

# What's Growin' On . . .

## The BCMGA Newsletter

April 2004

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### At the Meeting:

**May is Graduation Time** - The Spring 2003 Interns will be graduating at our May meeting.

THE MAY MEETING: WILL BE AT THE DEMONSTRATION GARDENS;  
WILL BEGIN AT 6:30, NOT 7:00 - so we don't run out of daylight.

Please bring a covered dish - and the recipe with your name on it for the cookbook. If you have plans to sit, you will probably also want to bring a chair.

Come out and celebrate with our new graduates!!!

**Seminar Chair Needed** - Not for sitting in - for planning seminars. At the planning meeting it was agreed that BCMGA should sponsor at least one seminar each quarter. To make this happen, we need someone who will make arrangements for speakers. You should be willing to work with John Alcorn - he said he'd help. If you are interested, contact John.

**Bazaar Chair Needed** - Are you bizarre enough to be the Bazaar Chairman? (Sorry, I couldn't resist that one.) The idea of having a BCMGA plant/craft Bazaar in November was presented and approved at the February meeting. We need a chairperson for this project. If you are interested, contact John Alcorn.

**February 2005 Fruit Tree Sale** - Treesearch has agreed to let us sell fruit trees on consignment in February 2005 as long as we meet two requirements: 1) We must have a seminar to train BCMGA members in the care of the fruit trees; and 2) we must have good advertising for the event.

### Spring Plant Sale

#### "Surpassed Our Greatest Expectations"

*from Carol Farmer, Plant Sale Co-Chair*

We had well over 3000 plants at the Plant Sale and probably sold 7/8 of them. My biggest fear was that we would not make as great of a profit growing our own plants as when we bought the majority of plants from TreeSearch Farms. All the work that went into the propagation, repotting, transplanting, planting seeds, etc. was well worth the effort. The publicity was terrific thanks to Kathy. The Master Gardeners that helped at the greenhouse and during the sale did a great job. The Plant Sale surpassed our greatest expectations. A great big THANK YOU to all who participated from Barbara Brown and me.

### And the Food Was Fantastic!

Wow - if you didn't make it to the plant sale, you missed a fabulous feast! BCMGA intern, Dick Merrifield and his wife, Marilyn, obviously spent many hours planning and preparing delicious bbq for everyone and organizing all of the goodies everyone brought to share. Thanks so much to both Dick and Marilyn for all of their hard work and great hosting.

Hey, Dick - you still owe me your bbq sauce recipe!

Speaking of recipes, all of you cole slaw and potato salad bringers - you **must** bring your recipes to the next meeting. How many different kinds of cole slaw were there, anyway? Four or five, at least.



## **Special Thanks to the Interns:**

*from Barbara Ross*

To the interns - Thank you for all of your hard work before the Plant Sale in getting the beds ready. They really looked great for showing them off to the public! Also, thanks for the great job all of you did at the sale! We really appreciate it.

## **Those JMGs Kept on Going and Going and Going and Going...:**

The JMGs took away my job at the Plant Sale. I had volunteered to carry plants out to cars for people and was able to do it only one time. The JMGs were moving people out so fast that I obviously wasn't needed. After all of their hard work, they donated their tips back to BCMGA. What great kids! We all owe them a big **THANK YOU!** for all of their hard work.

## **At the Demonstration Gardens:**

**Interns Wanted** - With all of the money we made at the Plant Sale, we'll be able to put in new beds at the Demonstration Gardens, and we need people to keep up with maintaining what we have. If you are interested in taking charge of one of the beds we have, for example the herb bed or the tropical bed, please let Barbara Ross know.

**June Open House** - BCMGA will be hosting its first Open House on June 5. We need to have everything in top shape at the Demonstration Gardens and Greenhouse, so please come out and help out as much as possible to keep it all looking great.

Also, plans for the actual event need to be made. Among other things, John would like for us to provide refreshments and have a program with guest speakers. If you are interested in helping make this day a happening, contact John Alcorn, Barbara Brown or Barbara Ross with ideas. Since this is our first open house, let's make it a special one. We will be inviting all of Brazoria County to attend.

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

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

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

\*Third Friday

## **News and Notes from the Coordinator:**

*from Paula Craig. CEA*

### **Plant Sale**

Hi All! I know a lot's been said about it already, but I want to get my two words in on the Plant Sale. **TOTALLY AWESOME!** The efforts of the Association this year were, how should I say it?...Totally Awesome. Thanks to everyone whose efforts went into propagating and caring for hundreds, maybe thousands of plants. Special thanks to Barbara Brown, Carol Farmer and Barbara G. Ross for all their time and TLC. Thanks to Jeanette Shane who did a great job again on donations for the raffle. Thanks to Kathy Walton for a wonderful advertising blitz. Thanks to Dick Merrifield for the yummy barbeque and to all who brought food (Can we get the cole slaw recipes? How about the brownie recipe, Greg?). Thanks to everyone who distributed flyers and posted signs. Thanks to everyone who jumped in to control the unexpected snarl of traffic—we'll have to think of a solution before fall. Thanks to Donie for her work on signs and on the plant sale booklet. Thanks to Ted and Smitty for the sign holders and the bench and everything else. Thanks to the Junior Master Gardeners who helped haul plants and who donated all their tips. Thanks to everyone who tied on a green bandana and helped with the sale. Thanks to Cathy Chalfant for recording the sale's Kodak moments. Thanks to Ray Michalik for being so photogenic. Lord, I hope I'm not leaving anyone out.

If you haven't been out to the greenhouse since the sale, you really need to get out there. The greenhouse is already full up with new plants for the next sale. **AWESOME!**

### **Item from the 2004 Master Gardener Annual Report**

In 2003, Texas Cooperative Extension trained and certified over 1,600 Texas Master Gardeners. To gain certification, each Master Gardener contributed a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service. In 2003, 5,450 Master Gardeners served Texas by providing 353,643 hours of their time and talents through Extension educational projects. This volunteer service, equivalent to 170 full-time employees, increases the human capacity of Texas Extension by 16 percent. The economic value of this service translates to a \$5.8 million benefit to the State of Texas. Together, Master Gardeners and Extension professionals share a passionate commitment to enhance horticultural and environmental education in Texas.

### **New Volunteer Screening Program**

At a recently attended District faculty training, agents learned that Texas Cooperative Extension will begin running criminal background checks on all volunteers who work with children. This practice will be phased in over the next three years, starting with 4-H Clubs. It is a practice that is standard for agents employed with TCE and it is also in place in many schools, churches and other organizations serving youth. Our 4-H agent, Larry Miles, is in charge of the Brazoria County program and will keep me posted on its progress.

### **Meet the Interns**

**Betty Van Hoeven** is another Alvin resident, a former RN and schoolteacher who worked with elementary and special needs children. Betty has experience in vegetable and flower gardening. She would like to resume her work with children, helping to establish a children's garden and doing educational programs for kids. She's a great fundraiser, having raised over \$4000 a year to transport children to Special Olympics in Austin.

**Barbara Harding**, another RN (we have enough to staff our own clinic) enjoys writing, working with children, and, of course, gardening. This West Columbia resident is a member of the Fern Society (I see a potential seminar here) and is interested in daylilies and tropicals as well. She would also like to work on a children's garden.

**Jennifer Landreneau**, another of our younger members, loves gardening and dogs, two things that don't always mix well. She is looking for plants and a landscape scheme that will survive her large dogs. Jennifer lives in Lake Jackson with her husband and would like to work at the greenhouse, learn more about roses and use her leadership skills to help coordinate new projects.

**Mary Anna Vance** is a Pearland lady and a member of the Pearland Garden Club. She is retired from banking (possible audit committeemember?) Along with some of our other new members, Mary Anna would like to get involved in projects on the north side of the county, especially those that involve gardening with and for children.

**Martha Schaatt** is a member of one of the founding families of Danbury and has been home gardening for years. She wants to get a landscape/design business started and has a particular interest in roses. Martha would like to work at the greenhouse. A former 4-H mom and Extension Homemaker, Martha has 6 children and a whopping 17 grandchildren. I bet Christmas is fun at her house!

### **News to Know:**

**Condolences** - Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barbara Ross who recently lost her mother-in-law.

**New Historian!!!** - I'm pleased to announce that MG Intern, Cathy Chalfant, has taken over the duties of historian. I've already turned over pictures and articles to Cathy for our scrapbook. I have no doubt that she will be way more successful than I in getting our scrapbook together.

If you have any BCMGA pictures or articles, please bring them to the meetings to give to Cathy. It would really be helpful if pictures were in an envelope and labeled with the event and date. If you have newspaper articles, please include the name of the paper and date it appeared.

**Dow Grant** - Paula downloaded a copy of the application for the Dow Grant, and we need people to work on that. If you are able to help with this very important project, please contact Paula Craig or John Alcorn.

**Birthdays** - Hey - there are many, many, many people for whom we have no birthdate. If you are due for a birthday and your name isn't listed in our birthday section, please get your birthdate (just month and day) to Don Gerard.

**A Note to the Interns** - and everyone else. If you are interested in helping with the newsletter, please let me know. If you have an idea of what you'd like to do, GREAT. If you don't have an idea, but would like some suggestions GREAT ALSO. I have some columns that I'd like to put in, but just don't have time to do them. ALSO - it's spring and getting close to summer. If anyone wants to share what they're doing in the garden this year, we'd all love to know about it.

**Volunteer Hours** - Please remember that our volunteer hours need to be turned in every month to Don Gerard. You can bring them to the meeting or send them by mail or email.

**Seedlings Available** - Barbara Bruyere has donated 600-800 tree seedlings to BCMGA. Any Master Gardener wishing to have some of the seedlings are welcome to have some. There are 3 kinds...Tupelo, Bald Cypress, and Willow Oak. All good for this area. Free while supplies last. The trees are in buckets at the Greenhouse and can be picked up at any time.

**You Can Always Use a Good Book** - Viki Brushwood has recommended Giant Book of Garden Solutions by Jerry Bakers. Viki says: "I have been looking for more natural ways to fight garden problems in my yard. I purchased the aforementioned book, and I think it has many viable options to fight garden pests. It is a good alternative to throwing poisons into the yard. Mr. Baker gives many explanations and solutions for garden pests, rooting and feeding our plants. I think it would be a benefit to everyone."

## **Meet a Master Gardener - Creative Carol Farmer:**

*from Viki Brushwood*



Carol is a native of Houston. She has 3 sons, 5 grandsons and 2 granddaughters. (The grandchildren range from 8 months to 23 years of age.) Carol's late husband was in construction, and they had moved frequently living in over 31 different houses. When they decided they were tired of moving, he picked Angleton because his closest friend lived here. They chose 8½ acres in the country where they had horses and cows and no one else in sight. Although Carol lost her husband 2½ years after they moved here she has been in her home for 28 years. No more horses and cows (she got tired of the cows getting out!) but lots of gardens. She still has some undeveloped space around her, so if she wants another garden area she just makes her yard bigger! Carol worked for Shintech, Inc., for 25 years and retired in July of 2003.

She was a process tech/operator and wrote procedures, drew flow diagrams and CAD drawings, and did special projects.

Many things interest Carol. She listens to lite rock, easy listening, symphonies and operas. She is a season ticket holder to Theater Under The Stars and also enjoys performances at Brazosport Center for the Arts and Science. She is a member of the Brazosport Art League and volunteers for them in the Art Gallery. Carol is an Artist extraordinaire! Her favorite medium is oils and works on her canvases a couple of times a week with other artists at an art studio. Other interests include reading (mostly mysteries but she reads all types at least 4 or 5 a week); traveling (she has been to Venezuela, Mexico, Japan, Canada, Spain, Portugal, England, Scotland, Germany, Alaska, Hawaii and throughout most of the US; the favorite countries she has visited are Canada and Germany, both for their beauty and cleanliness); sculpting; making jewelry; do-it-yourself projects (painting her house, fixing things); and of course gardening.

Carol graduated in the Master Gardener Class of '96. There are many opportunities to volunteer, and Carol has volunteered a lot! She has served as Vice President, Treasurer, co-chair and chair for the plant sale, worked on the rose bed at the courthouse, and worked on the Fairground beds (where she also painted a mural on the side of a building). Now she volunteers at the greenhouse and is also a Co-chair for the plant sale (yet again!). When asked why she became a MG she told me she wanted to learn about plants and flowers. Carol started out

with absolutely nothing planted around her house and has had lots of landscaping to do with her big yard which is now full of flowerbeds. Her favorite flower is the Peony, which is frustrating since it is too hot to grow well down here. Hemlocks and spruces are her favorite trees but they grow in the northwest. Carol is a great asset to the Master Gardeners proving that one can master the art of gardening!

## Calendar of Events:

*\*see below for details*

*new items in bold*

### 2004 Dates:

May 1: Rainwater Cisterns and Other Ways to Use Rainwater in the Landscape  
 May 1: Childrens' Day in the Garden  
 May 1: Basics of Plant Propagation  
 May 1: Family Day at Mercer: Education Stations  
 May 1-2: Cactus Society Show and Sale  
 May 2: Urban Nature Series – "Care of Cacti and Succulents"  
 May 2: Native Plant Society of Texas Field Trip- Nash Prairie  
**May 2-8: National Wildflower Week**  
 May 5: Native Host Plants for Southeast Texas Butterflies  
 May 6: The Dark Secret of Texas' Native Palm Trees  
 May 6-8: State MG Conference  
 May 8: Daylily Show  
**May 8: The Mystical Swamp as an Ecosystem\***  
 May 10: How to Start a Community Garden  
 May 11: May Meeting  
 May 12: Flower Arranging Seminar  
**May 12: Lunch Bunch: Growing Cactus and Succulents as a Hobby\***  
 May 13: Native Ornamental Trees for Houston  
 May 14-16: Oleander Festival  
**May 15-16: Houston Bromeliad Society Show & Sale\***  
**May 16: Hibiscus Show\***  
 May 17: How to Start a Community Garden  
 May 21: Third Friday  
**May 22: Carnivorous Plants\***  
**May 22: Water Smart Landscaping \***  
 May 22-23: Oleander Festival  
**May 23: Men's Garden Club Sale\***  
 May 27: How to Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat  
**May 29: Name that Wildflower\***

**June 1: Tee-Budding Citrus and Other Fruits\***  
**June 5: Brazoria County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens Open House**  
**June 5: Brazoria County Farmers Market\***  
**June 5: Brazoria County Vegetable Show\***  
 June 8: June Meeting  
**June 8: Gardening, Cooking, and Living Chinese Vegetables\***  
**June 12: Brazoria County Farmers Market\***  
**June 13: Hibiscus Show\***  
 June 14: How to Start a Community Garden  
**June 15: Growing the Latino Vegetables\***  
 June 18: Third Friday  
**June 19: Brazoria County Farmers Market\***  
 June 21: How to Start a Community Garden  
**June 22: Oko to Agbo: From the Garden Plot to the Medicine Pot\***  
**June 29: Cooking and Growing with Vegetables of India\***  
 July 13: July Meeting  
**July 18: Hibiscus Show\***  
 July 23: Third Friday  
**June 26: Brazoria County Farmers Market\***  
 August 10 : August Meeting  
 August 20: Third Friday  
 Sept 14: September Meeting  
 Sept 17: Third Friday  
 Sept 18: Fall Plant Sale  
 Oct 12: October Meeting  
 Oct 22: Third Friday  
 Nov 9: November Meeting  
 Nov 19: Third Friday  
 Dec 14: December Meeting  
 Dec 17: Third Friday

**The Mystical Swamp as an Ecosystem** - Date: May 8; Time: 10:00 a.m.; taught by Eli Tate through Lamar University. On this tour, students will view all types of swamps from heavily wooded to open fields of flowers and what causes the swamps to differ. Students will meet inhabitants of the swamp (gators, eagles, wading birds, Spanish moss and cypress trees) up close and personal, and observe how they have adapted to living in the wetland wilderness. Cost: \$50. To register, visit <http://lulearn.net/> or call 409-880-2233. Course: ENVR5003.

**Lunch Bunch: Growing Cactus and Succulents as a Hobby** - Date: May 12; Time: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.; Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Join Greg Harmison as he discusses growing cactus and succulents in the Houston area. Learn how to deal with wet weather and pests and how to grow these plants in containers as a fun hobby. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program.

**Houston Bromeliad Society Show & Sale** - Date: May 15-16; Location: Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston; Phone: 713-681-8433. Members of the Houston Bromeliad Society will have their semi-annual show and sale. A portion of proceeds from the sale benefit the Nature Center's educational programs.

**Hibiscus Show** - Date: May 16; Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Location: E. Harris Co. Activity Center, 7340 Spencer Highway, off Kyle Chapman Rd., Pasadena; Free admission. No reservations needed. Sponsored by Space City Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. This will be a judged show of exotic hibiscus along with a plant sale of hybrid and common varieties. Anyone may enter blooms in the show. Bloom entries deadline: 11:30 a.m. Open to the public at 1:00 p.m. Come early for best selection of plants. For additional information please contact: Marti & Greg Graves by phone or email.

**Water Smart Landscaping** - Date: May 22; Time: 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Location: Mercer Arboretum, 22306 Aldine-Westfield, Humble; Phone: 281-443-8731. Join Carol Cammack of the Cooperative Extension Service as she talks about water smart landscaping. Prepare for the summer by learning which plants and landscaping techniques require less water and help preserve our natural resource.

**Carnivorous Plants** - Date: May 22; Time: 10:00 a.m.; Location: Jesse H. Jones Park, Humble; Phone: 281-446-8588. Learn about native and exotic "meat-eating plants" and how they attract and capture prey. Free.

**Men's Garden Club Sale** - Date: May 23; Time: 2:00 p.m.; ; Location: Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway, Houston; Phone: 713-681-8433. The Men's Garden Club of Houston will be selling plants with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Nature Center.

**Name that Wildflower** - Date: May 29; Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Location: Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin; Phone: 512-292-4100. Price: \$18 (Wildflower Center members, \$15). Instructor: Wildflower Center Staff. Would you like to say more than "Isn't that a pretty red flower?" Perhaps "Look at the bloom on that Indian Paint Brush!" or even "Aren't the leaves of this *Aquilegia canadensis* amazing!!". Then join Wildflower Center staff this spring to learn some basic botany and enjoy the grounds of the Wildflower Center. Participants will walk away from this class being able to identify and name at least 10 new Texas Wildflowers.

**Tee-Budding Citrus and Other Fruits** - Date: June 1; Time: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). If you have a fruit tree or even a rose bush, you can easily and very cheaply learn to put other varieties of the same plant on your tree or bush: an orange on a tangerine; a TENN pear on a Hood Pear; a yellow rose on a red one. All you need is a small branch that you want to propagate, a rooted closely related plant, some plastic tape and a single edge razor blade or sharp knife. Dr. Bob Randall is author of Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro-Houston. \$20, \$10 for members, free for community gardeners .

**Brazoria County Farmers Market** - Date: June 5, 12, 19 and 26; Time: 7:00 a.m. until sell out; Location: Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens. Vendors may sell the following goods: Fresh, home grown fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers; Homemade baked goods; Home grown eggs\*; Specialty goods such as preserves, candies, honey, tortillas, salsa\*, tamales, pesto or sprouts; Homemade candles, soaps or herbal creams. To register, call the Extension Office 979-864-1558, 979-388-1558 or 281-756-1558 or visit the BCMGA website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/brazoria/contacts.html>.

**Brazoria County Vegetable Show** - Date: June 5; Time: Entries- 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.; Judging - 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.; Location: Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens. For rules, call the Extension Office 979-864-1558, 979-388-1558 or 281-756-1558 or visit the BCMGA website: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/brazoria/contacts.html>.

**Gardening, Cooking, and Living Chinese Vegetables** - Date: June 8; Time: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). This class teaches how to grow, prepare, and benefit health-wise from the many delicious Asian vegetables that grow easily and abundantly in our climate. This class will describe both warm and cold season vegetables, give tips on how to cook them, and explain how they fit into Chinese life. Emily Chen Dunbar is an organic gardener who has been eating and enjoying Chinese vegetables since she was a child in Taiwan. Together with John Dunbar, she operates a home garden that helps them achieve their dietary goal of preparing their food as close to its naturally found state, as fresh and organic as possible. Over the last few years, Emily has trained herself to

avoid tasty, but unhealthy bought food and reaped significant health benefits. \$20, \$10 for members, free for community gardeners.

**Hibiscus Show** - Date: June 13; Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Location: Bellaire Community Center, 7008 S. Rice Ave., Bellaire, TX; Free admission. No reservations needed. Sponsored by Lone Star Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. This will be a judged show of exotic hibiscus along with a plant sale of hybrid and common varieties. Anyone may enter blooms in the show. Bloom entries deadline: 11:30 a.m. Open to the public at 1 p.m. Come early for best selection of plants. For additional information please contact: Marti & Greg Graves by phone or email.

**Growing the Latino Vegetables** - Date: June 15; Time: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). The native people of the Americas developed a large part of what the modern world eats-corn, potatoes, tomatoes, sweet peppers and chiles, most beans, and squash are just some of the many that are famous. This class talks about growing and eating vegetables that in Houston at least are lesser known: yuca or tapioca root, sorrel Jamaica or Red Zinger Plant, tomatillo or husk tomato, and chaya-the Mayan spinach tree. John Jacob, Ph.D. (a.k.a. Juan Jacobo) is a Texas Cooperative Extension Specialist working with the Sea Grant Program. He is bilingual, bicultural, and was raised in Central America. \$20, \$10 for members, free for community gardeners.

**Hibiscus Show** - Date: July 18; Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; Location: E. Harris Co. Activity Center, 7340 Spencer Highway, off Kyle Chapman Rd., Pasadena; Free admission. No reservations needed. Sponsored by Space City Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society. This will be a judged show of exotic hibiscus along with a plant sale of hybrid and common varieties. Anyone may enter blooms in the show. Bloom entries deadline: 11:30 a.m. Open to the public at 1 p.m. Come early for best selection of plants. For additional information please contact: Marti & Greg Graves by phone or email.

**Okro to Agbo: From the Garden Plot to the Medicine Pot** - Date: June 22; Time: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). In this class we will use science and folklore to study the cultivation and care both of African foodstuffs that have become common in the Americas, and Native American foods that have become staples in Western Africa. The class will study New World African and Continental African mainly meatless recipes such as a watermelon ginger drink and the black-eyed pea dish moi-moi. Alafiya Gaidi is a third generation Griot. As a 5-year old child, he studied under Mme. Dafine, a Garifuna of Dangiga, Belize. Mr. Gaidi is an initiate of both the Ifa Society of West Africa and the Mayombe Society of Central Africa. He is also the founder of a New Orleans George Washington Carver Horticultural Society; the former owner of the New Orleans Nubian Kitchen, has cooked professionally for 15 years, and is a former gardening instructor with Urban Harvest. \$20, \$10 for members, free for community gardeners.

**Cooking and Growing with Vegetables of India** - Date: June 29; Time: 6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.; Location: Urban Harvest, in the MECA building at 1900 Kane; Phone: 713-880-5540 (Monday through Friday). This class will cover the growing techniques, selection and preparation of many of the fruits, herbs, beans and vegetables of India. Basic cooking demonstrations will be performed during class. Recipes and a list of sources will be provided during class. Hetal Sheth is a member of the Bayou City Farmers' Market Committee. She is a native of India and visits on a regular basis. She loves to cook and has a vast knowledge of the topic. Diana Liga has her B.S. in Horticulture from Texas A&M and is staff horticulturist and community gardens coordinator for Urban Harvest. \$20, \$10 for members, free for community gardeners.

## **Humor Section --- Seriously!:**

*from DiAnna Munson*

If you always thought those little green garden snakes were OK, read on:

Green Garden Grass snakes can be dangerous. Yes, grass snakes, not rattlesnakes. A couple in Sweetwater, Texas, had a lot of potted plants, and during a recent cold spell, the wife was bringing a lot of them indoors to protect them from a possible freeze. It turned out that a little green garden grass snake was hidden in one of the plants, and when it had warmed up, it slithered out, and the wife saw it go under the sofa. She let out a very loud scream. The husband who was taking a shower ran out into the living room naked to see what the problem was. She told him there was a snake under the sofa. He got down on the floor on his hands and knees to look for it.

About that time the family dog came and cold-nosed him in the butt. He thought the snake had bitten him, and

he fainted. His wife thought he had a heart attack, so she called an ambulance. The attendants rushed in and loaded him on the stretcher and started carrying him out.

About that time the snake came out from under the sofa and the Emergency Medical Technician saw it and dropped his end Of the stretcher. That's when the man broke his leg and why he is in the hospital.

The wife still had the problem of the snake in the house, so she called on a neighbor man. He volunteered to capture the snake. He armed himself with a rolled-up newspaper and began poking under the couch. Soon he decided it was gone and told the woman, who sat down on the sofa in relief.

While relaxing, her hand dangled in between the cushions, where she felt the snake wriggling around. She screamed and fainted, the snake rushed back under the sofa, and the neighbor man, seeing her laying there passed out tried to use CPR to revive her. The neighbor's wife, who had just returned from shopping at the grocery store, saw her husband's mouth on the woman's mouth and slammed her husband in the back of the head with a bag of canned goods, knocking him out and cutting his scalp to a point where it needed stitches.

An ambulance was again called, and it was determined that he required hospitalization. The noise woke the woman from her dead faint and she saw her neighbor lying on the floor with his wife bending over him, so she assumed he had been bitten by the snake. She went to the kitchen, brought back a small bottle of whiskey, and began pouring it down the man's throat.

By now the police had arrived. They saw the unconscious man, smelled the whiskey, and assumed that a drunken fight had occurred. They were about to arrest them all, when the two women tried to explain how it all happened over a little green snake.

The ambulance took away the neighbor and his sobbing wife. Just then the little snake crawled out from under the couch. One of the policemen drew his gun and fired at it. He missed the snake and hit the leg of the end table that was on one side of the sofa. The table fell over and the lamp on it shattered and as the bulb broke, it started a fire in the drapes.

The other policeman tried to beat out the flames and fell through the window into the yard on top of the family dog, who startled, jumped up and raced out into the street, where an oncoming car swerved to avoid it and smashed into the parked police car and set it on fire.

Meanwhile, the burning drapes had spread to the walls and the entire house was blazing. Neighbors had called the fire department and the arriving fire truck had started raising his ladder as they were halfway down the street. The rising ladder tore out the overhead wires and put out the electricity and disconnected the telephones in a ten square city block area.

Time passed.

Both men were discharged from the hospital, the house was rebuilt, the police acquired a new car, and all was right with their world.

About a year later they were watching TV and the weatherman announced a cold snap for that night. The husband asked his wife if she thought they should bring in their plants for the night.

She shot him.

And you thought garden snakes weren't dangerous

### **Garden Checklist - May:**

- ✿ Cut off old blossoms on spring-flowering annuals such as pansies, snapdragons, stock, and calendulas to prolong the flowering season.
- ✿ Continue to fertilize roses every four to six weeks with small amounts of a balanced fertilizer.
- ✿ Allow foliage of spring-flowering bulbs to mature and yellow before removing.

- ✿ Set out plants of portulaca and purslane in sunny areas. Root cuttings of your favorite colors by placing 3- to 4-inch stems in moist, sandy soils.
- ✿ It is not too later to sow directly into the soil seeds of sunflower, zinnia, morning glory, portulaca, marigold, cosmos, periwinkles, and gourds. Achimenes, cannas, dahlias, and other summer-flowering bulbs can also be planted in May.
- ✿ Pinch back the terminal growth on newly planted annual and perennial plants. This will result in shorter, more compact, well branched plants with more flowers.
- ✿ Time to plant caladium tubers, impatiens, coleus, begonias, and pentas in shady areas.
- ✿ Make cuttings of your favorite chrysanthemums and root them in a mixture of sand and peat moss. Cover cutting box with plastic and place in shaded area for 5 or 6 days to prevent wilting.
- ✿ Replace or replenish mulch materials in flower beds and shrub borders to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth.
- ✿ Prune climbing roses as they complete their spring bloom season. Remove dead or weak wood as needed.

Source: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/may03/art1may.html>  
 Date: April 27, 2004

## **In The Garden:**

### **Daylily Rust**

by Dr. Larry Barnes, Texas A&M

Material included in the USDA Daylily Rust Pest Alert at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/daylily.html> confirm that the daylily rust found on US plants in the summer of 2000 is Puccinia, and that to date infection has been limited to foliage.

The perennial Patrinia is an alternate host of Puccinia hemerocallidis, although infections have not been found on any of the six perennial Patrinia sold and grown in the US as ornamentals. Hostas are also suspected of being an alternative host. The USDA has labelled this rust as a serious pest because the incubation period is short and the spread rapid. Except for one bacteria, there are basically no diseases of daylilies in the US, and the plants are very common commercially. Daylily breeders typically send stock material to Costa Rica and other tropical areas for increase, and the first cases of rust appeared to be on plants returned to the United States from Costa Rica.

Aphid feeding damage on leaves can also be confused with early rust infection, as the symptoms are very similar. The leaf streak disease (Aureobasidium microstictum), is common and widespread nationwide and symptoms can resemble daylily rust.

Positive identification is done by examination of the fungal fruiting bodies and by examining rust streaking on the plant. Dead foliage of affected plants is expected to be diagnosable, as the spores will remain associated with dried or dead material. At the present time, any and all suspect specimens should be sent to the Director, Agri-Systems, Texas Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 12847, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas (512-463-1145) for rust screening. State labs will then forward rust specimens to the USDA APHIS Beltsville lab for confirmation.

It is suggested carefully removing and destroying infected foliage from plants on which rust is detected and on all the remaining plants in that bed. Fungicide treatments may be started on a 7-14 day schedule, depending on disease incidence and severity. Susceptible varieties may need to be eliminated for management to be successful.

from the USDA, APHIS

Source: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/apr04/USDArustalert.html>  
 Date: April 27, 2004

## **Landscaping With Old Garden Roses - (Installment #1)**

By Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist  
Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas

Overshadowed by modern hybrids, old roses have been neglected in this century; but now there is a renaissance afoot to restore the older varieties to their place in the garden. Their historic interest, color, fragrance, and form should make old roses as indispensable to today's gardens as they have been for centuries. Many gardeners will attest that the best thing about old roses is that many of them provide all these landscape values without becoming a maintenance burden.

The American Rose Society defines the term "old rose" to be varieties introduced prior to 1867. Others consider any variety that has been in cultivation for 75 or more years, or varieties having old rose characteristics of flower form, color, and fragrance, to be old.

### **Why Old Roses?**

Long before its extensive hybridization, the rose had survived cheerfully in the gardens of history. Early rose cultivars retained the resilience and fortitude programmed by nature, but these qualities have sometimes been neglected in modern hybrids developed primarily for showy blooms. Unlike modern roses, which often grow poorly without many hours of devoted attention, most old roses will give today's busy home owner an appreciated rest from much of the heavy fertilizing, spraying, and nurturing demanded by their younger cousins. Some old rose varieties actually prefer a minimum of pruning. And, as specimens found in old cemeteries and abandoned home sites attest, many have survived even without care from human hands.

Old rose varieties tend to be stable, long lived, and sturdy, especially when grown from cuttings. Many show a strong resistance to black spot and other diseases. The unforgettable "true rose" fragrance lives in its undiluted form in old roses; such richness and diversity of fragrance are not found in the modern hybrids. Old roses have an inherent beauty of form, a quality which does not diminish over the years. This makes them especially useful as landscape plants.

Colors in old roses tend to be more muted and pastel than in modern hybrids, but many collectors acquire a preference for the softer hues. Some varieties display handsome foliage, while others set attractive hips in the fall which can be harvested for their Vitamin C content.

Source: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/newsletters/hortupdate/may03/art2may.html>  
Date: April 27, 2004

*Check in next month for Installment #2!*

# *Happy Birthday!*

## ***Happy May Birthday Wishes...***

Jim Christie - May 10

**Ted Cooper - May 20**

Ted Jagen - May 21

**Pat Gerard - May 25**

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