



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter



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President: Alvie Vesperman. Vice-President: Rosella Presswood.

Secretary: Julia Cosgrove. Treasurer: John Milligan

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www.grimesmastergardeners.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & FUN APR/MAY 2008

- Apr 1 GCMG Class #10 – Rainwater Harvesting, Stuckeys, at their place in Carlos
- Apr 5 Herb Festival, Antique Rose Emporium, Independence, 9.00 – 5.00
- Apr 8 GCMG Class #11 – Ann Wheeler – Herbs (a.m.)
- Apr 8 GCMG Field Trip – to Peaceable Kingdom, Washington (p.m.)
- Apr 15 GCMG Class #12 – Shelia McQueen/Royce Bordman – Composting
- Apr 22 GCMG Class #13 – Glen Schroeter/Karen Breneman – Roses, Perennials, Wildlife Gardening
- Apr 24,25,26 TMGA Annual Conference, Conroe (Directors' Meeting April 24, 4.30-5.30)
- May 1 AG Day
- May 13 GCMG Regular Meeting – Program Suzanne Millstead, BCMG, Container Planting
- May 14 Ext. FSS – propagation program by us, GC Fairgrounds
- May 17 BVSMA Recycling Fair, Post Oak Mall

April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks Go

– Christopher Morley

March activities –Rainwater Harvesting, digging & planting



CURRENT GCMG PROJECTS

Ext. Office Raised Beds - Julia Cosgrove/John Milligan
Rose Test Garden/Flagpole Bed - Helen Quinn/Sandra Stuckey
GoTexan Landscaping & Community Garden Wind-up - Helen Quinn

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 after the class and meetings held at Go Texan. Bring a brown bag lunch!

April 8 Field Trip-Peaceable Kingdom – be there 1.30 p.m. (details tba)

May 13 Program–Suzanne Millstead, Container Gardening
Jun 14 (Sat) Field Trip Bluebonnet Herb Farm
Jul 8 Program- to be announced
Aug 12 “Show and Tell” Summer Activities
Sep 9 Potluck evening meeting, place TBA
Oct 14 Field Trip, destination TBA
Nov 11 Tool Use & Care, John Milligan
Dec 5 Party! (place TBA)

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

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## READY, GET SET ..... SPRING!

“Thunder in February, Frost in April” - we did have thunder in February this year, so it is entirely possible that we might have frost in April. Remember April 2007, when much of the area was hit by a freeze?

|                                         |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Beans, bush & pole, Limas, through 5/1  | Sweet Corn through 4/20            |
| Mustard through 4/10                    | Swiss Chard & Turnips through 4/20 |
| Beets through 5/1                       | Radishes through 5/5               |
| Eggplants* 3/25 – 6/10                  | Tomatoes* through 4/20             |
| Squash (winter and summer) through 6/15 | Pumpkins & Melons through 6/15     |
| Southern Peas through 6/15              | Peppers* & Okra through 6/15       |

\*transplants

Flowers to seed: Alyssum, Amaranthus, Aster, Candytuft, Cleome, Cosmos, Moonflower, Periwinkle, Phlox subulatum, Snapdragon, Thunbergia, Tithonia, Zinnia

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GRIMES COUNTY FAIR</b><br/>JUNE 6 – 14, 2008</p> <p>If you are planning on entering a container plant(s), or hanging basket, you must have had the plant in your possession for a minimum of 3 months prior to the show. That means <b>LAST MONTH!</b> If you don't already have something you are bringing through the winter, then you are too late! If you can't show your plants, you can still enter vegetables, fruits, preserves, pickles, etc. And don't forget the fine arts sections, the knitting, sewing and everything else! We are all Master Gardeners, Trainees or Auxiliaries, so let's show Grimes County what we can do!<br/>For more information contact the Extension Office 825-3495.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Things to do in the garden in April</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Discard center of established Chrysanthemums; plant fresh, single rooted sections. Space about 2/3 of their height apart (12" – 18"). Root more Chrysanthemum cuttings.</li> <li>*Clean out Iris plantings by hand – burn old leaves &amp; debris if there are any signs of bugs, first checking if there is a burn ban in your county!!</li> <li>*Fertilize established Delphiniums &amp; set Viola plants in a shady place.</li> <li>*Watch for insects – spray, dust or hand-pick.</li> <li>*Divide fall flowering perennials.</li> </ul> <p><b>Start practicing mosquito control – keep standing water out of your yard! Keep a sheet of "B*****" (fabric softener) in your back pocket to deter mosquitoes!</b></p> |
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APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

George Andrews Apr 17  
Rosella Presswood Apr 23  
Anita Echols Apr 29  
Marvinee Hare Apr 30



Yaupon "Coffee" – the only native source of caffeine!

Pick tender, new yaupon leaves and place on a cookie sheet in a single layer. Roast at 200 degrees until brown, about 20 minutes. Crumble and use like tealeaves. *(Be sure it is Yaupon though – we don't want to lose any Master Gardeners!!!)*

## **A Dazzle of Dragonflies, A Book Review – by Sandra Stuckey**

What a great book written by Forrest L. Mitchell and James L. Lasswell. When I saw the cover of this book I had to have it. I haven't read the entire book but wanted to share some things with you. I am pretty much a sissy when it comes to bugs and insects, but after becoming a Master Gardener I learned to tolerate some of them because they are good for our gardens and our ecology. Of course, the pretty ones like Butterflies, Dragonflies, and Lady Beetles I have always liked; at least I liked to look at them. So much for that now let me get on with the book review.

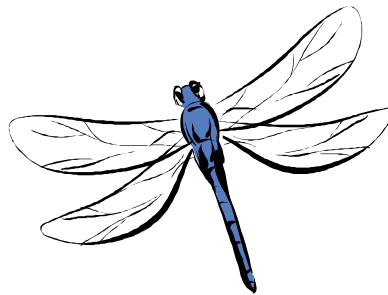
This book is filled with all kinds of information about dragonflies and beautiful pictures of them. The book first talks about the many myths and folklore surrounding dragonflies as well as the many names given to them. Did you know that the dragonfly has been referred to as “mosquito hawk,” “devil’s needle,” “devil’s darning needles,” “snake doctors,” “St George’s horse,” “Dickens’ horse,” “Dickerson’s horse,” “Dickerson’s mare,” and many more? This wonderful book tells much of this folklore and how the dragonfly got their many names. One such tale is that when large swarms of dragonflies gathered it was going to rain soon. Another is that when a snake doctor (dragonfly) landed on a fishing pole or float that a fish would bite soon. Also, some people used to believe that dragonflies were poisonous or harmful and that they would sting you. This of course is not true; dragonflies are not only harmless but also colorful and beautiful to look at.

Did you know a dragonfly is an insect? This book explains all about how the dragonfly is classified. Dragonflies have two separate life stages; the larva and the adult or winged reproductive phase, and like butterflies the two stages are very different looking. The adult dragonfly’s eyes are compound (they are made up of numerous individual single eyes) and cover almost their entire head. The mandibles (mouth parts) are strong but not so strong as to cause any harm to people or larger animals. The antennae are small hair-like projections that are of little use for adult survival. The three-segmented thorax of the adult bears just the wings and legs. The abdomen of the adult has ten segments and this gives the dragonfly its characteristic shape. The major feature of the abdomen is the secondary sex organs of the male and the primary sex organs of both sexes found on the ninth segment. Females may have structures on their heads and first section of their thoraxes that accept the males’ terminal appendages.

The mating system of the dragonfly is unique among insects and allows mating during flight. Female dragonflies do not have a choice of mates, as the male will grab any female that flies by. The book goes into much more detail about the mating of the dragonflies and it is interesting.

There is so much more information in this book about dragonflies; how to garden for them, how to catch them, and how to photograph them. I hope I have inspired you to take a look at this book. Fred has it in the Co-op.

*Sandra Stuckey*



Note: “common names” can vary from county to county, and even within counties – best to use scientific names!