



January 2001  
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# Urban Dirt



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## Bill Notes

By *Bill Adams – CEA Horticulture*

If you are interested in attending the **2001 International Master Gardener Conference** and Trade Show in Orlando, Florida it's time to get serious. The conference is set for May 28-June 1 with registration due April 2 (\$295). For more info: <http://hort.ufl.edu/mg/interconf.htm>. If you don't have internet access contact the office and we will print out some registration forms. There are lots of wonderful things to see and do in this part of the country—Disney World, Epcot, the Florida Voter's Museum, Chads-R-U's and much more.

Don't forget the **Fruit Tree Sale** and Demonstrations January 27, 2001. It will be at the Extension Center on the south side of the building with planting and pruning demonstrations in the orchard. There's no charge for the demos but, of course, you have to pay for the trees.

**Team Tomato** will be held March 3, 2001. We plan to have the sale on the south side, as usual with demonstrations on planting, making cages, using row cover and starting seeds in the garden and in the greenhouse. No lectures this time and no charge for the demos.

April 21 is the date set for the **April Flowers Symposium and Plant Sale**. We will have a number of excellent speakers for this event and lots of perennials and landscape plants to sell.

April 22 I will begin cleaning out my office in anticipation of a late summer or fall retirement date. I'm afraid it will take 3-4 months to get this done so it's imperative that I start early. Don't ask where I'm going to put it all. My wife, Debbi doesn't know either.

There are still plenty of chores to finish in the Millennium Garden. Planting, watering—followed by weeding, etc, etc. H.C.M.G. Linda Popinski donated a wonderful small arbor for the garden and Diane Ballentine quickly incorporated it into the daylily planting. If you would like to

donate a bench, etc contact us so that we can let the planting committee determine if we have a suitable location for it.

Clyde Cannon is building again. He has rebuilt the shade structure and it looks solid enough for a second story. Clyde also got the MG board to approve lime and crushed granite walkways

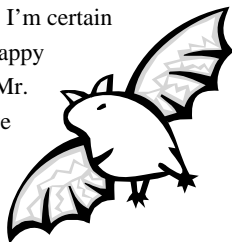
around the vegetable garden, shade garden, gourd garden and compost demonstration area. With some help from county inmates to move the stone this place is beginning to look like a Botanical Garden.

Roy Wood and Murray Kast got the irrigation controller in the greenhouse moved and rewired. It shorted out just before the Thanksgiving holidays so we had to do some hand watering. Thank goodness for technology.

Ramon Wallace has taken on the compost area and he has ambitious plans for a demonstration site where we would have



compost in various stages and perhaps even have different types of compost. Following the Harris County Fair we were able to secure a generous load of MM (mule manure or donkey doo) for Ray and he seems elated. Now if someone would just donate a load of Peruvian Bat guano I'm certain we could insure a happy holiday season for Mr. Wallace. Don't give up Ray. The circus will be coming to town soon.



Clarence Sapp will be coordinating the Spring 2001 Master Gardener class with help from Bob West, George Williams and Marge Chambers. We still have room for a few more in the class so if you know if someone that's been waiting for a chance to take the Master Gardener class, this is it. We are also planning another class at Pct 2 in June/July. This will be a twice per week class starting June 5 and finishing July 12 with no classes during the 4th of July week.

I hope everyone had a great holiday season! We should have a super gardening year in 2001. ✂



## President's Thoughts

By *Kenneth Dorman, MG President*

"Gardens are not made by singing 'Oh, how beautiful,' and sitting in the shade." - Rudyard Kipling

The many gardens at the Extension Center are a testament to this quotation. I marvel at the dedication of so many of you that come faithfully each week, rain or shine, cold or hot to extract beauty from the hard, dry, weed-filled earth of Harris County West. How many gardens we have! The Flower Gardens between the buildings and at the

entrance to our building, the Children's Garden, Butterfly Garden, Rose Garden, Orchard, Vegetable Garden, Herb Garden, Millennium Garden with all the small gardens inside it, the trees in front of the buildings and, of course, the supply center, our Greenhouse. Then there are the community gardens, the Cylinder Garden project and all the other endeavors Harris County Master Gardeners participate in. Harris County and its many communities are blessed by this organization.

Deba Cox has taken on the job of coordinating the Spring Symposium/Plant Sale for 2001. The theme will be butterflies and from what I have heard appears it will be an exciting program for children as well as adults. This has traditionally been one of our largest fund-raisers and is a lot of work, so plan to attend and help where and when you can. The greenhouse will again be propagating plants from cuttings and seed donated by our members, but the growing space in our greenhouse is limited so wait until we hear from the people there about what and how much they want before bringing anything.

I sometimes wonder if there is anything a majority of the membership would like to see done, or know about, but have never mentioned it. Would there be any interest, or value, in having one meeting night devoted to a question and answer open discussion type session? Let's hear from you. Call or e-mail me or talk to any of the Board members or Bill or Carol. It might be fun.

In the last Board meeting the subject of telephoning to remind members of the meeting nights was brought up. One of our telephoners resigned and I did not find a replacement for her so some of you are not getting called every month. It is my fault and I will try to find someone else if you want to be reminded we meet the third Tuesday of each month except December. Let me hear from you.

You should all have a new directory by now, but if not you can pick one up in the Master

## Upcoming Events

**January 16, 2001**

**Extension Office**

**Master Gardener Monthly Meeting**

6:30 p.m. - Desserts

7:00 p.m. - "USDA Guidelines/Soil Food Web"

by John Ferguson of Nature's Way Resources

**January 27, 2001**

**8:00 a.m., Extension Office**

**Fruit Tree Sale**

Annual fruit tree sale and demonstrations. Volunteers needed as always. Call Stephanie to sign up; (281) 855-5600.

**February 20, 2001**

**Extension Office**

**Master Gardener Monthly Meeting**

6:30 p.m. - Desserts

7:00 p.m. - "People & Plants"

by Carol Cammack

**March 3, 2001**

**Extension Office**

**Team Tomato**

Annual tomato, pepper, herb sale and demonstrations. Volunteers needed as always. Call Stephanie to sign up; (281) 855-5600.

**Tuesdays Mornings**

**8:00, Extension Office**

**Tuesdays Workdays**

Get your volunteer hours in, make friends and enjoy the garden.

**First Tuesday of the Month**

**Lunch, Extension Office**

**Hamburger Tuesday**

After a rewarding morning of activity in the garden, enjoy a home-cooked burger and an informative presentation.

Jan. - Glen Graves

New School Butterfly Gardening Curriculum

Feb. - Georgia Bost

Hardy Hibiscus

Gardener room. Tom Robb gets a big round of applause for this mighty effort. Something I think should be added to the next one under Member Services is the office of First Tuesday Hamburger Cook listing David Parish. I didn't realize what a tremendous task this is until I mistakenly agreed to cook for the last day of the Fall Class. This job calls for DEDICATION! Thanks, David, and thank you kind ladies of the Hospitality Committee, Anice Bilberry, Marge Chambers and Bea Patterson that prepare for and clean up after the feast. Thanks also to Dave Mason for doing the shopping for the meal.

I have heard from several sources what wonderful people we had in the class that just finished, and I agree. They are bright, enthusiastic, hard working and dedicated and to be congratulated. Also to be congratulated are the folks that worked so hard to guide them through the weeks of training they received. I believe they are what make a good class. They keep the interest high by having good instructors, starting on time, maintaining discipline and showing a genuine concern for each individual in the class. The class and all of the rest of us owe many thanks to George Williams who facilitated, Ann O'Neil who makes sure the literature is available and correct, Charlie Reass the sound and visual arts guru and Clarence Sapp, Bob West, Patricia Hayward and Derle Linder for making the coffee, putting out the name tags, scoring final exams, greeting, listening to and helping everyone who asked.

Well, Christmas is gone and the new Millennium has really begun, so all of you that didn't follow up on new century resolutions have yet another chance. I have lived long enough to know I am not going to change so I don't bother trying. Anyway, hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and I wish you a safe, happy and prosperous New Year. Remember the January meeting will be a Pot Luck meeting with the Master Gardener Association furnishing the meat and drinks and you the rest. ☞



## Three Romantic Trees to Dream of

By Frances Robeson

Have you ever read about an exotic tree and began to dream of going on a quest to see it? In my reading lately three trees have captured my imagination. All can be seen here in this country in the right place at the right time.

The first is the Dove Tree, *Davidia involucrata* named in honor of Armand David, a French missionary priest and naturalist who was the first European to bring from China specimens of this tree along with the first specimen (dead) of a Giant Panda.

There is a Dove Tree planted in the Sarah P. Duke gardens at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Last April it bloomed for the first time. I know this because I receive their quarterly newsletter, Flora. Several years ago I sent one dollar for a sample of this publication and have been on the mailing list ever since. It was a great investment, for how else would I have known about the Dove Tree?

The tree described in the fall issue of Flora, in the article "Dove Trees and Giant Pandas" sounds wonderful indeed. It is said to have nondescript flowers surrounded by two large

white bracts that give it the appearance when it blooms of being full of white birds. It can grow to 40 feet, and may take ten years to flower. This tree is often found in European gardens but has not been planted much in America. Specimens can be seen at the Arnold Arboretum in Boston where the flower buds are often nipped by frost. It can be ordered from Greer gardens in Eugene, Oregon, but I think we should save our money. So good a gardener as John Fairey told me that he tried more than once to grow it at Peckerwood without success. To see it in bloom we must go to the Sarah P. Duke Gardens in North Carolina in April, the right week in April.

The second fantastic tree is found in the Anza-Borrego Desert in Southern California, and it must be the strangest tree in all North America. This is the elephant tree, *Bursea microphylla*. I had never heard of it until I read Wandering Through Winter by Edwin Way Teale. It grows to about ten feet, has silvery bark, contorted branches, and a swollen lower trunk. The lower limbs look like an elephant's trunk and if grasped will flop up and down as if made of rubber. When cut it bleeds sap the color of blood. It reveals its kinship to the famous frankincense tree by its aromatic sap, resin, and leaves. A pleasing perfume is said to surround these trees in the desert air. The time to *not* visit them is summer when the desert where they grow is one of the hottest places in the United States. It would be best to be guided by the title of Mr. Teal's book and go wandering there in winter.

The last strange tree was described by nineteenth century naturalist, W.H. Hudson in Far Away and Long Ago, a memoir of a childhood spent on the pampas of Argentina. His first home was called Los Veinte-cinco Ombues, named for the 25 ombu trees that surrounded it. These are tall trees of immense girth. They have large, glossy green leaves that are quite poisonous. When it is cut down the wood does not dry but rots like a melon. Since he considered it useless to man Mr. Hudson predicted that the tree



# From the Editor's

## Desk...aka Carol's Commentary

**Pink Flamingoes.** I happened to be putting flowers in the floral cooler last week and was shocked to find our own two pink flamingoes in there. Frightened, I immediately attempted resuscitation, reattached their legs and moved them to the greenhouse. Currently, they are nesting happily in the mulch pile and Clyde's new lath house. This recent assassination attempt on our flamingo flock leaves me wondering if this action wasn't a bit harsh. I realize they have limited aesthetic appeal to some, but do they really deserve such torture? Drop me a line and let me know what you think about this or any other issues, humorous or otherwise, you'd like to see addressed in future issues of Urban Dirt. Beware, comments **may** printed in upcoming 'Letters to the Editor' section... provided I get any. This leads me to the next point of interest ...

**Urban Dirt Goes Monthly!** The Board of Directors has indicated they would like to see Urban Dirt become a monthly publication. I think this is an excellent idea, but I can't do it without your help. All articles **now** need to be submitted to me by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month**. Anyone can submit an article or idea for a column. If you would like to make a submission to the Urban Dirt, please email it as text to [c-cammack@tamu.edu](mailto:c-cammack@tamu.edu). Non - electronic submissions should be typed on white paper using large fonts, with no extraneous markings. Mail, fax or drop these items in the Editor's Box at the Extension Office 2 Abercrombie Dr. Houston, TX 77077. Fax: 281-855-5638.

**The next issue will be for Feb 2001. The submission cutoff date is Jan 15, 2001.**

### HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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would become extinct. I am happy to say that this has not happened. According to Mr. Robert Riffle in The Tropical Look, this tree is now almost worshipped in its native Argentina, and there is an ombu, (*Phytolacca dioica*) growing at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Some winters it freezes back, but it grows rapidly and may reach a height of 30 feet. A relative of this tree is native to the United States. It too has poisonous leaves but it is not as impressive as the ombu. We call it pokeweed.

It seems to me that of these three fantastic trees we should at least be able to grow the ombu. It should grow as well here as in San Antonio. What about planting one in our Millennium Garden? Who wants to lead the Quest to find us one? ☞



## The Flower Garden

by Jennifer Warren

It is that time of year where we look forward to the spring flowers and bulbs. As we looked through our seed box last fall to determine what we were going to plant in the garden for spring we realized that we were dealing with some old seeds. Some seeds may be able to stand the test of time however, annuals lose their viability pretty quickly. We had packages of violas and scattered them throughout the garden without success of producing seedlings. Most of the seeds were from 1997. So this year we are trying some new seeds. How does Promise Pink Phlox or Peaches & Cream Verbena sound.

This past fall we did something every gardener should do, we mulched the garden.



**THANK YOU**

A special thanks goes to Charlie Reass. Charlie secured a 500.00 grant from Exxon for the Harris County Master Gardener Association. All of Charlie's hard work is very much appreciated. Thank you Charlie!

Thanks to Ken Dorman who took the initiative to get us some pine bark mulch. Doing this one thing has cut down on our weeds considerably. We also spread some cypress mulch for walkways. There were many plants in bloom this past fall. We love the mums that were in full bloom, along with the african iris in the bulb section. The brugmansea flowered for its first year. It is only beginning to show us joy. But still our best plant has to be Dianthus 'Melody Pink'. This is an All American Selection Winner and we can all see why. It flowers continuously. This plant has yet to disappoint any of us.

We are hoping to get a repeat of our wildflowers in the flower beds behind the community building. Last spring we threw out some seeds and let them do there magic. And boy was it a show. We had bluebonnets, poppies, rudbeckias, and gallardia to name a few of the plants. Last year we tried some Aggie bluebonnets that, of course, were maroon in color.

We are eager to see if they return and if they cross-pollinated with the blue bluebonnets. We are seeing some new faces around. I would like to say thanks for coming out and joining us for the morning. We could always use some new gardening stories and if you hang around we will tell you some of ours. I hope the holidays were good to everyone and to see you in 2001. Until then...keep planting. ☞



## Herbside

by *Nel Barner*

### The Smell & Tell Game

Match the smell to the herb. Botanical names are used to make it harder (a few scents are my own interpretations and may not necessarily be yours). Answers are below if you get stuck.

1. menthol
2. oregano
3. apple
4. onion
5. licorice
6. dead fish
7. rose
8. Vicks Vaporub
9. turpentine
10. Great Grandmother's perfume
11. lemon
12. wintergreen
13. men's cologne
14. citrus + pine
15. pineapple
16. curry
17. garlic
18. pine

- a. Hypericum perforatum
- b. Plectranthus camphorata
- c. Tagetes lemmonii
- d. Murraya koenigii
- e. Salvia elegans

- f. Rosmarinus officinalis
- g. Aloysia triphylla
- h. Allium shoenorprasm
- i. Tagetes lucida
- j. Houtuyinia cordata
- k. Pelargonium graveolens
- l. Heliotrophum arborescens
- m. Allium tuberosum
- n. Chamaemelu nobile
- o. Artemisia abrotanum
- p. Plectranthus (Coleus) amboinicus
- q. Chrysanthemum balsamita
- r. Mentha requienii

Answers: 1-r, 2-p, 3-n, 4-h, 5-i, 6-j, 7-k, 8-b, 9-a, 10-1, 11-g, 12-q, 13-o, 14-c, 15-e, 16-d, 17-m, 18-f. ☞

## Hamburger Tuesday Update

By *Mary Ann Wagner*

It is the beginning of a new year, we have a new president of the United States, and it is the time of year our thoughts turn to spring gardening. This is the time we peruse all the seed catalogs and make plans to add something new to our gardens.



On January 2, 2001, Glen Graves will present a program on Butterfly Gardening. Glen has a wonderful film to show and he will discuss the new curriculum he is developing for the schools. Butterfly Gardening has become extremely popular; everyone is interested in attracting these beautiful creatures to their yards. This

program will give hints on how to build a butterfly garden. It will also suggest plants that will provide nectar and host plants for the caterpillars. This presentation should help relieve the post-holiday blues.

In February, Georgia Bost of The Village Botanica will speak on the Hardy Hibiscus. Georgia has received a U.S. Department of Energy grant to study how these hibiscus help control the amount of carbon escaping from the soil. It is believed that carbon escaping into the air contributes to the greenhouse effect. Georgia also hybridizes these plants and is responsible for many of the varieties on the market today. This is a wonderful plant that seems impervious to the insects and constantly changing climate of Houston.

Remember the first Tuesday of the month. Join us for some gardening, a great hamburger, good companionship, and some new ideas. ☞



## Web Surfin'

by Tom H. Robb, Jr.

A week or two ago, I received a telephone call from one of our members asking how to set up her e-mail to send a message to several people at one time. I use an e-mail program called "Pegasus" and, of course, I've learned to do certain things within this program but I was uncertain how the mail programs are handled with the browsers of Netscape or Microsoft Explorer and I still don't understand the fine points of either of these mail programs. The same holds true for the mail programs offered by others such

as AOL, Prodigy, Compuserve, etc. Many of you readers will know more about this subject than I do, but the following is a very basic answer to the question raised by the member above.

One thing seems to hold true in nearly all programs. All programs I've looked at have entries for TO:, SUBJECT:, cc:, bcc:, and MESSAGE. When you send a message to anyone, you enter his/her e-mail address following the TO: . Simple isn't it. But there are a number of ways you can enter this address. Suppose you want to contact your friend Mary Jones whose e-mail address is [mj@net.com](mailto:mj@net.com) . In the TO: line you can simply enter:

[mj@net.com](mailto:mj@net.com)

or you can be more explicit and enter:

"Mary Jones" <[mj@net.com](mailto:mj@net.com)>

or you can enter :

(Mary Jones) [mj@net.com](mailto:mj@net.com)

You must use the punctuation shown in order for it to work - any of the three methods accomplish the same thing. You must enter an address in the TO: - otherwise nothing is sent. If you want to, you can add more addresses on this line by separating each address by a comma - thus -

[mj@net.com](mailto:mj@net.com), [jg@com.net](mailto:jg@com.net)

Adding another address to the TO: line is not advisable if you have many names because most programs severely limit the amount of information entered into this line. To add more names, use either the cc: line or the bcc: line. cc: stands for carbon copy and you can add numerous names, limited only by the program itself. This is a widely used method of sending the same message to a large number of people but one that I personally don't like to use. Why? Because when the names are placed in "carbon copy" this list of names is visible to everyone on the list. I personally dislike receiving e-mail that I have to go through line after line of addresses before I can even see the message. I also dislike the fact that everyone receiving

this message and also the list of names has access to my e-mail address.

The best place to put this list of addresses, each separated by a comma ",", is in the bcc: line. Bcc stands for blind carbon copy and although each members in the bcc: list receives the message, the only name that he sees is his and that of the person sending him the message. This is also handy if you send a message to someone and a blind carbon copy to someone else without letting the original recipient know about the copy.

Most programs also limit the length of the data string that you enter into either the cc: or the bcc: line. I usually limit mine to about 125 addresses. Thus when I send out a message to almost 600 addresses, I send it 5 times, each to a different set of addresses. I could probably add quite a few more to each list but this number seems to work well. It's also easy to keep up-to-date and edit when addresses change.

As I stated at the beginning, I use a mail program called "Pegasus" which gives me some additional features. And one of these is the ability to make distribution lists. In fact, each of the 125 or so names that I mentioned above is a part of a separate "distribution list." This is an ASCII list of names and addresses which I have prepared, one each for names a-d, e-k, l-r, s-z, and one for members of the classes. Actually, I have another that goes to the extension staff. Pegasus gives each of these lists a code and all I have to do is enter the code in the "Blind Carbon Copy" section and all of the names on that list will be sent messages that show them only their names and mine.

Pegasus also has a number of other features - easy forwarding of messages, making attachments, creating folders, adding signatures, etc. And the beauty of it is the program is FREE. You might want to go out to [shareware.com](http://shareware.com) and download it. Its easy to use. ☞



## Notes from the Millennium Display Garden

Just when you thought we would never get around to it, we have begun planting the MDG. It is changing weekly as we add plant contributions from our Master Gardeners and many friends. We still have a lot of ground to cover, so please contact the coordinators of the individual garden areas if you have plants you would like to contribute to the gardens. We need chairs, benches and a picnic table for the east end area under the oak trees, a bird bath or two, a gazing ball for the pond area...and we always need your physical help to plant, mulch, make signs. Join us each Tuesday as we continue to make this area come alive.



**BOG & WATER GARDEN**  
- Virginia & Grady Joiner,  
Coordinators.

**Winter comes to the bog and water garden** just like any other area in the garden. It is the dormant period and the foliage shows the signs of the cooler weather. The water lilies will be cut back below the water line only if there is danger of the pond freezing. Feeding stopped in October in order to give them a rest. We will replot them the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and start feeding them again every two weeks during the growing period (March to October). Water lilies can be fed weekly by dividing the monthly feeding allotment by four. When the water lilies are replotted there will be extras that we can sell as soon as they show signs of new growth. The pond filter will stay the same through out the winter unless we have a severe freeze. Some of things in the bog garden will die back. We

will divide them in the spring and replot the extras for sale.

**I am always interested in new things for these areas.** After Linda Gay's lecture on vines, she discussed an aster she had on the list grows in wet areas. I bought one and I will try it on the edge of the new bog area that we are starting to develop. I have anchored the corner of this new area with a Swamp Rose that will bloom next May.

**I want to stay away from very invasive plants in the bog garden.** These plants multiply by putting out runners (taro, bamboo, etc). It takes too much work to control them. We are trying to get rid of the taro that is in the pond at this time. I will try and confine it to a large pot and place that in the bog so that we can have an example of its texture and contrasting color.

**We have decorated the information mailbox for the garden,** and will soon have it installed. You can pick up information on bog and water gardening from the mailbox.

**I want to thank Discount Water Lilies and Pond Supplies** for the items donated for the pond in the Millennium Display Garden. Leo gave us 3 water lilies, about 18 fish, and several bog plants. Without Leo's generosity we would not have been able to look so wonderful so quickly. He also gave us the fertilizer for the lilies and the fish food at his cost. He is located in Brookshire, Texas, exit 731 (Kookey Road) on the south side of I-10 West. Go by and thank him.



**HEIRLOOM GARDEN -**  
Sally Patin, Coordinator.

**Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped in the first planting of the Heirloom Garden.** We planted a mixed perennial border of paperwhite narcissus, Kwanso daylilies, St. Joseph and Ox blood amaryllis and red spider lily (*Lycoris radiata*), donated by Patty Allen of Humble, Texas.

**We hope to continue this border the length of the garden,** so if anyone has extra

plants, please bring them to the greenhouse. We would also like to add Byzantine and Parrot glads, summer snowflake (*Leucojum aestivum*, and cemetery white iris.

**We also planted several different crinum** - Milk & Wine Lily, Ellen Bosenquet, and a white variety from Bayou Bend. Thanks to Nel Barner and the Herb Garden, we planted two antique roses, Louis Philippe and Mme. Joseph Schwartz. One pink and white althea was also planted. It was a cutting donated by Jean Barnhart in Nacogdoches.

**Thanks to Mary Gage and Spring Creek Daylily Garden** for her contribution of golden spider lily bulbs.

**We still need several small shrubs or trees,** such as hydrangea, Pink Perfection camellia, Gardenia jasminoides, flowering quince, banana shrub and sweet olive to name a few. Spring should bring a beautiful display of colorful blooms to our garden.



**PART SHADE GARDEN -** Nancy Kuyendahl & Ann Robinson, Coordinators.

We have planted about 50 plants in our area, mostly hardy tropicals. We would like to thank Linda Gay, horticulturist at Mercer Arboretum, for her advice and plant contributions to the garden. We will plant more in the spring, after danger of frost is past and the soil begins to warm.



**DROUGHT TOLERANT BED -** Bob Midkiff & David Parish, Coordinators.

Planting continues with drought tolerant Society Garlic, Rudbeckia, Dwarf Agapanthus, Bi-color Iris, grasses, Trailing purple lantana, Osteospermum (Freeway daisy), and Giant Agapanthus etc.



**COLOR BORDER -** Russell & Diane Shepard, Coordinators

**This is the largest area in the**

**Millennium Display Garden.** Thanks to Mary Lynn Randall for bringing in selections to begin planting this bed, and to all the volunteers who dug holes and planted. Due to commitments to the Tomato & Pepper Sale, Mary Lynn will turn over the development of this area to Russell & Diane Shepard. The Shepards are Master Gardener interns, but experienced gardeners. Russell and Diane will report in more detail in the next issue.

**DAYLILY GARDEN - Diane**

Ballentine, Ida Morton,  
Linda Mikeska,  
Coordinators



The Daylily Garden is beginning to take shape as we plant the many beautiful cultivars donated by Master Gardeners and friends.

**Scott Henry, Houston Area Daylily Society member and hybridizer from Livingston, Texas,** donated beautiful contemporary cultivars from prominent hybridizers: Patrick Stamile's CREATIVE EDGE and WEDDING BAND; Jeff Salter's PIRATE'S PATCH, MY DARLING CLEMENTINE and VICTORIA'S SECRET; Anna Rosa Glidden's beautiful PINK CLUSTER SPIDER, and R. W. Munson's IDA's MAGIC.

**Anna Rosa Glidden, longtime Houston daylily hybridizer, AHS judge and also a member of Houston Area Daylily Society** donated her introductions which are not available commercially: LOCO BO, SHORT CLEO, PAT THORNTON, ANA LUNA, CHRIS 'FATMAN' WILSON, BUMPY GLIDDEN, ITZI MITZI, CIRCLE OF JOY, CRÈME TRUFFLES, AMBER MINX, TATA, LITTLE JOSHUA, and a Yellow/Red-eyed seedling yet to be named and registered.

**Mary and Eddie Gage, Spring Creek Daylily Garden, donated daylilies and crinums** for the Daylily Garden. Mary's beautiful hybrids include RED TIERS, ORCHID HARMONY and her newest 2000

introduction, COLOR ME HAPPY. Thanks to Mary and Eddie for giving us Bobo Faggard's ever popular cultivars LITTLE ORANGE TEX, CAPTAIN JOE, DOUBLE STARFIRE and DOUBLE COPPER GLOW. Bobo is reknown for his double flowers and we are excited to have these additions to our collection. Mary's donation included dependable GERTRUDE CONDON, and the beautiful EIGHTEEN KARAT, and a variant flower, TWIST OF LIME. She included five Crinums for the garden: Giant White, St. Christopher, Ellen Bosenquet, Powellii Album, and Scilli Folium, as well as the heirloom yellow lycoris.

**Special thanks to Linda Gay and Suzanne Chapman of Mercer Aboretum and Botanical Garden** for including the MDG in their Daylily Dig, as well as sharing many beautiful and older cultivars from the Mercer Daylily Garden collection.

**Avid gardener and recent Master Gardener graduate Ida Munson** brought the beautiful PALO DURO CANYON for the garden, as well as minis CRANBERRY BABY and LITTLE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE. Ida also donated white daisies for the border, Star Jessamine and Coral vine from her beautiful garden in Katy.

**Diane Ballentine donated a collection of small flower daylilies,** DRAGON'S ORB, PUMPKIN KID, TROPICAL TANGERINE, ENGLISH WITCH, MOON WITCH, LITTLE MOTHER RUCKER, SIR BLACKSTEM, JASON SALTER, PARADISE PRINCE, and SUN'S MAGIC. She also brought full size cultivars FIRES OF FUJI, CHALEUR, BORDER BRIDE, LEONARD BERNSTEIN, and NEON PINK.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Master Gardener Intern Linda Popinski and Garden Gate Landscapes who donated a beautiful arbor for the garden; MG Jean Fefer who donated a wonderful gargoye (Fred) and inspired us to plant a Fantasy Daylily Bed;

to all the volunteers who helped to move the stepping stones around until they were just right; to those who divided and planted the liriopie border, dug it up and replanted it in Bob Midkiff's bed, then divided another color and planted it again; to all who hauled mulch and spread it so carefully around the new plantings; to Dave Mason and Roy Wood who continue to follow behind and install irrigation for the plantings; to Grady Joiner and Bob Kish who fill in when Dave and Roy are unavailable; and to anyone and everyone we might have failed to thank in person or in print.



**MEDITATION GARDEN - Steve Wood and Bob Kish,** Coordinators.

**Special thanks to the LONE STAR KOI CLUB** for their donation of a stone

bench for the Meditation Garden. We have also ordered a Japanese Lantern for the garden. We have added split bamboo to the reed screens to divide the garden, and will continue with plantings and further development as time permits. ☞

***Employment Opportunity***

K-Mart Corporation is looking for full time Garden Shop Managers for their new store at Mason road and the existing Pearland store.

Knowledgeable people in these horticultural positions benefits everyone. Interested persons should contact the following:

**Mason Road Position:**

Flory Raza OR Barbara Savisky  
4518 Hwy 6 N. 1411 Westheimer  
(281) 463-6721 (281) 584-0575

**Pearland Position:**

Kari Tanberg  
1919 N Main Pearland, TX 77581  
(281) 997-8100

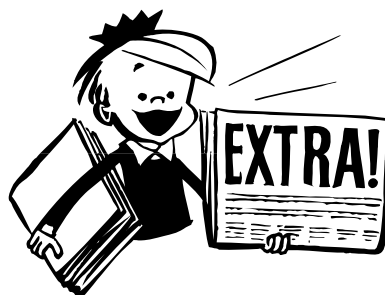


## Organic Vegetable Gardening Specialist Course

Again this winter and spring, Urban Harvest is offering an organic vegetable specialist course leading to an organic vegetable gardening specialist certificate. Dr. Bob Randall will be the lead instructor. With 25 hours of classroom instruction, and 6 hours of hands-on instruction, this is by far the most comprehensive organic vegetable course in Texas. The classroom instruction will occur 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings in January to May from 6:15 to 8:45 pm. The 3 hands-on instructions will occur 4-6 pm on any first or third Tuesdays in February to April.

The cost is \$100 for the class, \$30 to join Urban Harvest (if you are not already a member), \$13 for a copy of *Year Round Vegetables. Fruits and Flowers* (wholesale rate: if you do not already have a 1999 or later copy.), plus \$50 for a deposit refundable once the community service requirement of 31 hours within 12 months is satisfied. The location will be in the classroom and in the garden at Urban Harvest, 1900 Kane just west of I-45 and just east of I-10. Registration will be limited to the first 20 individuals *who register and pay*; although three community gardeners will be given free tuition. For the community service portion you will be placed in a community garden and in an Urban Harvest committee. Community gardens are typically at elementary schools, religious congregations, and in parks. An effort will be made to find a site where location, work times, and other preferences are met.

For more information Call Dr. Bob Randall 713-850-5540 x.3. To register SEND a check for \$150 to : DR. BOB RANDALL, URBAN HARVEST COMMUNITY GARDENS PO BOX 980460, HOUSTON, TX 77098-0460. ☞



## News from the Speakers Bureau

By Nancy Davis

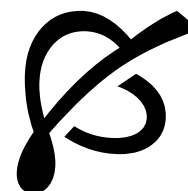
These cold days have been ideal for planning and re-grouping. I began to look for unexpected pleasures and gifts for the season. I love poinsettias and purchased twenty or more for teachers and civic club door prizes. As they waited to be gifts for others, they filled my home and garage floor with the beautiful colors of red and green. A temporary pleasure for me, but I will always remember the warmth of the colors as I am reminded of all the nice volunteers who have helped to maintain the Speakers Bureau. Thanks to your generous time donations we have finished the year and have programs booked into November of 2001.

I began to envy the folks that were given the poinsettias as I had given all of them away when I recieved a full and beautiful one from a garden club after judging yard-of-the-month for them. Full and healthy leaves filled my heart with a glow that only comes from unexpected pleasures. This one was more beautiful than all the ones that I had given to others. The people that have helped with Speaker's Bureau deserve such a surprise and I hope that you



may get a warm glow from the season as you hang your stockings. If I could get a message to Santa I would wish for you a poinsettia for your stocking.

Special Thanks to Diane Ballentine for sharing her three new slide presentations. Thanks to Bill Adams for his response to my last minute speaker suggestions and slides. And thanks Carol Cammack for your offer to speak this next year and for all your work on the newsletter. Folks like Master Gardener volunteers are like leaves on the poinsettias-they may fade and even drop leaves, but we will be left with the responsibility of maintaining the basic plant, that is, if we choose to take the time and energy. So as the seasons change, so do our lives. We drop and add leaves(activities) and add new leaves(activities) as we grow. If you need a new activity join us on the Speaker's Bureau by calling me at 281-398-2089. Happy Season! Nancy Davis ☞



### *Volunteer Opportunities*

Enjoy being stung by fire ants? Fight back!!!

Help cut down on their population by volunteering to work a booth at your choice of two shows. First show is the Texas Home & Garden Show at the George R. Brown Convention Center, February 9 - 11, 2001. Booth hours will be: Friday - 2 to 9 P.M., Saturday - 10:30 A.M. to 9 P.M. and Sunday - 11:30 to 6:30 P.M. Second show is the Houston Home Show at the Astro Hall, March 23 - 25, 2001. Booth hours will be: Friday - 11:30 A.M. to 9 P.M., Saturday - 11:30 A.M. to 9 P.M. and Sunday - 11:30 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

Those who volunteer will work in shifts, *receive free* admission to the show and be given credit toward their Master Gardener volunteer hours!

What would you do? Hand out literature and answer questions.

No previous experience needed. Information on fire ants and the Fire Ant Project will be provided prior to the show. *Come join the fun!!!* We kick fire ant \_\_\_\_!

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call Terrie Delaney at 281-855-5600 (W) or 713-862-6975 (H).

Harris County Master Gardener Association  
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