



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter



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Secretary: Julia Cosgrove, Treasurer: John Milligan
AgriLife Extension Agent: Rodney Finch Secretary: Barbara Szymczak
www.grimesmastergardeners.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES 7 FUN APR/MAY 2008

- May 2 AG Day at Grimes Co. Fairgrounds (see Sandra for details)
- May 3 Butterflies Pt. 1 - Seminar at Martha's Bloomers, Karen Breneman, 11.00 a.m.
- May 10 Orchids for Mother - Seminar at Martha's Bloomers, Rainer Finke, 11.00 a.m.
- May 13 GCMG Regular Meeting—Program Suzanne Millstead, BCMG, Container Planting
- May 14 AgriLife Ext. FSS—Propagation program by us, GC Fairgrounds
- May 17 BSWMA Recycling Fair, Post Oak Mall
- Jun 6-14 Grimes County Fair
- Jun 14 GCMG Field Trip to Bluebonnet Herb Farm, Hempstead
- Jun 20 First day of Summer

APRIL ACTIVITIES - Roses all the way!

Moving the roses from the Community Garden to the County Courthouse



Working the Test Rose beds at the County Fairgrounds



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!

May 13 Program—Suzanne Millstead, Container Gardening

Jun 14 (Sat) Field Trip Bluebonnet Herb Farm

Jul 8 Program- TBA

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.

GCMG Approved Projects/Chairs (ongoing)

AgriLife Ext. Office raised beds:

Julia Cosgrove/John Milligan

Test Rose Garden/Flagpole bed:

Sandra Stuckey/Helen Quinn

Go Texan Landscaping/Community Garden

Wrap up: 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.

May Birthdays

May 4 Kathleen Kaminer

May 8 Dorothy Holtkamp

May 10 Eddie Guillotte

May 11 John Milligan

May 13 Patria Murray

May 27 Sharon Murry

Several new projects are in the works for the coming months, possibly including participation in a Farmers Market in Navasota. Stay tuned! More info will be coming

TMGA Conference—April 24-26, 2008, Conroe

Our Grimes County Association was represented by Mary Cadro, Peggy Sloan, Helen Quinn, and Robert & Sandra Stuckey. We met lots of old friends and made some new ones, and enjoyed some really great programs and workshops.

Mark your calendars for next year— April 23-25, 2009, in Marshall, TX, hosted by Harrison Co. Master Gardeners.



PAULOWNIA - A TREE TO WATCH!



The lovely Paulownia tree bears a mass of purple flowers on its candelabra shaped form in March and April, has a wonderful perfume which can be detected for several blocks, and is great for attracting bees. Also known as the Royal Empress Tree, the Princess Tree, this native of China is a member of the Figwort family, scrophulariaceae, can grow to 30 ft in 3 years, and can stand temperatures ranging from 10F to 110F. Height can be controlled by pruning off sprouting lower branches. Flowers appear before the large heart-shaped leaves. Paulownia is one of the most valuable hardwoods grown in the U.S., and is often shipped to Japan to be made into furniture, dowry chests and other items for wedding gifts, where this wood is highly prized.

Ancient lore has it that when the legendary Phoenix flew across the Orient, it would only land on Paulownia trees, bring wisdom and prosperity to those who were near.

Because of its prodigious seed production and extremely fast growth, it is now considered an **exotic invasive tree species**. It can also spread from its roots, which are often cut into pieces for propagation purposes. It has naturalized in many parts of the south. A large tree may produce as many as 20 million seeds per year.

Plant with care!!!

Helen Quinn

GRIMES COUNTY FAIR: JUNE 6—14, 2008

It is too late to think about entering a container plant(s) or hanging basket now, unless you have had it in your possession for a minimum of 3 months prior to the show. There are many other categories for gardeners, including fruit, vegetables, preserves, pickle, etc., so pick up entry forms from the AgriLife Ext. Office (825-3495). Or go to www.grimescountyfair.com There is also a wide selection of categories in the Fine Arts section, so let's support the Fair, and show off our skills.

MORE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Our 2008 class has come to an end - Monday May 5 is the final class, given by Carol Brouwer, Harris Co. Extension Horticultural Agent. This will be followed by a celebration pot-luck lunch, and everyone is welcome to attend. Many of our trainees have already made a great start in getting their volunteer hours, and we welcome Doris, CJ, Jennifer, Dee, Kelley, Donna, Stephanie, Lesley, and Peggy to our association.

May will be a busy month, starting May 2nd at the GC Fairgrounds helping with AG Day. This is a day-long program for all the county's fourth-graders, who rotate around the various exhibits and mini-programs about everything from horticulture/insects etc., to horses, alpacas, emus, and other farm type topics. This year we are doing rainwater harvesting/ water conservation, and there should be some good photos for next month's newsletter!

At the TMGA Conference this year, Robert & Sandra Stuckey were presented with their Rainwater Harvesting Specialist pins, and Helen Quinn with her Plant Propagation Specialist pin. There is a list of all the specialist programs available to Master Gardeners on the TMGA website www.texasmastergardeners.com and some new categories are in the works, including a training for Vegetable Gardeners.

The regular monthly meeting is on Tuesday May 13, at the Go Texan Building at the Grimes County Fairgrounds (Expo Center). The program is by Suzanne Millstead, a Brazos Co. Master Gardener, on Container Planting.

The Community Garden is all but closed. The remaining yellow rose, Easy Going, will be donated to the City of Navasota in appreciation of all the support they have given us.



The roses moved to the Go Texan building had a rough start because we were unable to water them in, and as you all know, there was no rain! The water is available now, and they are doing a lot better. The test rose garden is in full bloom, as you can see from the photos on the front page, and the roses that were moved to the Courthouse are enjoying the TLC of the Adult Probation Department. The bird bath in the little beds at the Extension Office has been "planted" with a beautiful red geranium, which really brightens up that shady corner.