



Hoe!  
Hoe! Hoe!

March 2012

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8, ISSUE III

IN THIS ISSUE

**Officers for 2012**

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Vice President: Kathy Laughlin  
Secretary: Kathy Denning  
Treasurer: Connie Arden

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Administration: Connie Arden  
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Awards/Social: Linda Jolly  
Children's Activities: Jennifer Corzine  
Communications: Nicky Maddams  
(Mentor: Helen Quinn)  
Class: Jennifer Corzine/Kathy Laughlin  
Co-op: Fred Vesperman  
Anderson Beautification: Janeth Nevill  
Publicity: Peggy Sloan  
Fundraiser: Connie Arden/Kathy Denning  
Go Texan Landscaping: Mike Arden  
County Fair Judging: Linda Jolly

**Texas AgriLife Extension**

MG Coordinator: Shane Jennings  
Secretary: Sandra Curl

**Newsletter**

Editor: Nicky Maddams

Article submissions, photos and information due by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month

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Email: [grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com](mailto:grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com)

**Upcoming Events**

March 6 – MG Class #3; Speaker – Sam Feagley (Soil, Water and Plant Nutrients)

March 13 – MG Class #4; Speaker – Tom Leroy (Vegetable Gardening)

MG Meeting will follow class at 1:00pm  
Speakers: Mike & Connie Arden, GCMG (Fire-Wise Landscaping)

March 20 – MG Class #5; Speaker – Bart Drees (Entomology)

March 27 – MG Class #6; Speaker: Carlos Bogran (Plant Health)

March 31 – GCMG Spring Seminar at Martha's Bloomers on "Trees"

April 3 – MG Class #7; Speaker – David Chalmers (Lawns)

April 10 – MG Class #8; Speaker – Tom Leroy (Home Fruit and Nut Production)

April 17 – MG Class #9; Speaker – Ann Wheeler (Herbs)

April 19 – Field trip to Huntsville at 9:00am "Phoenix Commotion" built homes

April 24 – MG Class #10; Speaker – Martin Thomas (Landscape Horticulture)



**Class of 2012**



**Planting Guide for March**



## March Vegetable Planting Guide:

Asparagus - through 3/15  
 Beets - through 3/5  
 Broccoli - through 3/5  
 Cabbage (American & Chinese)-through 3/10  
 Carrots - through 3/5  
 Cauliflower - through 3/29  
 Chard, Swiss - through 4/20  
 Collards - through 3/31  
 Garlic - through 3/15  
 Kale & Kohlrabi - through 3/10  
 Lettuce (leaf and head) - through 3/20  
 Mustard - through 4/15  
 Turnips - through 4/20  
 Peas (edible pod) - through 3/5  
 Radish -through 5/5  
 Irish Potato- 2/5-3/15

### KOHLRABI??

What do I do with that??

Have you ever eaten a kohlrabi? These little sputnik-shaped vegetables come in green or purple, can be eaten raw or cooked, and taste a lot like broccoli stems. The word kohlrabi is German for cabbage turnip (kohl

as in cole-slaw, and rübe for turnip) though kohlrabi is more related to cabbage and cauliflower than to root vegetables. They can be peeled, sliced and added to a salad, but they are also delicious cooked and are often used in Indian cuisine.

If you come by some kohlrabi and are wondering what to make with them, here are a couple of ideas:

Toss peeled slices with garlic, olive oil, parmesan and bake 15 minutes at 450F.

Steam kohlrabi whole, 25-30 minutes, or thinly sliced, 5-10 minutes. Simply dress slices with oil, lemon juice and a fresh herb, or dip in flour and briefly fry.

Try raw kohlrabi, thinly sliced, alone or with a dip. Peel and eat raw like an apple.

Add sliced or cubed kohlrabi to hearty soups, stews or a mixed vegetable stir-fry.

Sauté grated kohlrabi in butter, add herbs or curry.



## Grimes County Fair 2012

June 1-9

It is time to start planning your entries for the County Fair. If you are entering plants, (containers, hanging baskets, succulents, etc.) they must have been in your possession for 90 days prior to the Fair, so you have to start thinking about it and make preparations. Schedules and entry forms will be available at the Grimes County AgriLife Extension Office closer to the time. You can also enter vegetables, fruits, jams, jellies, pickles, baked goods, paintings, knitting, and many other classes.



RAFFLE...RAFFLE...  
RAFFLE!!!



It's our TENTH ANNIVERSARY!!!

One of our first GCMG 10th Anniversary recognition celebrations is a fundraiser raffle for this cedar hanging basket plant stand.

No.....HGTV/DIY Network did not recently do a taping in Grimes County, our friend Mark Laughlin volunteered, designed, and created this attractive landscape accent piece. (Thanks Mark for a job well done and thanks Kathy for volunteering Mark!)

The plant stand is currently on display at Coufal Prater (hanging baskets not included). Coufal Prater has graciously offered to sell tickets for GCMG and raffle tickets will be available to GCMG members also.

The drawing will be held at Coufal Prater on March 24 (winner need not be present to win).

Let's plan on making this a real money maker but equally as important let's get the community recognition for our services of community volunteerism and education for the last ten years and many more years to come!

(Submitted by Connie Arden)



We are excited to have a new "crop" of Master Gardeners in the making! Twenty-two interns are filling seats every Tuesday morning, which will double the number of active master gardener's in Grimes County upon their completion of hours.

## Master Gardener Class of 2012



Linda Jolly made sure none of the new recruits went hungry during the first session, thanks to everyone who contributed wonderful treats!



The Officers (Jennifer, Linda, Kathy and Kathy) go over the paperwork side of things with the group.

Thank you to Janeth Nevill for taking these photos and submitting them for use in the newsletter.

If you have pictures you'd like to submit of activities for other issues, please forward to Nicky Maddams.

Something to look forward to in April – we are taking the whole class to the Montgomery County Master Gardener facility and gardens for the class taught by Tom LeRoy on fruit and nut production. Mr. LeRoy has been an Extension Agent with Montgomery and Harris Counties for over 30 years and started the first Master Gardener Program in 1979.

He recently co-authored "The Southern Kitchen Garden" with Mr. William Adams.

## In the Know...

Do you know of events that might interest your fellow Master Gardeners? Often times we hear of events we may have attended, if only we had known about them earlier.

This month we have two such events submitted for our information:

Are you passionate about native plants and their preservation? Would you like to be able to identify the trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses that populate your land?



Consider the **Native Landscape Certification Program (NLCP)**, which teaches the identification of Texas natives, their place in the local ecosystem and which conditions will allow them to thrive in a landscape. With each level, knowledge of conservation, ecosystem assessment, wildlife benefits, restoration value, appropriateness of plants for landscapes and taxonomy increases.

NLCP is aimed at:

- Professional Landscapers
- Landscape Architects and Designers
- Urban Developers, Surveyors
- Community Garden & Park Employees
- Homeowners
- Environmental Volunteers
- NPSOT and Master Naturalist Members

The program consists of 4 levels of expertise through the use of classes and field study. With more than 40 plants featured at each level, participants at completion of the program will be able to:

- Identify more than 160 native plants;
- Identify invasive species problems;
- Design low maintenance landscapes using natives instead of common exotics;
- Understand the culture, installation and maintenance requirements of native plants in natural areas and urban landscapes;
- Utilize concepts learned to preserve, enhance and maintain

native landscapes that comply with local regulations and earn rebates.

Those who earn and maintain their Level 4 certification will be listed on the San Antonio NPSOT website as volunteers who can educate the public and provide services such as field identification and habitat assessment, restoration and conservation of wild areas, landscape use advice and presentations.

(Information taken from the NSPOT website)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://sanantoniochapter.wordpress.com/native-landscape-certification-program/>

SEE WEBSITE FOR CLASS DATES

photographs from the book *“Heirloom Bulbs for Today”* by Chris Wiesinger and Cherie Colburn, as well as wearable art, beautifully rendered on different silks. Based in The Woodlands, Johan and Loela explore the science of art and the art of science to create their unique expressions of the beauty and miracles of nature. Their passion is to use their art to inspire, to help others discover and develop their own creativity and to give back.



Artwork courtesy JoLoè Art

For another completely different event:

On March 25th, the **Benz Gallery of Floral Art** will host “Framed Chemistry/Wearable Botany”, an exhibit of art by the husband and wife duo of Johan Kritzing and Loela Barry.

The introduction on their website explains their background: Johan is an inventor by birth and a chemical engineer by profession, while Loela says she is an artist by birth and a landscape architect by profession. That simple description, however, does not explain the extent of their collaboration. Together they are floral artists, painters, sculptors, fashion designers, photographers and illustrators. Their personal narrative states that they are native South Africans who met in Texas, (and are now Texans – with an accent).

Johan and Loela are the artistic geniuses behind JoLoè Art. Their work encompasses chemical art – painting with chemical processes applied to create dynamic expressions of color, botanical art, including the original art collection of 46 drawings and

The opening of the exhibit in the Benz Gallery runs from **1:00pm-4:00pm** on **March 25**, with a fashion show of wearable art at 2:00pm in the lecture hall adjacent to the Benz Gallery. The artists will be present to answer your questions and to sign books. A selection of their works will be available for sale in a “boutique”, with proceeds also benefitting the Isibani Community Centre in Winterton, South Africa. **Admission is free** and the public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served and parking will be available in Lot 74, near the Horticultural Sciences Building where the Benz Gallery is housed. For more information, please contact the Benz School of Floral Design at 979-845-1699. (JoLoè Art website: [www.joloe-art.com](http://www.joloe-art.com))



