

# UrbanDirt

IN COOPERATION WITH THE TEXAS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## Web Surfin'

### Tech news for Master Gardeners

By Tom H. Robb, Jr.

**M**y computer was in the shop for about two weeks and I just got it back. I upgraded to a 2GHz Pentium 4 with 1GB of RAM and made the switch over to Windows XP Home Edition Upgrade. I've actually had the software for XP for more than a year. I received it as a Christmas present Christmas before last. But I've heard so many controversial things about going to XP, even the Home Addition upgrade that I have been hesitant toward making the change. And now that I've done it, I wonder why I didn't make the plunge before. The following comments concern the use of Windows XP Home Edition Upgrade only.

I've heard that much of my old software would not work in XP and that I would have to purchase new versions of almost everything. I'm sure that some software won't work. The same was true when Windows 95 came out and when Windows 98 was introduced. I have been pleasantly surprised. I've found very little that doesn't respond and even run more smoothly in XP. I did have trouble with one program: Roxio's Easy CD Creator. But even that was not the fault of XP. Others had told me that this program would not work in XP. But it does if installed correctly, which nothing on the web will tell you about. It must first be upgraded with a patch *while still* in Windows 98. If XP is installed first and then an upgrade attempted, it will not work (what stupid programmer was responsible for that boo-boo?)

I was told to forget DOS programs. I had some old DOS games that I was sure I would miss playing. Surprise, they still work in XP.

Old hardware seems to be a larger problem than software. Some hardware will not work because the manufacturers of that hardware, for some reason, have not elected to provide drivers that will make it work. My old Visioneer 6000 Paperport Scanner and my old Hewlett-Packard Smart Printer have been my only casualties to date. My HP-Smart Scanner needs a little looking into, but I think it will be useable.

The most fascinating thing that I have found so far is the graphic capabilities. If you save your photos on your hard

drive or pick up screen savers or wallpaper photos from web sites like <http://www.webshots.com>, "My Computer" can show the files as photo icons and even present them in full screen, slideshow fashion.

If you have a computer several years old, XP probably won't work. Microsoft claims that you need a minimum of a Pentium 166 but it's hardly worth trying with anything slower than a Pentium 266, and if you want a really smooth operation you should have at least a Pentium 600. And you must currently have Windows 98, Windows 98SE or Windows Me in order to upgrade to XP Home Edition.

Windows XP requires a minimum of 64MB of RAM—so says Microsoft—but only if you have a very fast computer, and even then, so little RAM will diminish performance. Really, in order to perform one window operation smoothly you need at least 128MB and for multi-window operations you need 256MB or more.

Microsoft uses a lot of free space on your hard drive, a minimum of 600MB (they say.) Actually you need at least 1GB for XP plus space for all your programs.

To determine if your computer is eligible for upgrade, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/howtobuy/upgrading/advisor.asp> and check out the Windows XP Upgrade Advisor. The Upgrade Advisor is a tool that checks your system hardware and software to see if it is ready for upgrade to Windows XP. If you run Upgrade Advisor while you are connected to the Internet, and if your system needs updates that are available on the Windows Update Web site, Upgrade Advisor will find and install the updates for you.

The download is quite large (approximately 50MB) and unless you have high speed, wideband Internet connection, expect a very, very long download time. I know because I'm still "dial up." You can then run it locally, or open it directly from the Web.

I've been using XP for only a few days but so far it's worked smoothly without a single hang-up (knock on wood.) I'll keep you informed as I learn a little more about the system. *Happy surfin'.*

# President's Thoughts

By George Williams

As I write this, February and March are still with us. Lots of rain today which tends to diminish my interest in gardening. Of course, that feeling is just temporary and change as soon as I can see some sunshine.



This rainy weather seems to be more prevalent on the weekends...

This rainy weather seems to be more prevalent on the weekends, and that was certainly true on Saturday, January 25, the day of our **Fruit Tree Sale**. When we opened the gates at the Extension Center about 8:00 am, we welcomed a long line of customers who were eager to buy. They did just that but the cold wind and rains came about an hour and a half later and, naturally, this caused our crowd to diminish somewhat. Still, it was a successful sale which was well organized and led by David Parrish. I thought that all Master Gardeners who worked this sale did an outstanding job providing assistance to all who attended.

Now, I'm hoping this "bad weather on weekends" cycle will be broken next Saturday, February 22, when we have out **Tomato and Pepper Sale**. By the time you read this, we shall know. Speaking of sales, it's not too early to start thinking about our **Spring Plant Sale** to be held at the Extension Center on **April 12**. Deba Cox will be in charge of it. More on that one later.

Our **Spring Master Gardener Class** began on January 30 with 83 students which is literally a full house. Some of these folks are already attending meetings and helping out with several work projects. We welcome them and their enthusiasm! We continue to meet with the people at the Upper Kirby District where construction continues on plots that will be planted and maintained by interested groups and individuals. A small fee will be charged to those who participate. There is already a list of people who wish to do this. Once all of this work is completed, I suggest that you visit this garden since it is unique to the Houston area. There will be volunteer opportunities available for Master Gardeners, and as mentioned previously, our association will plant and maintain one of the largest plots as a demonstration area. I will keep you advised.

We continue to have excellent attendance for our programs on **Hamburger Tuesday** and our **General Meetings** the third Tuesday of each month. If you haven't attended recently, try to come next time. Food, speakers and fellowship are great. I believe that you will really enjoy it!



**Harris County Master Gardener Association**  
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# Upcoming Events

## Coming up at Precinct 2

### Precinct 2 First Wednesday Program

**Barry Schlueter**, professional hibiscus grower, will teach Hibiscus Culture for Houston. Come and learn from an expert about these marvelous flowers.

**March 5**, 10 am, at the East Harris County Senior Center, 7340 Spencer Hwy Call (281) 991-8437.

Please join us at our **new meeting location**: The East Harris County Senior Center located at 7340 Spencer Hwy, Pasadena TX 77505. Registration begins at 9:30 am, the class at 10:00. The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested. Please call (281) 991-8437 and leave a message for more information or to reserve a spot.

### April 2 Program: Bentwood Trellises

Master Gardener **Angela Chandler** will demonstrate how to create beautiful bentwood trellises in a variety of sizes to add a special touch to any landscape or container. The demo is free and open to the public. Following the demo sign up for a hands-on workshop to create your own trellis to take home. The workshop will be held **April 16th** at the Genoa Friendship Garden at 10 am. A \$25.00 material fee is required. Please call (281) 991-8437 for more info.



### Master Gardener Summer Classes

It's not too early to start planning for the **Master Gardener Summer Classes** at Precinct 2. Classes run **June 3rd through July 3rd**, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. Please call (281) 991-8437 and leave a message to receive an application or more information.

## Precinct 2

### March 5 – First Wednesday

**9:30 am** Registration

**10:00 am** Barry Schlueter, *Hibiscus Culture for Houston*

### April 2 – First Wednesday

**9:30 am** Registration

**10:00 am** Angela Chandler, *Bentwood Trellises*

Precinct 2 programs are now held at the East Harris County Senior Center, located at 7340 Spencer Highway, Pasadena TX 77505.

For reservations (281) 991-8437.

## Bear Creek

### March 18 – General Meeting

**6:30 pm** Coffee & Desserts

**7:00 pm** Anita Nelson on *Ponds and Fountains*.

### April 1 – Hamburger Tuesday

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

**Noonish** Home cooked burgers, then Tom LeRoy on *Seed Collecting & Propagation*.

### April 15 – General Meeting

**6:30 pm** Coffee & Desserts

**7:00 pm** Nancy Greg on *Butterflies*.

### May 6 – Hamburger Tuesday

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

**Noonish** Home cooked burgers, then Michael Bettler on *Edible Flowers and Herbs*.

### May 20 – General Meeting

**6:30 pm** Coffee & Desserts

**7:00 pm** Tentative subject: *Landscaping*.

# Michael's Corner

By Michael Morrison, CEA Horticulture

**H**ippodamia convergens. I recently released thousands of these in the greenhouse at the Bear Creek Extension offices. Sounds like hippos (or something like that) from the Latin name, but yet they are tiny. Once, many years ago at my grandparent's house I came in from playing out in the back yard and grandma was cooking away in the kitchen, when she stopped and looked at my forehead and said, "Stay real still now ...I got to get this lady off of you." I did not know what "lingo" she was speaking until she showed me that in her hand was a ladybug. She sat me down at the table and told me a few stories about ladybugs and how they were the friendly bug and how beneficial they are as insects in the garden. My grandfather grew the best tomatoes in the neighborhood and boasted all the time about his crop, so, my grandmother put the ladybug back in the palm of my hand and told me to go put it on the tomato plant, so it could keep the bad bugs off grandfather's tomatoes.

They are so tiny and yet so cute! Ladybugs are actually a beetle and more than a pretty addition to the garden. During the Middle Ages, insects were destroying the crops and the farmers prayed for help. Soon after, the ladybugs came and ate the plant destroying pests and saved the crops. The farmers began calling the ladybugs "the beetles of our lady", and eventually became know as "Lady Beetles" The red wings represented the Virgin's cloak and the black spots represented her joys and sorrows. Ladybugs prefer

to eat aphids and will devour up to fifty a day, but they will also attack scale, bollworm, leaf hopper, mealy bugs, corn ear worm, whitefly larvae and other soft bodied insects. They dine only on insects and do not harm vegetation in any way.

Ladybugs mate in the spring and lay yellow eggs in cluster of ten to fifty on the underside of leaves. About five days later the larvae emerge and will



Photo by Michael Morrison.

eat about four hundred aphids during their two week cycle. The larvae look like tiny black caterpillars with orange spots but remember they do not eat vegetation.

The larvae then pupate and emerge from their cocoon as adults after about a week. They then continue to feed on aphids, other insects, and pollen to build up their body fat. In the summer and fall the ladybugs migrate into the mountains and during the winter they lie dormant under the snow. In the early spring they fly back down to the lowlands to resume searching for food in earnest. They begin mating, laying lots of eggs, and then die. Ladybugs can be purchased at specialty nurseries or ordered through the internet

and mailed to you. Ladybugs may be kept in a refrigerator and released as needed. Ladybugs received March through May should not be stored more than two or three days since their body fat has been depleted. From June on, they may be stored two to three months.

Ladybugs should be released after sundown since they only fly in the daytime. During the night, they will search the area for food and stay as long as there is food for them to eat. The more they eat the more eggs they lay and the more insect eating larvae you will have. It is best if the area has recently been watered. Ladybugs tend to crawl up and towards light. It is also best to release them in small groups at the base of plants and shrubs that have aphids or other insects, and in the lower parts of trees.

There are nearly five thousand different kinds of ladybugs worldwide and four hundred types that live in North America. Ladybugs chew from side to side and not up and down and another interesting fact is that a ladybug beats its wings eighty five times a second when it flies.

Did you know that the spots on a ladybug fade as the ladybug gets older, and that it is the official state insect of Delaware? In England, finding a ladybug means that you will have a good harvest and in France, if you are sick and a ladybug lands on you, when it flies away it will take the sickness with it. If you find a ladybug in your house in the winter you will have good luck.

*Have a great month & great gardening!*

# Garden Gifts

## News from our Outreach Gardens

By Kenneth Dorman

**D**ark and dreary, cold and clammy, rainy, foggy, miserable weather. This has been a winter to forget and yet it set me thinking about the first winter Sylvia and I and the children spent in Milano, Italy. During that period we experienced eighty straight days of precipitation of some kind, rain, sleet, snow, black snow, snow and soot and who knows what else fell from the skies. The black snow and soot was caused by the setting on fire of a huge pile of tires at the Pirelli factory in downtown Milano. The tires burned unabated for the entire winter. This was the second major act in Italy's beginning of the period of terror created by the Red Brigades. The first occurred the second week we were there. On a Saturday morning in September, 1969, a group that I still cannot describe set off a bomb in a farmer's bank just around the corner from the residence hotel where we were staying. They killed twenty-eight farm people that did not even know the group that killed them existed. This winter just got better.

*"I walk through the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear, falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses. And, He walks with me and He talks with me, and He tells me I am his own, and the joys we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known."* This is a refrain from a hymn I learned many years ago in my Presbyterian upbringing that I am sure exists in most other Christian denominations. For me it is not religious, but spiritual, and I am a firm believer that the same God is available to all, regardless of religion.

Well, **Walter** has gone to Colorado again and **Sharon** has still not called in, but **Susan** has recovered her health and is back helping on Mondays and **the Pres** is available for the heavy work so all is well in the CCSC garden. We have taken in all the cabbages, broccoli, cauliflowers and carrots and replaced the peppers with potatoes. We are still getting lettuce, arugula, cilantro and sugar snap peas and have onions and potatoes growing. **Bob Kish** gave us some of his wonderful multiplying onions that we have planted in the fruit tree bed and we look forward to many harvests of green onions over the years ahead. **Dr. Bob Randall** came by to see what we had going on and gave us some much-needed advice on pruning the pear trees. I was invited to be on the panel of a discussion on melons, squash and cucumbers at Urban Harvest that I enjoyed very much. We had about thirty people in attendance, most of which supervise

community gardens scattered about the city. As is always the case the teacher learns from the students. I learned a lot from the interchange of ideas, and got two apple trees for CCSC. *Thanks, Bob.*

Growing on the fence just about where we had the huge Sweet Chelsea vine a couple of seasons ago is another very strong looking tomato vine with tomatoes and lots of blooms. This thing is a volunteer and has so far survived two freezes. Do we have the beginning of another hundred square foot tomato plant? Stay tuned for more on this late breaking development.

Spring is coming very shortly. I know this because as a Virgo I have it on my schedule. It is time to rip out the remains of the winter garden, add cottonseed meal and compost and cultivate the beds in preparation for planting the spring and summer crops. The Pres and I, both being practicing Virgos, understand scheduling and have begun the revitalization process that will ensure another bumper harvest in the CCSC garden.

A nice e-mail came from **Jan Gisler** (of the Utah Gislers) and by the sound of it we should have her send Urban Dirt an article about her gardening in the desert. What about it, Jan?

Unquestionably the sun will again shine and with luck the fish will again eat my lures. Until that time, with me, keep the faith; love your brothers and sisters and, most of all, love yourself. And, beware the Ides of March!



# Mercer Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

## March Programs

### Master Gardener Morning: Garden Grooming

**Saturday, March 1** from 8 a.m. to noon. Join Mercer staff to help groom the gardens for spring and learn how to prepare your garden for spring. Master Gardener interns earn four hours of work credit, but Master Gardener training is not required and novices are welcome.

### Volunteer Orientation and Training

**Saturday, March 1** from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. the volunteer orientation is offered followed by the garden/greenhouse training from 10 a.m. to noon. Are you interested in volunteering at Mercer but don't know where to start? Join us for volunteer orientation and training and learn what you can do to be part of the Mercer gardening experience.

### March Mart Training

**Tuesday, March 11** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. or **Saturday, March 15** from noon to 2 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering at one of the areas largest plant sales join us for this volunteer training. All types of volunteers are needed during March Mart to help with labeling, pricing, stocking, restocking and watering plants, checking out wagons, cashiering, and helping in the office. Volunteers who work at least one four-hour shift, can take part in a plant raffle after the sale.

### Lunch Bunch: Exotic And Unusual Plant Auction Preview

**Wednesday, March 12** from noon to 1 p.m., "Mercer Society Members Only" can enjoy a preview of the plants to be available during the Exotic and Unusual Plant Auction scheduled for Friday, March 14. A membership application is available at Mercer.

### "Mercer Society Members Only:" Exotic And Unusual Plant Auction

**Friday, March 14** from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., enjoy the fun of bidding on exotic and unusual plants during a silent and live auction for Mercer Society Members only. Reservations are required by Monday, March 10. Please call **Shearon Millar** at (281) 443-8731 or [smillar@cp4.hctx.net](mailto:smillar@cp4.hctx.net) to make reservations.

### March Mart Preview

**Saturday, March 15** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Get a sneak preview slide show of some of the outstanding plants available at this years March Mart. See the plants highlighted in each category and whet your appetite for the sale. Start your shopping list now!

### March Mart

**Friday and Saturday, March 21 and 22** from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., join other Gulf Coast residents at March Mart, the region's largest plant sale and horticultural event. March Mart offers a variety of unusual and hard-to-find plants that enhance any Houston area landscape. Displays by local plant societies and gardening groups will also be available to provide information to the curious gardener.

## 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 (**March 23**, April 27, and May 25) 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 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 [merceraarboretum@cp4.hctx.net](mailto:merceraarboretum@cp4.hctx.net). On the web at <http://www.cp4.hctx.net/mercer>.*

# More on Mercer's Spring Calendar

## April Programs

### Master Gardener Morning: Prehistoric Plant Walk

**Saturday, April 5** from 8 a.m. to noon. Join Mercer staff to help groom the Prehistoric Plant Walk. These fascinating plants have withstood the test of time and many have become popular landscape specimens. Bring your dinosaur repellent! Master Gardener interns earn four hours of work credit. Master Gardener training is not required and novices are welcome.

### Plant Swap

**Saturday, April 5** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Get together and eat, swap plants and seeds, and talk shop with other gardeners at Mercer's picnic pavilion. After everyone is full and swapped out, go across the street and tour the gardens. No money is exchanged for plants, and nothing is sold. It's all about sharing or swapping for something that you want to add to your yard. Anyone is welcome! Please RSVP to **Jennifer Burns** at [csc\\_jdb@shsu.edu](mailto:csc_jdb@shsu.edu) or call her at (936) 294-3846 during the day, or (936) 435-0888 in the evenings.

*Note: your RSVP is needed to attend this event.*

### Lunch Bunch: Jurassic Gardening

**Wednesday, April 9** from noon to 2 p.m. Join local plant expert **Bob Pierce** to learn how to grow prehistoric plants. A special tour of Mercer's Prehistoric Plant Walk follows the program. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy during the program.

### Garden Program: Basics of Organic Gardening

**Saturday, April 12** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join landscaper **Bill Hynek** from The Woodlands as he discusses organic gardening. Learn the basics of earth friendly gardening and natural ways to fertilize plants and treat pests and diseases.

### Garden Program and Tour: Palms for Houston

**Sunday, April 13** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., join local palm expert **Gordon Hintz** for a program and tour. Gordon will discuss the types of palms that do well in the Houston area. A tour of Mercer's palm plantings follows the program.

### Earth Day Celebration

**Saturday, April 26** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., join Mercer staff and volunteers for the grand opening of the newly expanded Endangered Species Garden. Learn how to help save endangered plants by becoming a Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) sponsor. Tours of the garden will be given at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

## May Programs

### Master Gardener Morning: Bamboo Workday

**Saturday, May 3** from 8 a.m. to noon. Join Mercer staff for a bamboo workday. Get hands-on experience on the proper grooming and care of these amazing grasses. Also learn how to landscape with bamboo. Master Gardener interns earn four hours of work credit. Master Gardener training is not required and novices are welcome.

### Lunch Bunch: Water Smart Landscaping

**Wednesday, May 14** from noon to 1 p.m. Join **Carol Cammack** of the Cooperative Extension Service as she talks about water smart landscaping. Prepare for the summer by learning which plants and landscaping techniques require less water and help preserve our natural resource.

### Garden Program: First Aid for Trees

**Saturday, May 17** from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Join landscaper **Bill Hynek** from The Woodlands as he gives helpful hints for healthy trees. Learn how to plant and care for trees and what to do if problems occur.

### Gourd Painting Workshops

**Saturday, May 24** 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! Class size is limited to 20 people per class; guaranteed reservations through payment on a first-come, first-served basis. Workshop fee is payable to The Mercer Society: Society members \$20, non-members \$25.

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*On the web at <http://www.cp4.hctx.net/mercer>.*

# Volunteer Hours

See below for instructions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Rare East Texas Plant Protected from Extinction

## Mercer Arboretum Assists Center for Plant Conservation

Conservationists at **Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens**, a Center for Plant Conservation participating institution, have taken the first steps to protect **Texas golden glade cress** from extinction.

Texas golden glade cress is only found in the glades of the Weches Formation in San Augustine and Nacogdoches counties in Texas. Historically, the plant was also found in Sabine County. Only three populations of the plant are known to occur in the wild. Texas golden glade cress has been threatened by habitat loss due to development and mining, and changes in natural fire cycles.

Mercer Arboretum has secured carefully collected seeds from remaining wild plants. These seeds are now in protective storage, and Mercer staff are growing seedlings and conducting propagation studies. These studies will provide necessary information about the biology of the Texas golden glade cress (*Leavenworthia aurea* var. *texana*).

*“Propagation studies at Mercer will provide necessary information about the biology of Texas golden glade cress and are essential for producing seed stocks for future reintroductions and restorations for this rare native Texan,”* said **Anita Tiller**, conservation botanist at Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens. *“Initially, the Leavenworthia seems to germinate really well.”*



Scientists still know very little about imperiled plants. Plants and their habitats are being destroyed faster than scientists can protect and study them. When people lose plants, they lose a part of their natural heritage, valuable scientific treasures and the potential gifts these plants might offer.

*“The good news is that scientists can now study the habitat needs and growth requirements for this imperiled plant,”* said **Kathryn L. Kennedy, Ph.D.**, president and executive director of the Center for Plant Conservation. *“The long-term recovery of Texas golden glade cress in the wild will depend on successful partnerships between conservation agencies and private landowners.”*

The Center for Plant Conservation is dedicated solely to preventing the extinction of America’s imperiled, native flora. The Center is a network of America’s leading botanical institutions. By conducting conservation programs in horticulture, research, restoration in the wild, awareness and information exchange, the Center’s network is striving to save America’s rarest plants from being lost forever. For more information about the Center for Plant Conservation, please visit the web site at <http://www.centerforplantconservation.org>.

An electronic photo of the seedlings is available. To request a copy, e-mail [jessica.little@mobot.org](mailto:jessica.little@mobot.org).



Photo: Oklahoma Biological Survey

# MARCH 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Hamburger Tues. at Bear Creek	<b>5</b> First Wednesday at Precinct 2	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Spring & Summer Organic Veg- etable Gardening — Urban Harvest page 12
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> How to Start a Community Garden — Urban Harvest page 12	<b>11</b> March Mart Train- ing — Mercer page 6	<b>12</b> Lunch Bunch: Exotic & Unusual Plant Auction Preview (Mercer members only) — Mercer page 6	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Exotic & Unusual Plant Auction (Mercer members only) — Mercer page 6	<b>15</b> March Mart Preview & Train- ing — Mercer page 6  Newsletter deadline 5pm
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  St. Patrick's Day  How to Start a Community Garden — Urban Harvest page 12	<b>18</b> General meeting at Bear Creek — Ponds & Foun- tains page 3  Piney Woods Wildlife Society — Mercer page 6	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> March Mart Plant Sale — Mercer page 6	<b>22</b> March Mart Plant Sale — Mercer page 6
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# APRIL 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <b>Hamburger Tues. at Bear Creek — Seed Collecting &amp; Propagation</b> <a href="#">page 3</a>	<b>2</b> <b>First Wednesday at Precinct 2 — Bentwood Trellises</b> <a href="#">page 3</a>  <b>Note: new meeting location!</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>MG Morning: Prehistoric Plant Walk — Mercer</b>  <b>Plant Swap (please RSVP) — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 7</a>
<b>6</b> <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>  	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <b>Lunch Bunch: Jurassic Gardening — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 7</a>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> <b>Spring Plant Sale</b> <a href="#">page 2</a>  <b>Basics of Organic Gardening — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 7</a>
<b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b>  <b>Palms for Houston — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 7</a>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>General meeting at Bear Creek — Butterflies</b> <a href="#">page 3</a>  <b>Piney Woods Wildlife Society — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 6</a>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Passover</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Newsletter deadline 9am</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Easter</b>  	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Earth Day — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 7</a>
<b>27</b> <b>Cypress Creek Daylily Society — Mercer</b> <a href="#">page 6</a>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

MARCH 2003

# UrbanDirt

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eDIRT MARCH 2003

## Urban Harvest Events

### Spring and Summer Organic Vegetable Gardening

**Saturday, March 8**, 9:30 a.m. to noon at Urban Harvest, 1900 Kane Street in the Old Sixth Ward, just west of downtown Houston. **Dr. Bob Randall** and Horticulturist **Diana Liga** will teach the basics. Cost: free to community gardeners, \$10 members/\$20 non-members. Call Urban Harvest to register: (713) 880-5540.

### How to Start a Community Garden

**Monday, March 10**. This class is taught 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Urban Harvest office, 1900 Kane Street. This class repeats **Monday, March 17** from 1 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. There is no charge, but pre-registration is required two business days prior to the class. Call Urban Harvest to register: (713) 880-5540.

### Lettuce Have a Grand Picnic!

**Sunday, March 30**, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 610 Blossom at Jackson Hill, to benefit Urban Harvest and **Chefs Collaborative**. Tickets are \$25 per person, and will be available at the garden gate on the day of the event. This event is open to all interested members of the general public. Information: (713) 880-5540.

Lettuce Have a Grand Picnic! is best described as an epicurean picnic, held in the shadow of downtown Houston. Twelve of Houston's finest chefs will create and serve unique dishes using heirloom lettuces and salad-makings grown by farmer Camille Waters. Special features:

- Mandy G. Smith and her band
- Sample heirloom lettuces & salad makings
- Beautiful gardens
- Organic Texas wine and beer available
- Festive garden hat contest
- Organic transplants & garden crafts
- Kiss-A-Pug booth

Host **Camille Waters** can be contacted at (713) 523-0650 or [camille@lettucelady.com](mailto:camille@lettucelady.com).