

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

*The BCMGA Newsletter*

Heather Vincent, Editor

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## **The Art Imperial Daylily...**

Dr. Arturo and Dr. Nina Imperial's subtropical garden in Lake Jackson, Texas contains one of America's premier daylily collections. Reflected by the blue waters of a huge lake, their spacious garden reveals exquisite taste and horticultural excellence. ART IMPERIAL is an opulent orange red color with a yellow to green throat, encircled by a ruffled, gold edge. The blooms are of medium substance, and the clear color shows singular saturation, intensity and brightness when planted in light shade. The form is so flat and round as to be unique in both size and refinement in this singularly assertive color. Little wonder that Timber Press features its photo on the cover of their new Color Encyclopedia of Daylilies

advertisement brochure. The strongly recurrent scapes have 3 way branching and 20 or more buds. A paragon in the garden, providing unique, blazing color, all the more enhanced by a wide stripe down the center of the petal. Fertile both ways. JC AHS 2000.

## **News...**

### **NOTES FROM THE PREZ...**

Hi All.

It's June and Summer is here to stay for a while. The Education Station is in bloom. We could use a little help with watering and weeding – don't we always!! There are some spots that are really outstanding this month. My favorite right now is the flower bed directly behind the Greenhouse. This is Ted Jagen's bed and it is stunning. The Golden Cestrum is the centerpiece of the bed, standing seven or eight foot and covered with bright gold blooms. Come see it!

Next month, our monthly meeting will be held at the Education Station at the regular meeting time. We will have a 'pot luck dinner and plant swap. There will be a short report from Pam Peltier about the TMCA and a very short business meeting. Bring a dish and whatever plants you would like to share. If you have nothing to share, come anyway, someone has to take something home!

The vegetable garden is ready for planting...finally, really, honest, truly...Jesse says "Go for it!" The citrus orchard is close to becoming a reality. Dan Sebesta, one of our new interns, has taken on the project. He is working on the beds and should be ready to plant in the early Spring.

See you at the Station – Happy Gardening!  
Barbara Ross

## June General Meeting...

The monthly meeting was called to order by President Barbara Ross. Secretary Ann McLain's minutes from May were approved, as was Treasurer Ted Jagen's report. We have a current balance of over \$18,000, and we are in the black and on track with the planned budget.

Jesse Knight had good news at last on the **vegetable garden**. The County has re-tilled it for us and formed it into rows. After a little rain to settle things down, it will be ready for planting, at last. The vegetable garden is primarily for trialing varieties suitable for Brazoria County, but there will be individual plots as well. Jesse circulated a sign-up sheet for individual plots – if you want a space, contact Jesse ASAP. Members who claim a spot must commit to keeping it weeded, as well as keeping written records of what is done and what is harvested.

Ann McLain reported on the **June 2 Open House**. We had good attendance, and our visitors seemed to enjoy learning about using veggies and herbs and making compost. Unfortunately, the scheduled time (10-noon) didn't connect well to the Farmer's Market, as they were sold out and gone well before 10 am. Tentative plans have been made for two more open houses this year: one in late August, and one in early November. If you have topics you would like to see presented or would like to help, contact Ann McLain.

Rich Tillman also had good news for us. The grant request he submitted to the annual **Dow Community Grant** program has been funded for \$5000. This will support development of a Rainwater Harvesting Program at the Education Station. With guidance from John Smith (TAMU), we will be collecting rainwater from one of the buildings, storing it, and then piping it to the tropical garden and the new vegetable beds.

In **other funding activities**, it was reported that a grant has been submitted to the First Choice Power competition, requesting support for a wireless weather station and a moveable seating system. There are plans to apply to the Coastal Management Program for support for the development of a pond and coastal prairie area, to be used for school programs.

In miscellaneous announcements, Gil Livanec told us that he has placed the orders for next spring's **fruit sale**, as well as for the membership requests. Barbara Brown announced

that our next **plant sale** will be April 19, 2008. She asked us to keep an eye out for utility wagons (like our green ones) at sale prices; let her know if you spot some. Pam Peltier reported on the status of the **Farmer's Market**. Vendors don't have as much to sell this year, but things have been getting better. If you want to check it out, or better yet, help welcome customers, you need to come early. The market continues for the remaining Saturdays in June, opening at 7 am.

There was discussion about the meeting **refreshments** issue. Lately Donie Stowers has had to beg for more volunteers every month. If each member who attends meetings would bring a contribution one time each year (this would be 4-5 folks each meeting), we would have a great spread every time. The alternative is to give up on goodies. Rich made a motion that we continue to eat; it was seconded and passed. So it's time for all of us to step up and commit to bringing treats. It doesn't have to be fancy. It doesn't have to be homemade. It just needs to be tasty. Contact Donie.

But not next month. Next month's regular meeting will be a **pot luck dinner and plant swap** at the Education Station, so everyone needs to bring something. Or rather, something to eat and a plant to share. The program will be Pam Peltier's report on the state conference.

Finally, Barbara Ross wanted us all to know that our various visitors are finding our gardens very impressive. She mentioned that every time she goes to the Education Station, she sees how much work needs to be done. But through the fresh view point of customers, guests, and wandering relatives, **the place is looking wonderful**. If you are one of the workers, kudos to you! If you aren't, come on out and be amazed.

In fact, come on out to the July 10 meeting, and bring goodies. See you there.

## **Demonstration Garden News...**

By Ray Machalik

If you haven't been outdoors working in your garden or flower beds lately the dog days of summer are upon us. AS you are working out doors be sure to drink plenty of fluids to keep hydrated.

Thanks to Dan Sebesta and Mike Mayfield as they staked out the future citrus orchard. Dan then tilled it up with our equipment and has it looking real good. It tilled much better than we expected being it has never been worked up before as far as we know.

If you haven't been out to the training center lately you need to pay it a visit as the county has been out and have been doing a lot of work for us. More drainage ditches have been cut, the veggie garden, and the citrus orchard spots has been retilled with their huge tiller, the citrus beds has been crowned and are nearly ready for planting. Hopefully this fall or early next spring the citrus will be planted.

Billy Heck has been on the tractor working in the veggie garden laying out rows for planting. He did an excellent job of doing this. Looks real professional. Thanks Billy.

The farmers market we host every Sat. morning is just going so so as we have not had the vendors that we had last year. There have been more buyers than produce available.

We have been closing up around 10 o'clock. We will be open for two more week ends.

If you want a cup of coffee and maybe a donut on Tue. or Fri. morn. come on out as the coffee pot is always full and you may even want to pull a weed or two. Stay cool.

## *Reflections of a Garden Goddess - by Lee Withers*

A few of my favorite things

Some of you may know that I LOVE using native plants. I started using natives somewhere about 1989-90 because we moved to a new house (actually 60 years old but new to us). I had matured in thinking process (difficult to imagine that) at least in regards to gardening. My passion for gardening started well before I married but now that I had two paychecks I began the spring fling – adding caladiums, marigolds, and impatiens. You know the usual spring annual offerings we have seen for many years. Well after disappointing results partly due to my lack of knowledge and the fact they were short-lived annuals that I was later to learn, I decided to expand my planting base and move to perennials. Of course, at that time I trusted what the guys at the nursery were telling me not knowing they were trying to sell their stock, especially the slow moving or more expensive plants. I had a somewhat better success with the perennials than the annuals, but still wasn't completely satisfied. Finally, I found a solution that was a bit more cost effective (much to my husband's surprise) and much more earth friendly. Natives

It all started when my brother got tired of hearing my complaints about some of my planting disasters that he recommended a book – Native Texas Plants by Sally and Andy Wasowski. This was the first of several books they have published on natives in different areas – South- Southwest-California. My absolute favorite is Gardening with Native Plants of the South. I went to bed reading this gardening book like some women read romance novels, dog-eared special pages, putting sticky notes on pages of special plants to find, and taking it nurseries to get them to order these plants. One of the best reasons I found to use natives was that once they were established they were drought tolerant, virtually disease resistant and may attracted butterflies and the other lovely fliers in the garden.

After doing all the research I could stand I finally began planting. That story is for another day but the plants I have used over the years starting with that first attempt have proven tried and true. What's also best about these natives is they usually don't like heavily amended soil.

1. Virginia Sweetspire – *Itea* – a grace arching shrub with oval like leave that are about 2-4 inches long depending on the variety. Look for Henry's Garnet- it's leaves turn a deep reddish maroon in the fall or try a dwarf variety. There are several varieties mostly developed according to size – small 18 in to 3ft, medium 3ft to 5ft, and large 4 to 6ft. All have graceful arching limbs but the most stunning part is the flower show in the spring. They become totally covered with white bushy tailed blooms from the end of winter until mid May, depending on the heat. I just love it when they are massed like that . The only way to kill them is to raise them up in a bed. They love the clay, a little too wet, a little too dry and down right horrible soil. Sally Wasowski actually wrote about how these are one of the few plants that will thrive in those ill planned brick planter boxes that the builders stick in front of older houses.

2. Grancy Grey Beard or Fringe Tree- I LOVE THIS TREE in the spring. The blooms really do hang as 2 to three inch fringe all over the tree. I loved this one house in Beaumont that had a 7 ft one in the courtyard of their house. I probably caused a few bad words and gestures aimed at me because you just couldn't help but slow down even on a busy street just to gawk at this tree in bloom. It was a big pom-pom. Grancy loves the love, shade, wet, dry and does fine in our clay or a raised bed. It will produce deep blue-purple drupes of fruit that birds love. It will bloom the same time as the dogwoods which don't like our humidity and soil. It will grow about 25 feet high but I have never seen one that tall.

3. Mexican Plum- another great small tree – It is one of our native plums and the fruit is deliciously edible, but small. It also blooms early in the spring and is heavenly fragrant. Once established it prefers it dry. Over watering is a death sentence. Another bonus of this small tree is the interesting bark texture. Because it is a plum, as the tree matures the gray bark splits and shows some reddish bark that is also on new growth. Plant this one in full sun.

4. Barbados Cherry – a plant of shrubby character. There is the regular variety or the dwarf one. Unless you want a large, screen up to 9 feet tall. Choose the dwarf variety, which can get up to 5 or 6 ft. The more you starve this plant the smaller it stays. The two feet tall plants that I transplanted from Beaumont from hardpan “concrete” clay to the raised bed in Friendswood are now 6ft tall. I love the tiny pink dogwood like blooms in the spring, which is followed by the small cherry fruit. I have read it is better eaten by us humans as a jelly than fresh, but the birds love it without all the processing.

5. Purple Coneflower – My absolute favorite native flower is not the bluebonnet but the purple coneflower. There are many species native throughout the Great Plains and the South depending on the pinkness and the width of the petal. Lynn Lowery, A Houstonian who was at the forefront of developing natives for the nursery trade brought the purple coneflower out the closet – so to speak for all of us to enjoy. Now there are white, orange and red varieties but to me nothing compares to the original. When planted in a mass and in bloom they are spectacular. They are drought tolerant when established, will clump out some over the years and are pretty much disease and creature resistant. I guess if some creature does munch on it, the bug will be very healthy since Purple coneflower is used in many herbal preparations to boost the immune system. Another positive note is that butterflies love to sit on its landing pad and drink the nectar.

6. Tall Coneflower – This is not actually a coneflower but a *rudbeckia maximillius*. It creates a large rosette of silver green gray leaves throughout the winter and in the spring and summer sends up spikes of yellow flowers with a blackish brown “hat”. This is the center of the flower where the seeds develop. As the center matures, it changes from pale green to dark brown. The flower spikes can shoot up to 6 ft and make excellent cut flowers. If you want more plants just cut the seed heads, dry a month or so and then sprinkle the seeds wherever you more plants. It will tolerate wet or dry conditions, poor or improved soil and full sun to part shade.

The flowers are very easy to find and the Barbados Cherry is almost as easy to locate in a nursery. Many of the better nurseries will have the Mexican Plum but if you want the others you will have to go to a nursery that specializes in Native plants. Be brave and try one or all. You might actually find out they you save money in the long run with reduced water usage, and chemicals.

May all your flowers bloom and your vegetables fruit

## News and Notes From the Coordinator...

By Paula Craig

Next time you venture to the Extension office, take time to stop and admire the front garden beds. Carole Wenny (with assistance from Ann McLain) has weeded, planted, mulched, painted and sweated her way through the overgrown jungle that was, transforming it into a source of pride and beauty. From the profusion of cosmos below to the burnished bark of the Natchez crepes above, Carole's garden draws the eyes and oohs and ahhhhs.

Open House June 2 was hot--and delicious. Lee Withers made some mouth-watering dishes with tomatoes and herbs. Just wish I had the recipes—hint hint. Sharon Trower did some canning and made some delectable veggie dishes--for which she provided recipes—and handed out door prizes. Ellen Pedisich showed everyone how to compost, Barbara and BeBe gave tours and Ray, Jesse and Pam answered gardening questions. Later this summer another open house will feature Barbara's tropical gardens.

EarthKind rose ratings began in May, with five or so volunteers helping to collect data. The roses are healthy, blooming and surviving the nine inches of recent rain. After six months, we will have enough data and observation to release a preliminary report on each variety's performance.

Now that we are officially a permanent fixture on County property, gardens are popping up, expanding and getting facelifts. The vegetable garden seems to be spreading like Kudzu. There are plans for native woodlands, wetlands and Gulf Coast prairie. The fruit orchard is under construction and the color beds are, well, colorful.

Come out, get the view and pull a weed.

## The Organic Gardener...

By Ellen Pedisich

It's Tuesday, June 12, 2007, and I'm writing this on a flight returning to Houston. I'm thinking of the organic gardening friends I visited in the last few weeks.

My friends, Delphi and Fortunato, live in Atina, Italy, on the west side of the Abruzzi Mountains near the famous monastery of Monte Casino. They have been gardening on their plot more than sixty years. Their gardens completely surround their house. Delphi has rows of rose bushes, grape vines, olive trees, fruit trees, artichokes, tulips, lettuce, and a weeping willow tree for making willow water to use when she propagates plants. Her vegetable garden is filled with staked tomatoes, beets, beans, onions, peppers, and basil. A river from the mountains flows nearby and Delphi and Fortunato have water rights to open the valves of their pipes on designated days to irrigate their plants and trees. They also have large containers of sheep and horse manure tea in different parts of their garden and Delphi fertilizes her plants with this tea. Fortunato cultivates the gardens and makes the wine. Their chickens eat insects as well as fruit and vegetable trimmings. Delphi cooked us a wonderful dinner of chicken soup, pasta with

tomato sauce, artichokes, olives, wine, and cookies. It was a heavenly delight. As my husband and I were leaving Atina, Delphi said, "I'll see you in paradise." I thought I was already in paradise.

Haiku

Harvest tomatoes.  
Then you make tomato sauce  
for Sunday dinner.

## The Inquiring Gardner...

By Ann McLain

This month the Inquiring Gardener has a question for you all. Usually when I am in a quandary over a plant issue, I pester the folks I see regularly at the Education Station. "How big does the giant Turk's cap grow? Should I thin out the branches on my very dense citrus? When should I sow seeds for Love-in-a-Mist?" Like that. It's probably no wonder people tend to duck behind bushes when they see me coming. But, anyway, this time I'm going to pester all of you. The topic is passion vines.

First, the set-up. A few years ago I bought a passion vine. The thing was named "Incense", and it was supposed to be "better behaved" than the wild Maypop. It was also supposed to be evergreen. I was pretty excited about this purchase. To a northerner, passion flowers are one of those gotta-be-tropical kinds of plants. Great big flowers, with the most amazing structure! The pictures in garden books just blow the northern mind. Unfortunately, reality can be a let-down.

The first thing I discovered about passion vines is that Gulf fritillary butterflies love them, and they like them best as a place for their hungry little caterpillars to chow down and grow up. In addition to baby butterflies, passion vines also seem to be prone to attack by mites and a variety of other sucking critters. In short, the leaves are often tattered and raggedy. It's not a plant to cherish for its handsome foliage.

Doesn't matter, I thought. I trained it on a wire fence positioned so that when I'm at my desk, the vine would block my view of the concrete lids of our septic system. From that distance I can see the butterflies but not the caterpillar damage. A perfect compromise.

But then reality checks in. First, the vine doesn't really do the job it was hired for. Supposed to be evergreen? Well, yes, up to a point. But sooner or later, each winter brings an overnight chill that nips the foliage, and from then until late April, the view that inspires me at my desk is the septic system and a bunch of dead stems.

And then there are those flowers. Yes, up close they really are spectacular. But somehow, from the distance of half way from my desk to the septic system, the flowers just don't do it. The color is insipid. So what we have is very little spectacle, and an imperfect screening plant on top of that. So what, we might say, it still benefits the butterflies. Yes, but

there's one more point. What we DO have here, is a world class pest plant, and I'm not so tolerant of that.

The first year or two, there were no problems. This year it apparently has gotten into gear, and is off and running. Remember that maypop Lee put in the herb garden a few years ago? Just like that. My vine is on a fence surrounded by lawn that is mowed regularly, but it has managed to sneak underground for fifteen feet and climb the house, and twenty feet in the other direction, headed for the row garden.

Having decided to fire it from its job for non-performance, I would have dug it up and put it somewhere else for the butterflies, but I couldn't think of anyplace safe. So last month I cut it down and painted the stump with herbicide. Of course, I was quite sure that wouldn't be the end of it; after all, Lee has been battling the root shoots of that long-departed maypop for two years now. And, sure enough, just this week I discovered that good old "Incense" was trying to climb our house again.

So the question is this. Have any of you grown a passion vine that didn't become a pest? There are many species and varieties available, and I might try again if there is a sedate one. So if you have had a good passion vine experience, please let us all know. I can't be the only gardener for whom hope springs eternal. Tell us what variety you have, what sort of area it's planted in, and how long you've had it. (It doesn't quite count as being sedate if you grow it in a hole in a sea of concrete, or if you just planted it this spring.) Or, if you have worked out a way to live with rampant passion, you might let us know about that, too.

## **News for MG's and MN....**

Jesse Knight has asked me to notify everyone that the vegetable garden plot has finally been tilled and is ready. The large plot will be divided into smaller ones for individuals interested in a small veggie garden. Anyone interested should contact Jesse at 979-235-8536. Keep in mind that your assigned plot will need to be maintained (weeded, etc). Simple records also need to be kept (i.e.- how did you amend the soil, etc). That's in case you have a great yield and everyone wants to know how you did it. If you are interested, please contact Jesse within the next few days. The committee will meet Tuesday to assign the plots.

The Adult Learning Leisure Program (ALLP) is run by BC for Senior Citizens. It is separate from the evening classes we have been teaching. It is a no charge class (BCMGA gets no money for this but whoever teaches does get the hours credit toward Recertification). The College has contacted our Volunteer VP to see if we would be interested in helping teach a gardening class.

These are one hour classes covering a six week period. The current class schedule is on Thursdays from 11:00 till 11:50. That would make the classes start on Oct 11 and end on Nov 15. The BC coordinator has said that other days and times could be accommodated but I think we should aim for the slot they already have scheduled.

Their first choice for the fall session is "Fall Pruning and Propagation" with the second choice being "Fall / Winter Vegetable Gardening". However, they will be happy with anything we are willing to teach.

If you are interested in teaching any one hour class, or three hour class spread over three class meeting, or, for that matter, one six hour class spread over six class meetings, please let me know. Don Gerard

# **Seven Secrets of Container Gardening**

**By Bailey Drayton**

## **Secret #1: Location, Location, Location**

Pick an area that needs highlighting or an area that needs to be concealed.

## **Secret #2: Container Selection**

Variety of containers is endless - there are oodles to choose from. Remember anything that holds soil can be a container so don't hesitate to recycle.

## **Secret #3: Fill It Up**

A potting mix that drains well is the most important ingredient to healthy container plants. **NEVER** use garden or topsoil alone in your containers. Plants in containers need a special growing medium.

## **Secret #4: Plant Selection and Design**

Drought-tolerant plants will be more forgiving if watering is a problem. Consider height and growing style as well as color combinations and foliage textures.

## **Secret #5: Maintenance**

When gardening in containers, it is important to remember that these plants need a little more care than those in a regular garden setting. Plants will need proper watering, feed, and old blossoms removed as needed.

## **Secret #6: Nothing Lasts Forever**

Annual container plants need to be replaced as the seasons change. For the perennials, make sure and protect them from the cold weather because a pot doesn't provide insulation like being planted in the ground.

## **Secret #7: Enjoy the Fruits of Your Labor**

Whatever your location, remember that it is your garden! Pots are mobile and you can change the theme as often as you like. Whether it is one pot or hundreds, you will have yearlong color and interest with container plants.

## **Four O'Clocks: (Mirabilis jalapa)**

**by Dr. William C. Welch, Landscape Horticulturist,  
Texas Cooperative Extension**

**F**elder Rushing, coauthor of *Passalong Plants*, says that four-o'clocks are a "can't fail perennial." Gardeners in colder climates utilize them as annuals, but in most of the South they develop fleshy tubers that seem to last forever. *Hortus Third* says that these tubers can weigh as much as 40 pounds in warm climates.

Dr. Alice Le Duc, now at Duke University, did her doctoral thesis on four-o'clocks and found that they were cultivated and selected for various colors by the Aztecs many years prior to the Spanish Conquest. They were sent to Spain from Mexico in the 1500's and to England within 75 years. The plant had been in cultivation in Europe for about 200 years before Linnaeus first described the species in 1753. The specimens he described were those of cultivated plants. Although often found in Mexico and the South on old garden sites, this species is no longer found in the wild in Mexico.

Four-o'clocks are lush and bushy to three feet. the tubular flowers bloom in iridescent purple, white, red, yellow and striped. Their name derives from the fact that their flowers open in the late afternoon and stay open until the next morning, except on cloudy days when they open earlier. The fragrance of four-o'clocks is appealing, and is a major reason for their popularity. They also attract hummingbirds and moths to the garden.



***Four O'Clocks at night***

Four-o'clocks are very heat and drought tolerant. They flower well in the sun or fairly dense shade. I remember visiting a cemetery on a ranch near Yoakum, Texas, where four-O'clocks were the only reminder of a once well-tended plot. They had escaped the small fenced area under a great live oak tree and were happily flowering in profusion during the hottest time of our summer.

Thomas Jefferson grew what he referred to as the "fragrant Marvel of Peru" at Monticello, where he also cultivated *M. longiflora*, a creamy-white flowering species native to West Texas and Mexico. A few years ago, while working with Peggy Cornett, Director of the Historic Plant Collection at Monticello, we were able to provide seeds of this plant to Monticello. It is once again growing there and is available through their mail order catalog.

Four-o'clocks may be easily started from seed or tubers. In colder parts of the country the tubers may be dug in the fall and stored until spring. They tend to produce a great deal of seed and can become pests, although the young seedlings are easily pulled or hoed. One year, I planted a number of magenta colored four-o'clocks at our farm and they had reseeded prolifically by early fall, covering an area about 6' x 20.' It was an unusually dry year and the young plants received no irrigation. They were wilted and stunted until the

first good fall rain when they miraculously freshened and covered themselves with flowers in just a few days. They were as showy as azaleas for that period, and I had a new appreciation for their old name "Marvel of Peru."

## ***Garden Checklist for June 2007***

*by Dr. William C. Welch*

Take a critical look at your landscape while at the height of summer development. Make notes of how you think it can be better arranged, plants that need replacement, overgrown plants that need to be removed, and possible activity areas that can be enjoyed by family members.

Check for insects and diseases. Destroy badly infested plants. Spider mites can be especially troublesome at this time. Select a chemical or organic control, or use insecticidal soap.

Supplemental irrigation is essential for many ornamental plants such as coleus, caladium, geranium, dahlia, azalea, and camellia during the hot, dry summer days ahead. Water lawn and garden thoroughly, but not too frequently. As a general rule, soak to a depth of 8 inches. Finish watering by early afternoon, to lessen the chance of disease.

During the summer, soil moisture becomes extremely important and essential for good plant production. Because continual watering is oftentimes costly and time consuming, it pays to conserve the moisture around plants. This is best done by mulching. A good mulch will retain valuable moisture needed for plant growth, and improve overall gardening success. Mulches are usually applied 2 to 6 inches deep, depending on the material used. In general, the coarser the material, the deeper the mulch. For example, a 2-inch layer of cottonseed hulls will have about the same mulching effect as 6 inches of oat straw or 4 inches of coastal Bermuda hay.

There is still time to plant some of the colorful, heat-tolerant summer annuals. Direct-seed zinnias and portulaca, and purchase plants of periwinkle, salvia, marigold, and purslane. Be sure to water transplants as needed until roots become established.

Removing faded flowers from plants before they set seed will keep them growing and producing flowers. A light application of fertilizer every 4 to 6 weeks will also be helpful.

House plants can be moved out of doors this month. Sink the pots in a cool, shaded garden bed to prevent them from drying out so quickly; water pots, container plants, and hanging baskets often. Monthly feedings with house plant fertilizer will encourage continued growth.

Now is the time to plan for next spring. Consider digging and dividing any crowded spring bulbs. Once the bulbs have matured and the foliage has turned brown, it is

time to spade them up and thin out the stand. Crowded bulbs produce fewer and smaller blooms. They usually need thinning every 3 to 4 years.

June is the time to select daylily varieties as they reach their peak of bloom. + Fertilize roses every 4 to 6 weeks. Apply a high-nitrogen fertilizer immediately after a flush of bloom.

Continue to spray susceptible roses with a black-spot control such as Funginex every 7 to 10 days.

Re-blooming salvias, such as *Salvia greggii* and *S. Farinacea*, should be pruned back periodically during the summer. To make the job easier, use hedging shears, and remove only the spent flowers and a few inches of stem below. Fall-blooming perennials, such as Mexican marigold mint (*Tagetes lucida*), chrysanthemums, physostegia, and *Salvia leucantha*, should be pruned in the same manner during the summer to keep them compact, reducing the need for staking. This type of pruning should be completed prior to September 1, since flower buds begin forming about that time.

## **PLANT EXCHANGE at the Education Station July 10th**

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| <b><u>2007Calendar of Events:</u></b><br>July 10 Monthly Meeting at the<br>Education Station | NEWS... |
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**Happy June Birthday Wishes**  
**Don Bush 4th**  
**Glenn Comiskey 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**James Smith 16th**

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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