

URBAN DIRT

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1995 HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

by Lois Sutton
Show Coordinator

I would like to thank everyone who helped set-up, staff, and tear-down the Master Gardener Association booth. Those Master Gardeners included:

Glen Graves*
JoAnne Stalls
Prema Kuratti
Pam Libby
Barbara Ferer
Terrie Delaney
Buzz Busby
Joyce Flott
Larry Newby
Nancy Webster Lee Pribilski

Ruby Summers*
Brenda Swartz-Ermel*
Marie Whalen
Jim Ralls
David and Dorothy Smith
Leonard and Ellen Cain
Nancy Kuykendall
Buddy and Carol Barziza
Lou Werderich

That asterisk marks people who brought plants, lugged stuff back and forth to the Extension Service and were extra helpful. Note, too, that some of us (JoAnne, Joyce, Lee and myself) even recruited our non-HCMGA spouses to lend a hand!

A standing ovation goes to Carol Brandt who painted a 10' x 4-1/2' banner depicting an abstract garden for our booth. It was the eye-catcher of the whole show and definitely pulled people to our booth from across the room. The banner is on a coated fabric allowing us to use the masterpiece in future events. Thank you, Carol!

We had a constant traffic flow through the booth, stumped many people with some of the display plants, answered thousands of questions, and generated a mailing list for Master Gardener class information that would fill the program until the 1997 show. "A great job by everyone," and make sure you tell them that, too!

MARCH MEETING: 3/21/95

Executive Board 5:30 p.m.

Dinner Meeting 6:30 p.m.

General Meeting 7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

"Common Sense Gardening
in the South"

Speakers: Bill Adams and Tom LeRoy,
County Extension Agents and
Horticulturists

APRIL MEETING: 4/18/95

Executive Board 5:30 p.m.

Dessert and Coffee only 6:30 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

SUBJECT:

"Cottage Gardens for the
Texas Gulf Coast"



FROM OUR PRESIDENT...

by Murray Kast

One of the few "G" rated films now showing is the Walt Disney movie, *The Lion King*. There is currently a popular song, by Elton John, entitled "Circle of Life." If I have been given good information, the tune is the title song of the movie. I mention this because if you have children or grandchildren, you are bound to come across the song sooner or later as the video makes its way through the marketing process.

The song has a very specific reference to not taking more (from life) than you give. Occasionally I come across such phrases and they always give me pause - and a slight rush of guilt. From the earliest age I was constantly reminded that one "can't just take, take, take." The other part of the lesson (Mom, again) that ALWAYS accompanied this was that one can only look at their own ledger of "give and take." That accompaniment was to stop the advance of "but I give more than..."

All of that does create some guilt and frustration. The problem, quite frankly, is that no matter how hard we may try, it is difficult to give back to the level that we have received. The child in all of us may wish to see who is below us (given less) on the list, but the adult in us knows that the real vantage point is looking forward to attempt to balance the scales, if only slightly more, in our favor. There are literally millions who have made the supreme sacrifice that we might be free. It is all part of the same fabric. You do what you can. Your part is your "return" for what you have been given and has nothing to do with anyone else. Only you can decide when you have given as much as you have received. (Cont. on page 6)

HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

#2 Abercrombie Drive
Houston, Texas 77084

Phone (713) 855-5611
Fax # (713) 855-5638

OFFICERS:

President.....Murray Kast
681-3555
President-Elect.....Lois Sutton
862-8857
Vice President.....Arthur E. Busby, III
370-6521
Secretary.....Jo Anne Stalls
896-7742
Treasurer.....Glen Graves
667-4398
Membership.....Tom Robb
465-5987

ANCILLARY POSITIONS

Advisor & County Extension Agent
- Horticulturist.....Tom LeRoy
855-5600
Harris County Extension Agency
Secretary.....Stephanie Gebhardt
855-5600
Editor
Urban Dirt.....Pam Libby
937-8437
Gulf Coast Fruit
Study Group.....Yvonne Gibbs
462-7052



FROM THE ORCHARD...

By Yvonne Gibbs



Being a fruit gardener is fun. To qualify you must have a high sense of adventure, a huge dose of curiosity, a really positive attitude, and finally a great love of nature.

If all the above defines you, you are probably already looking at your fruit trees, excited to see the blossoms that promise you the delicious fruit you remember from last years crop. That is what keeps you going and going. We of the Fruit Study Group all share the excitement that each new year brings. Having said that, let me update the activities from the orchard. The decision was made to return to our original volunteer day of Tuesday. We have had great volunteers: Gloria, Prema Kuratti, Gaylan, John Dooley, Nicky Dunlop, Beth, Marge, Caroline, Herman, Jim McCullough, Ray Sher, David Parish, and Mary Ann have all pitched in and accomplished a great deal of the dormant seasons' duties: pruning, dormant oil treatment, clean up and mulching of an acre of fruit trees and blackberry vines. January the volunteers pruned the grapes. This took four mornings, most of which were just after a rain, when the mud threatened to pull off your shoes with each step and the water got a few feet more than a little wet. This was endured with spirit and the desire to get the job done.

I always marvel at the good spiritedness of everyone as they energetically brandish their skills. Starting in December, Gloria, Prema Kuratti, Nicky Dunlop, Herman and John Dooley lent their hands to training grapes. It was great when the last vine was finally tied into place. Prema has volunteered to manage the berry vines and has done a fantastic job. The vines are in great shape. All were weeded, cleaned up, properly pruned, and

mulched with pine bark that Prema raked up from the Extension grounds and placed around the base of the vines. Prema has a green thumb and is a wonderful self-starter who creates magic. The morning that we pruned the oldest stone fruits (peaches & nectarines), Prema surprised all of us with biscuits and marmalade that she had made from collected Thomasville Satrangequats. Her recipe:

3 lbs of fruits (remove seeds only, slice fruits)
2 Cups of sugar, (add and cook until thickened, cool and serve). It has a wonderful bright orange color and a great flavor.

The volunteers were coming both Tuesday and Wednesday until it was finally established that Tuesday would be the day. We pruned the hybrid stone fruits along with the plums on one of the mornings and then pruned the persimmons the next Tuesday. David Parish donated two vacation days to the orchard and has organized the dormant oil treatment of the orchard. A big thank you to Brenda Buest Smith and to Kathy Huber for highlighting our activities in their respective articles.

On Saturday, February the 11, Treeseach Farms, Inc., Bill Rohde, Fruit Study and Master Gardener volunteers, John Dooley, David Parish, Nicky Dunlop, Worth Stoneham, along with Bill Adams and Tom LeRoy helped everyone with their fruit tree selections. Inside Ruth Dale, John Parish, Stu Nagle, and Debbie Mendiato, manned the crowd of seminar attendees and got them all signed in. They were swamped by over 200 people trying to get through the line and get into the first session of talks. The speakers were: Dr. Leon Atlas and Dr. David Byrne, who spoke on fruits from Taiwan and Australia. Lunch was fun with George McAfee doing grafting and budding demonstrations. The evening session consisted of a talk from Tom LeRoy on grafting techniques and a talk by Bill Adams on "Battling the Pest." (continued on p.6)