

UrbanDirt

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

President's Thoughts

By George Williams

One of the duties of President is to communicate with our members via a column in **Urban Dirt** each month. I have made an effort to do this but, frankly, it is difficult for me to update you on all of the events that occur daily in our association. Fortunately, there are several others who contribute on a regular basis to Urban Dirt. **Tom Robb**, **Kenneth Dorman** and **Michael Morrison** are “regulars”. These folks and others do a great job of keeping us apprised of their endeavors.

As my tenure as your president draws to a close, my thoughts turn to each of you who do so much to make our group so special. It always impresses me to see people volunteer their time and effort to help others. Our primary responsibility is to provide education in horticulture to our members and the general public. I believe that we do an excellent job here, not only in our gardens but in the classrooms and local schools as well. This is true not only for those of us located at Bear Creek, but also those at Mercer and Precinct 2. We have just graduated classes at Bear Creek and Mercer, and a new class is now underway at Precinct 2. Our classes provide an excellent opportunity for the public to learn more about gardening in the Houston area.

Our meetings have been well attended this year, and that includes “Hamburger Tuesday” and our regular monthly meetings each third Tuesday evening. Katherine Peterson and her committee have provided an excellent group of speakers, and our thanks go to them for doing such a good job. It isn't easy to find the “right person” for a particular meeting on a certain date, but they managed to do that without exception.

At the beginning of my year as President last June, we set a few goals that we hoped our association could reach by the end of June, 2003. I will let you know how we did in my last report to you in July.

Upcoming Events

Horticultural Seminar

Saturday, August 23 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Houston Rose Society will present a full-day horticultural seminar on all aspects of rose horticulture. The presentation is designed for intermediate gardeners, or anyone wanting to improve their gardening skills, and will include discussions on integrated pest management programs, soil improvement, antique and old garden roses, easy-to-build specialized irrigation systems for roses and much more.

The event will be held at the First United Methodist Church, 805 E. Denman Ave., Lufkin, Texas, 75901.

Registration fees are \$20 if received prior to August 10, 2003 and \$25 if received after August 1, 2003. Lunch will be provided and seating is limited to first 150 registrants.

Gourds Galore in September!

Saturday, September 20

There will be a Gourd Show and Sale of crafted gourds on **Saturday, September 20, 2003**. Our location this year will be at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park. We will be having speakers on gourds and activities for the children. Watch for more information in the August issue. Contact **Linda Carlson** for more information.

A Texas Rose Extravaganza

Saturday & Sunday, October 25-26.

The Houston Rose Society is sponsoring **A Texas Rose Extravaganza** – a full weekend of rose related education and events **Saturday & Sunday, October 25-26** at the Holiday Inn-Intercontinental Airport, 15222 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Houston, Texas 77032.

Included will be a full-day horticultural seminar presented by nationally known experts, an autograph party for the speakers, breakfast in one of the City's top private rose gardens and tours of several rose gardens in Harris County. Continuing education credit is available for members of the Texas Nursery & Landscape Associate, the American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian Program and has been submitted for educational credit for Master Gardeners. Discount travel accommodations are available.

Registration fees are \$20 for the seminar if received prior to 9/1/03 and \$30 after 9/1/03; and \$10 for the garden breakfast/tours. Seating is limited to first 150 registrants.

For more information, see our website,

<http://www.houstonrose.org> (click on 2003 convention), or contact **Gaye Hammond**, (713) 236-2600 or gayeh@oqlaw.com.



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

2003-2004 Board of Directors

President Virginia Joiner
(281) 469-2766

1st Vice President Neal Murray
(281) 488-5783

2nd Vice President Katherine Peterson
(281) 497-3555

Past President George Williams
(713) 783-4231

Secretary Anne Ashworth
(832) 5936073

Treasurer Marge Chambers
(281) 347-5508

Directors: Zahira Breedy, Angela Chandler, Grady Joiner, Richard Lund, Douglas McLeod, Linda O'Keefe

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

Upcoming Events

Precinct 2 First Wednesday Program

No July program

There will be no program in July, but we'll be back on schedule in August.

August program

We'll be back in August and are returning regularly to our original meeting location at the Genoa Friendship Garden located at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff. We will be adding a potluck lunch after the program, so if you'd like to stay and eat with us just bring a dish to share!

Wednesday, August 6th we'll welcome **Nell Shimek** of Shimek's Daylily Garden in Alvin. The Shimeks' garden is a National Display Garden for the American Hemerocallis Society with hundreds of different cultivars. The program begins at 10:00 am at 1202 Genoa Red Bluff. Please call (281) 991-8437 if you need more information. This program is free and open to the public.

Precinct 2

July – No July program

Aug 5 – First Weds.

9:30 am Registration
10:00 am Nell Shimek,
Hemerocallis.

This event will be held at the Genoa Friendship Garden, 1202 Genoa Red Bluff. For reservations call (281) 991-8437.

Bear Creek

July 1 – Hamburger Tuesday

8:00 am Work up an appetite
Noonish Home cooked burgers, then Marv Keenan, *Entomology*.

July 15 – General Meeting

6:30 pm Registration
7:00 pm Dr. Rudy Dorsch,
Epiphytic Cacti.

August 5 – Hamburger Tuesday

8:00 am Work up an appetite
Noonish Home cooked burgers, then Michael Morrison, *Surprise, Surprise!*

Elsewhere...

August 23 – Horticultural Seminar

8:00 am Houston Rose Society full day seminar on rose horticulture. *Details, page 9.*

September 20 – Gourd Show and Crafted Gourd Sale

Our location this year will be at the Houston Garden Center in Hermann Park. We will be having speakers on gourds and activities for the children. Watch for more information in the August issue. For more information contact Linda Carlson.

October 25 & 26 – Texas Rose Extravaganza

All day Houston Rose Society two-day seminar on rose horticulture. *Details, page 2.*

Michael's Corner... June

By Michael Morrison, CEA Horticulture

Volunteer... Webster's dictionary says one who chooses freely to do something, as entering military service – *adj.* 1, Serving as a volunteer. 2. of a volunteer or volunteers –*vt.* to offer or give of one's own free will –*vt.* to offer to enter into any service of one's own free will.

State Awards for HCMGA

This year in Tyler at the State Master Gardener Conference we won awards!

We won third place in Publications division with the pamphlet, *Guide to Tomatoes, Peppers and Herbs for the Houston area*. **Becky Deasy** and **Mary Lynn** and others were instrumental in this project which discussed the planting, caring, harvesting, and use and storage of tomatoes, peppers and herbs. The recommended varieties for the Houston were described and some exemplary recipes utilizing the product were provided.

In the Multimedia division Harris County won third place for *eDirt*. **Dr. Carol Cammack** and **Tami Pipkin** as editor won this award with the electronic version of *Urban Dirt*. It features active email links, web links and table of contents links.

In the Programs, Projects and Activities division we won second place with *Water Smart Gardening*. Precinct 2 Master Gardeners are instrumental in this multi-year effort which is directed at bringing practical advise, demonstration, education materials, and resources to the community so that they use environmentally friendly techniques in their personal and professional gardening endeavors.

I was disappointed that only twelve Master Gardeners were at the state conference from Harris County. Next year the state Master Gardener conference is being held in

Corpus Christi from May 6–8, 2004. Start making plans to attend and bring sun block and your swim suit. I hope that we can have a delegation there that reflects our community and our dedication to volunteering!

In other news I wanted to state a few things that our bylaws express to us as an organization of the Harris County Master Gardener Association (in support of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service).

The objective of the organization is a non-profit association affiliated with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System, formed exclusively for educational, scientific, literary and charitable purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations... and the objectives shall be to increase knowledge of horticulture to

its members and the general public. Secondly, to support and assist the Texas Agricultural Extension Service by providing the community with information on good gardening practices through new articles, clinics, presentations at garden clubs, schools and other community groups and by telephone contacts. The third objective is to assist "Master Gardeners-in-training" in fulfilling their volunteer commitment.



Photo by the author

Reflecting on this, as a volunteer we hope that you will not just be a Master Gardener for a few hours a year and just pay dues and read *Urban Dirt*. We would like for you to be more active in the community. With over 700 Master Gardeners in our county I hope this note will spark some interest. Come by the Extension offices if you have not been around a while and say *hello* or *howdy*!

Have a great summer and smile often!

Michael's Corner... July

Tree Committee Study/Workgroup

By Michael Morrison, CEA Horticulture

What man needs in gardening is a cast iron back, with a hinge in it.

Hello everyone and hope you are having a wonderful summer. I have been talking to a lot of folks who would like to start a study group on trees. **Scott Hume** told me a lot of phone calls to the Master Gardener room relate to trees. I know **Bill Adams** has tremendous knowledge about trees and identification. Several Master Gardeners have expressed interest in forming a group that meets every other month and has a speaker, workshop, or informative information on learning more about the various trees for Houston and the surrounding areas. We could network with the Houston arboretum, Trees for Houston, Texas Forest Service and others. If this seems appealing to you, contact Scott or myself at the Extension offices and let's see if we can broaden our knowledge of trees and also develop more information for the phone room. For true gardeners the learning never stops.



Photo by the author

I would like to thank **George Williams** for his dedication and time he has spent the last year as president of the Harris County Master Gardeners and everyone else that has made a difference at Mercer, Precinct Two and at Bear Creek. It is you as a volunteer that makes a difference to the community and the beauty in our lives. Have fun in the garden!

*Life is not one straight line.
Most of us have to be transplanted, like a tree,
before we blossom.*

—*Louise Nevelson*



Photo by the author

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

July Programs

Making Fossils

Thursday, July 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. join Mercer staff to learn about plants that outlived the dinosaurs. There will be a hands-on demonstration on making fossils, and each participant will get to take home a fossil of their very own. For kids ages 7 to 10. Parents are encouraged to participate. Class size is limited to 20, so call ahead for reservations (281) 443-8731.

Gourd Painting Workshops

Saturday, July 12 from 9 a.m. to noon, or from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn how to decorate gourds using wood dyes and leather. This hands-on workshop provides all the materials needed to create a piece of art to give as a gift or to keep for yourself! Class size is limited to 20 people per class. Reservations guaranteed through payment on a first-come, first-served basis. Society members \$20, non-members \$25. Make checks payable to The Mercer Society.

Summer Plant Sale

Saturday, July 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This annual plant sale offers the perfect opportunity to find just the right plant for your garden. Some of the plants available at this year's sale, highlighting ginger and tropicals include bamboo, palms, bananas, roses, shade plants and natives. Experts will be on hand to give information and advice. A special "members only" advance sale (for Mercer Society members) will be offered from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

August Programs

Tropical Workshop

Saturday, August 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Learn more about how to grow tropical plants and which are best suited for Houston gardens. A tour of Mercer's tropical garden follows the program. Lunch is provided. Class size is limited to 50. Reservations guaranteed through payment on a first-come first-served basis. Mercer Society members \$35. Non-members \$45. Make checks payable to The Mercer Society.

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens is a Harris County Precinct 4 facility 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 mercerarboretum@cp4.hctx.net. On the web at <http://www.cp4.hctx.net/merc>.

Mercer's Ongoing Programs

Piney Woods Wildlife Society

The **third Tuesday** of each month (**March 18**, April 15, and May 20) from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Piney Woods Wildlife Society is a nonprofit organization for people interested in nature and the environment. Featured speakers give presentations on nature topics. New members and visitors are welcome.

Cypress Creek Daylily Society

The **fourth Sunday** of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Cypress Creek Daylily Society is an organization of daylily enthusiasts that host monthly meetings with featured speakers. A sanctioned daylily show is sponsored at Mercer each year. New members and visitors are welcome.

Mercer's Master Gardener Program

Steering Committee ■ Class of 2004

Volunteer Coordinator

Nellene Harvey(281) 443-8731
nharvey@cp4.hctx.net

Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

22306 Aldine Westfield Road
Humble, TX 77338
(281) 443-8731

Committee Members

Becky Dubois(281) 359-6264
beckydubois@earthlink.net

Texas Cooperative Extension

Bear Creek Park
#2 Abercrombie Drive
Houston, Texas 77084
(281) 855-5600

Lynn Cooper(936) 756-9721
lcooperc@msn.com

Gail Boren*(281) 363-9100
gail@main.com

Carol Cammack, PhD, CEA-Horticulture
c-cammack@tamu.edu

Pat Wayne*(281) 320-8420
gmwayne@swbell.net

Michael Morrison, CEA-Horticulture
m-morrison@tamu.edu

Pat Howard(281) 469-0223
jhph84@hotmail.com

Becky Deasy, Secretary

Stayce Leuck(979) 830-5516
Cell (281) 352-9828
sleuck@aol.com

Ed Myers*(281) 379-2731
edward@hal-pc.org

Connie Williams*(936) 756-3267
csw@lcc.net

**Interns, MG Class 2003*

Garden Gifts... June

News from our Outreach Gardens

By Kenneth Dorman

Virginia Joiner gave me a native Texas hibiscus and as soon as I can find any African blue basil I am going to buy some to put with it in the CCSC garden. We will have flowers this year to go with the other plants. Actually the tomatillo plants we have will make nice shrubs with pretty yellow flowers to go with the bright green leaves and small husk fruit. The arugula and cilantro plants we let flower lasted a long time and were very pretty right up until they fully went to seed. According to Dr. Bob Randall of Urban Harvest the blooms of these two plants attract all manner of beneficial insects. We have one zillion seeds of Rucola, an Italian style arugula and an equal number of cilantro seeds if any of you want them.

Those of you that came by on the Garden Tour saw how spectacular the fig trees look right now as well as the pretty pear trees. The Satsumas and apple trees will look better as they get older. I wish we had planted a couple of peach trees instead of so many pears. The two peach trees at Bonita Street House of Hope give me a real charge every time I look at them. They have a perfect shape and a good number of peaches all thinned to six inches apart. I sprayed the peaches with Pyola, a combination of canola oil and pyrethrins, in hopes of deterring worms and other varmints; the other varmints being neighborhood kids and the trees being outside the fence. The Pyola is harmless to humans, but if we put up a sign like David has on the Extension garden we may save some peaches.

One of the residences at Bonita Street got termites and the exterminator said they came from the raised flowerbeds we had built along the front of most of the buildings so they ripped out all the beautiful flowers and shrubs we had struggled to get going and leveled the beds. Three years hard work, frustration and jubilation shot to hell. I hope they don't suddenly realize the vegetable beds cover a lot more wall space even though they have concrete blocks against the wall. Now is the time for **positive thinking**.

And now that I think about it I do have a thankful heart for being able to help out at the Bonita Street House of Hope so we'll just do the flowers again in a different way.

A couple of months back I expressed some concern here about growing tomatoes in beds with only 15" of soil, but I shouldn't have worried. We have the biggest, strongest

tomato plants ever and all are loaded with tomatoes.

The mockingbirds are sitting on the rooftops licking their beaks in anticipation. During the fall and spring migration of little birds up and down the Italian peninsula the local people in the southern part of

the country put really sticky stuff on the tree limbs and catch thousands of birds of all kinds that they cook and eat. Maybe I could get some sticky stuff and put it around - - - no, no, bad idea; too many witnesses. The good people of Louisiana probably make mockingbird gumbo with their tomato-flavored birds.

I have a hidden ginger in my back yard that has been hidden for four years and now, all of a sudden it put up a bloom stalk. Needless to say I was elated until I went by my son's house and saw his hidden ginger with 34 bloom stalks on a two-year-old plant. I can't even take consolation in the thought I taught him how since he knows more than I do about ornamentals and flowers; although, he is nice about it.

Do you think the way The Lord's Prayer starts out "Our Father", means we are all part of the same family?

Love your neighbors and yourself!

*Seeds of discouragement will not grow
in a thankful heart.*

—Anonymous

Garden Gifts... July

News from our Outreach Gardens

By Kenneth Dorman

Bob Strawn, a friend of **Walter Baker**, has joined our small band of volunteers and he is welcome. This time of year we need lots of help to gather the crops and compensate for the heat. Speaking of gathering the crops we got a better yield of potatoes this year and did not have the cracking problem of last year. Nor did we have the cracking problem with the tomatoes and I think it is probably because all our water has come evenly, in the form of irrigation three times a week since we have had no rain. And, we had a lot fewer tomatoes to crack.

Not so modern technology has come to the CCSC garden in the form of mechanical timers for the two water supply hoses. These are straight forward devices that you turn the knob to the desired time, turn the water on and leave, however, one of our mechanically challenged members who shall remain nameless is having problems and insists the machines are faulty. Maybe we can get the next Master Gardener class to address some of the lesser mechanics of irrigation systems and he can get a refresher. These problems are done away with at the Bonita Street House of Hope where **Rodney** assigns various residents the task of hand watering all the vegetable beds every evening.

Tuesday, after Memorial Day, I went to the garden and was horrified to find eight huge tomatoes ruined by evil birds. Six of the tomatoes would have weighed a pound each. A weak person would have run up and down the garden screaming curses and vowing vengeance. But, with an apartment complex on one side and a school with open windows on the other, I was strong. We have a full bed of perfectly wonderful, ripe red Sweet Chelsea cherry tomatoes and lots of grape tomatoes, but not one of them is ever taken. Fishing has not been good either.

We finally got some rain at the garden and I planted okra in two beds and two beds of bush sweet potatoes. I am not sure the clients are thrilled with okra and sweet potatoes,

**God, I can push the grass apart and
lay my finger on Thy heart!**

—Edna St. Vincent Millay

**A weak person would have run
up and down the garden screaming curses
and vowing vengeance.**

but they are good for them, grow in our hot, humid summers and I like them. My grandmother's family on my mother's side came from east Texas by way of Alabama and we were raised partial to okra, sweet potatoes and pork chops. I don't think I can get away raising pork chops behind the church, but I can raise the others. Maybe behind the dumpster, between the trash sacks and old couches? Probably not, but they could eat cottonseed meal.

The fig trees have gone out of control. We had planted tomatillos and Poblano peppers between the trees, but they have been completely swallowed. We pruned the trees several times trying to keep an opening for sunshine, but they just grow back. Actually, they have only grown to their potential. We allowed a certain space between trees and they have filled it meaning we have lost about 200 square feet of gardening space. We have a lot of figs, though, and expect to be able to supply all the mockingbirds as well as provide fruit for the Pantry. Actually, I kind of admire mockingbirds, they are independent to a fault and they must eat bugs and caterpillars since we don't have any. And early in the morning they sing pretty good, for a bird.

The fence at Bonita Street is festooned with melons in pantyhose of every color. Rodney says it has been stopping traffic and I believe him. The tomatoes will stop traffic also. They are over the top of the eaves of the dwellings, green to the ground and producing so many tomatoes no one will pick them. We have peaches, figs and pears that are totally organic and they are beautiful. The only thing wrong with this picture is that Rodney has a severe health challenge and could use all the prayers anyone is inclined to give him. Just send them to Rodney at Bonita Street House of Hope.

Web Surfin'...

Tech news for Master Gardeners

By Tom H. Robb, Jr

Recently I was reading an article in Smart Computing Magazine about PDF files. "According to Adobe, more than 300 million people have downloaded the Acrobat Reader, which is roughly equal to the number of people who own a version of Microsoft Office."

I am constantly amazed at the number of Master Gardeners with computers who have chosen the paper copy of **Urban Dirt** over the beautiful, full color **eDirt** version. There are about 550 copies of eDirt going to satisfied members each month but there are also about 150 copies of the paper version going to computer owners. And the reasons given by most is "My computer is old and it won't download Acrobat Reader," or "I don't want to have to read the newsletter on a computer screen." Fess up, the real reason is really "It's just too much trouble" or more often "I've never done it before and it makes me uneasy to try."

Some of you decline just because it's been coming in the form of an attachment and you don't trust attachments because of fear of virus. I don't blame anyone for not trusting attachments from people that you don't know and I agree that you can't always be sure that an email is actually coming from someone you do know. That's why I am always telling you that you have to maintain a good virus protection system. But because of this, starting with the May issue, we have (or I should say, **Carol** has) quit sending eDirt as an attachment.

The eDirt is now being placed on the web and you will receive the address to go to in order to download it. And, as always, when one month's issue is released, the preceding month's issue goes onto our website. Go out to <http://harris-cnty.tamu.edu/mg/hcmga/urban/> and you find every **eDirt** put out from its beginning with the March 2002 issue through April 2003. By the time you read this June issue, or a few days later, the May 2003 issue will be there as well.

If you don't have **Acrobat Reader**, or if your version is older than 4.0, by going to this same page and clicking on the Acrobat logo in the upper left corner, you can download the latest 5.x version. Click the logo, scroll down the page to the box, choose your platform (Win95, or 98 or XP or whatever operating system you use) and then click the download button. It's a large file and with dial-up it may

take an hour or two to download, but it will then install itself. Or you can go to the Adobe Reader download site at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> and follow the same procedure.

Some OSs will automatically call up Acrobat Reader whenever a PDF file is encountered. With others, you may need to open Acrobat Reader before trying to read the file.

You really should start using Acrobat Reader. The web is turning more and more to PDF files and we are going to be using them more and more in our Association communications.

Decorate your computer

On another subject, have you ever watched the display of screen savers on Becky's computer? They come from **Webshots** at <http://webshots.com>. I've been bitten by the bug since Becky gave me the address. There are thousands of beautiful pictures to choose from and for free you can download up to 5 per day. For a small monthly fee you can download an unlimited number and use them as wallpaper and/or as a screen saver. And a couple of new pictures are added every day. Be careful though—they're addictive.

Happy surfin'

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://harris-cnty.tamu.edu/hcmga/urban.htm>.

JULY 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>Hamburger Tues. at Bear Creek — Marv Keenan on Entomology</p> <p>page 3</p>	<p>2</p> <p>No First Wednesday program at Precinct 2 — Resumes in August</p> <p>page 3</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Making Fossils — Mercer</p> <p>page 6</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Gourd Painting Workshop — Mercer</p> <p>page 6</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>General meeting at Bear Creek — Dr. Rudy Dorsch on Epiphytic Cacti</p> <p>page 3</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Newsletter deadline 5pm</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Summer Plant Sale — Mercer</p> <p>page 6</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Urban Harvest Workshop — Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom</p> <p>page 14</p>		

AUGUST 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Hamburger Tues. at Bear Creek — Michael Mor- rison; Surprise, Surprise! page 3	6 First Wednesday at Precinct 2 — Daylilies page 3	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Newsletter deadline 5pm	16
17	18	19 General meeting at Bear Creek — page 3	20	21	22	23 Horticultural Seminar — Houston Rose Society page 2 Tropical Work- shop — Mercer page 6
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

JUNE/JULY 2003

UrbanDirt

President's Thoughts	1
New Board of Directors	2
Upcoming Events	2-3
Michael's Corner (June)	4
Michael's Corner (July)	5
Mercer Arboretum	6-7
Garden Gifts (June)	8
Garden Gifts (July)	9
Web Surfin'	10
Volunteer Hrs Worksheet...	11
July Calendar	12
August Calendar	13
Urban Harvest Wkshop	14

eDIRT JUNE/JULY 2003

A garden is a great teaching environment because it is like a giant natural laboratory where students can apply everything they learn in the classroom.

Teaching in the Outdoor Classroom

This workshop is designed for experienced and inexperienced outdoor classroom teachers

An Outdoor Classroom can take the form of any one or combination of: a wildflower garden /field /vacant lot, butterfly garden, wildscape, vegetable garden, fruit tree orchard, herb garden, pond, or urban forest.

Teachers receive six SBEC (State Board Education Credits) credits for participating in this program sponsored by Urban Harvest, HISD Marcile Hollingsworth Science Resource Center, and the Environmental Institute of Houston.

Topics to be covered

- Finding and developing curriculum for *any* subject
- Hands-on curriculum for TEKS objectives
- Resources available to you in teaching outdoors and maintaining outdoor classrooms
- Creating a program that works for your classroom/school
- Managing student behavior outdoors

Workshop leaders are experienced outdoor garden classroom teachers, successful garden project coordinators, and sage organic gardeners.

When: **July 31, 2003**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (bring a sack lunch, drinks are provided)

Where: The Outdoor Education Classroom of the HISD Marcile Hollingsworth Science Resource Center
13250 Summit Ridge (just east of Butler Stadium on S. Main)

Who: Teachers, administrators and parents

Cost: \$20 (handouts, instructor's fees)

RSVP: Please register by **July 23, 2003**

Sign-up: Call Urban Harvest (713) 880-5540 to register (credit cards accepted)