

# UrbanDirt

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## Millennium Color Garden

By Joyce Flott

**C**olor Garden – what a great name. It is definitely that. Currently it is ablaze with vibrant color from the **Dreamland Zinnias**, in colors of scarlet, ivory, rose, yellow and apricot. The apricot color is the only one that disappointed us and we just replanted this area with **New Look Pentas** in shades of rose and violet.

Other knock out areas are the **Globe Amaranth-Gomphrena** beds in shades of rose, light pink, white and then the Strawberry Fields variety. Other winners, the **Lisianthus** in two varieties, Echo Mix which is the taller variety and are a mixture of delicate pastel colors, and the Forever Blue's are the lower compact plants and a beautiful almost flag blue. Then the beds are dotted with **Rudbeckia** in two varieties, Sonora, and Indian Summer; **Salvia**, Superba Blue Queen and Splendens Sangria; **Gaillardia**, **Nicotiana**, **Cosmos** in Cosmic Yellow, Lemon Twist and Sonata Carmine; and **Yarrow**, Achilles Millefolium.

Four varieties of **Coleus**, Fairway Masiae, Giant Polisandra, Velvet Wizard and Magic Fountains were rather disappointing. The **Amaranthus** nearly got chewed up and the Salvia Splendens, scarlet bicolor looked washed out. The **Celosia**, Pink Candle really looked wimpy and spindly. That's what its all about- right? Learning from our mistakes. Thank goodness none of these occupied large spaces so they didn't take away from the total look of the beds.

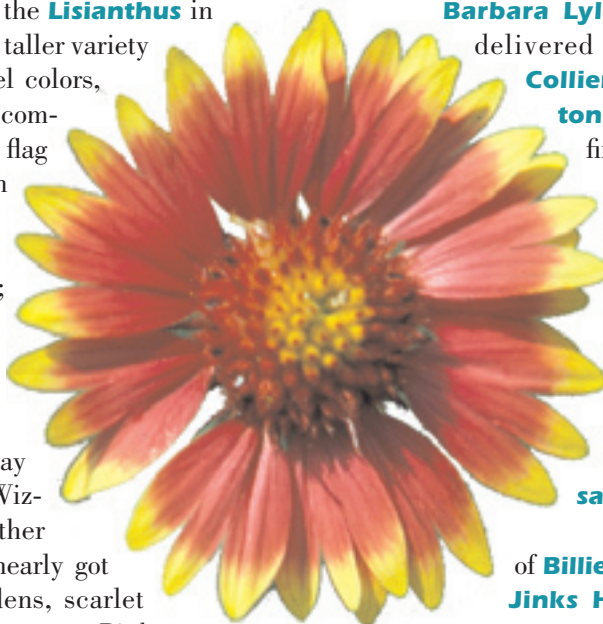
Believe it or not we were very diligent in tagging and labeling as we planted, but we definitely have not resolved the best way to do this. Our permanent marker turned out to be not too permanent, and then as the plantings increased in size we were lucky to be able to find our new large sized markers. Guess

we need super sized markers and we will have to work on the labeling. We are looking for suggestions.

There were so many people involved in the plantings over the previous weeks that I hesitate to list anyone for fear I will miss someone, but here goes: All of these people made the beautiful results possible through the spring and early summer. Three cheers for everyone of them.

**Allison Brodnax, Barbara Hurn, Barbara Kish, Barbara Lyles, Becky Copeland, Bob Kish,** delivered a load of mulch for us; **Brenda Collier, Bridgette Goss, Carol Singleton, Catherine Ogles, Dave Mason,** fine tuned the irrigation to eliminate some dry spots; **George Williams, Helen Poole, Jinks Hammer, Johnnie Foster, Joyce Flott, Linda Paisley, Marie McMurry, Mary Lynn Randall**—we want to especially thank her for her seed selections and chairmanship—**Pamela Owens, Patty Adamik, Sally Harpole, Stan Knight, Susan White, and Terry Phillely.**

Additionally, our greenhouse regulars of **Billie Duncan, Pat Cole, Barbara Kish, Jinks Hammer, Harold Galloway, Bernard Benson** and **Jean Fefer** need hero badges for supporting all of the different garden areas and especially the Millennium Color Garden with their tireless hours. Here, again, there are numerous others who supported this area and we thank you, we couldn't have done it without Y O U.



# President's Thoughts

By George Williams

**M**y first attempt to offer a few comments will be brief. My typing skills are practically non-existent, and now Tami and Tom tell us that we have an early deadline for August. So, my wife, Jane, agreed to "bail me out" again by typing this for me.

We have just completed a very successful year under the fine leadership provided by **Jean Fefer**. Thankfully, she will remain on the board for the next twelve months, and her input will continue to be extremely helpful. This board consists of a group of hardworking, dedicated Master Gardeners, and I look forward to working with them.

## Setting priorities

We have several priorities to consider and one of these is to make some major repairs to our greenhouse. We need more storage space and, hope-

**We always need more volunteers. 2 or 3 hours of work really makes a difference.**

fully, we can do something about that during the year. Not only are our Master Gardener classes important to the individuals who attend them, but they are just as important to our association as well. Our next class starts on **August 29**, and we intend to continue to provide quality instruction for which we are known.

We always need more volunteers. I encourage everyone to get involved in our projects either at the Extension office or one that may be closer to your

home. If you haven't visited here lately, I invite you to do so. In spite of our hot July weather, our gardens have never looked better thanks to the efforts of all who have continued to work each week not only here but also in our outreach gardens. In the future, we will give you the names of those who make all of these things possible.

So, come on out on Tuesday mornings. Two or three hours of work really makes a difference. After you see what you have accomplished you will feel good about it and, hopefully, come back the following week. And everyone, please don't forget to wear your name badge! Some (of course, not me!) have a hard time remembering names.

Hope to see you next Tuesday.

# Christmas in August

By Virginia Joiner

**C**hristmas of 1999 and 2000 **Frances Robeson** put together a party of Master Gardeners to trim a Christmas tree for the lobby of the Extension Center. It was a wonderful party full of fun and sharing of Christmas ideas the year I participated. The tree was always decorated, only, in natural things:

dried flowers, herbs, spices, gourds, cranberries, etc. Some of the women came up with ways to use fresh flowers from the garden. We were limited, only, by our own imagination. We served wassail and cookies and shared some wonderful time together.

I would like to see the Master Gardeners make this an annual project

starting with Christmas 2002.

I hope that this sounds like fun to some of you. I know Master Gardeners can be very creative and come up with great ideas for a project like this. Let's make this an annual event starting with this Christmas. Put **Tuesday, December 3**, on your calendar for coming together and decorating the tree.

We all have busy schedules so I felt that an early notice of this event would be best. If we start early I hope that everyone will have time to contribute some great ideas for the project.

**Put Tuesday, December 3, on your calendar for coming together and decorating the tree.**

# Carol's Comments

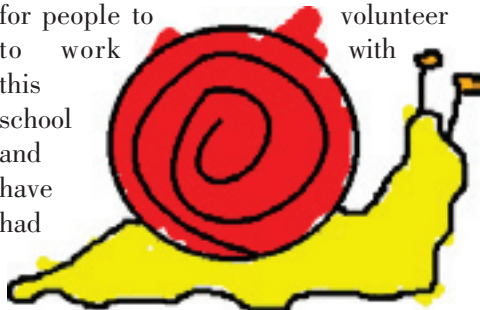
By Carol Cammack, CEA Horticulture

**F**irst, I'd like to welcome **Michael Morrison**, our new County Agent for Horticulture. I can already see, Michael is going to be a great asset to our program. He's already been sweaty and soggy at least twice in his first week working here. If you haven't had a chance to meet him, please stop by and say hello.

The school year begins again this month so it's time to start thinking about ways we can help make gardening an important part of the educational experience for the youth of Houston. As you might have guessed, I have some ideas.

**Cylinder Gardening** always needs volunteers. I can't thank those of you who have previously helped in this project enough. *You* are what makes the program successful. If you are willing to assist with this program again this fall, please contact me. We need people who are willing to travel to various parts of Houston and have a strong commitment to working with youth and teachers. Please consider helping with this important program – I know you will find it extremely rewarding.

**Browning Elementary** is in need of assistance in identifying plants in their native and butterfly gardens so that they can place educational tags on the plants. **Ms. Thelma Graves** works extremely hard to make sure that the children in her inner city school get to experience gardening education at its finest. I have asked numerous times for people to volunteer to work with this school and have had



no response. I think it is extremely sad that we have over 700 volunteers in our organization and no one is willing to assist this award winning program. This garden is located near Main and I-45. Please call me if you can help.

Edith Smith of HISD is implementing a curriculum this fall which calls for **live snails**. If you have snails you don't want, she will come collect them and keep them alive for the program. If you have snails you would like to donate to this worthy cause, please contact **Edith Smith** at (713) 726-2111 or [esmith5@houstonisd.org](mailto:esmith5@houstonisd.org).

**Burnet-Bayland Home for Juvenile Offenders** has a garden and greenhouse that are in need of work. **Jean Fefer, Ken Dorman, Michael Morrison** and myself visited there last week and found this to be an exciting opportunity. We plan to invest some time and effort in this garden beginning in the next few weeks and help them get it going. The staff is enthusiastic and plan to donate all of the vegetables grown to local food pantries in an effort to teach the youth working in the gardens about giving back to their community. There will be a lot of work initially, but hopefully once we educate them about keeping in going we won't be needed except occasionally to stop by, answer questions and see how things are going. This garden is located on Chimney Rock near the Southwest Freeway. Let me know if you would like to be involved in this project.

There are so many great opportunities to serve our youth and promote horticultural education. I know this has been a bit of guilt trip, but I hope some of you who are not already involved in Master Gardener projects will be



inspired to get involved. If you have questions, concerns, comments or most importantly, want to help, please contact me at (281) 855-5600, or [c-cammack@tamu.edu](mailto:c-cammack@tamu.edu).

## How you can help

### Cylinder Gardening

Delivery of materials and assist teachers implementing the program.

### Browning Elementary

Assist identifying plants in their native and butterfly garden.

### Snail roundup

Collect snails from your yard for HISD, and this dedicated teacher will pick them up!

### Burnet-Bayland Home for Juvenile Offenders

Need help with their vegetable gardens and greenhouse. Harvests are donated to area food pantries.

*Please contact Carol if you're interested in helping out with any of these programs. (281) 855-5600 or [c-cammack@tamu.edu](mailto:c-cammack@tamu.edu).*

# Michael's Corner

## Howdy! I am here!

By Michael Morrison, CEA Horticulture

**M**ichael is the name and gardening is my game! I fell off the turnip truck and brushed myself off when I arrived at the office. That Florida tan was fading away when I read the sign "Bear Creek". Heck, I was looking around for bears frolicking in the garden, but was astonished to see longhorn steers beyond the flowers in the next pasture. Yep, I am back home in Texas and happy to be back in the lone star state. **Yee haw!**

Carol and everyone here has been so helpful and friendly. I'm very happy to see all the hard work the Master

Gardeners are doing in the back and all the smiles to go with it. I look forward to working with everyone and appreciate your warm welcome to the Harris County office. I can't wait to

meet everyone and get some dirt under my fingernails!

Remember, *he who throws dirt, loses ground*. See ya in the garden!



"I was looking around for bears frolicking but was astonished to see longhorn steers!"

## Mission Training Center Garden

By Joyce Flott

**W**e just completed the third season for this project which reaches a **Kids' Club** in a nearby apartment project. Most of these children had no earthly idea where tomatoes, beans, cucumbers or any other vegetable came from. However, they are learning. Each weekday at 4 p.m. a van loaded with about 20 to 30 kids unloads and a youth coordinator supervises as they water and tend three beds filled with thirty containers. One of our major problems is water. We get it from a nearby house with a hose stretched as close to the beds as possible. The children fill their water pots from the hose and carry it to the beds. We were fortunate this spring at planting time as some spring-breakers from Arkansas came and were

here right at the right time to assist us with the plantings. They were a fantastic bunch, they also received a course on how to plant tomatoes, and differing sized seeds. It seemed to be a first-time horticulture project for several of them also, but they were attentive and fast learners.

One lesson we learned this season: do not ever ask the children what they want to plant. They always want the same thing as the first one that makes a request. Everyone wanted to do cucumbers. This season has been our most stressful with the late frosts and lack of early season rainfall and then the unusually high early temperatures. Also it seems we have a bountiful crop of insects where last year they must have all been washed away with the rain.

Bob and I used to live in a nearby neighborhood, but recently moved 25 miles from the location. If some of the Master Gardeners who live nearby would be interested in working with this project, we would love to hear from you. Bob and Joyce Flott (281) 213-3213. The beds have been emptied and we intend to totally rework them within the next month to ready them for our fall plantings.

The Mission Training Center Garden is located at the corner of Long Point and Silber in Spring Branch.

# HCMGA Events

## Bear Creek

### August 6 – Hamburger Tuesday

**8:00 am** Work up an appetite

**Noonish** Home cooked burgers, then Dawn Parish, *Proven Plant Winners*

### August 20 – General Meeting

**6:30 pm** Coffee

**7:00 pm** Terri Thomas, *STOMP: STopping Mosquito Proliferation*

### September 3 – Hamburger Tuesday

**8:00 am** Work up an appetite

**Noonish** Home cooked burgers. *Planned topic\*: Gourds; Speaker TBA*

### September 17 – General Meeting

**6:30 pm** Coffee

**7:00 pm** *Planned topic\*: Cool Season Plants; Speaker TBA*

*\*Note that planned topics may change.*



## Precinct 2

### August 7 – Hamburger Weds.

**9:30 am** Registration

**10:00 am** Linda Lain, *Growing and Using Herbs in Houston*

**Noonish** Join us for lunch, \$3.00

### September 4 – Hamburger Weds.

**9:30 am** Registration

**10:00 am** Dr. Bob Randall, *Organic Pest Control and Soil*

**Noonish** Join us for lunch, \$3.00

Precinct 2 programs are held at HCMGA office at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff. Please call to reserve a spot (281) 991-8437. Stay and enjoy lunch with us for \$3.00.

## Urban Harvest Classes Offered

### How to Start a Community Garden

Monday, **August 5**, from 4 – 6:30 pm  
**Cost:** no charge, but pre-registration is required.

**Location:** Urban Harvest office

Community gardens are located all around the greater Houston area, but there are lots of school yards, parks, housing projects, vacant lots, idle church property and subdivision common areas that would make *great* spaces for *more* community gardens.

If you know of such a space, learn “How to Start a Community Garden” and share what you learn with a group who can make it happen. Call (713) 880-5540.

### Taking the Classroom Outdoors

Tuesday, **August 6**, 9 am – 4 pm

**Cost:** \$25, pre-registration required.

**Location:** HISD Marcile Hollingsworth Science Resource Center  
13250 Summit Ridge

Teachers, parents and school administrators can attend a six-hour workshop to learn how to design, build and fund active-learning gardens for “outdoor classrooms.” The workshop is sponsored by Urban Harvest and the HISD Marcile Hollingsworth Science Resource Center. Call Urban Harvest at (713) 880-5540.

### Registration & Location

Call Urban Harvest at (713) 880-5540 to register or for more information.

Event information is on the web at <http://www.urbanharvest.org/upcoming/index.html>

Urban Harvest is located at 1900 Kane Street in the Old Sixth Ward, just west of downtown Houston.

# Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

### Strictly Gingers Workshop

Saturday, **August 17**, 9 am – 11 am

**Cost:** Mercer's box lunch included.

**SORRY, CLASS FULL**; size is limited. Mercer's box lunch included.

For additional events and information, please contact Mercer at (281) 443-8731 or [mercercarboretum@cp4.hctx.net](mailto:mercercarboretum@cp4.hctx.net)

### Volunteers Needed

Master Gardeners wanted! Volunteer at Mercer Arboretum and enjoy all it has to offer: beautiful gardens, climate controlled potting shed, friendly people and Master Gardener credit hours.

Contact Mercer's Volunteer Coordinator **Nellene Harvey** at (281) 443-8731 for more information.

# Web Surfin'

By Tom H. Robb, Jr

**G**loria and I are taking off tomorrow with the Texas Master Gardeners on a trip to Costa Rica with **Doug Welsh**. We will visit tropical botanical gardens, wander through rainforests, view tropical birds, see a commercial butterfly farm, tour PanAmerica Seed Company's Costa Rican Flower Farm, see an active volcano, relax in natural hot springs, visit a private orchid garden, stroll on exquisite white-sand beaches, enjoy a fiesta with local food, dance and ticos. At least that is what the tour program promises and you know that tour operators always, always tell only the truth. Hope to get pictures worth showing at next January's Hamburger Tuesday.

Actually, I wanted to again give everyone a warning about viruses. You know a couple of issues back I mentioned that I was using a virus and junk mail program offered by HAL-PC to its members. Well it's really proving its worth. It's been stopping about 25 pieces of junk mail and anywhere from an average of 1 to 3 virus infected mailings per day. At first I couldn't understand why the number of virus stopped mail seemed to pick up. It seems that HAL (and I understand that many other Internet Service Providers) have been screening mail and stopping many of the virus mail - but they don't get them all. The service from HAL is really from another organization who are constantly getting virus protection updates and generally stop them all. HAL on the average screened out about 2,000 virus laden pieces of mail each day.

In reading the latest *HAL Journal*, it seems that the **Klez Worm** has become the most potent and persistent virus ever to come out, surpassing the SirCam virus which showed up last summer. Usually, most viruses spring up and are a bother for a short

time but this worm, or a version of it, which was first detected in December 2001 doesn't seem to diminish in use. **Message Labs** (<http://www.messagelabs.com>) who runs an email security company claims that Klez H (one of the variants ranging from A-I) gathers its success from its ability to cover its tracks and deceive recipients. This virus selects random names from address books and creates a wide range of subject, text and attachment names, often using names that are familiar to the receiver. Particularly vulnerable are some versions of Microsoft Outlook and Internet Explorer.

If you suspect that might have been infected you might try **Trend Micro's** free online scanning and removal tools. (See sidebar at right for web addresses for each of these tools.)

**Symantec** also offers a removal tool for all variants of Klez. Get it and

other resources at Symantec's Security Response site. (See below for web address.)

## Anti-Virus Resources

### Housecall

[http://housecall.antivirus.com/housecall/start\\_corp.asp](http://housecall.antivirus.com/housecall/start_corp.asp)

Online scanning for viruses.

### Trend Micro Virus Removal

[http://www.antivirus.com/vinfo/security/fix\\_worm\\_klez\\_4.04.zip](http://www.antivirus.com/vinfo/security/fix_worm_klez_4.04.zip)

Downloads a Klez removal tool.

### Symantec's Security Response

<http://securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/venc/data/w32.klez.removal.tool.htm>

Online Klez removal tool.

## UrbanDirt Advertising

Urban Dirt is now accepting gardening related advertising and plans to publish a maximum of 8 – business card-sized ads per month. The cost will be \$35 for three months, beginning with the issue following receipt of your ad copy and payment unless you specify otherwise. You may send your ad as camera-ready hard copy, on disc, or via email. Deadline is no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please return the form below, your ad copy and your check for \$35 to:

**Harris County Master Gardener Association**  
**#2 Patterson Rd., Houston, TX 77084**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  Check enclosed  Ad copy enclosed

Please begin publication with the:  next issue  other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

# Garden Gifts

## News from our Outreach Gardens

By Kenneth Dorman

The next to last day of June, 2:30 PM and the temperature is 76°F in my back yard. Is there something wrong with this picture? A little rain, temperatures in the 70's and 80's and the plants are going crazy. The tomatoes have put on a burst of production and now have exceeded estimates with yields over 20 pounds per plant. I don't know what a normal harvest per plant is in Houston, but my Rodale's *Garden Problem Solver* says yield should be 30–50 pounds per 25 feet of row. We have 48 feet of row so maximum production should have been 100 pounds, but in reality it is nearing 400 pounds.

Overachieving is true for all the other crops as well; I based my estimated harvest goals on Rodale's book, but we are exceeding plan on everything. There could be several reasons for this, the fact we are on the campus of Central Presbyterian Church, luck or because of the outstanding help of **George Williams, Walter Baker** and **Mike Hammer**. Although I think God is probably non-denominational, I kind of like the first and last options. I'll have a full harvest list next month.

We also try very hard to practice organic gardening. My trusty gardening dictionary defines organic gardening as, *a gardening method in which, rather than being made the target of pesticides, insecticides, fungicides, and other chemicals, garden pests are controlled by being bored to death with excerpts from organic farming publications and texts.*

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### The real definition of Organic Gardening:

*Garden pests are controlled by being bored to death with excerpts from organic farming publications and texts.*

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And, by golly it really works, you should see old George out there lecturing the bugs. Or, does the fact the bottom of our beds is asphalt, which is a petroleum product, count against us being organic?

I think I mentioned before that I planted corn that did not come up because of the cold and then replanted with some seed from Southwest Fertilizer that did come up and up and up. That corn ended up over eight feet tall and was the worst eating corn I ever put a tooth on. We harvested it anyway and spread it out to dry for the doves and Sylvia is using the stalks for fall decorations so it was not a total waste, except at Bonita Street, but they have so much other stuff they don't miss the corn or what could have grown there.

We have planted black-eyed peas and sweet potatoes and okra to go

with the tomatoes, eggplants, peppers, cucumbers and melons that are still going in mid-July. They can buy a few ears of corn and make a big succotash.

**Rodney** says the French hybrid melons are the hit of the neighborhood. They have grown over and through the fence and are out on the lawn with the fruit trees and the kids are on them like mockingbirds on figs. It's all right though because they have lots of melons.

In addition to the corn the doves ate all the seed off a huge sunflower that came up volunteer in the chili pepper bed at CCSC. The flower on that thing was at least a foot across and the doves did not wait for the seed to fall, they sat on the flower and pecked them out and shucked them as neat as any machine. Naturally, doves are out of season this time of year, just like squirrels and mockingbirds. I know some of you think I occasionally exaggerate, but you can ask **Jinx Hammer** about that flower. Speaking of the chili pepper bed one of our young volunteer ladies climbed up in it and sat cross-legged while she picked serrano and jalapeno peppers. My knees hurt for two days just from watching her sit there.

I am so pleased with both gardens! The plants and fruit trees are all doing so good I don't know how to express my joy and my gardening companions are a true pleasure. I am reminded of something I saw in one of my little books that Beatrix Farrand said, *the essence of the enjoyment of a garden is that things should look as though they like to grow in it.* And our things do look like they are enjoying life, and if plants can then so can we. Life is good and we are blessed, indeed.

**The essence of the enjoyment of a garden is that things should look as though they like to grow in it.**

—Beatrix Farrand

# Genoa Friendship Garden

## HCMGA Precinct Two Satellite

By Angela Chandler

The Summer 2002 Class is off and running! The last day of class we had a really thorough Volunteer Orientation, and lots of new MG Interns have signed up for duty in the various gardens and committees. Many of this class are well on their way to accumulating hours toward graduation.

We have had some really productive workdays this month. We have put in a paved area under our picnic tables and established this area as a shade garden. It is small, but the shade of that old oak is precious to us and to the gingers we have put there! **Brandon Sladacek** helped to layout and design the framing, while **Marge Bryan, Georgia Lau, Marsha Christjohn, Carol Urdiales, Pat Pate,** and **Barbara Morrison** cleaned out weeds, and hauled pavers. **Denny Denman** and **Balram Ramsoondar** moved tons of sand. **Jim Frantz** helped Marsha level it all out. We finally got the pavers down with the help of this crew and **Valerie Murray**.

Wednesday's have really been busy. **Denny Denman, Brandon Sladacek, Doug Helzer, Valerie Murray,** and **Paul Perisho** recently put up some new bean trellis'. Valerie Murray was right behind them planting beans. **Shirley Jackson, Beth Frohme, Georgia Lau,** and **Marsha Christjohn** helped with the harvest before going on to help in other areas of the garden. Jim Frantz was back at work with the tractor repairing the fruit tree berms after our spring addition to the irrigation tore them up.

**Marge Bryan** and her husband built a newspaper recycling bin for us which should really help us keep the compost area neater. We have reorganized our tool shed and have added some shelving to sort out tools and

supplies. We had a whole crew in the classroom putting together carts and shelves! It has really made a difference. We can actually get in there and find things now.

**Jim Denman** has cut some shelves for us to add to our cabinets in the office. These will go in the bookcases that **Janelle Kister** painted and stenciled. We are going to be able to sort our handouts and publications once this is completed, which should help us give faster and better advice.

The greenhouse is looking so much better with it's clear siding! We are planning a Fall Sale this year and the greenhouse will really be important to it's success. Right now we are babysitting some plants rescued from Spencer Prairie. **Dick Benoit** recently led a field trip to this site. The morning was spent learning the importance of preserving prairie areas and proper rescue methods. Since this site is scheduled

for development, we rescued some grasses, coneflowers, and rattlesnake master. We will plant these treasures in an open area of our garden to protect and preserve what we can.

We held our first elections this July. For those of you who are not familiar, we are a sub-committee to the Board of Directors. See the sidebar at right for members elected to serve for the 2002–2003 year.

This group has served in interim positions as we re-organized and established procedures and has worked hard to put together a workable and permanent framework for future growth and improvement. Many of them also serve as garden or committee chairs. I would like to thank each and every one of them for the dedication and time given to this very important task.

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## 2002–2003 Precinct 2 election results

**Coordinator** .....**Angela Chandler**

**Vice-Coordinator**.....**Janice Patrick**

**Treasurer** .....**Paula Poynter**

**Secretary** .....**Janelle Kister**

**Members-at-Large:**

**Dick Benoit**

**Kaye Courey**

**Jim Frantz** (Liasion to Precinct 2)

**Pat Mitrowski**

**Neal Murray** (Liasion to Bear Creek)

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# 2002 Awards Banquet

By Jean Fefer



The Omni Hotel was the venue of the awards banquet on June 18<sup>th</sup>, where all enjoyed a leisurely dinner and the Awards Presentation by **Bill Adams**.

**Special Award for 16 years of continuous service**  
**Claire Loper** and **Ruth Dale**

### Outstanding volunteers at the three MG sites

**Bear Creek** ..... **Anne O'Neil** and **Ken Dorman**

A tie with close to 700 hours each

**Mercer**..... **David Berkshire**, with 590 hours

**Precinct 2** ..... **Janice Patrick**, with over 300 hours

### Special Awards for expert coordination of the yearly sales

**Ken Dorman** for the Fall Plant Sale in September, 2001

**David Parish** for the Fruit Tree Sale in January, 2002

**Mary Lynn Randall** for the Tomato/Pepper Sale in February, 2002

**Deba Cox** for the Spring Plant Sale in April 2002

**Paula Poynter** and **Angela Chandler** for the Precinct 2 Plant Sale in conjunction with the Water Smart Symposium in March, 2002

### Special Thank You

**Nellene Harvey**, Mercer Volunteer Coordinator, for her seamless coordination and cooperation.

### Volunteer of the Year

**Clyde Cannon** for over 1,000 hours and gallons of perspiration.

### Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

**Tom Robb** for many hours of service over the years, for serving as the membership committee, for producing the directory, for managing the website, for keeping members informed via email, and for general readiness to lend a hand.

Thanks to the **Awards Committee** consisting of **Tom Robb**, **Joyce Flott** and **Mary Ann Wagner**; to **Carol Cammack** for preparing the garden slide show that added so much to the evening; to **Becky Deasy** for the attractive and informative program and to **Linda Paisley**, **Helen Poole** and **Ursula White** for the very decorative table treatment.

**Harris County Master Gardener Association**  
#2 Abercrombie Drive (281) 855-5600  
Houston, TX 77084 FAX (281) 855-5638

### Board of Directors

**President** ..... George Williams  
(713) 783-4231

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** ..... Virginia Joiner  
(281) 469-2766

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President** .... Katherine Peterson  
(281) 497-3555

**Past President** ..... Jean Fefer  
(713) 467-0231

**Secretary** ..... Marge Chambers  
(281) 347-5508

**Treasurer** ..... Mary Lynn Randall  
(713) 263-9634

**Directors:** Grady Joiner, Neal Murray,  
Jennifer Lowenthal, Anne O'Neil, Clyde  
Cannon, Jinks Hammer

### Ancillary Positions

#### MG Advisors:

**CEA - Horticulture** ..... Carol Cammack  
(281) 855-5600

**CEA - Horticulture** .... Michael Morrison  
(281) 855-5600

**Horticulture Secretary** ..... Becky Deasy  
(281) 855-5600

**Volunteer Coordinator** ..... Scott Hume  
(281) 855-5600

**Gulf Coast Fruit Study Gp...** Yvonne Gibbs  
(713) 462-7052

**Membership** ..... Tom Robb  
(713) 465-5987

**Greeting Committee** ..... Margaret Mason  
Gloria Robb

**Hospitality Committee** ..... Bea Patterson

**Book Committee** ..... Anne O'Neil  
(713) 744-0945

**Urban Dirt Layout** ..... Tami Pipkin  
UrbanDirt@houston.rr.com

# Volunteer Hours

See below for instructions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Period covered – from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Facility or Garden Name	# Contacts	Hours
<b>Total hours this worksheet</b>			

**Submitting your volunteer hours** Please drop off completed forms in the inbox on **Scott Hume's** desk. Scott can be reached at (281) 855-5600 or [oshume@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:oshume@ag.tamu.edu).

**Want to fill out this form on your computer?** The volunteer hours form included here is for printing out and filling in by hand. But we've posted a spiffy version on the MG website, which you can fill out on the computer in Acrobat Reader before printing to save you all that tedious handwriting. The downloadable version even prints the current date and totals your hours for you. Get it at <http://harris-cnty.tamu.edu/hcmga/urban.htm>.

# August 2002

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## eDirt What's new for August?

### 1. New navigational aids at the bottom of every page.

Yup, get there quicker with buttons.

Try one now. Click the "next" button to go to page 1, or the "previous" button to go to page 11.

[Previous](#) | [Next](#) | [Index](#)

**Go on, click one!**

### 2. Increased type size.

Several folks mentioned that the type on the PDF version seems smaller than on the print version. They're actually the same, but we don't want anyone getting eye strain! (If Reader is shrinking it I haven't figured out why yet.) In the meantime, I increased the type size and spacing a bit. [Let me know](#) if this works for you. We try to fit as much as possible in these 12 pages, but can increase the type size more if we need to.

### 3. All events listings are on one page.

Strapped for time? Just wanna know meeting and event info? Check out [page 5](#).

### 4. Expanded use of color.

[Let me know](#) what you think.

## Ronald McDonald House

By Hope Dyson

Master Gardener **Joanne Storm** has for the past two years chaired the Herb and Flowerpots Project at the Ronald McDonald House (RMH). She and her team of Master Gardeners, have for the last two years worked miracles with the pots at RMH. Joanne has been assisted in her efforts by the ever devoted Master Gardeners **Robert White, E.J. and Mary Lee Lan-ik, Jim and Mardy Thomas, Beth and Bruce Gruden,** herb consultant **Sandra Matejich** and myself.

The plants continue to thrive and we get great reviews from the families of the patients that stay at RMH and the staff. For those Master Gardeners that are unfamiliar with the Ronald McDonald House, it is located in the Texas Medical Center and is a home away from home for young patients and families who are being treated at one of the institutions in the Medical Center. The project began several years ago with the establishment of herb pots on a patio of the house by **Nancy Kuykendall** and **Ann Robinson**. These herbs are there for the use of the families if they choose. Often families will be far, far from home, and herbs, flowers, and plants give them a sense

of home in often very, very troubled times. Two years ago we were approached by the staff to maintain a group of flower pots in another area that soften a rather remote, bare patio, used by the families when they just need a private time together.

The house is a wonderful place; the staff and families are cheerful and very pleasant to us. We feel that this is a great opportunity for international community service. **There are two opportunities**, one is being a consistent watering and weeding person able to commit a few hours a week in a rotation of every other month plus twice a year committing to a Saturday morning to rework the pots. For this effort you get direct reinforcement from the smiles of the families, and last year we were awarded a Volunteers of the Month Award one month. Believe me, you can become addicted to the job. Joanne has passed the chairmanship on to me and I am hereby inviting all you Master Gardeners out there plus willing spouses, kids, etc. to participate in this unique project.

For a tour and to volunteer please contact **Hope Dyson** at (713) 529-8802 or [hdyson@swbell.net](mailto:hdyson@swbell.net). We will be glad to share the experience.