

What's Growin' On . . .

The BCMGA Newsletter
Heather Vincent, Editor

March 2006

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2006 Executive Board Officers:

President - George Gabriles

1st VP/ Volunteer Coordinator - Gary Gardner

2nd VP/Advance Training programs for MG monthly meetings - Christine Kern

Treasurer - Ted Jagen

Secretary – Donie Stowers

Little Known Facts....

March's flower is the Daffodil.

Botanical Names: Narcissus

Other Names: Jonquil, Narcissus

Description: A trumpet shaped blossom surrounded by petals usually of a contrasting color.

Colors: yellow-white, yellow-orange, pink, lime green

Season: Late Fall to Spring

Meaning: Based on the Greek mythology character, Narcissus, who was known to be so arrogant that when he looked into a mirror he fell in love with his reflection. He was later said to have been turned into the flower. Chivalry, respect, you are my only one, the sun shines when I'm with you, unrequited love.

Bloom Size: 3 to 4 inches in diameter

Color Pattern: bi-color

Facts: National flower of Wales. Flowers are fragrant. Some species have frilly petals. Many poets such as Oscar Wilde and William Wordsworth have written about this flower. It is said that Prince Charles receives one Daffodil annually as payment for the unused land in Sicily.

News...

2006 Texas Master Gardener Conference

The conference will be held in College Station on May 4-6, 2006.

For more information on the conference, please go to:

<http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/>

From the Organic Gardener...

By Ellen Pedisich

Greetings from the Organic Garden

Now the garden looks like a hairy vetch plot. Well, it is.

Hairy vetch, one of perhaps 150 types of vetch, is an annual legume, a nitrogen-fixing plant. Vetch seeds are about the size of peppercorns and are slow to establish themselves in the garden. As the vetch seed sprouts, nitrogen-fixing bacteria, which live in the soil, enter the root hairs to form nodules. There the bacteria take nitrogen from the air and “fix” it into compounds that can be used by the plant. Also, vetch improves the fertility of the soil because vetch has deep roots which facilitate drainage and bring up nutrients from the soil’s hidden storehouse. The best time to cut the vetch is just before it blossoms. Then the cut vetch is turned over to be incorporated into the soil. In this way the plant gives organic matter to the earth. I think I will let a few plants blossom so that I can see the flowers. Then I will turn over all the vetch plants in the garden plot.

Since I shouldn’t plant the same crop, a legume, for three or four years, I am thinking of another cover crop for next winter. Will it be rye, oats, or wheat?

Habitat for Humanity...

By Gary L. Gardner, Sr.

BCMGA Participation in Habitat for Humanity Landscaping, March 11, 2006 and Beyond

At the February 14, 2006 BCMGA general meeting, a coordinating committee was formed to explore forming a permanent partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Southern Brazoria County for landscaping help for their new houses. The committee consisted of Gary L. Gardner Sr., Chair, Carol Farmer, Barbara Brown, Kirby Rapstein, Donie Stowers, Mary Kathryn Pickle, Howard Pickle, James Smith and Shannon Foley. After the February 14 meeting, several failed attempts were made to assemble the committee with Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, executive director of Habitat for Humanity for SBC. The committee finally met with Mary Ruth on March 3, the start of their newest build, at the build site in Lake Jackson. The committee decided during this meeting to undertake planning and supervising the landscaping of this newest house. The landscaping workday was scheduled for Saturday, March 11. Committee members met at the greenhouse on Tuesday, March 7 and designed the landscaping plan based on the selection of plants that Varner Creek Nursery committed to furnish. It was a simple plan utilizing low maintenance plants. A list of all the supplies, including plants selected, was supplied to Habitat several days prior to the landscaping workday. All of these supplies were on site the Friday afternoon before landscaping workday. On Saturday, March 11, Gary Gardner, Carol Farmer, Mary Kathryn Pickle and Howard Pickle showed up to supervise installation of the landscape at about

7:30 AM. About 15 Habitat volunteers showed up to work on landscaping and did a tremendous job and worked hard. There was a lot of teaching and learning going on between the Master Gardeners and the volunteers. The job was complete by about 1:00 PM, including laying 4 pallets of sod. It was a fun and rewarding experience for all who participated.

At the March 14, 2006 BCMGA general meeting, a motion was made and unanimously approved by the membership to form a permanent partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Southern Brazoria County for the purpose of planning and supervising the landscaping of all the new houses that they build each year. This partnership will also include furnishing plants that we have propagated and may be surplus from plant sales and etc. Barbara Brown will determine availability of these plants. The coordinating committee will become "The BCMGA-Habitat for Humanity Task Force". Four additional members signed up for this task force during the meeting, bringing the total membership to 13. The next build is in May in Freeport. Details will be sent to task force members as soon as they become available.

Spring Plant Sale Update...

By Barbara Brown

We will be going to Caldwell's Nursery on the 24th to purchase plants for the spring plant sale. Changes have been made to our banner to reflect this years date, but...

we need help putting the sign up as well as help obtaining the necessary city permits for the sale. Most of all, we need help promoting the spring plant sale!!!!!! If you can assist with this, please contact Paula. We are no longer accepting plant cuttings, but feel free to keep bringing us any plant divisions you have. As always, the demonstration gardens need weeding before the big sale. Please come out and pull some weeds if you can.

At the Demonstration Gardens...

By Ray Michalik

The BCMGA are now the proud owners of a tractor with some equipment and went over budget only \$150. We are the proud owners of a Massey Ferguson 135 38.5 HP diesel tractor. We also have a 5 foot tiller attachment and a 6 foot grass shredder. We can now till the veggie garden spot or anything else that needs tilling without killing ourselves with the walk behind Troybilt tillers and we can keep the entire area mowed and looking good. Jesse is still bringing his tractor with his turning plow to help out with loosening up the ground. We have some very nice tomato plants in the green house, several varieties, some of which are for sale (See Jessie). Also, some pepper and squash seeds have been planted in the Green house. Henry has planted many varieties of gourds, tomatoes, and Swiss chard. Jessie has some potatoes coming up and looking good. The onions, beets and carrots are all coming along, too. The green house and the shade house are all full of

plants for the plant sale!!! Many people have had their hands in the soil getting things ready. We also erected the bird house in hopes of attracting some Martins, but so far there have been no takers. Larry Lewis has erected the huge timbers between the breeze way and the Herb garden for Lee Withers to build what ever they call it. You'll have to ask Lee what it's called.

Demonstration Garden Work Days:

Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:30/8:00 a.m. until noon. Feel free to come out on non-workdays. You'll always be able to find some weeds to pull if nothing else!



EarthKind News...

By Barbara Ray

Two New EarthKind Roses

Texas A&M recently awarded two more roses the EarthKind designation. The honored cultivars are Spice and Duchesse de Brabant. They have been proven to be among the most disease resistant, heat and drought tolerant roses suitable for Southern gardens.

Duchesse de Brabant is a beautiful tea rose introduced in 1857. The blooms are large very double rose-pink cupped and rounded style as seen in oil paintings by the Old Masters. The blooms are very fragrant and it was a favorite of President Teddy Roosevelt who wore it often as a boutonniere. The parentage is unknown.

Spice, a blush pink China-type rose, was one of the roses found growing on the island of Bermuda and is classified as one of the Bermuda Mystery Roses. There is no historical account of how the rose came to be in that country. This rose has a peppery scent with double blossoms from spring through fall. Experts feel that Spice may be the true Hume's Blush, a tea-scented China. This bush grows 5x4 and the flowers are excellent as cut flowers.

These two roses join the other eleven EarthKind Roses – Climbing Pinkie, Mutabilis, Perle d'Or, Else Poulsen, Belinda's Dream, KnockOut, Carefree Beauty (aka Katy Road Pink), Caldwell Pink (aka Pink Pet), The Fairy, Marie Daly and Sea Foam. The EarthKind designation is given only after years of extensive scientific research in which the test plants were never sprayed, never received applications of commercial synthetic or organic fertilizer, never pruned or deadheaded and received no supplemental watering after the first year. The bushes received 3-inches of hardwood mulch throughout the study period. Both of the new EarthKind cultivars thrive in any type of soil – from gumbo found along the Gulf Coast to the sands found in West Texas.

The Houston Rose Society, of which I am a 24-year member, is the financial underwriter of this research project, which is the largest horticultural research project ever done on roses in this country.

Master Gardener Southeast Regional Conference...

In June of 2006, Chattanooga (Tennessee) will host the 2006 Southeast Regional Master Gardener Conference. We would like to invite all Master Gardeners to attend what we think will be one of the best Regional conferences that will be held in the southeast. We will have a very special project for all Master Gardeners to get their hands a little dirty while they are attending the Conference. The project will be located between the two Tennessee Aquarium buildings along the banks of the Tennessee River. Once the project is completed, it will be used as an educational tool for the schools and aquarium groups. Once completed, we feel the project will be one that all Master Gardeners can say they were proud to have worked on. The Conference Webpage link is <http://srmgc.tennessee.edu/>
The Southern Region Master Gardener Conference, A Blending of the Waters, June 9-12. Please contact Mike Payne, Committee Chairman at (423) 842-3743 or (423) 595-3360.

News and Notes From the Coordinator...

By Paula Craig

Welcome to our new Master Gardener trainees. We have 23 students in the training course, and they are an eager and lively bunch. Our first class, held at the demo garden equipment barn, was less than ideal, but the food was great. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

Please welcome the latest crop of 2006 Interns:

Jim Atkins Lake Jackson	Jana Bennington Lake Jackson
George Cantu Angleton	Anne Carpenter West Columbia
Linda Choong Pearland	Patricia Evans West Columbia
Don Fragnoli Pearland	Erwin Franke Angleton
J. C. Hayden Alvin	Billy W. Heck Richwood
David Higginbotham Angleton	Jo Ann Holt Lake Jackson
William Hyder Pearland	Rachel Janicek Alvin
JoAnn Jolly Alvin	Monica Krancevic Lake Jackson
Mamie Malone Clute	Michael Mayfield Pearland
Christopher "Dusty" Rhoads West Columbia	Carolyn Saunders Pearland
Debbie Soderman West Columbia	Marilyn Waters Lake Jackson

Program Updates:

Our Plant Propagation seminar (February 25) was a success despite the cold and rain, with 32 in attendance. Barbara's Brown and Ray did an excellent job.

Gary Gardener has successfully revived our relationship with Habitat for Humanity. The Habitat committee came up with a detailed design, arranged for the right plants and had lots of non-MG volunteers to help with the planting. All involved continue to look for ways to improve the relationship.

The Groovy Gardeners, Northway Baptist Youth Group and Master Gardeners will participate in a tree planting at The World in Need facility, Highway 288, north of

Angleton, March 18, 10 am. Please contact Ray Michalik or Gary Gardner if you would like to participate.

The annual Brazoria County Field Day is scheduled for April 8, 2006 at the Varner-Hogg State Park in West Columbia. Registration starts at 8:30; the program will start at 9:00. IPM Specialist Bill Ree will discuss pest management and application equipment for the backyard grower. Volunteers will demonstrate grafting techniques following the seminar. Graftwood, grafting tape, knives and books go on sale at 11:00. John Panzarella will demonstrate grafting techniques for citrus and stone fruits following the program.

Equipment Safety Training: All individuals who operate mowers, tractors, chippers, blowers or other gas or electric equipment are required to complete equipment safety training. The training will be held March 24, 9am at Brazoria Tractor and Equipment, 19715 N Hwy 36.

Earth Kind Rose Trial Gardens: Roy Morgan picked up our EarthKind Roses from Chamblee's Rose Nursery in Tyler, and delivered them to the demo gardens on March 14. Thanks Roy! Unfortunately, due to technical and mechanical difficulties, the beds are not quite ready. I will keep everyone informed when the new planting date is determined.

Committee Chairs...

Audits - Gil Livanec/Ray Michalik/Patty Varnado
Cactus Garden - Ron King
Citrus Orchard - Gary Gardner
Citrus Sale - Gil Livanec
Data Collections for EarthKind Trials - Ann McLain
EarthKind Rose Trials - Paula Craig
Educational Programs Coordinator - Ann McLain
Extension Office Beds - Carol Wenny
Greenhouse and Equipment Maintenance - Ray Michalik
Hospitality and Registration for Educational Programs – Doni Stowers
JMG Vegetable Garden - Jesse Knight
Marketing - Chris Kern
Opportunity Grants - Barbara Brown/Patty Varnado
Organic Garden - Ellen Pedisich and Jesse Knight
Greenhouse Supervision and Plant Sale - Barbara Brown/Carol Farmer
Training Coordinator - Shannan Foley
All Flower Gardens - Barbara Ross
Vegetable Garden - Ellen Pedisich

2006 Calendar of Events:

BCMGA Training - Classes – AM: 9:00 – Noon
PM: 12:30 – 3:30

Mar. 7	AM: Introduction to BCMGA Junior Master Gardeners. The EarthKind Approach. PM: Basic Botany – Paula Craig	Mar 30	AM: Urban Trees & Shrubs – Ann McLain PM: Composting – Ellen Pedisich, Elizabeth Lee & Maureen Moulden.
Mar 9	AM: Soil Management with Larry Unruh. PM: Birds, Bees, & Butterflies – Barbara Burkhardt.	Apr 4	AM: Woody Ornamentals – David Schackleford PM: Roses – Don & Pat Gerard
Mar 14	BCMGA Meeting AM: Annuals & Perennials – Dr. William Welch PM: Plant Propagation – Barbara Brown	Apr 6	AM: Terrific Tropicals – Ed Barrios PM: Hotline & Office Procedures
Mar 16	AM: Pesticide Safety – Dr. Paul Nester PM: The Wonders of Herbs – DiAnna Munson	Apr 11:	BCMGA Meeting
Mar 21	AM: Landscaping with Natives – Lee Withers PM: Lawn Management – Dr. David Chalmers	Apr 22:	Spring Plant Sale
Mar 23	AM: Weed Identification & management – Dr. Barron Rector PM: Fruit & Nut Varieties for Brazoria County – John Panzarella	Apr 29	24 th Annual Herb Day Symposium
Mar 28	AM: Disease Identification & Management – Dr. Carlos Bogran PM: Gulf Coast Vegetable Gardening – Tom LeRoy	May 4-6:	2006 Texas Master Gardener Conference
		May 9:	BCMGA Meeting
		June 13:	BCMGA Meeting
		June 20-21:	MG Specialist Training - Oak Wilt*
		June 22-23:	MG Specialist Training * Rainwater Harvesting*
		July 11:	BCMGA Meeting
		Aug 8:	BCMGA Meeting
		Sept 12:	BCMGA Meeting
		Oct 10:	BCMGA Meeting
		Nov 14:	BCMGA Meeting
		Dec 12:	BCMGA Meeting

24th Annual Herb Day Symposium – Date: April 29, 2006; Location Houston Civic Garden Center in Hermann Park. Registration fee is \$45.00 per person. Herb plants will be sold as well as handmade herbal crafts and gifts. Proceeds benefit local scholarships and public gardens. For more information call (713) 513-7808 or visit the website @[http:// www.herbsociety-stu.org](http://www.herbsociety-stu.org)

MG Specialist Training - Oak Wilt - Date: June 20-21; Location: Tenroc Ranch, Salado, Texas 5471 W. Thomas Arnold Road, exit 284/Robertson Rd. from Interstate I-35; Contact: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com/events/events.html> or www.bcmga.org or Dirk Aaron, CEA-Ag, Bell County Extension, 1605 N. Main St, Belton, Texas 76513, 254-933-9305.

MG Specialist Training * Rainwater Harvesting - Date: June 22-23; Location: Menard County Extension Office, Menard, Texas; Contact: Billy Kniffen, County extension Agent, Menard County, 325-396-4787 or [b_kniffen@tamu.edu](mailto:kniffen@tamu.edu). The Master Gardener Specialist * Rainwater Harvesting is charged to increase awareness and provide training in Rainwater Harvesting. The Master Gardener is required to serve a minimum of one year as a Master Gardener Specialist * Rainwater Harvesting providing a minimum of 12 hours of service.

Nasturtium, Tropaeolum majus

**By Dr. William C. Welch, Extension Horticulturist,
Texas A&M University, College Station, TX**

Distinctive appearance, rapid growth, and easy culture characterize this once popular annual. Nasturtium flower buds are sometimes pickled or used for seasonings because of their mustard oil. Unripe seed pods have a peppery flavor somewhat like watercress, and may also be used in salads.

Nasturtiums are grown as cool-season temperate plants. In Texas, the seed is usually planted about the time of the average last frost. They are usually planted where they can be allowed to mature, since young seedlings can be difficult to transplant. Seedlings started in small individual pots indoors or in the greenhouse can, however, be set out earlier, and provide a longer bloom season.

Nasturtiums are natives to the cool highlands of mountains extending from Mexico to central Argentina and Chile. There are both climbing and dwarf bush types. The dwarf types are much more commonly available, and are useful as 10- to 12-inch tall borders or as mass plantings in sun or partial shade. Flowers range in color from creamy white to orange, mahogany, red, and yellow. Double-flowered forms are also available.

Nasturtiums actually do better in soil of moderate-to-low fertility, and prefer well drained conditions. The seed are large and sprout quickly. In most of Texas, nasturtiums bloom until really hot weather begins, usually in June. The climbing or trailing kinds can quickly cover fences, banks, or stumps, and are excellent in the winter greenhouse as a source of cut flowers and ornaments. The flowers have an unusual and refreshing fragrance.

Few insects or diseases bother nasturtiums, and they add a touch of old-fashioned charm as borders in vegetable gardens or as potted specimens or mass plantings. They are also a good choice to mix with spring-flowering bulbs, since they can effectively hide the unattractive bulb foliage that may be allowed to mature.

Nasturtiums are at their peak of flowering in Texas during May and June. If you have not grown them before, look for places now where they can be planted early next spring. Few plants offer so much for so little.



Give It A Grow...

By Suzanne Jerabeck

Chase Away the Blues With This “Feel Good” Vine

I can't think of a sweeter, happier little vine to plant this spring than a Black-Eyed Susan vine. Sow seeds or transplant it in the ground. Let it drape from a hanging basket or guide it on a trellis toward the sun. Give *Thunbergia alata* a healthy start now and you'll be rewarded with lively, continuous blooms for up to six months -- until the first hard freeze.

Even when you're feeling low, the mass of bright, 1-1 ½" yellow tubular flowers with contrasting dark eyes will make you feel good again. It's definitely a cottage garden plant that's been passed down from a bygone era – but it's still as popular as ever. At first glance, the Black-Eyed Susan vine looks fragile. But, it's not. It's twining habit and triangular leaves help make it super hardy. A word of advice, though: this vine is happiest with sunny mornings and protection in the afternoons. In Brazoria County, I find it does well with its feet somewhat shaded, too, planted among other plants or vines. It's not exactly drought-tolerant either, so water well in hot, dry weather.

The Black-Eyed Susan vine, one of over 200 *Thunbergia* (thun-BER-gee-uh) varieties, is native to tropical eastern Africa where it can grow as high as 20 feet! It grows nearly that big in Texas, too. Several years ago my vine twined upward from the pot and attached itself to a pecan tree limb. With some regular watering, it literally took over several upper limbs, too, and bloomed non-stop in the shade of the tree during the hottest part of the summer. These results may not be typical, but you can usually count on growth of at least 6-10 feet.

It's considered to be a warm season annual. But if you cover it with mulch in winter, this vine can be a perennial. The plant is hardy to 20-25 degrees Fahrenheit.

Thunbergia alata comes in a variety of colors and heights. You can choose from 6-10' high climbers or 18" long ground covers. Besides the original popular Black-Eyed Susan vine with its creamy yellow blooms, the 'Susie' hybrid series is the most popular variety. 'Blushing Susie' offers all shades of red and rose, plus pink and salmon. 'Sunrise Surprise' blooms a creamy mix of rose, salmon, apricot and ivory. 'Susie White-Eyed' features white blooms with black centers. And, now you can even get “clear” Black-Eyed Susan vines -- without the eyes!

Above all, don't wait to get your vine planted. It needs to get established well before the summer heat sets in. When your plant begins blooming, don't miss the chance to collect seed from the dried seed heads to share with your friends and neighbors!

Gladiolus

Dr. William C. Welch
Professor & Landscape Horticulturist

Gladiolus are grown for their showy spikes of flowers which come in many colors. There are large-flowering types as well as small.

Gladiolus may be used as background plants in the garden, or in rows, or as cut flowers for the home. If care is given to a planting schedule, flowers can be available from early summer until frost. To achieve this, the corms are planted at various times, usually at 2- or 3-week intervals, from as early as mid-February until the last of April. Set the corms 4 to 5 inches deep and 5 to 6 inches apart in groups or rows.

Gladiolus prefer well-prepared garden soils with good drainage. As soon as plants are 6 to 8 inches tall, apply fertilizer, such as 13-13-13, at the rate of 3 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet. Organic fertilizer sources, such as cottonseed meal, also work well. Water thoroughly when soil appears dry, and stake if necessary.

To save gladiolus corms for next year, dig the corms after the foliage has dried in late summer or fall. Remove the soil and snap off the dead tops. The old or original corm may be removed and discarded at this time. Spread the corms out on the garage or storage-room floor and allow to dry for 3 to 4 days. Place the corms in boxes with dry peat moss or sawdust. If large numbers are involved, make some boxes that are 3 to 4 inches deep with bottoms made of hardware cloth. Store in a dry, cool place at a temperature of 45 to 50 degrees F. Check them periodically during the winter for signs of rotting or rodent damage, and discard those affected.

At least two species of gladiolus are considered heirloom plants in our area and may be left in the ground and grown as perennials. *Gladiolus byzantinus*, sometimes known as cornflags, mark many old home sites and cemetery plots in Texas and the South. Their magenta and rarely-white flower spikes are smaller than the hybrids usually available in florists and nurseries.

Another interesting gladiolus is *Gladiolus natalensis*, sometimes known as the parrot gladiolus. Flowers of this species, which is native to Africa, are larger



than those of *G. byzantinus*, and are a brilliant combination of yellowish green and red.

Both of these gladiolus may be grown as perennials, and usually increase in numbers each year. They are commercially available, however, only from specialty bulb sources. Now that web resources such as Google are available, it is much easier to locate sources of specialty gladiola.

Garden Checklist – March:

By Heather Vincent

- Put Tomatoes in the ground early this month.
- Mow the lawn when it needs it, then feed.
- Fertilize everything. Water first, feed, then water again.
- Gradually move hibiscus and other container plants into more light.
- Remove flowers on newly purchased plants so they will set stronger root systems.
- Plant Louisiana phlox around late appearing shrubs like hamelia, lantana. This perennial groundcover is green in winter, blooms in spring, and goes dormant (almost disappears) in summer.
- Give hibiscus a slight haircut, then feed with hibiscus to encourage lush growth.
- Feed azaleas, spirea, climbing roses and other shrubby spring bloomers after they bloom.
- Remove spent flowers on spring bloomers to promote more bloom production.
- Work ½ cup Epsom salts around roses, hibiscus, and other bloomers for more flowers.
- Feed plumerias with fish emulsion and superphosphate.
- Plant bell peppers, cucumbers, green beans, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, and watermelon. Start eggplants in pots.
- Put Bluebonnet plants in raised, containers and/or hanging baskets (Sow seeds in fall).
- In the water garden, remove leaves and muck from pond bottom if not done last fall. Remove toad eggs if you see them.
- Plant antique roses, four o'clocks, gingers, jasmines, and mock orange for fragrance.
- Remove tulip bulbs after the flowers fade. Discard; they won't bloom again.
- Try crushed egg shells, coarse sand in ring around plant stem to discourage snails.
- Give all the plants a manure tea treat: Mix in washtub: ½ rotted (or bagged) manure and ½ water (preferably rainwater). Let sit overnight. Drain off water and pour over plants. This tea is high in nitrogen, so don't use more than once a month on blooming plants.

Favorite Lazy Gardener Plants:

For Sunny Areas: Amaryllis, antique roses, beebalm, black-eyed Susan, blue daze, bulbine, butterfly bush, bush daisy, butterflyweed, caesalpinia, canna, cassia, cat whiskers, celosia, cestrum, chrysanthemum, cleome, cornflower, cosmos, cuphea, daylily, duranta, hamelia,

globe amaranth, gaura, Indian blanket, lanceleaf cornflower, lantana, lion's tail, lycoris, Mexican mint, marigold, Mexican poinsettia, Mexican zinnia, morning glory, nandina, natal plum, oleander, pavonia, plumeria, pride of Barbados, purslane, prarie verbena, purslane, salvia, russelia, scaevola, skullcap, spirea, yarrow, yellow bells, and zinnia.

For Partial Shade Areas: Abelmoschus, althaea, American beautyberry, agapanthus, blood lily, coral bean, coreopsis, crinum, four o'clocks, hibiscus (hardy & tropical), hydrangea, Louisiana iris, melampodium, mock orange, penstemon, pentas, plumbago, porterweed, scabiosa, shrimp plants, summer phlox, yesterday-today-and-tomorrow.

For Shady Areas: Abutilon, balsam, banana shrub, Barbados cherry, barlaria, begonia, Brazilian red cloak, caladium, calla lily, chocolate plant, clerodendrum, coleus, columbine, erythrina, firespike, gingers, hosta, impatient, indigo, jacobina, mahonia, narcissus, nicotiana, oakleaf hydrangea, oxalis, Persian shield, pigeonberry, pink polka-dot, ruellia, spring snowflakes, strawberry bush, toadflax, torenia, Turk's cap, viburnums, viola, and violet.

Source: The Lazy Gardener's Guide by Brenda Beust Smith.

Happy Birthday!

Happy March Birthday Wishes to Barbara Ray on March 4th!

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.



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