



HOE! HOE! HOE!

Grimes County Master Gardeners Newsletter



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www.grimesmastergardeners.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & FUN JUN/JUL 2008

- Jun 6-14 Grimes County Fair
- Jun 14 GCMG Field Trip to Bluebonnet Herb Farm, Hempstead
- Jun 14 Seminar at Martha's Bloomers : Develop your water garden, by Anita Nelson
- Jun 20 First day of Summer
- Jul 8 GCMG Reg. Monthly meeting : program Garden Crafts, Sandra, Peggy, Stephanie
- Jul 19 Seminar at Martha's Bloomers : Fall Gardening by Elmer Krehbiel

MAY ACTIVITIES -

FB AG Day May 2
Rainwater Harvesting
Bob, Fred, Sandra, Doris, Alvie,
Stephanie, Helen (not shown, Sandy)



Program for FSC May 14
Propagation & Edible Flowers
"Boots, Roots & Shoots"
Sandra, Sandy, Helen



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 meetings held at Go Texan. Bring a brown bag lunch!

Jun 14 (Sat) Field Trip Bluebonnet Herb Farm**

June's meeting will be a field trip to Bluebonnet Herb Farm in Hempstead on Saturday June 14th. For those who wish to car pool, the plan is to meet in front of the Go Texan Building at the Fairgrounds, leaving there promptly at 9.30 a.m., to be there at 10.00 a.m. Unfortunately their restaurant is closed on Saturdays, but Julia has graciously offered to host a simple lunch at her house. More details will be sent out a little closer to the time.

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

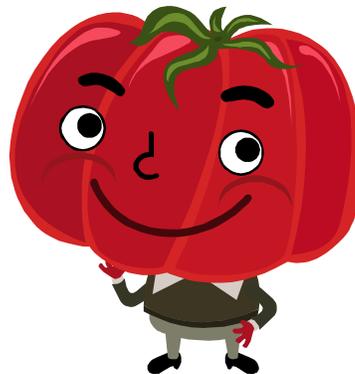
Sandra Stuckey/Helen Quinn

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

June Birthdays

Cynthia Hubert June 27



FULIGO SEPTICA – Dog Vomit Slime Mold, Scrambled Egg Slime Mold, Flowers of Tan



Just like some invasive/re-seeding plants, once you have it, you have it! It looks like its common name, yellow-orange foamy stuff that is not very pleasant. It has a pungent smell, and when disturbed can burst open and send forth a brown colored “smoke” of spores. It often appears where pine bark or other mulches have been applied, and when the weather warms up. Slime Molds are basically blobs of protoplasm without cell walls, and only a cell membrane to keep everything in. It ingests its food of mostly bacteria and then digests it. The plasmodium of *Fuligo septica* is transparent, like an egg white. Like the huitlacoche (corn smut) it is considered a delicacy in Mexico, where it is gathered in jars by moonlight and is eaten like scrambled eggs. *Fuligo septica* produces the largest spore-producing structure of any known slime mold.

If you have a hand lens or a dissecting microscope, investigate the incredible beauty of the fruiting bodies, which are only a millimeter or two in height and therefore hard to locate with the naked eye.

Slime Molds inspired a 1958 Sci-Fi movie, “The Blob”, starring Steve McQueen, in which an amoeba-like life form crashes to Earth, and starts gobbling up everything in sight. After eating an unlucky hermit who lives in the woods, it moves on to battle government officials and two local teens for the lives of the townsfolk. The “Blob” pictured above just “landed” in my vegetable garden – perhaps I should go out and measure it!

Helen Quinn

GRIMES COUNTY FAIR: JUNE 6—14, 2008

Still a few days to get your entries together!! There are many categories for gardeners, including fruit, vegetables, preserves, pickle, etc., so go online to www.grimescountyfair.com to pick up the rules and entry forms. 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

The Community Garden is now officially closed. The City of Navasota has bought the property, including the fence and all that is contained therein. They plan to remove the fence and mow the whole lot flat, except for the yellow rose! Be careful if you go in there rummaging for plants - the weeds are taller than I am (which, I suppose, in the grand scheme of things is not all that tall,) and the ground is infested with hundreds of thousands of fire ants. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to grow and distribute hundreds of pounds of vegetables, and then to provide a place of beauty and demonstration of plants that will grow well in our area, largely unattended. Times change, and now we move on.

The hot weather is upon us, so don't forget to make safety a big part of your summer program. You know the drill - sunhats, sunscreen, eye-shades, and watch out for mosquitoes, fire ants and snakes.

Save the Flip-Flops for the beach. They have no place in the garden, except ———> ———> ———>



Our July and August meetings will be in the cool of the Go Texan building; in July Sandra, Peggy and Stephanie will give us a program on making "Garden Art" and other garden related crafts that we could possibly sell in a fund raiser. In August we'll be sharing ideas and information about how we are spending our summer. Come prepared to "Show & Tell!!" More details will be forthcoming about these, and other events.

NAVASOTA FARMERS MARKET

There is still a chance to participate! Even if you don't want to help organize and run the market, you can still bring your truck or trunk into town on Saturday mornings and sell your excess produce, jams, jellies, pickles, plants, cookies and baked goods. Just show up on the corner of Farquhar & Washington (outside the City Hall), about 8.30 or 8.45 a.m., back up to the sidewalk, and get ready to sell. Bring your own plastic or paper sacks, and change. All the surrounding towns have Farmers Markets, and so should we in Grimes County/ Navasota!

