</b>
<b>February 14:</b>	<b>Saturday Workshop: Roses*</b>	<b>March 31:</b>	<b>Natural Habitats-Brazosport College</b>
<b>February 15:</b>	<b>Urban Nature Series - Soil Building by Composting*</b>	<b>April 5:</b>	<b>Ponds and Water Plants-Brazosport College</b>
<b>February 15:</b>	<b>Rose Pruning and Training Seminar*</b>	<b>April 12:</b>	<b>The Mysterious Hibiscus &amp; Plumeria-Brazosport College</b>
<b>February 17:</b>	<b>Plant Disease ID and Management-MG Training-AM</b>	April 13:	April Meeting
	<b>Insect ID and Management-MG Training-PM</b>	April 17:	Spring Plant Sale
<b>February 17:</b>	<b>Vegetable Gardens at Their Best -Brazosport College</b>	April 17:	TAMU Hort Gardens Spring Plant Sale
<b>February 19:</b>	<b>Fire Ants &amp; Pesticide Safety-MG Training-AM</b>	<b>April 19:</b>	<b>Pecans-Brazosport College</b>
	<b>Habitat Gardening-MG Training-PM</b>	April 23:	Third Friday
February 20:	Third Friday	May 6-8:	State MG Conference
<b>February 21:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature Celebration*</b>	May 11:	May Meeting
<b>February 21:</b>	<b>Cycads and Where to Plant Them in the Modern Prehistoric Landscape*</b>	May 21:	Third Friday
<b>February 23-25:</b>	<b>Landscape Design Study Course*</b>	June 8:	June Meeting
<b>February 24:</b>	<b>Woody Ornamentals-MG Training at Mercer-AM</b>	June 18:	Third Friday
	<b>Annuals-MG Training at Mercer-PM</b>	July 13:	July Meeting
<b>February 24:</b>	<b>Roses are Red and Wonderful-Brazosport College</b>	July 23:	Third Friday
<b>February 26:</b>	<b>Perennials and Roses-MG Training-AM</b>	August 10 :	August Meeting
	<b>Turf Grass-MG Training-PM</b>	August 20:	Third Friday
<b>February 28:</b>	<b>Southern Heirloom Bulb Tour and Lecture*</b>	September 14:	September Meeting
<b>March 4:</b>	<b>Propagation (Roses and Perennials)-MG Training-AM</b>	September 17:	Third Friday
	<b>Vegetable Gardening-MG Training-PM</b>	September 18:	Fall Plant Sale
		October 12:	October Meeting
		October 22:	Third Friday
		November 9:	November Meeting
		November 19:	Third Friday
		December 14:	December Meeting
		December 17:	Third Friday

***Folklore and Facts of Select Texas Native Plants*** - Date: February 3; Time: 12:00 p.m.; Location: Harris County Cooperative Extension Office on Bear Creek Drive; Contact: Karen Breneman, Texas Master Naturalist, at [kmbrene@att.net](mailto:kmbrene@att.net). Free.

***19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vegetable Conference*** - Date: February 5; Time: 8:30 a.m.-3:45 p.m.; Location: Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Bldg. C, 4310 Hwy. 36 South, Rosenberg; Phone: 281-342-3034; Topics include: vegetable varieties for the Gulf Coast, Food Safety Techniques on the Farm, Farming Alternatives, Pesticide Laws and Regulations. Fee: \$8 per person; \$15 per couple. Lunch included.

***Vegetation Tales*** - Date: February 8; Time: 2:00 p.m.; Location: Jesse Jones Park; Phone: 281-446-8588. Plants are incredible creatures that learn to face adverse conditions and to survive changing environments without the luxury of escape. In contrast, animals can flee when conditions get bad. Join Dr. Brian Shamaesky of Kingwood College for Stories of Plant Survival and gain valuable insight for gardening and landscaping. Free.

***Lunch Bunch: A Year in Bulbs*** - Date: February 11; Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1 p.m.; Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Join Greg Harmison for a talk on the different bulbs for Harris County and how to achieve year-round color from under the ground!

***Saturday Workshop: Roses*** - Date: February 14; Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Join Mercer staff and The Texas Rose Rustlers as they lead a free hands-on training on the correct pruning and care of roses and a hands-on rose propagation demonstration. Now is the time to get those roses ready to bloom!

***Urban Nature Series - Soil Building by Composting*** - Date: February 15; Time: 2:00 p.m.; Location: Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston; Phone: 713-681-8433. Presented by J. Kolenovsky of the Native Plant Society at the Houston Arboretum. FREE.

***Rose Pruning and Training Seminar*** - Date: February 15; Time: 1:00 p.m.; Location: Antique Rose Emporium, Independence Location; Phone: Lynn Smith - 979-836-5548. Join Mike Shoup and Simon Delgado (head gardener at the Independence Display Gardens) to learn the tricks of the trade when it comes to pruning roses and training them on structures. This seminar FREE of charge.

***2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nature Celebration*** - Date: February 21; Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Location: Sea Center Texas, 300 Medical Drive, Lake Jackson. For Kids: activity booths, fishing, story time, scavenger hunt and exhibits. For adults, seminars and exhibits. Learn how our daily activities impact our environment in both positive and negative ways. Learn about birds, reptiles, shoreline ecosystems, invasive plants and natives. Free. Co-sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

***Cycads and Where to Plant Them in the Modern Prehistoric Landscape*** - Date: February 21; Time: 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Join Craig Nazor of the Hartman Prehistoric Garden at Zilker Botanical Garden in Austin, Texas. This program features the fascinating group of plants that thrived during the age of dinosaurs and that can still thrive in your garden. Some special cycads will be available for sale after the lecture.

***Landscape Design Study Course II*** - Date: February 23-25; Location: Christ United Methodist Church, 4201 State Hwy 6, College Station; Phone: (979)845-8906; Email: [l-sebesta@tamu.edu](mailto:l-sebesta@tamu.edu). This is the second in the Landscape Design Study Course series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, in the Bryan-College Station area. Participants may take the four courses in any sequence. Garden Club members, Master Gardeners, nurserymen and others who are interested in furthering their knowledge of landscape design are welcome to attend. This year a very interesting Special Topic lecture, 'Lighting in the Landscape,' will be presented by Richard Lentz, of Lentz Landscaping Lighting of Dallas. Master Gardeners who complete a course may apply 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education. Registration materials may be requested from Lenora Sebesta, Department of Extension Horticulture, 2134 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2134, by telephone (979)845-8906, or by e-mail at [l-sebesta@tamu.edu](mailto:l-sebesta@tamu.edu). You may also download the application form at: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/04regfm.html>. Registration fee will be \$75 (two lunches included). The text, good for all four courses, is *Stewards of the Land*, and may be purchased for an additional \$40.

***Southern Heirloom Bulb Tour and Lecture*** - Date: February 28; Location: Stephen F. Austin University, Nacogdoches; Phone: Elyce Rodewald at 936-468-1832. Greg Grant will be presenting his First Annual East Texas Jonquil Jubilee Lecture and Tour. He will cover the identification and care of southern heirloom narcissus, daffodils, and jonquils. After the lecture, the participants will be treated to a tour of Greg's little bulb farm and heirloom Narcissus collection. The first tour runs from 9:00-noon and the second tour runs from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 and transportation is provided. To sign up for this program, send payment with name, address, and phone number to: SFA Garden Seminars, P.O. Box 13000-SFA Station, Nacogdoches, TX 75962-3000. Be sure to indicate your preference for morning or afternoon tour time.

***Grafting & Budding of Fruits & Nuts*** - Date: March 30; Time: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Location: Brazoria County Extension Office, 21017 CR 171, Angleton; Phone: 979-864-1564, 979-388-1564, 281-756-1564. Veteran fruit grower, Bob Marx of Santa Fe, will demonstrate several methods of starting stone fruits, pomes, citrus and pecans. Graft wood will be available for sale. Fee: \$5 in advance, \$8 at the door.

## **Master Gardener Specialist – Entomology Training:**

This class is scheduled for July 12-16, 2004. Training will include experts speaking on insect identification, insect diversity, insect pest management, pesticide safety, insects in the garden and landscape, butterfly gardening, digital photography for insect identification, biting and stinging insects, collecting methods and shipping techniques. Participants have the option of improving their own collection during the course.

Cost: Registration fee of \$250 per person includes:

- three lunches (TWT), snacks and drinks during the week
- a personalized vest
- a parking pass
- Extension entomology bulletin set
- a copy of the Master Gardener Training for Entomology (2 CD set)
- a copy of "A Field Guide to Common Texas Insects"
- insect collecting gear to start your own reference collection.

For further information you can check on the web at: <http://insects.tamu.edu/mgtrain/>, or contact John A. Jackman, Extension Entomology, 979-845-7026.

### **Further Information on Specialist Program:**

**Specialist Program Purpose:** To provide advanced training whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in areas that support or expand designated educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension.

**Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology:** In an effort to truly provide advanced training, the Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology training was created as a hands-on, intensive multi-day training that will empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas Cooperative Extension efforts in educational programs.

Master Gardeners who fulfill specified training and volunteer requirements will be recognized as a Master Gardener Specialist in the specific field of entomology. This certification does not empower the individual with supervisory or administrative authority within her/her local county programs.

**Participation Requirements:** To be eligible for the Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology training, an individual must possess an up-to-date Master Gardener certification, or be an employee of the Texas Cooperative Extension. Master Gardener applicants must be approved by their local County Extension Agent.

**Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology:** The Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of entomology experts and educators. To become a certified Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology, Master Gardeners are required to attend the Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology training to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet service requirements described below. Training activities during the academy will empower Master Gardeners to complete these service requirements.

Position Description: The Master Gardener Specialist – Entomology is charged to increase awareness, provide training in entomology, and facilitate implementation of community/neighborhood integrated pest management projects in Texas.

Time commitment: The Master Gardener is required to serve a minimum of one year as a Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology.

Training and service requirements:

- Attend the Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology training
- Serve as a local Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology resource
- Assist with entomology training for Master Gardeners and trainees
- Organize and conduct community/neighborhood entomology education programs
- Increase clientele awareness and implementation of recommended insect pest management (IPM) strategies through: presentation, training, and mass media efforts (i.e. radio, newspaper, television, newsletters)

Specialist recognition and certification: Upon completion of the Master Gardener Specialist - Entomology service requirements, the Master Gardener will be formally recognized at the annual Texas Master Gardener Conference, at which time they will be awarded a Master Gardener Specialist certificate and lapel pin.

## **SPRING PLANT SALE:**

***New Date for Spring Plant Sale*** - April 17. MARK THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR.

***New Location for Spring Plant Sale*** - The Demonstration Gardens.

***New Times for Spring Plant Sale*** - 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

***New Plant Sale Publicity Chair*** - At the Planning/Budget meeting, Kathy Walton volunteered to be our Publicity Chair for the Plant Sales.

***Plants, Cuttings Needed for the Plant Sale*** - Barbara Brown wants your extra plants. She also wants your cuttings, including citrus cuttings. If you have any of these items, bring them by the greenhouse on either Tuesday or Friday. You don't have to pot them, but please make sure they are labeled. If you bring cuttings, please keep them moist.

***Thanks for the Donations*** - Barbara Brown would like to thank all of those who have already donated bulbs, plants and cuttings for the plant sale:

Barbara Ross	Carol Farmer	Smitty Smith	Ted Jagen
Ted Cooper	Henry Willis	John Alcorn	Pat & Don Gerard
Barbara Greeley	Gary Gardener	Evelyn Moon	Donie Stowers
Larry Lewis	Nella Montgomery	Vicki Brushwood	Gwen Collins
Barbara Bruyere	Sue Barrera		

Special thanks to non-members: Barbara Evans, Melinda Nix, Carolyn Parsons, Wendy Bent

***What Kind of Plants Do We Have So Far?*** - A bunch of different kinds - too many to list in this newsletter. Watch for it next month!

## **Meet a Master Gardener - Dynamo Donie Stowers:**

*from Viki Brushwood*

Donie Stowers is from the Master Gardener Class of '96. She was born in Houston and when she was four years old, moved to Angleton. After high school, she moved back to Houston where she spent most of her career in finance, working with financial services and banking. She did work one year for a manufacturing company that made toilets that would wash and dry you.... She knew she had to get OUT of that business! And did! She has also worked for Foley's in the China Department and for a small newspaper writing ads.

She met her husband and it was kismet. They happened to be living in the same apartment complex. One day Doug was swimming, and Donie happened to step out onto her balcony, and he dared her to come in the pool. So



she did. Six weeks later they were wed and have been together for 41 years! I guess they both knew what they wanted. They have a daughter, named Karen and a son, named Danny. Plus they have two grandsons (4 and 8) and a granddaughter (1).

After living in Houston for 33 years, Donie and Doug moved back to Brazoria County 8 years ago and settled in Pearland. Doug retired 3 years ago, and Donie went back to work, at first just to help out a friend at a bead shop and then really enjoyed designing and making beads. So now she works 3 days every week. Donie has many other hobbies which include: gardening (of course!), cross-stitching, crocheting and reading. She also enjoys Country Western music, pop, classical and gospel. She has served the MG's as State delegate, Secretary, Plant Sale Chair and Co-chair, and Fairground co-chair for the horticulture booth. Her plant favorites are: Flower: a Cuphea (aka Bat Face flower – her favorite is pink with a purple face); Shrub: Red Bauhinia and Vitex; Tree: River Birch; and she loves ginger.

One place she recommends for any one to visit is Hodges Gardens in Many, Louisiana. She says it is absolutely beautiful. They have a great website <http://www.hodgesgardens.com/home.htm>, so if you have time read up on it, and if you are over by Lake Charles or Shreveport, take a little side trip. It will be worth your time.

Donie joined MG's because she was tired of buying plants from nurseries that did not do well in this area. She thoroughly enjoys the fellowship with other MG's and has learned more from them than she did in class. She says "The Master Gardeners are just wonderful people." And she is too! I am happy we have such an involved Master Gardener!

### **Garden Checklist - February:**

- ✿ Don't fertilize newly set out trees or shrubs until after they have started to grow, and then only very lightly, the first year.
- ✿ When buying plants, the biggest is not always the best, especially with bare-rooted plants. The medium to small sized (4 to 6 feet) usually become established faster and will become effective in the landscape more quickly than the large sizes.
- ✿ Complete the bare-root planting of woody landscape plants this month. Container and ball-and-burlapped plants are in good supply and can be set out most any time. Winter and early spring planting provides an opportunity for good establishment before hot weather comes.
- ✿ Prune roses during February except in the Panhandle and far North Texas, where roses are pruned in March or April. Use good shears that will make clean cuts. Remove dead, dying, and weak canes. Leave four to eight healthy canes and remove approximately one-half of the top growth along the height of the plant.
- ✿ Now is an excellent time to select and plant container-grown roses to fill in bare spots in your rose garden.
- ✿ Wait until after they finish flowering before pruning spring-flowering shrubs such as quince, azalea, forsythia and spiraea.
- ✿ When pruning shrubs, follow these steps: (1) prune out any dead or damaged branches first; (2) thin out by removing about one-third of the canes or stems at ground level, removing the oldest canes only; (3) shape the rest of the plant but do not cut everything back to the same height.
- ✿ Plant dahlia tubers in late February and early March.
- ✿ Plant gladiolus corms; space planting dates at two-week intervals to extend flowering season.
- ✿ Fertilize pansies once again for continued flowering. Don't forget to water when needed.
- ✿ A potted plant, tree, shrub, or cut flowers make excellent Valentine gifts for loved ones and shut-ins.



## **On the Herbal Side:**

*from DiAnna Munson*

I found this recipe in one of the article written for women having hormonal problems. It is filled with phyto-estrogens, which will work well for hot flashes, mood swings, seasonal depression, plus it is east and has a pleasing taste.

1 T. Olive Oil  
1 Onion, chopped  
1 med. Fennel Bulb, chopped  
2 Garlic Cloves, minced  
1 can Cannellini Beans (White Kidney Beans)  
2 t. dried Sage  
2 T. fresh Lemon Juice  
1 t. grated Lemon Zest  
1/4 t. Salt  
1/8 t. ground Pepper

Heat the oil in a large nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add onion, fennel, and garlic. Cook until softened about 3 minutes. Add the beans and sage, heat until warm, about 1 minute. Add lemon juice. Remove from the heat and stir in the lemon zest, salt and pepper.

This is very good when blanched broccoli, yellow squash, zucchini, and red peppers are added and served over pasta.

Enjoy!

## **MG Hotline 2003 Annual Report:**

John Rosser has taken on the daunting task of analyzing the calls received on the MG Hotline for 2003. As his report was eleven pages long, I'll give you a summary. If you are interested in the full version, I'm sure he'd be glad to email it to you.

### Breakdown of Calls by Month:

January = 8	April = 32	July = 25	October = 19
February = 11	May = 51	August = 61	November = 19
March = 19	June = 19	September = 37	December = 11

Total no. of calls received: 312      Busiest month: August - 61 calls      Slowest month: January - 8 calls

### Summary of Calls by Classification:

Yard = 43  
Garden-General = 11  
Flower Garden = 7  
Vegetable Garden = 25  
Tree = 154  
Shrub = 11  
General = 47

Thanks, to everyone who helps answer the hotline calls. Special thanks to John for all his work in compiling this report. It really helps us see that people are needed to help out on the hotline.

# *Happy Birthday!*

## ***Happy February Birthday Wishes...***

Gwen Collins - February 22

**Linda Sanders - February 23**

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