



# HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter



## VOLUME 4, ISSUE 7, JULY 2008

President: Alvie Vesperman, Vice-President: Rosella Presswood  
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[www.grimesmastergardeners.org](http://www.grimesmastergardeners.org)

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & FUN JUL/AUG 2008

- Jul 8 GCMG Reg. Monthly meeting : program Garden Crafts, Sandra, Peggy, Stephanie
- Jul 17 BCMG program Fall Vegetable gardening
- Jul 19 Seminar at Martha's Bloomers : Fall Gardening by Elmer Krehbiel
- Aug 2 TMGA Directors Meeting, TAMU
- Aug 9 Seminar at Martha's Bloomers : Snakes Alive by Jerry Walls
- Aug 12 GCMG Reg. Monthly meeting : program "Show & Tell"

***JUNE ACTIVITIES - Field trip to Bluebonnet Herb Farm in Hempstead on June 14th. Members enjoyed browsing the gift shop, and learned a lot about herbs during the guided tour.***



*Followed by a great lunch at Erick's Mexican Restaurant!!*

### **TIME TO GET READY FOR FALL GARDENS**

Its hard to think about planting for fall gardens now, with the temperatures hovering around the 100 mark, but its true! Several vegetables should be started in July :-

**7/1 - 7/31** Tomatoes

**6/1 - 8/31** Romaine Lettuce

**7/15 - 7/31** Squash (summer & winter), Pumpkins, Peppers, Southern Peas, Okra, Melons, Eggplant

**7/15 - 8/31** Edible Pod Peas, English Peas

**7/15 - 8/20** Sweet Corn      **7/20 - 8/15** Cucumber

In early August take the seed potatoes out of the refrigerator. Pre-sprout them at room temperature in indirect light. At end of August plant them shallow, 1 ft apart cover with straw or leaves, and keep moist.

## MEETING SCHEDULE 2008

Regular meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Go Texan Building 9.00 a.m. Other meetings are held in the evening at members' homes and on Saturdays.

Whenever weather permits, work time at the various beds at the Fairgrounds will take place after meetings held at Go Texan. Bring a brown bag lunch!

**July 8 Meeting will be held at Go Texan Building, GC Fairgrounds.**

Jul 8 Program- garden crafts by Sandra, Peggy & Stephanie

Aug 12 "Show and Tell" Summer Activities

Sep 9 Potluck evening meeting, hosted by John & Linda Milligan

Oct 14 Field Trip to TMPA

Nov 11 Tool Use & Care, John Milligan

Dec 5 Party! (place TBA)

Updates to programs, activities and projects will be announced when available.

### GCMG Approved Projects/Chairs (ongoing)

AgriLife Ext. Office raised beds:

Julia Cosgrove/John Milligan

Test Rose Garden/Flagpole bed/Go Texan

Sandra Stuckey/Helen Quinn

If you have a project you would like to work on, please contact Project Chair Quinn with request form, who will present it to Executive Board.

*"The sun, with all the planets revolving around it and dependent on it, can still ripen a bunch of grapes as if it had nothing else in the universe to do."*  
Galileo

July Birthdays  
Mary Cadro 7/9  
Rodney Finch 7/18  
Paula Feldman 7/18  
Marcia Letzring 7/25

Cool Indoor activities for the hot summer

<http://www.myfolia.com>

Want to keep track of your plants and see who is doing what in the garden all over the world? Try signing up

<http://www.princesrainforestsproject.org/>

A Royal Page (as opposed to a Royal Pain) addressing the disappearing rainforests and why it is important to save them.

"Color in My Garden, an American Gardener's Palette"  
By Louise Beebe Wilder - first printed 1918, reprinted 1990, and still a good read!

## GRIMES COUNTY FAIR: JUNE 6—14, 2008

### Horticulture Judging By Mary Cadro

Doris Myers, Natalie Arnold, and Mary Cadro showed up on Friday June 6, to judge the Vegetables, Fruits and Plants grown by the youth and some of our area adults for the 2008 Fair. We began judging the horticulture by age groups, items were then judged by uniformity, condition, and appearance. All participants were given ribbons for their accomplishments.

Then we had to pick a Grand and Reserve Champion from those groups and some participants were allowed to place their entry in the sale the following week. All items were sold at a silent auction immediately following judging which benefits the Fair Association

We all had great time and were impressed by some of the entries. Although, this year we were not asked to help out with the food judging, we still had a great time.



Judges Doris and Natalie (Mary was taking the photo)

Entries in the Horticulture, Food Preparation, Fine Arts and Creative Arts sections were displayed throughout the Fair in the new Lions' Club Building to the north of the Go Texan Building. On Wednesday, Senior Citizens' Day, the Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion winners' entries were moved to the Main Building to be displayed for the Senior Citizens and the two big evening sales.

Start thinking now about what you will enter next year!

### POLLINATORS

Most people are aware of the plight of the honeybee - CCD, or, Colony Collapse Disorder. However, there are many other insects out there just waiting to be invited into your garden. One of the most important is the native Orchard Mason Bee, and you will be hearing much more about them in the next couple of months, in this newsletter and on our website. We'll show you how to make bee-condos, and plant a pollinator garden.

Know how to tell if your apples are not perfectly pollinated? Cut one in half by slicing it across its middle and you will find a central compartment in the shape of a five-pointed star. If the apple has two seeds inside each point of the star - ten altogether - it was perfectly pollinated by bees. If there are fewer than ten seeds, not enough pollen reached the flower's stigmas to develop all the seeds because there were not enough bee visits. A poorly pollinated flower will develop into a distorted apple that is smaller and lop-sided, and thus considerably less appealing to consumers than fruit resulting from fully pollinated flowers. This info came from "Pollinators: Why Care?", a Master Naturalist program kicking off National Pollinator Week in June.

*Helen Quinn*

## MORE ASSOCIATION NEWS

\*We enjoyed our field trip to Bluebonnet Herb Farm in Hempstead, and now the heat is driving us to meet indoors in July and August. Join us on July 8 at the Go Texan Building at the Fairgrounds, 9.00 a.m. We will have a short business meeting, then learn how to make various garden-related art and crafts. Sandra, Peggy and Stephanie will be teaching us.

\*Our Master Gardener group is proud to be associated with Navasota Farmers Market, which has just completed its first full month of operation. A couple of our members and an auxiliary member have been selling vegetables, baked, and canned goods on a regular basis - it is fun making new friends and visiting with everyone who comes to buy, and nice to make a little pocket money! We are now starting earlier because of the heat, by about 8.15 a.m. We encourage any/all of you to come and sell your produce, baked/canned goods, plants, cut flowers, etc. - things that you have grown or made yourself. If you want to sell eggs, you must obtain a permit. See the following for information :  
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/foodestablishments/pdf/YardEggs.PDF>

If you have any questions, email me at [navasotafarmersmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:navasotafarmersmarket@yahoo.com) and remember to start your fall vegetables (see front page for what to start in July). Email or call me to reserve your space!



\*Volunteer hours : Flower beds at the Fairgrounds (Flagpole, Go Texan, and Test Rose Garden) are getting weedy again. If anyone is willing to go out there early in the morning before it gets too hot, please do! We could also have an early morning pre-meeting work session before the July meeting on the 8th.

*Helen Quinn*

### MASTER NATURALIST TRAINING

The Grimes County chapter, Cinco Tierra, will be holding its third training class in the new year. More information will be available later on. We are planning a joint field trip with Cinco Tierra members in October.

### MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING

BVSWMA will be holding the next Master Composter training on September 10th, 11th, and 13th. This is a great training. Call Shelia McQueen 979-764-3805, or email her [smcqueen@cstx.gov](mailto:smcqueen@cstx.gov)

WAYS TO USE SUMMER'S BOUNTY  
by Margie House

Squash casserole

Take tender squash (make sure the skin is tender) about 2 lbs, any kind. I like a mixture of slices about 1/2 inch thick. Simmer until only slightly cooked with a couple of chicken bouillon cubes, sliced onions, chopped celery and a few crushed cloves of garlic or garlic powder, a bit of black pepper and other herbs you have around. Save liquid and drain squash. Use liquid to mix with purchased cornbread stuffing or make your own. At this point, if you want, add 1lb browned sausage meat like Jimmy Deans. Mix in a can of Cream of Celery soup. This recipe can be for vegetarians or meat-eaters, and depends on how many you are serving, Mix in about a cup of cheddar cheese, taste for seasoning and top with a coating of cheese. Place in a lightly greased casserole dish. Bake about 30 minutes at 350.

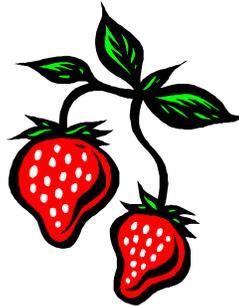
Note you can also add bell peppers to add more color.

Grilled zucchini

To grill zucchini, slice off two opposite sides, baste with olive oil and sprinkle with salt, pepper, garlic and your favorite herbs, place over hot coals, turn over when slightly brown and cook until fork tender.

Easy & Quick dessert

Buy or make an Angel food cake mix with either instant vanilla or instant white chocolate pudding mix with Cool Whip. Tear Cake into bite size pieces and layer with sweetened strawberries and blueberries or any fresh fruit. Easy & quick.



More Pollinator facts (also from the Master Naturalist program in June)

If you enjoy coffee, chocolate, raspberries, almonds, or many other fruits and vegetables, thank a pollinator today! These are foods from plants that require pollinators to produce seeds or fruit. Over 75% of all flowering plants need pollination by animals. Pollinators need our help!