

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

***The BCMGA Newsletter***

**Heather Vincent, Editor**

**February, 2008**

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## **Barbara Gene Ross**

**September 12, 1937 ~ February 10, 2008**

Mrs. Ross passed away Sunday, February 10, 2008 in Lake Jackson. She was born September 12, 1937 in Alvin, Texas to William & Bertha Mienke. She was an avid gardener & President of the Brazoria County Master Gardeners Assoc.

Her parents & husband Gardner Ross preceded her in death.

Survivors include her sons; Charles Ross & wife Cynthia of Alvin & Michael G. Ross & wife Theresa of Marshall.

Sister; Penny Anderson & husband Ronel of Alvin

Grandchildren; Zachary K. Ross of Ca., Gabriella G Ross & Jade W. Ross of Alvin, Amy Brunson of Ohio, Michael Gene Gardner Ross of Katy, Sandy Lyn Ross of Habblock Germany & Brandi Hasting of Marshall.

Honorary Pallbearers will be Members of the Master Gardeners Assoc.

In lieu of usual remembrances donations may be made in Barbara's name to the Brazoria County Master Gardeners Association 21017 CR 171 Angleton, Texas 77515

# Evidence that Barbara Ross touched us all...

**A personal note about Barbara Ross:**

**I took the Master Gardener classes in early 2005 and immediately started working at the Education Station. I've always been interested in tropicals, so I started helping Barbara maintain that bed. I think she was surprised that I kept going out there and always helping in the tropical bed. So it didn't take long and we became good friends. Carole Wenny and I used to go over to Barbara's house on most Friday's and some Tuesday's after working at the Education Station. We would often have cheese and crackers all washed down with lots of white wine. Gosh we solved so many of the world's problems. It didn't take long to realize what a great person she was; so full of life and so dedicated to the Master Gardeners and the Education Station. She had so much energy that she kept lots of us busy. She also loved to move plants around – we moved so many plants I had to constantly update the map we made of the garden. She had great plans to improve our association and make our demonstration gardens a great show place.**

**Her sudden loss was a great blow to me. It is not easy to lose somebody you care about. I actually had a dream about Barbara on that dark Sunday that we all got the news. I dreamed that she had found Butch, her beloved husband, in the afterlife and she was smiling and happy. When I woke up Monday I felt that maybe Barbara was in a better place and I was being selfish for not wanting her to go there.**

**Ed Barrios**

**Barbara was an avid republican and very active in the republican party. She thought everyone should be active in politics including me. I told her I wasn't interested in politics because I thought all politicians were crooks and if they were not crooks when they entered office they were soon there after. She half-way grinned and said, "Yes, but they're my crooks".**

**Carol Farmer**

**I met Barbara Ross in 1995 at our first BCMG training class. She and Gwen Collins came in together and sat quietly at the very back table. That was probably the last time I ever saw Barbara sit quietly anywhere. She soon had us involved in beautifying the Brazoria County Fair grounds and so on and so on. Once we were invited to use the greenhouse facilities, we tip-toed around the grounds, afraid to make additions lest we upset someone. Not Barbara. She put in her "blue" flower bed, then her "yellow" flower bed and just kept on moving. Barbara dared when myself and others would have sat quietly by. She probably stepped on all of our toes more than once but she did get things done and went right on to the next project. I am very proud to have known her and called her friend. I will miss Barbara very much.**

**Donie Stowers**

When I first met Barbara Ross, she scared me silly. As we all know, she felt strongly about many things, and she did not suffer fools gladly. But as I weeded my way around the Education Station, I began to realize that she was a gifted gardener, a funny lady, a helpful and giving person, and a true original.

As we began to get acquainted, she sometimes referred to me as “the Yankee”, and she was certainly a proud daughter of Brazoria County, but I think it surprised both of us to find that we had a lot in common. Sometimes, while working on the beds, she reminisced about growing up as a farm kid in Texas (which, it turned out, was not so different from farm life in Ohio, except for those copperheads).

And she certainly knew her plants. I like to use scientific names, and Barbara often refused to do so. But once we agreed on the identity of a plant, Barbara’s knowledge and experience was like consulting a book on growing stuff in coastal Texas. Only better than a book; you could ask questions.

I remember the beginning of the tropical garden in what once was a sheep pen. Barbara had a crew of us crawling around trying to install landscape cloth in a tortured, twisted pattern. I thought then it was too twisty to work, but Barbara was right, as I discovered she usually was. Once planted, the layout looked good from the beginning; it’s amazing now.

Barbara Ross was one smart lady, she had a great sense of humor, and she was always happy to help however she could. I know I’m going to miss her.

Ann McLain

10 years ago as an intern I had signed up to complete some of my volunteer hours with Barbara at the fairgrounds. We arrived early on those days, so it was not too hot to work, the county had four or five inmates that came out to help us. We pruned shrubs, planted flowers, pulled weeds, talked about the diseases of some of the existing plants and of course mulched the beds. All of this teaching she was doing was not only for me but for the inmates. They enjoyed the outside work and had some good questions for us throughout the day. The thing that has stuck with me over time about these days was that Barbara had gone to the grocery store before coming to the fairgrounds and had purchased I think at least one package of every type of cookie on the shelf. We took a couple of breaks from our gardening chores, had cookies and sodas and when the work day was done, Barbara insisted that the inmates take all of the cookies back with them. I feel the inmates really appreciated her generosity and I have a great memory of Barbara.

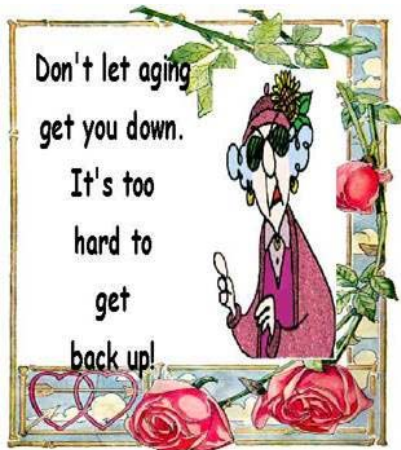
Cheryl Vining

I want to say something about Barbara Ross other than the obvious, that she was warm, loving, gracious, helpful, and caring. She was one of my many mentors whose advice I anxiously sought. She was out-spoken about her most heartfelt desires, sometimes gruff, determined to accomplish the things most important to her. Barbara was fun loving, down to earth, (literally – as most of us have witnessed her muddy knees), a creator of beauty, and a true friend. I’ll miss many things. A glass of wine in her beautiful back yard, or walking with her through her beautiful tropics. But one of the

things I'll miss most about her is her humor. I will never be able to sit down at my computer without thinking of her. Because, the first thing I look for is a joke or two from Barbara and Carole Farmer. I know that she loved to laugh along with me at the political as well as the "slightly raunchy" jokes we exchanged, and I can picture her scanning her emails for the latest goodies. So, at the risk of being a little "raunchy" myself, here are a couple of samples of the things we loved to laugh about. This was "Typical Barbara".

Debbie Soderman

## **Old Ain't For Sissies!!!!**



**I'm in your garden.  
I think of your legacy:  
Wonders of Nature.**

Ellen Pedisich

**A golden heart stopped beating  
Hard working hands were put to rest  
The work needs to continue  
For there is so much left to do  
It will take us all united together  
To complete a dear friend's dreams**

Beverly Straughan

## **Everyday Memories**

When we were asked to write a few thoughts about Barbara, I tried to remember what stood out the most. Was it the first time I met her at a Master Gardeners meeting, before I took the course, and she took me under her wing? Was it the day she told me to get out of her house because I called her a “hot head”? Was it the day I confronted her, crying because she hurt my feelings? Or was it all the in between times we called each other because something new was blooming or I finally got a seed to germinate or something was bothering one of us. All of the above and many, many more. She has been removed from my speed dial, but not from my heart, and especially not from my everyday memories.

Barbara Brown

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

### **Saying goodbye...**

This has and will be the hardest column for me to write. I have sat at my computer several times attempting to get started on this but never seeming to have the heart or the right words to do it. I have lost loved ones before and people I have admired but somehow losing Barbara is different. It's not just the suddenness, which has happened before, also, but something more. I guess it is due to the fact that I wasn't ready to let her go. I still had much more to learn from her and not just about gardening.

There are people that I believe are placed in your life to help you see yourself in a different way and Barbara did just that. She was a leader before she held any office in Brazoria County Master Gardener Association. When I first began going out to the greenhouse I knew right away who the head honcho was. She ramrodded the whole shooting match except for the actual greenhouse. I have seen her shovel crushed granite, spread mulch, dig ditches and holes, clean toilets, load her truck with all the trash, wash the dishtowels, paint, and sweat like a dog and aptly apply lipstick. And that is just a short list.

She never apologized when she knew she was right and I for one am SO glad I was on her right side. I was ever so happy when she included me in her email forwardings. I sent them on to my mother but only after I wiped the tears from laughing so hard I cried. Barbara took me under her wing but let me do what I wanted at the same time, all the while quietly pushing me towards more of a leadership role myself. She casually mentioned that she had wanted an Herb Garden and let me run with it. Any time I asked her if this idea was okay, she would fervently remind me this was my baby and to do what I wanted to do. Because of her influence I ventured into the World of Tropicals leaving my comfort zone for a taste of the exotic, which in my opinion also could be Barbara, down home, earthy but loved her heels.

Barbara was a dominant force in this group and I miss her every day. Now it's up to us to show her she trained us well.



**WE WILL MISS YOU BARBARA**

# News...

Comments from the President.....

Our February general meeting was a somber event given the tragic loss of our president, Barbara Ross. We lost a good friend, we lost a good gardener and we lost a good leader and she will be sorely missed.

At the board meeting it was decided to rename the Tropical Garden in honor of Barbara. We are also going to commission Larry Lewis to create a piece of art to be placed at the entrance to the Garden. It was also decided to dedicate the February newsletter to Barbara and members would be asked to contribute stories about her.

I am looking forward to working with all of you to continue to improve our demonstration gardens at the Education Station, increase public awareness and involvement and make our association widely recognized as a valuable asset to Brazoria County. Our association has made remarkable improvements over the last few years. We all should be proud that we have:

- Significantly increased our public programs,
- Added a huge vegetable garden,
- Added a blackberry and grape vineyard,
- Doubled the size of the Tropical garden,
- Revamped the herb garden,
- Almost completed a large citrus and fruit orchard,
- Added an Earthkind® Rose garden,
- Almost completed a rainwater harvesting system,
- Added a state of the art weather station
- Assigned teams to own, plan and maintain all our gardens
- Constructed large work tables and repotting tables.

It is also amazing that all this has been done with basically the same number of members!!

Finally, I know that some of you cannot work at the Education Station on a regular basis because of work, children, grandchildren or other conflicts. However you can still make a contribution to the association. Please contact any board member or myself, there are lots of ways you can help.

Ed Barrios





# Carnivorous Plants



Carnivorous plants have long been subjects of popular entertainment, interest, myths and folklore. Most of these profiles are highly inaccurate, as evidenced from an article written in 1887 in *Land and Sea* by J. W. Buel, where he reported a native being eaten by a "Ya-te-veo" (I can see you) carnivorous tree supposedly growing in Central America to a more recent black comedy produced in 1960, *The Little Shop of Horrors*, where Audrey Junior consumed everyone in reach.

True carnivory is thought to have evolved in at least 10 separate lineages of plants. These are now represented by more than a dozen genera in five families. These include about 625 species that attract and trap prey, produce digestive enzymes, and absorb the resulting available nutrients. Additionally, over 300 protocarnivorous plant species in several genera show some but not all these characteristics. Texas has many carnivorous plants growing mostly in the piney woods of East Texas. These can be found on a web site <http://carnivorousplantsoftexas.org>.

Carnivorous plants, also called insectivorous plants, are plants that derive some or most of their nutrients from trapping and digesting insects and protozoans. Carnivorous plants usually grow in places where the soil is very poor in nutrients, especially nitrogen, as in acidic bogs or in rock outcroppings.

Carnivorous plants are classified by their trapping mechanisms. These consist of traps that may be active or passive, depending on whether the movement aids the capture of prey. The five basic trapping mechanisms are pitfall, flypaper, snap, bladder, lobster-pot.

Most carnivorous plants have common requirements. Rain water or water that has been distilled, deionized by reverse osmosis, or acidified to around a pH of 6.5 using sulfuric acid. Common tap or drinking water contains minerals and chemicals that will quickly build up and kill the plants. Most true carnivorous plants require 15 hours of sunlight to grow and thrive. When they do not get the required light they go into a dormancy until the light returns. Most require high humidity and soil with poor nutrients or no soil at all. Rocks or marbles can be used to support the plant as long as the roots can get water.

Despite the name, carnivorous plants will not control the pest population around your place. The best they can do is lure pests away from the "living" area of your home by the scents they emit to attract "food",



BYLAWS  
for the

BRAZORIA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION, **INCORPORATED**

ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this Association shall be the Brazoria County Master Gardener Association, **Incorporated**, hereinafter referred to as the “Association.”

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

The Association shall operate exclusively as a voluntary, non-profit, educational, literary, and charitable association in support of and in cooperation with the programs of the **Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE)**, an agency of the Texas A&M University System. Its objectives shall be:

- A. to support local Master Gardener volunteers in Brazoria County and surrounding areas
- B. to provide a centralized base for information exchange among the members of the Association; and
- C. to organize and support the distribution of horticultural information and assistance provided to the general public

ARTICLE III – ADDRESS

The address of the Association shall be as follows:

Brazoria County Master Gardener Association, **Inc.**  
Brazoria County Extension Office  
**21017 C.R. 171**  
Angleton, TX 77515

ARTICLE IV – DURATION

For all intents and purposes, this Association shall be considered perpetual. In the event of dissolution, **disposition** of all assets shall **be in accordance with Article 1396-6.01 of the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and by a majority vote of the Association membership.**

ARTICLE V – AFFILIATION

SECTION 1. TCE

The Association is closely affiliated with the **TCE**, the Brazoria County Extension Office and the Texas Master Gardener Association, which provide the initial and continuing training for members of the Association.

SECTION 2. COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE

This Association shall not be affiliated with any commercial enterprise for the profit of an individual member or group of members.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP

A. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Any individual residing in Brazoria County or any adjoining county is eligible for individual Membership in the Association after satisfactory completion of an approved Texas Master Gardener Training Course as defined in the **TCE's Master Gardener Management Handbook. Any individual residing in Brazoria County or an adjoining county who provides evidence of holding certified Master Gardener status in an Extension sponsored and approved Master Gardener Training Program in another county or state for Membership in the Association.**

**B. INTERIM MEMBERSHIP**

Any individual residing in Brazoria County or an adjoining county who provide evidence of satisfactory completion of an approved Master Gardener Training Program is eligible for Interim Membership in the Association. Such individuals shall complete **60** hours of approved volunteer endeavors in support of educational programs and activities sponsored by the Association within one (1) year from the date of attaining Interim Membership. Individuals holding Interim Membership shall have all the privileges accorded Individual Membership except they cannot vote nor hold an elected position. Upon completion of 60 hours of approved volunteer endeavors within one year from the date of attaining Interim Membership, an individual is eligible for Individual Membership and thereafter shall have all the privileges accorded an Individual Membership including voting and holding an elected position.

**C. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP**

Individuals may be nominated by members of the Association for special recognition as “Honorary Members” in the Association based on their past and ongoing cooperation with and/or support for the Association. Honorary Members will have all privileges of an Individual Membership except they may not vote. Honorary Memberships shall be approved by a simple majority vote of members present at a regular monthly meeting.

**D. EMERITUS STATUS**

**“Texas Master Gardener Emeritus” is an honorary title awarded to a Master Gardener volunteer as distinguished service to Texas Cooperative Extension. Nominations for emeritus status are limited to certified Texas Master Gardeners who have ceased service. Awards are made in December of each year, conferred at the appropriate county event. Emeritus status may be bestowed posthumously.**

**SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

Eligibility for membership shall be made without discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, income, marital status, disability or national origin.

**SECTION 3. IMPROPER INFLUENCE**

No member shall use their position with the Association to further the manufacture, distribution, promotion or sale of any material, products or service in which they have either a direct or indirect financial interest.

**SECTION 4. MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING**

Member “In Good Standing” shall be those individual members who have paid their annual dues. The official roster shall be established as the members “In Good Standing” as of the date of the monthly meeting in April.

**SECTION 5. RECERTIFICATION**

**In order to maintain certified status, Members will participate in six (6) hours of Advanced Training and twelve (12) hours of volunteer service annually.**

**SECTION 6. CODE OF CONDUCT**

**Member will sign the Code of Conduct in Appendix 1 of the Bylaws. Failure to abide by the Code shall result in dismissal from the Association.**

**ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**SECTION 1. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION**

**A. OFFICERS**

The Officers of the Association will be elected by a simple majority vote by the members present at a Regular monthly meeting and will be President, First Vice-President for Projects and Volunteers, Second Vice-President for Programs and Education. Secretary, and Treasurer. The officers must be **certified Master Gardeners**. The officers will be elected to a term of one year and can stand for re-election. Additional officer positions may be developed upon approval of a simple majority vote of the membership present at a regular monthly meeting.

**B. PURPOSE**

The Officers of the Association consisting of the elected Officers shall be responsible for the day to day functions of the Association. The Officers of the Association will meet in executive session **one (1) hour** prior to the start of the regular monthly meetings.

**C. ADVISORS**

A staff member of the Brazoria County Extension office of the **TCE** with horticultural or related duties shall serve as Advisor to the Officers of the Association.

**D. QUORUM**

A quorum of the Officers of the Association shall consist of not less than 50 percent of the duly elected Officers. All questions shall be decided by a simple majority vote of those voting unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws.

**E. SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

In the event an officer is unable to perform the duties of office for three (3) or more consecutive monthly meetings, that officer shall be replaced by Special Election.

**F. COMPENSATION**

All officers will serve without compensation.

**ARTICLE VIII – DIRECTORS AND ALTERNATE DIRECTORS**

**SECTION 1. DIRECTORS**

**A. DIRECTORS**

**Directors and alternate Directors** to the State Master Gardener Association's quarterly meetings will be elected for a one (1) year term by a simple majority vote by the members present at a regular monthly meeting.

**B. PURPOSE**

1. Serve as duly elected representatives of the Association at all meetings of the Texas Master Gardener Association.
2. Report to the members of the Association all pertinent information and activities of the Texas Master Gardener Association.

**C. COMPENSATION**

**Directors will be reimbursed for registration fees related to attendance at state meeting**

**ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS**

The regular meetings of the Association shall be conducted the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) Tuesday evening of each month. Meetings are to begin at seven (7:00) o'clock p.m. A notification of a change in meeting date or time must be given to the members of the Association at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

**ARTICLE X – ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Officers of the Association are to be elected at the November monthly meeting by a simple majority of members of the Association present.

**SECTION 2. SLATE OF CANDIDATES**

A Nominating Committee will be selected by the President at the monthly meeting in **September** to propose a slate of nominees to fill positions for Officers of the Association, **to be presented at the October meeting**, and to be elected by the membership present at the regular monthly meeting in November. Nominations from the floor shall also be accepted from individual members.

### SECTION 3. INSTALLATION

All duly elected officers and Directors will be installed at the regular monthly meeting in December.

### SECTION 4. TERM OF OFFICE

Officers and Directors will, after proper qualification, election and installation, assume their respective offices and duties of the positions thereof, unless specified in the Bylaws for a term of one year, from January 1 to December 31.

### SECTION 5. SUSPENSION/REMOVAL OF AN OFFICER OR DELEGATE

A simple majority of the Officers of the Association shall have the authority to call an emergency meeting of the members of the Association to suspend or remove any Officer or Director from their duties for which they find just cause in the best interest of the Association. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present at a duly called emergency meeting will be required to remove or suspend any Officer or Delegate from office. The notice for the emergency meeting must specifically state that such action is to be considered and reasons for such action. The notice shall be provided to all members of the Association and the respective Officer or Delegate at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting.

## ARTICLE XI – DUTIES

The officers of the Association with their duties shall be:

#### A. PRESIDENT

1. Preside at all meetings of the Association
2. Appoint a Chairperson or Coordinator for each active Standing and Special Committee.
3. Create and dissolve committees as determined by the Officers of the Association.
4. Be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.
5. Work with the Treasurer on the budget.
6. Appoint a three (3) member audit committee, consisting of non-office holding members.

#### B. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEERS

1. Preside at meetings in the absence of the President
2. Attend committee meetings at the request of the President.

#### C. VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMS AND EDUCATION

1. Establish a calendar of educational programs, gardens tours and events for the monthly meeting of the Association.
2. Advisor to committees responsible for educational programs for the citizens of area committees.
3. Attend committee meetings at the request of the President.

#### D. SECRETARY

1. Responsible for **recording and reading of the minutes of all meetings of the Association and providing copies to the Master Gardener Coordinator.**
2. Responsible for the safekeeping of all official documents of the Association.
3. Responsible for the attendance records for all meetings.

#### E. TREASURER

1. The Treasurer shall establish procedures for receipt and disbursement of all funds for establishment of accounts and any other matters consistent with sound financial management. These procedures shall be approved by the Officers of the Association.
2. Pay all bills upon receipt of a written statement and proof of purchase.
3. Present a financial report at each monthly meeting.
4. Present all fiscal records for the most recent **full calendar year** of the Association to the President at the regular monthly meeting each January for an annual audit by the audit committee.
5. Work with the President, Vice Presidents, President elect **and committee chairs** to develop a budget to be approved by **December** of the prior fiscal year by a simple majority vote of the executive committee.
6. Arrange for presentation of appropriate tax documents.
7. Work with the **Volunteer Activity Coordinator** to keep the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all members current and correct. Provide the Volunteer Activity Coordinator with the

necessary information of members “In Good Standing” after the regular monthly meeting in April.

8. **Provide official membership status to the Texas Master Gardeners Association with appropriate dues, in February.**

## ARTICLE XII – COMMITTEES

### SECTION 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSONS

All Chairpersons for active committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Officers of the Association.

### SECTION 2. STANDING POSITIONS

#### A. VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY COORDINATOR

1. The Volunteer Activity Coordinator shall work with the Vice-Presidents to provide staffing for events and activities.
2. Chair and staff a committee to contact members about volunteer opportunities.
3. Maintain the records of hours worked.
4. Work with the staff at the TCE to identify volunteers to assist the County Agents in performance of their duties.
5. Work with the Treasurer to maintain a current list of members’ names, addresses and telephone numbers.
6. Provide general membership with a current list of active membership at the May meeting.

#### B. NEWSLETTER EDITOR

1. The Newsletter Editor shall create and provide a newsletter **monthly** to the individual members of the Association.
2. **The Newsletter Editor shall coordinate with the Website Editor and Publicity Director on calendar updates.**

#### C. WEBSITE EDITOR

**The Website Editor shall coordinate with the Newsletter Editor and the Brazoria County Master Gardener Coordinator to maintain a calendar of events, copies of current and past newsletter, and other information relevant to Master Gardeners and the gardening public**

#### D. AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The Audit Committee consists of a three (3) member committee appointed **by the Association President** each January.
2. Committee members will be non-officers of the Association.
3. The Committee will perform an annual audit of all fiscal records for the **most recent calendar year and report findings to the President at the February executive meeting.**

#### E. PUBLICITY COORDINATOR

1. **Coordinate with the Newsletter Editor, Website Editor and Brazoria County Master Gardener Coordinator.**
2. Establish and maintain a list of newspapers, radio and TV stations, and other media outlets to publicize all events and activities.
3. Prepare news releases for distribution to area media, reporting the educational programs and activities sponsored by the Association.

#### F. HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

1. The Hospitality Coordinator shall establish and maintain the necessary supplies for refreshments and meals at the monthly meetings **and Master Gardener trainings.**
2. **Recruit** volunteers to bring refreshments to training meetings and regular monthly meetings.

#### G. ADULT EDUCATION COORDINATOR.

1. **Coordinate with the Newsletter Editor, Publicity Coordinator, Website Editor and the Brazoria County Master Gardener Coordinator.**

2. Develop educational programs to be presented quarterly at the County Extension Office or other designated sites for continuing adult education of the general public on horticulture and horticulture-related programs.
3. Responsible for coordinating volunteer involvement for public events such as Earth Day, Arbor Day, etc.

#### **H. VOLUNTEER TRAINING COORDINATOR**

1. **Recruit speakers for New Master Gardener training classes.**
2. **Confirm speaker engagements in writing.**
3. **Arrange for equipment set-up, copies of handouts and other speaker needs.**

#### **SECTION 3. SPECIAL POSITIONS**

Special positions and committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Officers of the Association to address matters of special or emergency interest or concerns to the Association.

#### **ARTICLE XIII – FINANCE**

##### **SECTION 1. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year for the Association shall be from January 1 to December 31.

##### **SECTION 2. DUES**

Annual dues must be remitted to the Treasurer to remain a member “In Good Standing.” The President and Treasurer shall review the budget annually and propose, as may be necessary, a change in the annual dues for the consideration and vote of the members present at the February meeting. A simple majority vote of members present at the regular monthly meeting shall be required to establish a change in the annual dues.

#### **ARTICLE XIV – RULES OF ORDER**

Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the authority on all questions of parliamentary procedure not covered by the Bylaws set herein.

#### **ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members of the Association present at a regular monthly meeting.

A notice and printed copy of all proposed amendments to the Bylaws must be presented to the members of the Association at a regular monthly meeting for their consideration at least twenty-one (21) days prior to a vote by the members of the Association present at a regular monthly meeting.

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Bylaws approved by the Master Gardeners of Brazoria County membership present at the November 14, 2006 monthly meeting.

## **January’s Weather from the Education Station...**

By Ted Jagen

High Temp.: 77.8 deg. on the 6<sup>th</sup> Low Temp.: 27.5 deg. on the 3<sup>rd</sup>

Max. Wind: 33 mph (WNW) on the 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. Rain: 9.07 in.!!!!

Chill Hours (season to 1/31): 302 hrs Jan. Below Freezing: 14 hrs



**Happy February Birthday's**  
**Candace Novak 21<sup>st</sup>**  
**Gwen Collins 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**2008 Events:**

**March....**

11th BCMGA Meeting - Speaker DiAnna Munson Topic:  
Carnivorous Plants

**April....**

8th BCMGA Meeting  
19th Spring Plant Sale

**May...**

13th BCMGA Meeting  
31st Farmer's Market Every Saturday thru the end of June

**June...**

7th Farmer's Market  
10th BCMGA Meeting  
14th Farmer's Market  
21st Farmer's Market  
28th Farmer's Market

**July...**

8th BCMGA Meeting

**August...**

12th BCMGA Meeting

**September...**

9th BCMGA Meeting

**October...**

14th BCMGA Meeting

**November...**

11th BCMGA Meeting

**December...**

9th BCMGA Meeting

**NEWS AND NOTES:**

Master Gardeners,  
The Brazoria County Hurricane Preparedness event will be held May 31 in Lake Jackson and June 7 in Alvin. Volunteers are needed to do food booths--something inexpensive and easily handled. Other groups are doing hot dogs and nachos. Sharon Trower has the list. If any of you would be interested in contributing, please contact me or Sharon. We have a budget so expenses would be covered. Attendance is expected to be huge and we are doing fun and games for the kids, so expect a lot of families.

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR BCMGA  
MEMBERS**

Gil Livanec will be getting information together soon for next year's fruit tree sale, and this will include orders for the membership. Gil will accept member orders at our April meeting. These orders will be delivered next spring along with the fruit tree sale material.

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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