

# *What's Growin' On . . .*

*The BCMGA Newsletter*

Heather Vincent, Editor

August/September 2006

Vol. 11, Iss. 12



## **2006 Executive Board Officers:**

President - **George Gabriles**

1st VP/ Volunteer Coordinator - **Gary Gardner**

2nd VP/Advance Training - **Christine Kern**

Treasurer - **Ted Jagen**

Secretary – **Donie Stowers**

## **Little Known Facts....**

**August's flower is the Gladiolus**

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**Botanical Names:** Gladiolus communis ssp. byzanthinus

**Other Names:** Sword lily, Glads

**Description:** Large, thick stems with six to eight tightly packed blossoms on only one side. Blossoms shape and texture vary from fringed to ruffled to trumpet shaped to rosebuds.

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**Colors:** pink, red, white, orange, yellow, purple, bi-color

**Season:** All year round

**Meaning:** Gladiolus is Latin for sword. Graceful, strong sense of character.

**Bloom Size:** 2 to 8 inches in diameter

**Color Pattern:** solid, bi-color

**Facts:** Parts of the plant are poisonous if ingested. Very fragrant. May cause allergic reactions. Mostly used in sympathy bouquets.

## News...

### Extension Master Gardener Logo & Slogan Contest

#### Logo & Slogan Contest Invitation

The Extension Master Gardener program will be 35 years old in 2007 and as part of that celebration you are invited to submit an original logo design and slogan for the organization's communication and visual identity.

The Extension Master Gardener Program needs a new logo for the website and to demonstrate national collaboration and recognition of all Master Gardener programs. As extension is developed, the logo and slogan will be utilized with new standardized curriculum.

This partnership will signify the cooperation of all State Master Gardener Programs will use this identification for marketing and promotion of a national unified program. State and local logos will still be utilized by may have the option of adding the International logo and slogan. The new logo and the title will be trademarked and protected by the USDA/CSREES.

The Extension Master Gardener Program is a platform for each state partner to share materials increasing the availability of information for volunteers and Extension personnel to share with the general public.

#### Guidelines

Submissions of a qualifying nature will be passed on to a panel appointed by the EMG-ECH committee.

Appropriateness, creativity, originality, aesthetics and the use of space used to measure the logo & slogan's merit. The winning logo & slogan will demonstrate the mission and understanding of the Extension Master Gardener Program to the general population.

#### LOGO SPECIFICATIONS

- Logos must be legible, simple and clear.
- Logos must be effective in black and white and in color.
- Both grayscale and color versions must be submitted.
- Logos should be no more than two Pantalone colors plus black.
- Logos must be scalable as it will be used on websites, stationary and banners.

- Submit high resolution images 640 x 480 dpi.
- File format must be JPG, eps or Illustrator on a CD-ROM.
- Logo and slogan should relate.
- Submit logo and slogan as separate files.

### SLOGAN SPECIFICATIONS

- Slogan should be appropriate and must reflect the mission of the Extension Master Gardener Program.
- Slogan should be short and to the point.
- Slogan should relate with logo.
- Submit slogan and logo as separate files.

### PRIZE

Registration and lodging at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference held in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 2 through May 5, 2007.

### DEADLINE FOR JUDGEMENT

Entries will be accepted beginning October 15<sup>th</sup> and the contest will close on February 15<sup>th</sup> (postmark deadline). The committee will judge the entries and select the winner by March 1, 2007. The winner will be announced at the 2007 International Master Gardener conference.

### SUBMISSION

Art submitted to the contest will not be return to the artist. More than one original art piece can be entered per Master Gardener.

Please mail all submission to:

Kerrie B. Badertscher, CPH

Western Area Specialist, Horticulture

University of Nevada Cooperative Extension

5305 Mill Street

Reno, NV 89502

Phone: 775.784.4848 ext 125; Fax: 775.784.4881 or

Email: [badertscherk@unce.unr.edu](mailto:badertscherk@unce.unr.edu)

## **News from Ted Jagen....**

2007 dues are being collected. The dues remain \$13 with \$2 going toward our dues to the Texas Master Gardener Association and \$1 going toward insurance. Checks should be made payable to BCMGA. If paying by mail, please address the envelop to Ted Jagen 13805 CR 282 Alvin, Texas 77511.

## At the Demonstration Gardens...

By Ray Michalik

The sprinkler system for Paula's trial rose garden is completely installed. It hasn't been used because the rains have been coming at regular intervals. We turned the system on to see if it works like it is supposed to and it did a good job. We are in the process of installing ground cover in between the beds to keep the grass down and to make the area look better. We have been getting between four and six people from the county probationary department every Fri. until recently. From now on we will get to use them every other Fri. and never on the third Fri. as the junior master gardeners will be at the green house. The probation people really like to work for us and have been doing a good job. The usual weeding, mowing and edging continues to keep all busy along with propagation of plants and bumping up plants to larger containers. Don fumigated the greenhouse to rid all the unwanted pests. Hopefully, we will not have any pests this spring. Come on out and enjoy the fun.

### 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!

## Master Naturalists Classes...

The next classes are beginning soon and you should take advantage of the tremendous learning opportunity. The classes are every Wednesday starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September for 12 weeks. Most of the instructors are professionals from A&M University, USF&WS and TP&W and there is a field trip after each morning lecture. For details about the classes go to website [www.grovesite.com/tamu/tmn](http://www.grovesite.com/tamu/tmn) and to sign up contact Sandra Smith at the Brazoria County Texas Cooperative Extension Office at 281-756-1564 ext. 112 or 979-388-1564 ext. 112 or 979-864-1564 ext. 112 or [sandrasb@brazoria-county.com](mailto:sandrasb@brazoria-county.com). Course fee is \$130. If you have any questions contact Marty Cornell at 979-297-2235 or Ed Barrios at 979-415-4998.

## Habitat for Humanity...

By Gary Gardner

Sign Up for Habitat House Build #56  
821 Godfrey  
Clute, TX  
Sept. 8, 2006

To all HFH volunteers,

After a break from the summer heat, Habitat is ready to start its next house. It will be House #56 in Clute starting Sept. 8, 2006. This build and the next build are being sponsored by The Dow Chemical as part of the celebration of its 65<sup>th</sup> year in Brazosport. Dow has been a long and strong supporter of Habitat for Humanity through the supply of money, materials, and volunteers.

A map to the site is as follows. This is just off the intersection of 288 and Lazy Lane in Clute, near the La Quinta Inn. The address is 821 Godfrey Street Clute, TX

Please note that this schedule differs considerably from those in the past. The schedule may change a little as the work proceeds and the personnel and weather can better be assessed. Since we will have Dow volunteers in addition to Habitat volunteers, we need to know how many volunteers will be present for work each day so we won't have too many or too few on hand any given day. To determine how many volunteers will be present each day and make meal planning easier, please use the following table to check the day or days you can help. Use the following notation: am=morning, pm=afternoon or X for all day. Then return the e-mail to me. Weekday volunteers are especially needed.

**\*Pre-Build Information:**

Friday and Saturday (Sept. 8 and 9) will be the normal pre-work days to do the wall layout work for the main construction work that will start on Monday Sept. 11. Previous layout experience is required for these days.

**Build Information:**

The main construction work for all skills will begin on Monday Sept 11, and is scheduled for completion 15 working days later, not including Sundays. Sign-in and breakfast are from 7:15-7:45 a.m. each day at the big hospitality tent at the site. Status reports and devotional are from 7:45-8:00 a.m. Work starts about 8:00 a.m. and runs until about 5:00 p.m. However, you can come and go at any time. Lunch, water, lemonade and snacks will be provided.

Any and all volunteers are welcome to participate. There will be crew leaders present to direct the work and to show anyone how to do an unfamiliar job. Most tools will be provided, however, you might want to bring your own hammer, tape and/or tool belt if you have them. So, find a job you want to do, or take advantage of on-the-job training, and come help. Please note that there are age restrictions for safety reasons. Anyone between ages 14 and 16 must be accompanied by a parent. Those between 16 and 18 can work on the ground with a crew leader. Anyone that works above ground (on the roof) must be between 18 and 68.

I will try to provide any up dates or additional information as they become available. In the mean time, if you have any questions, please contact me.

Remember, much of the build information, pictures from past builds and other information is available at Habitat's web site. You can access it through the following link:

<http://www.habitatsbc.org/> . Please note that you can now submit a Volunteer Information Form from the web site if you want to be notified of future build information.

**Schedule Build**

Friday 9/8 Layout and pre-build work (layout experience required)

Mark slab for walls

Cut wall plates

Assemble doorframes

Make porch beams and posts

Mark wall plates for T's, windows, doors, corners, beams and studs

Saturday 9/9 Layout and pre-build work (layout experience required)

Continue to mark plates  
Drill J-bolt holes  
Cut cap plates  
Start wall assembly  
Sheath gables  
Monday 9/11 Main build work (all volunteers)  
Assemble rest of walls  
Mark rafter locations  
Start to stand walls

Tuesday 9/12 Stand all walls  
Square walls  
Raise far gable  
Stand and secure trusses, fore gable  
Install rat runs and strong backs  
Porch beams  
Sheath walls

Wednesday 9/13 Cut rafter tails and install fascia boards  
Start roof decking  
Rough plumbing  
Rough electrical  
Porch gable and trusses  
Install windows  
Exterior doors

Thursday 9/14 Finish decking and felt  
Install side porch  
Rough AC  
Install dead wood for dry wall  
Attic stair well  
Blue board, vinyl siding  
Exterior trim

Friday 9/15 Inspection of elec. AC, framing  
Insulation, interior  
Insulation inspection  
Start roof shingling  
Vinyl siding

Saturday 9/16 Drywall  
Finish roof shingling  
Vinyl siding

Monday 9/17 Drywall  
Taping and mudding drywall

Vinyl siding  
Grading

Tuesday 9/18 Drywall mudding

Wednesday 9/19 Texture walls  
Interior trim

Thursday 9/20 Spray paint (no volunteers needed)  
Friday 9/21 Flooring (no volunteers needed)

Saturday 9/22 Landscaping  
Finish electrical

Monday 9/24 Cabinets  
Finish plumbing  
Electrical Inspection  
General cleaning  
Tuesday 9/25 Formica (no volunteers needed)  
Appliances

Wednesday 9/26 Final electrical & Inspection

## **News and Notes From the Coordinator...**

By Paula Craig

It has been a busy month for the Association, and many thanks, congratulations and prayers are due.

### **Thanks**

Thanks to Barbara Brown, Carol Farmer and Donie Stowers for meeting with the Shadow Creek Garden Club and to Linda Choong for setting it up... Reaching audiences in the north is increasingly important as urban replaces rural living in our county. Thanks to BeBe who also gave programs to over 250 students at Frontier Elementary. Thanks to Pam Peltier for her role in setting up a community service schedule. We now have community service workers two or three Fridays a month to help at the gardens. Thanks to Marti Graves for, what I heard was an excellent program. Monica Krancevic has taken over the Master Gardener Training Coordinator. Her vision is to have more hands-on training, workshops and demonstrations for our interns. As always, thanks to our many members who contribute their time and talents to a great organization.

### **All Aboard!**

Speaking of the gardens, I need to get used to the new name, the BC Master Gardener Education Station. Congratulations to Monica Krancevic for the winning entry and to all who participated. Ann McLain and Carole Wenny have planned a fall adult education seminar for October 21 called "Autumn in the Garden: Setting the Stage for a Beautiful Spring".

Our hearts and prayers go out to Don Fragnoli who recently underwent surgery to remove a kidney. I understand that Don is now at home recovering. You can send your thoughts to [fragone@hotmail.com](mailto:fragone@hotmail.com).

#### Bylaws, Officer Elections, and 2007 Budget Planning

It is time to start thinking about who (or is it whom) you would like to see on your executive board in 2007. We have been lucky to have some wonderful officers leading the organization. As the organization continues to grow and mature, leaders with vision, awareness of community needs and the ability to guide the association in the fulfillment of those needs will be paramount considerations.

It is also time for committee chairs to start assembling their budget requests. The “wish list” meeting should be announced in October.

If you have not received a copy of the bylaws revisions, please contact Donie Stowers or me. Everyone in the organization should be familiar with this document. It is the blueprint for building the BCMGA.

Texas Master Gardener Website <http://texasmastergardeners.org>

The TMGA website is worth a look. You’ll find a calendar of events that includes educational programs, classes and certification workshops for gardeners. You’ll find newsletters and Power Point presentations that you can download and use in your own presentations. The password is “sunset”.

## Carpooling.....

It seems as though we have plenty of Pearland area BCMG’s attending our monthly meetings. If you are wanting to carpool to the monthly meetings, the following members live in Pearland:

Michael Mayfield 281-996-9310

Don Fragnoli 713-436-8467

William Hyder 281-997-1173

Linda Choong 713-344-0835

Carolyn Saunders 832-230-0819

Donie Stowers 281-997-6186

Barbara Bruyere 281-412-5201

Robert Brown 281-485-2952

Barbara Greeley 281-489-1983

Lisa Darby 281-648-5066

Pam Littlefield 281-489-9862

Mary Anna Vance 281-485-1030

Kathy Chalfant 281-538-1511

## The Organic Gardener...

By Ellen Pedisich

Last month when I wrote to you I was hoping that the Junior Master Gardeners would soon join me in this endeavor. We made plans for them to come out to the site and compost leaves. I hope this will be a reality soon. In the meantime I and some helpful Master Gardeners have chipped the rest of



the leaves from last fall. Now they are all in circular, ten feet in circumference, bins. When I am at the site I take the temperature of each pile and if the thermometer indicates 110 degrees or less, which means it is inactive, I turn the pile. I am fascinated with hastening this decomposition process which Mother Nature will do without my interference. Then I see an earthworm in the garden. That is my reward.

The gardener digs,  
turns over a mound of soil.  
Worms wriggle away.

<u><b>2006 Calendar of Events:</b></u>	<u><b>NEWS AND NOTES:</b></u>
<p>Sept 12: BCMGA Meeting</p> <p>Oct 10: BCMGA Meeting</p> <p>Nov 14: BCMGA Meeting</p> <p>Dec 12: BCMGA Meeting</p>	<p>Thanks to Mary Anna Vance, Barbara Bruyere, Elizabeth Lee, Bebe Brown and Debbie Soderman for the delicious refreshments at the August meeting.</p> <p>No one signed up at Tuesday's meeting to bring refreshments for October or November. Please check your calendars and let me know if you can bring refreshments to either the October or November meeting. Thanks everyone. <a href="mailto:dstowers1@houston.rr.com">dstowers1@houston.rr.com</a></p> <p>The winner of the "Name the Greenhouse" contest was Monica Krancevic and the official name of the greenhouse will be Brazoria County Master Gardener's Education Station. Congrats Monica!</p>

## **Give It A Grow**

By Suzanne Jerabeck

### **Add Black To Stir Up Some Magic In Your Garden**

Black is back – and very in vogue this season in gardens across the world. It's a rarity to find this color on flowers or leaves, but a number of black-hued plants are fast becoming easy to find in local nurseries.

My favorite combination is black and chartreuse. I enjoy planting 'Blackie' sweet potato vine (*Ipomoea batatas*) next to 'Margarita' sweet potato vine in hanging baskets. But, intermingle this neutral color with reds, yellows, blues and purples, and it's sure to create a magical (if not mysterious) sensation!

Here are some must-try black plants that are touted to grow well in Zone 9:

Hyacinth ‘Midnight Mystique’ – It took Thompson & Morgan over 16 years to develop this exclusive bulb. And, even at 7.99 pounds (nearly \$15) each, the lure of this rare beauty put the Brits in a buying frenzy when it was introduced this past spring. You can order now on the internet ([www.thompson-morgan.com/uk](http://www.thompson-morgan.com/uk)) or wait for it’s emergence in American nurseries soon.

Rose ‘Black Baccara’ - It’s been a long time coming, but this exotic hybrid tea rose is supposed to be the blackest rose available. Originally bred for the flower market, this velvet-petaled rose was introduced by the House of Meilland in 2001. It grows up to four feet tall and is hardy in Zones 6-10. You can find it on the Thompson & Morgan website, too.

Black Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) - Commonly known as Black Silk Tree, Charlotte Black, or Black Powder-Puff Tree, the Black Mimosa is a rare, medium-sized ornamental tree that reaches a height of 30 feet or more. It’s long, fern-like leaves are very dark gray to black and its blooms are ball-like clusters of threadlike pink stamens. Like our common mimosa, it’s very hardy and drought tolerant. Order seeds from [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org).

Black Bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*) – As the young green stems of this new bamboo variety break ground and grow, they change to almost black by the end of the first season. In fact, all the mature stems are ebony black. This bamboo is a runner, though. You’ll need to contain it in a pot. Or, if you have room, let it grow wild as a hedge or grove.

Black Magic (*Colocasia esculenta*) – This black leaf elephant ear has a flair for the dramatic – especially when combined with silver-leaved or variegated foliage plants. This hardy plant thrives and sun and partial shade. Its large leaves can reach two feet long and it grows upwards to six feet.

Chocolate Cosmos (*Cosmos atrosanguineus*) – This full sun lover sports deep, dark maroon flowerheads that produce an unusual chocolate scent as evening approaches on hot, sunny days. It’s a tuberous perennial that grows 18-24” tall and blooms from late spring to early winter. This should be on your must-have list for planting next spring.

Black Scallop Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans* ‘Black’) - It’s black and beautiful, and the thick, wrinkled, round leaves of Black Scallop make a great low-spreading, perennial groundcover. Outside, this fast grower likes partial sun. It’s pretty in a pot, too.

Black Mondo Grass (*Ophiopogon planiscapus* ‘Nigrescens’) – In addition to its color, this perennial has wild, spiky leaves that can add an interesting new dimension when grouped with soft, round-shaped plants. Grow it in the ground or in a decorative pot. This plant grows 6-12 inches tall and does well in part or full shade.

## Committee Chairs...

Audits - Gil Livanec/Ray Michalik/Patty Varnado

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  
Greenhouse Supervision & Plant Sale - Barbara Brown, Carol Farmer, & Donie Stowers  
Training Coordinator - Shannan Foley  
All Flower Gardens - Barbara Ross  
Vegetable Garden - Ellen Pedisich and Jesse Knight

## ***Growing Columbines (Aquilegia)***

**by Cynthia W. Mueller**

**C**olumbines are a favorite spring wildflower for Texas gardeners. They have the ability to grow in both sun and light shade, and under good growing circumstances will survive for several years. Flower types range from the dainty bloom with "spurs" projecting to fully double bells composed of many petals in contrasting colors.

Not all varieties of columbines are suitable for Texas gardens. Two of the best are the hybrid 'Texas Gold' and the native species *Aquilegia canadensis*. 'Texas Gold' is a very heat resistant plant with golden-yellow flowers that was bred from the rare *Aquilegia hinckleyana* which grows only along a few mountainous streambeds in West Texas. Its tough qualities and many large, showy flowers have earned it the right to be called one of the "Texas Super Stars".

The native *A. canadensis* produces a mound of foliage and delicate red-and-gold flowers several feet in height over a long period in the spring. It is found in nature from Canada through the US into Texas. These two columbines often will cross with each other, creating a range of softly colored hybrids. The classic English columbines, such as the McKana strains, the blue-flowered European varieties or the doubles such as 'Nora Barlow' are more suited to moist soils in light shade and would prefer cooler temperatures than most Texas gardens have to offer.

Set out plants in the spring to early summer. They may be placed from one to two feet apart with generous mulching between plants. During the blooming season the mounds



***Aquilegia canadensis***

of finely cut, soft green foliage with flowers may reach as much as three feet in height. Trim off spent flower stalks before the capsules shatter to release seed, or leave them to provide fresh plants for a later season. In times of drought the plants may go dormant for a time in the midst of the summer.

Seeds shed into the flower bed have a bad habit of trying to germinate after odd summer rains, then perishing in the heat of the summer, so it's a good idea to save some seeds for sowing in flats or in place near established plants in the late fall. These should have no trouble becoming established.

Fertilize established columbines monthly during the growing season with a good soluble all-purpose fertilizer. There are few pests to be reckoned with. Low-growing shrub roses, perennial coreopsis, penstemons or ferns make good growing companions.

## **Garden Checklist – August/September**

By Heather Vincent

- ✚ WATCH for Hummingbirds!!!! Keep feeders clean and full.
- ✚ Give perennials, annuals, roses and fall-blooming shrubs a light feeding and slight haircut.
- ✚ Prune deadwood from trees.
- ✚ Keep the lawn well watered. Mow more often to force sideways growth to fill in bare areas.
- ✚ Water less often, but leave the sprinkler on for an extended period.
- ✚ Set out fall tomatoes, green onions, cucumbers, corn and green beans.
- ✚ In Late August/early September start seeds of broccoli, cabbage, chard, garlic, kohlrabi, and squash.
- ✚ Feed plumerias with high phosphorus fertilizer.
- ✚ In the water garden, feed all water plants.
- ✚ Plant wildflower seed in raised beds as soon as it starts getting a little cooler.
- ✚ Plant bulbs in clumps among perennials and shrubs.
- ✚ Use superphosphate or bulb food instead of bone meal to feed bulbs.
- ✚ Refrigerate tulips, hyacinths, muscari and crocus at least 4-6 weeks before planting.
- ✚ Try shredded sandpaper, crushed egg shells and or seaweed at the base of plants to discourage snails and slugs.
- ✚ 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.

## Happy August/September Birthday Wishes

John Alcorn Sept 9

Mary Lou Christie Sept 21

Delmer Grindle Aug 27

Greg Marsh Aug 12

Ray Michalik Sept 4

Theresa O'Leary Aug 2

Mary Katheryn Pickle 5

Marvin Petter Aug 21

Barbara Ross Sept 12

Heather Vincent Sept 13

Mark Snyder Sept 10

Beverly Straughan Sept 9

Leroy Walker Sept 10

Carole Wenny Sept 26

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.



21017 CR 171  
Angleton, TX 77515

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