

URBAN DIRT

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Edited by: Pam Libby

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NOMINATION OF NEW OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee (Shelby Touchy, Kevin Topek, and Clyde Cannon) has proposed the following slate of candidates to serve

during the 1994-1995 term of office:

PRESIDENT:	Murray Kast
PRESIDENT-ELECT:	Lois Sutton
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Arthur E. Busby, III
TREASURER:	Glen F. Graves
SECRETARY:	Jo Anne Stalls

We will be electing these officers at the May meeting. If there are any other nominations from the floor, they can also be presented at that time.

HERBAL BOUNTY

National Herb Week is from May 2 to May 8, 1994. This is a good time to consider adding some colorful (and flavorful) herbs to your perennial or vegetable garden. Some herbs that do well in Houston are: rosemary ('Arp' and 'Hill Hardy' are good varieties), sweet marjoram, oregano, basil and mints. Although, you do have to be careful to containerize the mints or they will take over your beds. Chives, lavenders, salvias and scented geraniums have delicate blossoms that will add beauty as well as texture to your garden.

Many herbs are in bloom now in public gardens, check out our garden at the Harris County Extension office, The Fragrant Garden in Hermann Park, Mercer arboretum and Moody gardens in Galveston.

The Texas Herb Market is on 5/7/94, (contact Janis Teas 800 660-5735 for info) and MG Mary Versfelt will give a free lecture on "Herbal Cooking" on 5/21/94 from 10-2 at Rosehill Herbs in Tomball.

Whatever you do with your bounty, herbal or otherwise consider giving overflows to the local foodbanks.

MAY MEETING: 5/17/94

Executive Board	5:30 pm
Dinner Meeting	6:00 pm
General Meeting	7:00 pm

SUBJECT:

"Adapting to Houston's Heat"

Speakers: Jarvis Banks, American Orchid Society and Ray Buebe, International Plumeria Society

JUNE MEETING: 6/21/94

Executive Board	5:30 pm
Dessert and Coffee	6:30 pm
General Meeting	7:00 pm

SUBJECT:

"Exercising Patience and Control: Bonsai"

Speaker: Sam Yager, Bonsai International Societies

Please remember: Bring plants to sell!



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

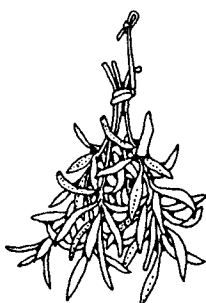
by Barbara Ferer

We have a very special meeting planned for May 17th. The Master Gardener Association will be supplying the meat for a dinner meeting. Please participate by bringing side dishes.

Since this is my last column as president, I would like to thank all of our members who worked on the many Master Gardener projects. Everyone outdid themselves this past year, especially those who contributed to Tuesday workdays in the garden, phone duty, cylinder gardening, bulk sales, telephone committee, the orchard, test gardens and anyone else I may have missed. We appreciate you all.

Thanks also to Pam Libby for always making sure your president got her "ditty" in the paper.

I look forward to working with the new board as "Past President."



TARRAGON



SAGE



MINT



THYME



PARSLEY



BASIL

HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

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OFFICERS:

President.....	Barbara Ferer 464-1416
President-Elect.....	Murray Kast 467-7491
Vice President.....	Lois Sutton 862-8857
Secretary.....	Eileen Whitwill 499-8380
Treasurer.....	"Buzz" Buzby 370-6521

Membership and Junior Past President.....	Tom Robb 465-5987
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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



Spring has sprung and the blossoms are popping out all over. It's a beautiful sight. Our thoughts race ahead to the harvest with expectations of lots of beautiful and delicious fruit.

Those of you with a little time on your hands, please join us in the orchard and lend your hands to helping us keep on schedule with the timely activities we do. Right now we are thinning the fruits. Ever wondered how they get those nice big fruits? Well, thinning is how you do it. There are a lot of blossoms on peaches, which become little fruits and they need to be thinned out so that they will get big.

Wednesdays are the designated day for the orchard, but, hey, you can come out any day and do the old stand by of mulching and weeding. We begin at 9:00 a.m. and work until about 11:30. Bring a sack lunch and visit a while with the other volunteers.

We hope that anyone interested in growing fruit will spend a year as a volunteer here in the orchard and experience the calendar as we know it. The training of trees, pruning, fertilization, irrigation techniques, grafting, control of weeds, they are all real challenges. You will also have the opportunity to become very familiar with the variety of fruits growing here in the orchard. Try it, you may like it.

The March meeting was great. Bio Earth, our sponsor, said that they will soon be opening a retail outlet for their organic line of products. They are currently only wholesale.

Our speaker, Bonnie Childers gave an excellent program on citrus along with grafting demonstrations. Jim Welch and Arnold Lippert brought lots of pecan graft wood for our graftwood sale. Jim Welch and George McAfee were on hand to do a pecan grafting demo.

Whole foods Market, on Voss and Woodway, donated fresh tropical fruits for our fruit tasting. The fruits were wonderful and at their peak of ripeness. Bill Rhode of Treeseach Farms, Inc., donated four lovely hardy citrus in 15 gallon pots (just ready for the patio) for a mini silent auction which raised some money for the horticulture fund.

We thank our volunteers who helped at the meeting. Mary Mizenko prepared the fruits and helped with the set up of the room. She also helped me keep everything going smoothly. Helen and Worth Stoneham manned the sign-in table and the mini auction. Carol Brandt sold graftwood, cover cloth, and a selection of plants. They did a fantastic job. Thanks for helping, we can't do it without you.

This fall's all day bus tour will be on October 22. We will be heading south again. We will visit the home of Dr. Nagle to see his collection of hardy citrus, which he has growing in the ground. He should have some early fruit. It'll be interesting to see what he has growing. Dr. Nagle also has quite a few day lily varieties. He puts forth the same energy in cultivating day lilies as he does fruit. We will be getting a double treat. We thank him for providing the upcoming tour of his gardens.

Also on the tour will be the home of Sam and Ginger Powers.

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