



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter



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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & FUN OCT/NOV 2008

- Oct 04 BWSMA Household & Hazardous Waste Event
- Oct 14 Regular Monthly meeting (Field trip postponed). Making wildflower seed balls afterwards.
- Oct 30 Treats on the Street. GCMG participation-come out and be scared at our booth. Details TBA

- Nov 08 First wildflower seed planting - watch for details
- Nov 11 Regular Monthly meeting—Program by John Milligan “Tool care” . Second wildflower planting after meeting - again, watch for details.

SEPT. ACTIVITIES

We had a great time at John & Linda's for our September meeting! Most of us enjoyed a carriage ride with John at the wheel, pulled by two of his matching Haflingers. See inside for pictures. Great food too, and great company!

TIME TO GET READY FOR FALL GARDENS

The only new vegetable to plant in October is onions, 10/1—10/31. Refer to previous newsletters for those that spill over from August and September. Many of your perennials and shrubs also can continue to be planted, and the cool season annuals, and of course, Bulbs for spring flowering. Look for greenery and berries that could be used for decorations during the holiday season; mark with ribbons or tape so that you can find them easily when the time comes.

How Big is my Garden?

“The principal unit of measurement has always been the human body - horses are still measured in hands, people still pace out their plots and sow with a pinch of seeds. A foot, a step and an arm span were useful measures in the Middle Ages when Henry I legalized his “imperial” measure of the foot and the yard (three feet), which was based on the distance between the tip of the Royal nose and the thumb of his outstretched arm. Before he died in 1135, an Iron Yard of Our Lord King was lodged in London and exact copies, cast in bronze or brass, were delivered throughout the kingdom.” The first yardsticks!

From: “Spade, Skirret and Parsnip, the Curious History of Vegetables”, by Bill Laws

MEETING SCHEDULE 2008

Regular meetings are held on the 2nd 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 before or after meetings held at Go Texan. Bring a brown bag lunch!

Oct 14 Field Trip to TMPA - postponed until spring. Stay tuned for new October meeting details, but plan to stay afterwards to make seed balls.

Nov 11 Tool Use & Care, John Milligan

Dec 5 Party! (place TBA)

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

September Bloom list

What is blooming in your garden? The week of September 16th: Many of the same flowers as last month, with the addition of the very welcome appearance of the Lycoris, also known as Naked Lady, or more appropriately for this year, Hurricane Lily! . The first to bloom was Lycoris aurea, which has a much larger flower than the more common Lycoris radiata. Aurea does not multiply as freely, which is probably why the bulbs cost so much more.



Lycoris also makes a good cut flower if you can bear to take them out of the landscape! Try the red ones in a vase with the gorgeous pink Coral Vine (Antigonon leptopus).

Also blooming is the Stapelia, but you wouldn't want to bring in indoors (it is called Dead Horse Plant in Australia, for good reason), and the Salvia gregii (Autumn Sage).

Hurricane Ike inflicted much damage to our gardens, but in this area specifically, not much else. We were glad to see our electricity back after five days without, and now appreciate it all the more!

SEPTEMBER MEETING PICTURES



For more information on Haflinger horses, go to :
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haflinger_\(horse\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haflinger_(horse))

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct 17 Hope Moriarty

The wisdom of Oscar Wilde, 1880

“To make a good salad is to be a brilliant diplomatist - the problem is entirely the same in both cases. To know exactly how much oil one must put with one's vinegar”

2009 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING CLASS

The next class will begin Tuesday January 27th, and run through Tuesday April 21st, 8.30 - 12.30, at the Go Texan Building. Tentative schedule is as follows, but note that not all of the speakers are confirmed so they are not listed here.

Jan 27 Intro/Orientation

Feb 03 Soils Sam Feagley

Feb 10 Botany

Feb 17 Entomology

Feb 24 Lawns/turf

Mar 03 Fruit & Nuts

Mar 10 Landscaping

Mar 17 Vegetables

Mar 24 Plant disease

Mar 31 Herbs

Apr 07 Propagation

Apr 14 Composting/Organic Gardening

Apr 21 Communications Skills, Overview of what comes next, followed by pot luck lunch.

We will be emailing out a copy of the Flyer and the Application to each of you, so please share this information with your friends, family, and even those people you don't get along with! We need to have a big and enthusiastic class, and as always, everyone is encouraged to audit any and all of the classes. For certified Master Gardeners and interns there is no charge, cost to Auxiliary Members and members of the public will be \$10.00 per class. There will be much more information forthcoming!

Chairing the class committee this year is Jennifer Corzine, with Julia Cosgrove as the resident Expert and guide. Let's all help to make this a great class!

PAINTING TEXAS WITH WILDFLOWERS

Sandra Stuckey is spearheading this project. At the first meeting a plan was drawn up to try to plant five sites around Historic Markers out in the county. The optimum time for planting wildflower seed is upon us, so there is not a lot of time to prepare for a larger scale operation. I'm sure we'll go really wild in 2009!! This will be a really fun thing to do, and the aim is to educate the public about the importance of wildflowers and also about the historic importance of Grimes County. Be watching for more information from Sandra, and please step up to help where you can.

UPCOMING SEMINARS TO BE PRESENTED BY GC MASTER GARDENERS

Following is the schedule of events to be held at Coufal-Prater in Navasota :

Oct 04 Herbs by Peggy Sloan and Donna Hebert

Oct 11 Composting/Organic Gardening by Sandra Stuckey (any volunteers to help?)

Nov 01 Wildflowers /kick-off to our Painting Texas w/wildflowers - Julia Cosgrove & Jennifer Corzine

Nov 10 Bulbs by Helen Quinn (any volunteers to help?)

Dec 06 Gardening with Children by Jennifer Corzine (any volunteers to help?)

GARDENS OF SCOTLAND by Julia Cosgrove

Michael and I just returned from a trip to Scotland. While Michael was most interested in visiting castles and other historic buildings, I wanted to see some gardens. We managed to get to three during our two week trip. The first two gardens were at Crathes Castle and Castle Fraser. Since Fraser didn't open until eleven, we were only able to see the outside of its garden but at Crathes we saw lots of flowering plants as well as yew hedges and shaped yews.

The most magnificent garden we visited was Pitmedden Garden near Oldmeldrum. The National Trust for Scotland took on Pitmedden Garden in 1952, but the garden itself has been around since 1675 when it was created by Sir Alexander Seton. It is a formal terraced garden typical of the late 17th century. Walled and on sloping land, it consists of an upper and lower terrace. The lower terrace is divided into four rectangles or parterres outlined by box hedges. Each parterre is filled with flowering annuals and, according to the information I collected, the colors in the four parterres are provided by up to 40,000 plants. In addition there are six miles of boxwood hedges to trim. These boxwood hedges form intricate shapes like fleur de lys, thistles and flowers.

Along the one wall of the garden are espaliered apple trees and herbaceous beds. Among the plants that caught my attention were three foot tall lupines that bloomed in various shades of purple, pink and lavender. Most impressive about the garden is the amount of maintenance involved. While we were there the gardeners were pruning the boxwoods and what I assumed were large yews. The yews were trimmed into tall narrow pyramids which the gardener pruned using a long board as a straight edge while standing on a ladder.

All during our trip we saw lots of interesting plants. Many of the roses we saw had huge hips on them. It made me wish I had a recipe for rosehip jelly and a way to bring the rosehips home. I also liked the many forms of moss and lichens we found on the walls and castles. They made you want to touch them to see if they were soft.

Two weeks went by in a flash. Even though we had lots of rain, we were able to see most of what we had planned to see, but given the chance, I'll be back for another look at more gardens and castles of Scotland.

