

Brazoria County Master Gardeners

Newsletter

May 2013

VOL. #3 ISSUE #1



BEES Garden
2011/2012

2012 Year in Review

It's amazing how many improvements keep happening every year. I'd like to recap some. And apologies because I know I'll miss something.

Highlights:

A new website manager has really improved the site and kept it up to date with the latest information

The veggie greenhouse was completed and has already been a valuable addition. The greenhouse was used to grow many of our seedlings sold at the citrus sale and at quite a handsome profit.

We applied for and received a check from Kroger's for \$6,550 for additions to the Enabling Garden. We used the money to buy pavers that are now under the entrance pergola and will be placed inside the seating area early next year. Wow didn't our building crew do a great job on that pergola? It's a stunning entrance structure and I think the MS society will be impressed when they see it.

We had a successful Fruit tree sale in pouring rain. We were all shocked at the fact that we made almost as much money as in the previous year in spite of the downpour.

Our Spring plant sale was good with many, many members helping out for the cause but profits continue a gradual slide. But that trend has invigorated many of our newer members. A

*"Keep your faith in beautiful things; in the sun when it is hidden,
in the Spring when it is gone." - Roy R. Gibson*



new plant sale team has come up with some great new ideas to get our sale back to historical profit levels. Watch out next Spring, we might set a profit record!

Wow, have you seen the progress on the Rose garden? It's looking like we hired profession landscapers. What a great addition to our gardens. It looks great now and there is not one plant in it yet!

Our building crew replaced the rotting bridges and made wonderful new bridges for the Tropical Garden. Looks very showy and professional. After hurricane Ike our sign by Hospital road was knocked down. Now we have a new sign promoting our beautiful gardens.

Road and Bridge, Precinct 2, did a great job putting down crushed asphalt on the parking lot and on the road inside our garden area. It is a much needed improvement and makes the place look much better.

One of our newer members looked at the bed on the west side of the office building and said "we can do

2012 Year in Review

Cont'd.



better". So now we have a Texas Superstar garden! It's just been planted so watch out next year when things really get established and showy.

Another new member made a new bed on the east of the office.

The new interns have taken over the bed in front, south side, of the office building. It is looking so good now! For us old timers, it used to be an eyesore.

Thanks to a donation from 2 of newer members and help from our building crew, we have completed 3 beautiful picnic tables and one more to go. It's a great addition and will be important when we start having school groups come visit the gardens.

Also some of our newer members have donated benches around the tree by our well head. It has made a great difference in making our grounds look beautiful and well kept. Thanks to those that helped with this.

One of our building crew decided we needed limestone in our tropical garden to stop the weeds. Well during one work day, the entire garden was covered and padded down. It looks so much better and the weeds have really been in

"Surely as cometh the Winter, I know
There are Spring violets under the snow."
- R. H. Newell



2012 Year in Review

Cont'd.



check. The tropical garden owners can spend much more time on cultivating the plants now than just spending mucho time weeding. YEA! Our new beautiful training center this year had the following:

- Members painted the bathrooms
- Members added window blinds
- Added a projection screen
- Installed cabinets by the bathroom and a sink is planned for 2013

- Hosted a lunch for the county workers

- Hosted an Ecofest, a Citrus Tasting and a few other open house programs

Our building crew installed a much needed, second shade house.

One of our plumeria lovers expanded the garden and now there are 3 beds dedicated to those beautiful plants!

The last couple of intern classes have resulted in so many active, enthusiastic members with great new ideas. It's such a joy to see new members invigorating the association.

Many of our members are aging and a few and/or their spouses are fighting cancer and other ailments. We all pray for a good resolution to these problems. We miss members who have been active for years and then have slowly fade away because of their health or their loved ones health. Finally I've been President for 5 years. Until the December meeting I honestly didn't realize I was in for so long. But I have to say I enjoyed it! I'm so proud of what has been accomplished. Our gardens and facilities are in better shape than they've ever been. There have been so many improvements in infrastructure, gardens and procedures I'm amazed. I also want to thank all of those that who were always there for me and willing to tell me good and bad things and how I should improve. Now with a new president, I encourage you to always give feedback to him or to another board member. We can't continue to improve as an association without honest feedback to the leadership. We are roughly a 100 member team. Of course there will be conflicts but we have to always remember our goal as an association: Be the best MG association providing the best gardens and best help to Brazoria county as we can!!

Ed Barrios

*Away in a meadow all covered with snow
The little old groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late."
- Don Halley*

ANNUAL CITRUS SALE! BY Jim Molony

The 2013 Brazoria County Master Gardeners Citrus and Fruit Tree Sale at the extension office parking lot in Angleton proved to be one of the organization's best as sales were as brisk as the weather but the process went smoothly judging by comments from shoppers and sale volunteers alike.

Once again BCMG offered a wide selection of tree choices, and many of the offerings gone by 10 a.m. despite hundreds of the more popular varieties for the area and hard to find varieties. Also on sale were scores of vegetable seedlings, including heirloom and non-heirloom tomatoes, determinate and indeterminate tomatoes and various pepper plants.

Financially the sale was a big success, as results included gross income of \$38,098 plus \$17,43 in vegetable plant sales for a net of \$16,000, or \$4,000 more than budgeted.



Congratulations and a well done to all who worked so hard to make this year's citrus sale a success.



This six-year-old shopper (Kate Molony of Pearland) checks out the Satsuma tree

Brazoria County Master Gardener Dana Morisse Arnold helped shoppers with their olive tree questions.





2013 is a great time to be a Master Gardener. A fairly mild winter has caused us all to jump the gun and get our hands in the dirt early. Our gardens are looking better than ever before and improving daily. A new Board has taken office with some new folks stepping to take their turn and do their part alongside of some veterans who are continuing to serve. Many thanks to the retiring Board. We will try to live up to the standards you guys and gals set for us.

The Rose Garden is finishing up and is spectacular. The Rose Garden crew is to be congratulated on their work. The Rose Garden is sure to be one of the showcase garden attractions as we get more visitors. The plans for the final push on finishing the paving of the Enabling Garden are coming together and will be implemented soon. Many improvements and additions to our website are getting the word out about us and the things we are involved in.

Our Education Building and Greenhouse are bulging at the seams with plants getting ready for the

2013 Spring Plant Sale. A new venue is being used this year for the Plant Sale at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds Pavilion, and is happening right alongside of the Brazoria County Market Days, which has 5000 to 6000 folks each year come through their booths. I feel that this has the potential to be one of the most successful Plant Sales we have ever had.

The 2013 Citrus Sale will certainly go down in the books as one of the largest and most successful citrus sale in our history. I got reports that the 3 in 1 peach

It's a great time to be a Brazoria County Master Gardener!

Message from the New President



trees were gone in 5 minutes, the Improved Meyer Lemons in 10 minutes, all of the Apple varieties were gone in 20 minutes, and the Plums went in 40 minutes. I also heard that the Republic of Texas Oranges went in the first 15 to 20 minutes. A few more bills have to come in before we can tally everything up, but Ted was smiling broadly at the sale and after. I must congratulate all of the Master Gardeners on the success of the Citrus sale, because the weather cooperated, the advertising was phenomenal with Paula being on the Randy Lemmon radio show on the morning of the sale. The Hospitality group did their usual excellent job as we have come to appreciate, the crew that put all of the vegetables together for the sale did a great job and there were plenty to choose from, and Ted and his wagon-eers kept everything rolling along smoothly. We sold a record 100 Avocado trees in 2 hours and 40 minutes. The sales force was relentless and we only returned 16 plants, which were loaded into the back of a pickup. And of course, Gil was running around being everywhere at once as usual, soothing nerves, answering questions, and watching the trees fly off the lot. We had a tremendous turnout of our memberships including a great turnout from our 2013 class of Interns.

The 2013 Intern class filled up and by the time it started, many are on the waiting list. A second class for 2013 is being considered for September, so expect to hear more about that soon. The Interns have been making themselves known at the Gardens and contributing their ideas and passion for gardening.

Truly, this is a great time to be a Master Gardeners. Be watching and listening for more exciting developments in the near future. Come join us. We need you out here with us.

Larry Pike

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl. And the anticipation nurtures our dream."

- Barbara Winkler

May 2013

Attention Master Gardeners!

Brazoria County Master Gardeners Association interns Shawn Helm and Jim Molony have taken over the responsibility of producing the quarterly newsletter for the volunteer organization, effective with this issue, the Spring 2011 edition. This is your newsletter and we want to continue to make it a useful resource for Brazoria County gardeners. The newsletter is published in April, July, October and January. Shawn and Jim welcome any submitted items, whether listings for the calendar or tips on a specific plant. They can be reached via email at shawn.helm@yahoo.com or jmolonyjr@gmail.com

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