

UrbanDirt

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Sudden Oak Death

By Cindy Overton



What's all the talk about Sudden Oak Death? Well, the answer is we're not sure. Sudden Oak Death (also known as Phytophthora canker disease) is a fungal infestation caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*. Once infected, the fungus is not treatable and the oaks seem to die quickly.

It was first identified in 1993 in Europe on ornamental rhododendrons and was isolated in June 2000 from dying trees in California. Since its discovery in North America, *P. ramorum* has been confirmed in forests in California and Oregon and in nurseries in California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. Sudden Oak Death has also infected the leaves and branches of rhododendron, camellia, big leaf maple, California bay laurel, Shreve's oak, western azalea and evergreen huckleberry, but these have not been affected in California the way oaks have.

OK, so what's the big deal? It has not been identified in Texas. Early in 2004, rhododendrons were identified with the infection and traced back to one of Monrovia's California nurseries. Secondary host plants, including rhododendron as well as those identified above, have the potential to spread the fungus as the nursery trade transports its products across the country. Stock at Monrovia as well as other nurseries has been checked and no evidence of the fungus was found; however, a number of states responded by banning imports from states where the infection has been identified (Texas is not among those states that have banned imports of nursery stock from Washington and Oregon.)

The fungus is common and pervasive – even in areas where the infestation has not affected trees – and has led to concern that it could cause disease in other areas. The good news – the fungus appears to prefer climates with cool temperatures with relatively high moisture. While we have the high moisture levels here in the Gulf Coast, our weather is not cool, leading researchers to postulate that the hot and moist climate we experience will prevent disease in our area. No affected plants have been identified in Texas; however, Dr Larry Barnes at the Plant Disease Lab at A&M is working with the Texas Forestry Service and USDA to test specimens from around the state to determine any risk to Texas.

A bit about how the infection works - The fungus attacks trees by destroying the nutrient and water conducting tissues. The first observed symptom is the bleeding of a dark reddish-brown sap typically on the lower portion of the trees. Young shoot tips of new branches wilt, and leaves and twigs die. The sap of the weakened trees attracts beetles and their sawdust may cause infection in other trees when it is spread by the wind. Mature beetles fly off to mate and infest another oak. The fungal infection alone would kill the oaks,

What's all the talk about
Sudden Oak Death?

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President's Thoughts

By Virginia Joiner

The board entered the year 2003-2004 with an open mind and an open slate. We were ready to go in any direction that the association needed to go in order to move it forward in a positive way.

Michael Morrison is reaching into the community inside the 610 Loop by starting a new Master Gardener class. It will begin the August 4 with 50 in the class.

Carol Cammack has expanded the Cylinder Gardener Program to 9,559 students in 89 schools. This reaches into countless homes. Through the children we reach the parents and hope that the enthusiasm of their children will encourage them to garden.

Scott Hume's suggestion for reaching the community through an Outreach Education program has been a great success. Reaching out to the community to better improve their horticulture skills is the prime directive of the Master Gardener Program and what the Extension Service is all about. Scott is also working on putting a CD together from questions that have come into the phone room over the last 3-4 years. He will chose from over 9,200 calls that have come into the phone room during that time.

Precinct 2 has continued to grow and expand the Genoa Friendship Garden. Their outreach into the Precinct 2 community is extensive.

Our Master Gardener Classes continue to be so popular that we always have people on the waiting list. This committee headed by **Marge Chambers**, continues to do a wonderful job.

We have moved forward in more subtle ways. We have put in an automatic watering system in the orchard. The greenhouse is getting their shade house and the rose garden has put a new misting system for their roses in the greenhouse. Our vegetable garden has acquired the new collapsible tomato and pepper cages.

The chairpersons of our annual sales are meeting to improve the procedures we use for our sales. At the spring sale they put into effect a new plan for our number one problem, traffic flow. We purchased a Mini Vox that will help when dealing with crowds at sales and other events. A thermal labeling machine has been purchased which will be used extensively by the greenhouse and all of our gardens...

All of HCMGA's accomplishments are the result of your dedication and hard work. I hope that you will continue to come up with new ideas to help the association in the coming year. You have an outstanding group on the new Board.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to be your President.

Wear your smiles and come into the garden.



Harris County Master Gardener Association

3033 Bear Creek Drive (281) 855-5600
Houston, TX 77084 FAX (281) 855-5638

2003-2004 Board of Directors

President	Doug McLeod (281) 870-1907
1st Vice President	Robert White (713) 218-8261
2nd Vice President	Bonnie Morrow (281) 463-1915
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MG Advisors:

CEA - Horticulture	Michael Morrison (281) 855-5600
CEA - Horticulture	Carol Cammack (281) 855-5600
Horticulture Secretary	Becky Deasy (281) 855-5600
Volunteer Coordinator	Scott Hume (281) 855-5600
Book Committee	Anne O'Neil (713) 744-0945
Greeting Committee	Margaret Mason Gloria Robb
Gulf Coast Fruit Study Group	Yvonne Gibbs (713) 462-7052
Hospitality Committee	Jean Gordon (281) 463-1221
Membership	Tom Robb (713) 465-5987
Publicity	Linda Carlson (281) 955-8013
Urban Dirt	Carol Cammack ccammack@ag.tamu.edu

Michael's Corner

By Michael Morrison, CEA Horticulture

First off, thanks to all that have been doing phone duty...it has been busy. I know that everyone that has worked the phones gains knowledge with all the questions phoned into them during their shift. Just sitting in there for a while and answering some of the bizarre questions makes me wonder what "regular" folks are up to. We do appreciate your help in answering the gardening questions that people in Harris County have called into the phone room.

I also want to thank all the folks that make Bear Creek's gardens look so wonderful. It is amazing how many compliments we receive all the time on how wonderful the gardens at the offices look. It is a wonderful feeling to see such beauty you have created.

It is so nice to see the many outstanding individuals that have joined the Extension Outreach Educational Committee. The long hours preparing and planning to make the workshops and seminars so great and smoothly. It is a lot of hard work and all should be thanked. The advisory committee members include **Karen Breeman, Scott Hume, Mary Ann Wagner, Angela Chandler, Patti Usnick, Yvonne Sparks, Connie Bihner, Robert Midkiff, Lisa Rawls, Gerogette Person, Anne O'Neil, Kristina Baldwin,** and **Freddye Kelly**. We appreciate your leadership and helping educate the community!

We have our first Educational Outreach T-shirt. Thanks to **Zahira Breedy** for the design and hard work. We may still have some as of this writing so check with the office.

We still have a few slots open for the Bonsai workshop in the afternoon on June 26th at Bear Creek with **Yvonne Padilla** from Corpus Christi teaching this workshop. You can develop your own Bonsai to take home. She will be working on teaching how to trim, wire, pot, and take care of your bonsai.



Photo by Carol Cammack

HCMGA News & Events

New Master Gardener Chat Group

As a result of recommendations at the Corpus Christi Convention, a Yahoo chat group for the Texas Master Gardeners has been established. To subscribe visit: TexasMG-subscribe@yahoo.com. To view/visit the group messages go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TexasMG/>

Bear Creek Events

Hamburger Tuesday – July 6.

Volunteer in the garden then enjoy a hamburger lunch around 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker, **Dr. David Byrne** from Texas A&M will be speaking on **Stone Fruits**. This is a good time to find out about recommended varieties or just learn more about these trees - so you can be planning what you want to buy in January at the Master Gardener Fruit Tree Sale.

General Meeting – July 20. Come at 6:30 p.m. with a desert to share. **Dr. David Creech** will be speaking on **New Plants You Shouldn't Live Without**. This is a good time to start planning your Fall garden.

Hamburger Tuesday – Aug 3.

Volunteer in the garden in the morning then gather around for a homemade hamburger lunch around 11:30 a.m. At noon, **Skip Richter**, County Extension Agent - Horticulture from Travis County will be speaking on **Home Garden Composting**.

General Meeting – July 20. Come at 6:30 p.m. with a desert to share. **Dr. Fred Davies, Jr** will be speaking on **Gardening in Space**. Yes, as in Outer Space - space stations, the moon and Mars.

Bear Creek Events

July 6 - Hamburger Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Volunteer Hours
11:30 a.m. Home Cooked Burgers
Noon: **Dr. David Byrne** on **Stone Fruits**.

July 20 - Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. Desserts
7:00 p.m. **Dr. David Creech** on **New Plants You Shouldn't Live Without**.

Aug 3 - Hamburger Tuesday

8:00 a.m. Garden Volunteer Hours
11:30 a.m. Home Cooked Burgers
Noon: **Skip Richter** on **Home Garden Composting**.

Aug 17 - Monthly Meeting

6:30 p.m. Desserts
7:00 p.m. **Dr. Fred Davies, Jr** on **Gardening in Space**.

Precinct 2 News & Events

Our summer Master Gardener class is in full swing, with 30 enthusiastic new gardeners. We're excited by their response to our class projects. Many have already begun to accumulate volunteer hours working with **JC Whitney** mortaring in flagstone around the edge of the lily pond, working with Ruth Touchstone in the greenhouse, helping **Diane Bryant** assemble the marten house and assisting Ginia Keen with the herbs.

Congratulations to **Barbara Smith** and **Rita Vasak**, they have completed their hours and are graduating!

A special thanks needs to go out to **James Clark**, head of our Precinct 2 location, for digging our lily pond. Yes, that's right it finally happened! The rain stopped, the ground dried out and the pond is in. James was able to drive the bulldozer back in the garden and accomplish in short time what would have taken us forever by hand. JC and his crew continue working to finish up the installation.

Thank you to John Mitrowski for spreading gravel around the walkway through the garden in preparation for the class. **Janelle Kister, Mary McGowan, Marliene Oren, Shirley Jackson, Signe Hawley, Theresa Holloman, and Georgia Lau** spent an entire day cleaning the classroom. Thanks ladies, it looks great. A huge thanks to Georgia's husband for building us a custom tv cabinet to house our electronics.

Barbara Morrison and **Ron Barbee** have been busy getting our berries in near the orchard. **Signe Hawley** and **Theresa Holloman** planted a bed of dill. **Janice Patrick** and **Pat Mitrowski** put shade cloth over the lettuce bed to prolong production. **Ruth Touchstone** and **Diane Bryant** hung shade cloth in the greenhouse in preparation of herb propagation. Special thanks to **Diane Bryant** for finally conquering the gremlins in the greenhouse irrigation system so we no longer have to water by hand. **Ginia Keen** put in basil to be used for our upcoming Herbal-Palooza.

The Herb Committee had a workday to put the finishing touches on their garden. They added white marble chips to the cinder block that edges their bed. Thanks to **Pat Stier, Marliene Oren, Ruth Touchstone, Barbara Morrison, and Pat Mitrowski** for hauling all that rock around. Pat Mitrowski installed Mexican beach pebbles in the Biblical Garden.

Reminder: There is no First Wednesday Program in July due the holiday. We will return August 4th at 10 am to welcome **Ceil Dow** from Mercer for a program on Gingers in the Garden. Stay and enjoy a potluck lunch, just bring a dish to share or a donation of \$5.00. Our September program will be on Fall Vegetable Gardening by Angela Chandler.

Please note that our quarterly evening meeting has been moved from June 14th to July 20th at 7 pm at the East Harris County Activity Center, 7430 Spencer Hwy, due to scheduling conflicts.

Precinct 2 Events

July 7 – First Wednesday

No Program in July.

Aug 4 – First Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Registration

10:00 a.m. **Ceil Dow** on **Gingers.**

11:00 a.m. **Pot Luck Luncheon.**

Bring a dish to share. 1202 Genoa Red Bluff. For reservations call (281) 991-8437.

July 20 - Quarterly Evening Meeting

7:00 p.m. Snacks and socializing.

2004-2005 Steering Committee membership and the 2004-2005

Genoa Friendship Garden Plan will be presented.

East Harris County Activity Center
7430 Spencer Hwy.

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

July Classes at Mercer

Wednesday, July 14. Lunch Bunch: Beyond Butterflies. Noon to 1 p.m. Join Eddie Holik from the Cockrell Butterfly Center for a discussion on the plants that attract bees, moths, birds and beetles. Butterflies are not the only welcome visitors to the garden! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program.

Saturday, July 17. Tropical Workshop. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Find out why tropicals are perfect for your Houston garden at Mercer's all-day tropical workshop. Four local and out of town experts will discuss topics such as selecting the right bamboo; obtaining a tropical and prehistoric look with palms and cycads, and caring for "tender" tropicals. A tour of Mercer's tropical garden follows the program and lunch is provided. Class size is limited to 50 and reservations are guaranteed through payment on a first-come, first-served basis. The Mercer Society members' fee is \$40 and non-members fee is \$50. Make checks payable to The Mercer Society.

August Classes at Mercer

Saturday, August 21. Ginger Workshop. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enjoy a day of learning about gingers. This all-day workshop includes guest speakers who present information on a variety of ginger-related topics including culture, propagation, and which species are best for your yard. Class size is limited to 50, and lunch is provided. Reservations guaranteed through payment on a first-come, first-served basis. The Mercer Society members' fee is \$40 and non-members fee is \$50. Make checks payable to The Mercer Society.

Texas Bamboo Society

Texas Bamboo Society Monthly Meetings. The meetings will be set up where demonstration or slide programs will run from 10 am to noon; lunch (brown bag, byob) then garden work from 12:30-2:00pm. For more information contact Linda Gay at lgay@hcp4.net, (281) 443-8731 or visit www.bamboocentral.com.

July 24. 10 am to 12 pm. **Identification of Clumping Bamboos.** Garden maintenance on bamboos, thinning, pruning, digging will be from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm.

August 28th-29. Bamboo Festival. Held at Zilker Garden in Austin, TX, the festival will include the show and sale of bamboo. No Mercer meeting this month.



Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens is a Harris County Precinct 4 facility, under the leadership of Commissioner Jerry Eversole, located at 22306 Aldine Westfield Road, one mile north of FM 1960. Harris County Precinct 4 programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, sex, religion, national origin, or physical ability. Anyone requiring special assistance to participate in any program, or for more information, please contact Mercer at (281) 443-8731 or by email at mercervarboretum@cp4.hctx.net. On the web at <http://www.cp4.hctx.net/mercervarboretum>.

Garden Gifts

News from our Outreach Gardens

By Kenneth Dorman

I think this will be the best year ever for the garden. It looks really good and it just feels good, as all you real Master Gardeners will understand. The tomatoes, especially the Celebrity are averaging larger and more plentiful than before with the Donas right behind and the Champions bringing up the not very distant rear. The Donas were set back a little by a ferocious attack of aphids. The secret incantations I did against the mockingbirds seem to be working as we have lost only eight or ten instead of forty or fifty. The birds are still around, just waiting for the figs to get ripe or the spell to wear off.

The French Hybrid melons are growing in raised beds this year instead of on the fence and they appear to like the change. We have two beds of them with a trellis in each and there are well over fifty melons per bed with lots of blooms still on the plants.

I'm sure all the bees from the African Blue basil help. The Greyzini squash produced better than expected, considering all the rain we had that kept the pollen washed off the blooms. The plants finally succumbed to mildew after producing for two months. The flavor of this squash is outstanding.

We tried two new bean varieties this year, one bush, Florence, and one pole, Kentucky Blue, in addition to Gina bush beans. Both new types are real winners in production and taste. The Florence are especially tasty. The Sweet Success cucumbers are living up to their name. We picked the first one on April 12 and by the first of June had harvested over 450 pounds of prime cucumbers. They will last until the first frost so we should have all the Pantry clients on our side of town well supplied with cucumbers.

I asked Tom Leroy about our Big Bertha bell peppers because in years past they have produced enormous numbers of small peppers□

fertilizer every three weeks. Works, if you keep Walter out of them long enough. Works for the jalapenos, serranos and habaneras, too. And green eggplants.

I intended to plant cream peas and black-eye peas in two of the raised beds, but instead found a type of field pea even George Williams had not heard of and he is an old pea man. We now have two beds of Pink-Eye purple hull peas planted. Try saying, "pick a peck of Pink-Eye purple hull peas," real fast. My experience with field peas in the past has been that they are a magnet for the shield shaped stinkbugs when planted this late in the year, but we will see.

Apples, apples, apples. Have I mentioned our apples? They are big and I am really excited about them. I have never grown apples before and have only seen them up close on a tree a few times. The Celeste and Yellow Banana figs are great again and the two small Satsuma trees are covered in fruit. When ripe these oranges are really good, big, sweet and easy to peel. We should be picking papaya by October as the baby trees we started with are really growing. The peach crop at Bonita Street House of Hope was outstanding and we have two pears on one tree to look forward to. This refutes my gardener's dictionary that describes them thusly: Peaches and Pears - "Everyone loves these trees, both for their fragrant flowers and their delicious fruit, but, alas they are both afflicted with hundreds of diseases and disorders, including trunk drool, bark slime, mush wood, limbsludge, crud leaf, munge, flenge, sperl and snet. The only practical preventive measure is to dispose of young plants immediately by burning or burying."

Smiling (or laughing) at yourself first thing every morning will give you a jumpstart on a great day.



George and Ken protect fig from Mockingbirds

Photo by Carol Cammack

Web Surfin'

Tech news for Master Gardeners

By Tom H. Robb, Jr



Are You Safe When The Lights Go Off??

The other day, I was sitting at the computer using Quicken to try to balance my checkbook. The weather was fine - not a cloud in the sky. Suddenly - POW!!! - All electricity in the house went out. And it stayed out for about two hours.

Nothing to worry about - I told myself. The surge suppressor protecting my computer worked as it always does and so I'm in good shape. And after power came back on, everything looked good. The computer booted up - of course it ran a scan since it had been turned off not according to protocol - but it opened as if nothing had happened.

I reopened Quicken - nothing wrong as far as I could tell. I finally got the balance I was looking for and proceeded to save. Uh! Oh! Quicken sends me a message that a file is still open and it cannot do a save of data. After several tries, with the same results, it dawns on me that I have a corrupted file. No matter - all I have to do is reinstall Quicken. The saved data will not be affected and all I will have lost is the work that I did at this session. But, oh no,

Quicken tells me that I have to uninstall the current program before I can load it again - no overloading possible.

So I uninstall the copy of Quicken in the computer and reinstall the program from the original CD and attempt to restore. And then I find out the horrible truth. I did indeed have a corrupted file - but it was the saved data file. Ten years of financial data - poof!!! Bad enough to make a grown man cry!!

I'm glad to be able to tell you that a much happier ending resulted. You see, I had done a disk backup a week earlier. Using the Symantec program "Ghost", I had cloned "Disk C" onto "Disk D". So I still had my data backup. It was a week behind but only took a short time to add the recent changes.

Are you backing up your valuable data? Rule #1 about hard drives - it is not "if" something will happen to data on the drive - it is "when" it will happen - and believe me, it WILL happen. There are a lot of ways to back up, but there's not enough time today to go into that. In a future issue we'll discuss some of them.



On the Road

By Katerine Peterson

On May 15th the Master Gardeners and their guests were on the road to the homes of five of our Master Gardeners. Those of you who were unable to go really missed some terrific gardens.

Each garden was different. **Claire Lober's** garden is a shade garden and **Glen Graves'** garden is centered on attracting butterflies – a special interest of his. **Zahira Breedy** has a large number of roses and cactus. **Pat Howard's** garden centered around a lap pool and gazebo with a hot tub while **Virginia and Grady Joiner's** garden featured three Koi and Water garden ponds. All of the gardens featured a wide variety of plants.

Hopefully you were able to attend at least one of the gardens. It was a beautiful day (after many very wet stormy ones), perfect for venturing out in the fresh air and getting to know some of our special Master Gardeners better. Mark your calendars now for the third Saturday in May, 2005.



Photo by Carol Cammack

Home of Pat and Jack Howard

Sudden Oak Death

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but the beetles speed up the process. The disease can take anywhere from months to years to kill a tree, but the quickly dying foliage gives the appearance of a sudden death.

Oak infection is a “dead-end” for the disease because the fungus is not known to produce spores on infected oaks. Therefore, the disease does not spread from infected oaks. Rather, the fungus infects numerous shrub hosts that are often found in association with oak forests or in landscapes. These include camellia, rhododendron, viburnum, rose, honeysuckle, and many more. These hosts are not killed by the disease, but leaf spots and blighting often occur that resembles leaf scorch symptoms. The fungus produces spores that are mostly water-splashed to adjacent plants. Research in California also has recovered *P. ramorum* from soil beneath infected plants, as well as within soil contaminating hiker's boots, bike tires, and clothing. *P. ramorum* is unlike other *Phytophthora* species in that it does not seem to infect the roots of plants – only the aboveground parts of the plant.

For now what should you do? Best advice is to stay tuned. There is no evidence that the fungus has caused disease on oaks or nursery stock in Texas and there is ongoing research throughout the country to better understand the fungus and how it is transmitted. For the moment you should not consider removing your Camellias and similar plants.

The Tree Study Group

By Cindy Overton

Have you heard of the Tree Study Group? What do you know about trees? Less than you think – at least that's what those of us attending the Tree Study Group have found! Do you know?

- Species of trees that are historically found in Houston and those that have been introduced successfully (No! Chinese tallow is not on any list!)
- Where an oak trunk forks is genetic and every acorn falling from the tree will have fork in the same place. So if the fork is low and undesirable, its acorns will carry the same genetics.
- Wax Myrtles are said to repel fleas.
- Stressed pines actually change their chemistry and will attract destructive beetles
- Young red oaks with their characteristic thin bark are susceptible to sun scald on their south and western exposures during the first few years of growth.
- When to take action when you recognize tree damage or infestation (insects, fungal, viral, bacterial).
- The seed from the Texas Mountain Laurel is hallucinogenic (that is, if you can break the pods open!)

The Tree Study Group was organized last September to enhance our knowledge of trees. Trees are the most resilient part of our home landscapes and we take their value for granted, many times putting more effort into the lawn than a plant that takes decades to grow and weeks to kill! We share tree knowledge among ourselves, trade seedlings, discuss resources and contractors and generally revel at the hardiness of trees in the urban environment. Our focus is to learn how to manage our trees, and to keep them healthy.

In addition to the monthly speakers, a hard-core group celebrated Arbor Day in January with the planting of Bald Cypress trees on the Extension Center site.

We've had an exceptionally talented group of local people share their knowledge, with more to come. **Bill Adams** brought hundreds of slides documenting his depth of tree knowledge and photographic skill. **Jon Siepel**, owner of Bill Bowns Nursery, offered the growers insight on recommended trees for the area. Proper pruning techniques, timing and tools were discussed by **Lanny Dreeson**. Davey Trees representatives **Jed Day** and **Chris Meyer** provided dual sessions covering pests and insects affecting trees in Houston and the appropriate treatment for a variety of infestations. These folks offered down-to-earth practical advice, gave sometimes humorous but sad examples of their daily experiences in and around the area, and showed slides to help recognize when you have a problem. **Victor Cordova** and **TJ Marks**, City of Houston Urban foresters, explained the new City of Houston Tree ordinance and entertained us with stories of how they get things done. **Barbara Jo Harwell** is the conservation officer for Friends of Hermann Park with responsibility for reforestation efforts in the park and conserving the existing trees. She provided historical photos of the park from its beginnings in 1924 to current projects. **Ann Chandler** offered her hands-on discussion of micro irrigation for trees

There are more interesting speakers to come and likely some excursions in the future. We just need to know your interests. Feel free to make suggestions!

We will take a summer break and resume our meetings in September. This will position us to renew our interest in trees and begin planning our tree additions just as the heat begins to dissipate. Stay tuned for more info, as we are planning more stimulating programs.

Contact **Cindy Overton** at 713-782-3530 or cloverton@swbell.net, or **Scott Hume** or **Michael Morrison** at 281-855-5600 for more information. See you in September!

Events Around Town

Urban Harvest Classes

Classes are held at Urban Harvest, 1900 Kane, unless otherwise noted. For detailed class listings and more information, visit www.urbanharvest.org or call (713) 880-5540.

Monday, July 12. How to Start a Community or School Garden by **Gary Edmondson**. 4 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Have you been thinking about starting a community or school garden? Learn the basic ingredients for a successful community garden, including planning, coordination, finances, and garden design. Gary Edmondson is the School & Youth Gardens Coordinator for Urban Harvest.

Monday, July 19. How to Start a Community or School Garden by **Dr. Bob Randall**.

1 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Free. Registration required. Have you been thinking about starting a community or school garden? Learn the basic ingredients for a successful community garden, including planning, coordination, finances, and garden design. Dr. Bob Randall has advised over 150 community garden projects since 1987.

Saturday, July 31. Plant the Fall Vegetable Garden by **Dr. Bob Randall** and **Diana Liga**.

9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. \$20, \$10 for members. Registration required. A great fall garden starts with preparation and effort now. Learn how to prepare the soil, get the right seeds, and grow great beans, corn, lettuce, tomatoes and other veggies. Dr. Bob Randall is the author of *Year Round Vegetables, Fruits and Flowers for Metro-Houston*. Diana Liga has her B.S. in Horticulture from Texas A&M and is a staff horticulturalist and community gardens coordinator for Urban Harvest.



Volunteer Hours

See below for instructions.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Email address _____

Period covered – from _____ to _____

Date	Facility or Garden Name	# Contacts	Hours
Total hours this worksheet			

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.

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://hcmga.tamu.edu/hcmga/urban.htm>

JULY 2004

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Editor's Note

By Carol Cammack, CEA- Horticulture

We've added a new feature to this month's issue of Urban Dirt. The **FAQ of the Month** will be a continuing addition to our monthly line up. If you have questions you'd like to see addressed in this format, please send your suggestions to c-cammack@tamu.edu. We will get your question answered and do our best to get the topic included in an article.

Other additions this month include an article on the **Tree Study Group**. This group has been around for a relatively short time, but is very active. They are dedicated to providing learning opportunities about our stately friend, the tree, to the public and themselves. This group is doing an excellent job and I hope you will take the time to read more about them on **page 10**.

I'll leave you now to enjoy the rest of the issue including the picture to the right of our lovely friend, Robin. Robin belongs to Master Gardener **Zahira Breedy** and is a frequent visitor to the Extension Office. I had the opportunity to photograph her at her home during the Master Gardener Home Tour. You can read more about the Tour on **page 9**. Stop by the Extension Office sometime and say hello. You never know who you might run into.

Please continue to do the great job you've been doing as readers and contributors by submitting all articles and comments electronically by the 15th of every month to: **Carol Cammack, c-cammack@tamu.edu**. Please limit your articles to 500 words or less, as we do have space limitations.



Photo by Carol Cammack

Robin Breedy is a frequent Extension Office visitor.