

Down the Garden Path

FALL, 2001

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL



WALK OF FRIENDS



The Friends of Zilker Botanical Garden now has a way for you to commemorate your love and interest of ZBG. For a contribution starting at \$100, ZBG will inscribe a brick and place it in the Walk of Friends to be created at the Garden.

This area outside the Greene room in the Garden Center, on the trail to the Taniguichi Oriental Garden, will include benches for relaxation and meditation. As the years go by, the Walk of Friends will extend through the gardens, a walk made by donations from friends.

The bricks, to be viewed by generations to come, are also excellent memorials to honor a family member, friend, or gardener who has mentored you. The brick size and amount of inscription depends on the level. You may view the bricks and pick up the brochure at the Gift Shop.

The Friends of Zilker Botanical Garden has been established for individuals to participate in helping support many activities and necessary projects. Donations are tax exempt and are applied entirely to the ZBG Trust. This money becomes part of the endowment for the Garden. Interest earned from the endowment will be used exclusively for the improvement of the facility.

Your friendship and contribution are valued. Forms will be available at the Garden Center or you may call Jay Marie Buttross at 477-8672.

All levels will be acknowledged in the newsletter "Down the Garden Path" and in the Austin Area Garden Council yearbook, plus a 10% discount at the Garden Gift Shop for one year. 🌸

**We participate in the
Corporate Matching Program
Forms are available at the Garden Center.**

Iris \$500 - \$900

At this level the brick size is **8 x 16**
3 lines with 16 larger characters

Geranium \$250 - \$299

At this level the brick size is **4 x 16**
3 lines with 28 characters

Daisy \$100 - \$249

At this level the brick size is **4 x 8**
3 lines with 16 characters

Bluebonnet \$50 - \$99

No brick at this level

NEW RECORD SET for Austin Pond Society Tour!

Carl French, Austin Pond Society

By any measurement, there's unbelievable interest in ponds and water features in the hills of central Texas!

Again this year, the Austin Pond Society held its annual tour, the Seventh Annual Austin Pond Tour and, again this year, the people of central Texas surprised all observers. When the dust had settled and the grass had been coaxed back to life again at the ponds on display, APS realized the event was an unqualified success. Despite a few less people this year than the last record year in 1999, the 2001 pond tour generated more money than the record set two years ago.

It was no easy task. Work on this year's pond tour began as soon as the sun set on last year's tour and continued all year. Activity became more intense in January, when prospective pond owners were canvassed, and in May/June, as work on the details weighed in.

continued on page 2

Zilker Botanical Garden

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Pond Tour continued from page 1

A very good barometer of public interest is the time and interest invested by our local television and radio stations. This year exceeded all previous years with a total of eight TV and radio interviews. KLBJ radio was involved this year along with KLRU, KVUE, KXAN and News 8 Austin.

Disregarding, for a moment, what this meant for the Pond Society, it meant much more to the Austin Area Garden Council (AAGC), Zilker Botanical Gardens and the residents of and around Austin. Traditionally, APS donates half its net tour proceeds to the AAGC. So, this year, with gross proceeds exceeding \$13,000 and realizing roughly \$12,000 after expenses, the Pond Society donated \$6,000 to AAGC! This has been our largest donation ever.

Planning and strategy are already being reviewed for the 2002 Austin Pond Tour. At this point, we have no idea who will be at the helm when it becomes a reality next year but new ideas and innovative suggestions are already guiding the direction it will take. Perhaps next year we will be able to put even more money to excellent use under the AAGC with an even bigger and better tour.

If all goes well, we'll see you again next year. 🌸

ZBG ON TV

Tune into KLRU's Central Texas Gardener for a visit to these club gardens. Airtimes:

KLRU (ch. 18, cable 9: Sat. at noon, Thurs. at 12:30);

KLRU-II (cable 20: Sat. at 9 p.m.; Wed. at 10 a.m.)

Sept. 29 Ellen Zimmermann, Herb Society
"in-studio guest, Kim Lehman, AHS" (Ellen is the garden, Kim in-studio guest to publicize Herb Fest! Mark it on your calendar!)

Oct. 6 Nix Boddien, Hemerocallis Society
In-studio guest with Tom Spencer is Craig Nazor to give viewers a sneak preview of the Hartman Prehistoric Garden

Oct. 13 Nancy & Gib Bernhardt, Rose Society

Oct. 20 Jay Marie Buttross, Ikebana Study Group

Oct. 27 Bob Barth, Austin Cactus & Succulent Society

Call Linda at 475-9046 to recommend a garden from your club! 🌸

HARTMAN PREHISTORIC GARDEN GETTING CLOSER!

Craig Nazor, Horticultural Consultant to the Dinosaur Garden

The summer heat has set in, and the work in the Hartman Prehistoric Garden continues rapidly. The large pond with the island for the *Struthiomimus* dinosaur sculpture is almost completed, ready to receive the 8' by 12' bronze statue (sculpted by the very talented John Maisano) sometime in August. A number of the larger plant specimens have been installed and are establishing themselves vigorously with lots of help from the water hose (and associated volunteer).

Those of you that have expressed an interest in donating plants, but haven't heard back from me in a while, rest assured that I will be calling you as soon as the sprinkler system is in place.

There is still plenty of opportunity to volunteer to help. There are all kinds of fascinating jobs yet to be done, so those interested should call me at 836-5087 for more information. As the garden takes shape, it is becoming more and more obvious just what an incredible addition it will be to Zilker Botanical Garden. Come down to the bottom of the Rose Garden, look through the fence, and see for yourself! 🌸

PRIVATE TOUR TO BENEFIT HARTMAN GARDEN

Matt Boring and Ray Baza of Aqua Scapes Water Gardens are conducting a tour of their ponds Saturday, September 22 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The 10-12 gardens on the tour feature their eco-balanced systems that require no use of chemicals to maintain a healthy, clear pond. These guys are a talented pond and landscape design team, as well as generous. They will donate all proceeds to the Hartman Prehistoric Garden. Tickets with the map are \$10 per car load. For ticket locations, call 252-7887 or check their website at www.aquascapesofaustin.com. 🌸

ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL 2002

Irene Shlapak, Festival chair
Patty Cramer, co-chair

Preparations are underway for our 2002 Festival April 13 & 14. We look forward to all our garden club members participating as volunteers in this annual fund-raiser to benefit ZBG and our award-winning education program.

Tickets will be presold for \$3. 80% of our Festival income is generated through ticket sales and vendor participation, so PLEASE make a conscious effort to sell as many presale tickets as possible (great Christmas stocking stuffers!).

On behalf of the 2002 Zilker Garden Festival Committee, I urge you all to participate in making our 2002 Festival a resounding success! Thank you. 🌸

JOIN THE FESTIVAL TEAM!

There are two vacant chair positions on the Festival committee. This is a great way to get to know fellow club members a little better and to be an active part of the Festival success. Please call Irene at 347-0456 to jump on board.

Transportation chair: to coordinate the rental of Cushman carts and transportation needs Friday - Sunday during Festival. The chair should appoint a co-char and/or committee of three.

Raffle chair: to coordinate the Festival raffle by obtaining donations, designing tickets, and conducting the raffle during Festival. The chair should appoint a co-chair and committee of 3-5 members. 🌸

MEET THE CACTUS CROWD

John Young, The Austin Cactus & Succulent Society

The Austin Cactus and Succulent Society had its origin in a UT/Austin Student Union informal class about growing cacti and other succulents. Several class attendees decided to form a local organization to promote their interests further. The new organization met at various places around Austin until about twenty years ago when we became members of the Austin Area Garden Council and started meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the garden center in the Zilker Botanical Garden.

Meeting activities include slide presentations by members, special guest speakers, and from the CSSA, the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Topics range from flora of geographic regions famous for their rich succulent diversity such as Madagascar, Southern Africa, or Baja California, to a focus on specific groups of succulents such as mammillarias or stapeliads, or on interesting aspects of succulents such as variegation and monstrose growth forms. Other programs feature hands-on collections of plants from various families, discussions of planting techniques, soil mixtures suited for different types of succulents, pest and disease control, etc.

Special meetings are held to rescue plants, maintain the greenhouse and/or the succulent garden on the Botanical Garden grounds where we are growing a number of hardy cacti and succulents

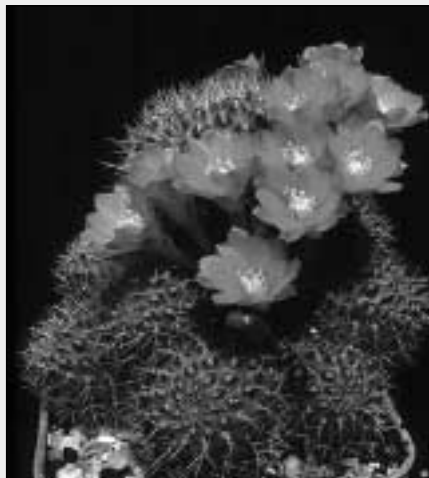
Camping/field trips are planned to areas, usually in Texas, where an abundance of succulent plant life may be observed in its natural state. Biennial cactus shows and sales are held at the Garden Center. These events attract large crowds of enthusiasts and offer an impressive display of outstanding examples of cacti and other succulents and provide a wide range of these plants for sale by club members. Our society provides speakers, often on an exchange basis, to other garden clubs in the Austin/Central Texas area.

The Austin Cactus and Succulent Society is a member organization of TACSS, par the Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies, which holds at least one conference each year, rotating among the member cities, and coordinates activities on a statewide basis.

For more information and updates about ACSS, TACSS, or links of interest to cactus and succulent fans visit our website www.main.org/cacti. We welcome you to our meetings. . . .

The Austin Cactus & Succulent Society

*invites you to their fall show & sale,
Saturday - Monday, September 1-3,
from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.*



KEEP HERBS FROM LOSING KICK

*Kim Lehman, Austin Herb Society
from San Francisco Chronicle,
by Amber Thompson*

I've watched many a fresh herb lose its life right in front of my eyes. Stems start to droop, leaves lose color, and I'm left wondering how I could have delayed the inevitable.

So what is the best way to store herbs? And does the answer vary depending on the type of herb?

To test which method is best, we stored five herbs - parsley, thyme, cilantro, mint and basil- 17 ways. We checked their appearance, smell and taste every day for two weeks.


For one set of tests, we placed the stems in glasses of water and put one glass in the refrigerator and one on the countertop. For another test, we wrapped the stems and the whole plant in damp paper towels. With each set, we tested the effects of prewashing the herbs and covering them with plastic bags.

Not forgetting the easy route, we also tested doing nothing- leaving the herbs in their supermarket bags and placing them in the crisper box.

We quickly discovered that some storage methods were detrimental to all the herbs. Any herb exposed to open air, whether it's in the refrigerator or on the countertop, begins to wilt within a day. Beyond that, however, results varied from herb to herb.

Thyme and parsley were the long-distance winners and the easiest to care for, too. Storing them in a plastic bag-either the one from the supermarket or a food storage bag-and putting them in the crisper yielded the best results.

Mint and cilantro demand more attention. While both were ruined by the third day in the crisper box, they thrived wrapped in damp paper towels, placed in a plastic bag and stored on a refrigerator shelf. Even by day 10, the mint and cilantro had solid stems, firm leaves and pleasant aromas.

Surprisingly, delicate basil flourished in several storage environments. But it lasted longest when the stems were placed in a glass of water, the leaves covered with a plastic bag, and the herb left on the kitchen counter. If you don't have extra space on your countertops, basil also stores well, either washed or unwashed, wrapped in damp paper towels, covered in plastic and stored on a refrigerator shelf. Basil also likes the crisper box. 



UPCOMING GARDEN EVENTS

HERB FEST 2001

On Saturday, October 6, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., the Austin Herb Society presents its annual fall extravaganza, Herb Fest. The variety of plant and garden gift vendors offer great opportunities to add to the fall garden or select gifts for the coming holiday season.

Admission is \$3, with a percentage of proceeds benefiting ZBG.

SPEAKER LINE-UP:

10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

"Essential Herbs for Landscaping,"

Big Red Sun

11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.

"Flower Arranging and Crafts With Herbs,"

Trisha Shirey, Lake Austin Spa Resort

12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m.

"Incorporating Rocks Into Your Gardens,"

Sandy Schutze of Custom Stone

1 p.m. to 2:50 p.m.

"Salvias In The Kitchen"

with Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay,
authors of Southern Herb Growing

3 p.m. to 3:50 p.m.

"Local Medicinal Herbs"

with Ellen Zimmermann,

Austin School of Herbal Studies

4 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

"Turn Your Yard Into A Wildlife Habitat,"

Kelley Bender from Texas Parks and Wildlife

MUSIC:

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Studebakers

1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Susanna Sharpe

3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Chord Rangers

HISTORY OF IKEBANA STUDY GROUP

Jay Marie Buttross,
The Ikebana Study Group

The Ikebana Study Group began in the summer of 1974. Mr. Isamu Taniguchi, who designed and constructed the Oriental Garden, decided to share the art of Ikebana—Japanese flower arranging—with Austin. Bette Millis was a founding member.

At first, workshops were conducted in Japanese. As more American women who had studied in Japan joined the group, meetings and workshops were conducted in both languages, with member Kay Rackley serving as interpreter.

Mr. Taniguchi continued to be our mentor. He cut all plant material for the meetings, and volunteered our design skills to other groups and to make designs for special city events.

He initiated the Fall Moon Festival, which we're holding again this year on Sunday, October 28 from 7 - 9:30 p.m. It's a beautiful event to celebrate the harvest moon, the one night in the year that the Garden is lit completely by lanterns. I hope you'll join us for this inspirational event that celebrates our united cultures. ❁

TIME TO PLANT DAYLILIES

*submitted by Beth Walker, Austin Hemerocallis Society
from information provided by Nix Boddin*

Suggestions for the Austin area:

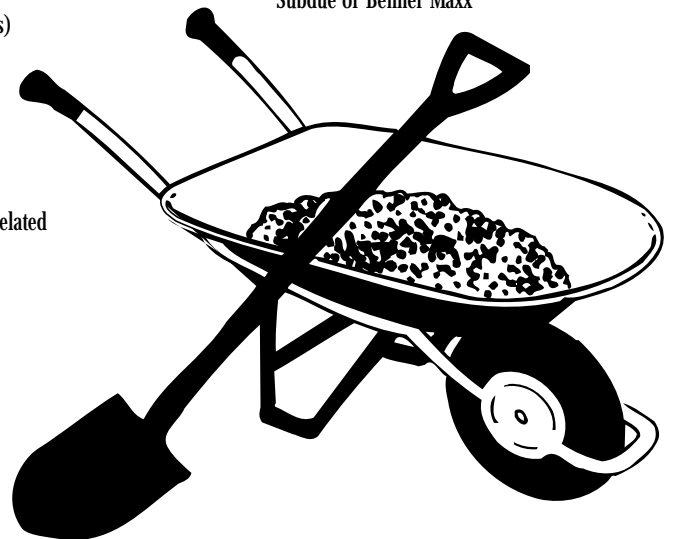
- Evergreen foliage and habit preferred over dormant
- Raised beds are essential
- Prepare a well-developed soil profile—6" good bedding soil, 6" granite sand, 6" perlite
- Mulching NOT recommended to avoid crown rot, insect hide-out
- Foliar feeding is essential—Maxi-crop, Peters 20-20-20, Jump Start, Chelated Iron, K Mag, Magnesium (Epsom salts)
- Soil feeding—controlled release fertilizer in pellet form—Nutricote 13-13-13 plus minors. (See www.dynmiteplantfood.com), alfalfa pellets watered in well
- Fall planting preferred (Hemerocallis Society will have a booth at Herb Fest)
- Control aphids, thrips, spider mites
- Avoid crown rot with proper planting and watering, use well-drained soil, apply Subdue or Benner Maxx

SEPTEMBER FEEDING:

Alfalfa, Nutricote, Jump Start, Chelated Iron, Peters/Maxicrop

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER:

the same, minus Nutricote



WELCOME TO THE ROSE SHOW!

Kathy Center Noble, Austin Rose Society

Have you ever been to a rose show? The experience can be overwhelming. It's not just seeing a room filled with color and the possibility of being assaulted with fragrance; it's also realizing that there are people out there with a big-time obsession for roses. The competition can be so fierce that it makes you wonder if the roses shouldn't be tested for steroids. It can be a humbling experience. You were mighty proud of your little rose garden until you saw the Queen of Show, a hybrid tea rose sporting a softball-sized bloom and a stem built like concrete reinforcing rod.

But a rose show isn't just a room full of fussy hybrid tea roses. It is a room full of roses of all kinds, varieties and varieties. There are floribunda roses that produce mostly sprays (bloom clusters) rather than individual blooms. There are old garden roses with "decorative" forms, full of fluffy petals that don't uniformly spiral outward from a tightly pointed center like the modern hybrid teas do. There are roses with "single" blooms of 5 to 12 petals and miniature roses, with blooms smaller than an inch in diameter. Each rose is judged according to a suitable standard of "perfection" for the type and variety of rose. There is even a fragrance challenge class judged by the public!

Rose shows are very important to a rose society -- they fulfill a large part of the society's mission to bring the beauty of roses to the public, to encourage the cultivation of roses, to inspire excellence and to teach good horticultural practices. It isn't all about winning awards. It's more about sharing. Look at the roses in YOUR garden. Which ones do you like, and why? Would you like others to know about your favorites? The best way to share them is by putting them in the show. Not because they might become the Queen, but to let someone else see what healthy and beautiful roses they are -- even if they are less than "perfect." Anyone can enter blooms in the rose show. There is no entry fee. The roses just have to be grown in your own outdoor garden and must be accurately named.

Here are some tips for "showing off" your cut roses, whether it's at a rose show, at work or in your own home. First of all, before you think of cutting blooms, you must lay the ground-work, so to speak, for the rose's "performance." Rich soil, plentiful food, protection from disease and water - water - water are essential. You can produce higher-quality roses if you limit the number of buds that are allowed to develop on the

rose bush. Pruning out the twiggy growth leaves fewer stems which can then "hog" all of your attention.

As a rose stem grows, you should decide if it will be grown as a spray of multiple blooms or as one bloom without side buds. Some varieties can go either way, so you need to help them decide by "finger-pruning" as they develop-- either removing the center bud for a spray or by removing the side buds which show up around the central one.

At last ... a rose stem is ready to harvest! When you cut the rose, you need to give it a nice long, straight stem to hold the head up high and to "frame" the bloom with healthy, green foliage; but you can only take the stem on which the bloom or spray is growing, not a portion of the previous stem below it. If you enter a rose with "stem-on-stem" it will be disqualified for awards.

After removing a rose from the bush, immediately recut the stem under water, place it in a bucket containing a few inches of water and let it stand in cool, dark place for about an hour. This is called "conditioning" - saturating the specimen with water so it will hold up on display. Do not strip foliage off the bottom half of the stem as you would for a bouquet in a vase (where you don't want foliage to decay under water). Instead, strip off only the bottom inch or two of leaves. At the show, you'll want to display all the foliage that you can!

If you have a tall space in the refrigerator, you can cut roses for show a few days in advance and store them standing in a few inches of water in the refrigerator. You can wrap each bloom stem with freezer paper to keep the roses from getting tangled in each other's foliage. If you refrigerate roses at least an hour, they become "hardened" and will not open as quickly while on display. Whether you can refrigerate or not, the roses will last longer in an anti-bacterial solution, such as a tablespoon of Listerine brand mouthwash (original, not mint-flavored) per quart of water.

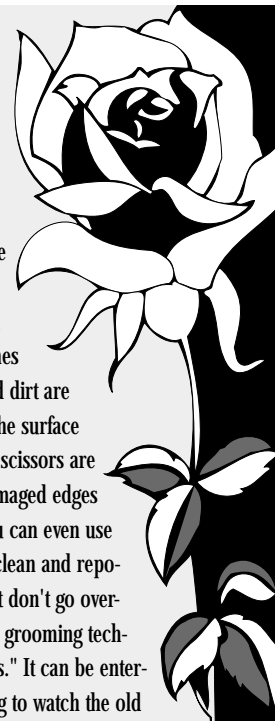
When you arrive at the garden center early on the morning of the show, vases will be ready and waiting in the exhibitors' preparation area. Other exhibitors and members of the show committee will be glad to show you how to prepare your entries. Entries close at 10 AM, and you'll need to allow 5 to 10 minutes per entry to determine in which class the entry goes, to complete

the entry tag, to prop the stem upright in the vase and to groom the flower and foliage.

You cannot apply any foreign substances (like milk or "leaf shine") but you'd be amazed at how shiny a leaf becomes when spray residue and dirt are removed by polishing the surface with your thumb! Little scissors are handy for trimming damaged edges off leaves or petals. You can even use a camel-hair brush to clean and reposition bloom petals, but don't go overboard! Leave the exotic grooming techniques to the "rose nuts." It can be entertaining and enlightening to watch the old pros work their grooming magic.

Do look for side buds or emerging growth on a specimen that is being entered in a class that calls for one-bloom-per-stem. You can carefully remove the extra growth with small scissors or a pocket-knife ... oops! You just beheaded your poor little rose! Don't panic. Enter the bloom as a Rose in a Bowl (if it is of the right classification and stage of bloom). Was it a hybrid tea at that perfect "exhibition stage"? If you have five more, behead them all and enter the English Box challenge class. The show schedule is full of opportunities.

After entries are closed, you might have a few roses that were not entered in the show for one reason or another. Please donate them to the rose sales team so the society can make a little money to pay for those nice show awards. Do you still have some energy left at 10 a.m.? Then, don a clerk's apron and follow the judges around while they look for the "best" roses in the show. Don't cringe when they mark your garden favorite for an Honorable Mention. They can't appreciate how it withstood the assault of a blackspot infestation in the spring, then bloomed all summer through the blazing heat. You can always hang around in the afternoon (when the show opens to the public) to tell everyone why your rose was REALLY the best rose in the show! 🌹



On the **CALENDAR**

Austin Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Sat. – Mon. Sept. 1 –3 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Austin Iris Society Rhizome Sale

Sat. Sept. 8 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Austin Herb Society Herb Fest

Sat. Oct. 6 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
\$3 admission

First Austin African Violet Society Show & Sale

Sat. Oct. 20 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sun. Oct. 21 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Austin Rose Society Show

Sun. Oct. 28 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Ikebana Study Group Moon Festival

Sun. Oct. 28 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch Gourd Show & Sale

Sat. Nov. 3 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Travis County Exposition Center
7311 Decker Lane

Men's Garden Club Flower Show & Bulb Sale

Sat. Nov. 3 Noon - 5 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 4 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(Bulb sale 10 - 5 both days)

Porcelain Arts Club Show & sale

Sun. Nov. 11 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Capitol Area Chrysanthemum Society Show

Sat. Nov. 17 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 18 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

GO FOR THE GOURDS!

*Betty Kent,
Capitol of
Texas
Gourd
Patch*



What is a gourd show? Well, it is like a county fair with all the exhibits, vendors, and competition entries presenting "GOURDS". No, we are not "out of our gourds"!

The Texas Gourd Society sponsors The Texas Gourd Show to promote the education and use of gourds. Gourds are those unusual vegetables that form a hard shell that can be made into utensils and creations of all sorts. Gourds grow on vines very much like their relatives, melons, squash, and cucumbers, however, they are not edible. Historically they were grown for use as buckets, baskets, utensils for primitive needs, and today gourds are grown for use and for delight. So let's go to THE TEXAS GOURD SHOW.

As we enter we will see booths of vendors, some who have wood-burned artistically on gourds; we will see crafters who have made their gourds into the most unusual and creative animals, dishes and other items. We will see artists who show their talents with the gourd as their canvas. Some vendors will be offering their gourd crop for sale, as is, or what we call "raw" gourds, ready to be crafted into whatever we might want to do with gourds. We will find books

on the subject of "how to" with gourds, such as cultivation, and crafting, etc. We will see a competition area that includes 43 categories of gourd entries, from painted, to natural birdhouses, to holiday themes, to jewelry, and Native American style and Southwest art. It is hard to imagine the many different creations that members of the Texas Gourd Society enter into competition. There will be demonstrations of different ways to craft gourds, how to wood-burn, paint, carve etc.

The children can enjoy the "Kid's Korner", making projects with gourds to take home with them.. Last year Norma Maynes led the many children to experience fun activities with gourds. She will be there to have fun with the "kids" again.

The TEXAS GOURD SHOW will be "Gourd Fun" for the whole family! It will take place November 3 from 10am-5pm at the Travis County Exposition Center, 7311 Decker Lane. For more information call Linda Dewwall at 512-264-0438 or Betty Kent at 979-357-2603. ✨

USING ANTI-TRANSPIRANTS

Jack Strickland, Heart of Texas Orchid Society

Anti-dessicants, more properly called anti-transpirants—since as plants give off water, they transpire as part of the metabolic process— have been used to protect ornamental plants during long-distance shipment for about 30 years. Other uses include light frost-proofing of citrus, ornamental shrubbery, and some vegetable crops. Additionally, there has been considerable use of anti-dessicants on Christmas trees to keep them fresh after cutting. Also, transplant-shock is largely eliminated by the use of anti-transpirants. Corsages and cut flowers hold up better when treated with anti-transpirant. Show displays stay fresh longer without constant spritzing with water.

They are also a safe, effective way to control of all sorts of critters, even mealy bugs, mites and aphids. Do three repeat sprayings, timed to let the previous one dry, and make sure the insects are made wet by the spray. Cloud Cover is one product widely available. Pre-mixed sprays are available, but a gallon-size concentrate is the better deal, since when buying pre-mixed, you're paying for some expensive water. If you can't use the whole gallon, divide it among fellow garden club members, including the instructions for use. ☀

HISTORY LIVES ON

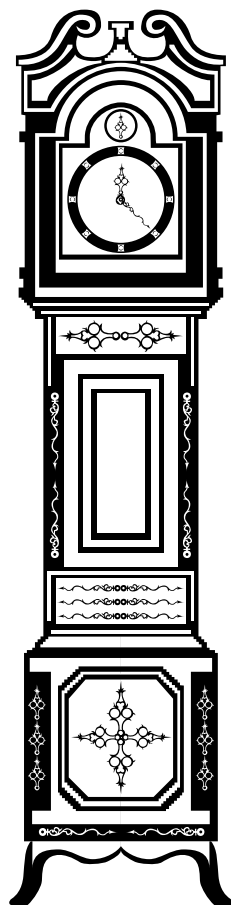
*Nelda Moore,
Town Lake Garden Club*

Warmness from the dawn of June 13 wrapped the officers of Town Lake Garden Club as they dusted the grandfather clock, organ, marble of the dresser, and other historic objects in the Swedish Log Cabin.

Several spiders scampered across the stone floor and rock walkway as the brooms moved the fallen leaves to the dustpan. Transported back in time, the ladies paused to ponder the scuttle, stirrups, yoke, grinding stone, iron pots, clay jugs, and cooking utensils.

Pictures of early settlers shed their dusty film; glassware and spoons gleamed, the banner and flag lost their cobwebs, and the linens were gingerly washed in suds more gentle than homemade soap ever produced.

Finally the task was completed, and Ruth Roberts mentioned that the one-room schoolhouse needed to be cleaned as well. Martha Lung then decided that work would resume in the fall, and the group imagined hearing the sound of the school bell summoning energetic boys and girls to the hard benches for readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic.



NEW IN THE GIFT SHOP!

Just in time for early-bird holiday shopping or "thinking of you" gift for a gardener, the Gift Shop has lots of wonderful new things coming your way soon. There's something for everyone on your list, including hummingbird pillows, birdhouses, kites, benches, hats, chimes, exquisite hand painted trays, painted buckets, books, baskets, and much more. Wow! You won't even have to hit the malls. Check it out when you're in next time. ☀

DONOR FORMS

Please pick up a goods and services donor form from Beth for any donation you receive or give to ZBG. These donations include: the pro bono Bonsai survey, the Rosemary sculpture, lizard sculpture and arbor, club donations to ZBG—either cash, plants or supplies—and every service or donation you receive from a business. IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO DOCUMENT THESE CONTRIBUTIONS! Each week we could easily document \$1000 in donations, which includes plants you buy for the club gardens AS WELL AS plants you divide and bring from home. Think about how much it would cost PARD or the Council if we had to buy all the plants you generously divide from your own gardens. This is essential information for PARD and potential funders.

And please remember to fill out your volunteer hours as well! ☀

MEET AND GREET!

Garden Greeters is a newly formed group whose purpose is to greet people who visit the Garden Center. The Greeters will assist in answering the phone, greeting visitors, helping in the gift shop, etc.

Please consider volunteering a few hours a month to help with this project. Men and women volunteers are both needed to welcome the thousands of people who visit each year. Please call Beth at 477-8672 to volunteer. ☀

HELP IS ON THE WAY

Now Garden Council members can get low-cost in-home PC computer service courtesy of the Garden Council

programmer, Peter Hampton. He can also do your VCR-TV-Stereo hook up. His number from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. is 442-6319. ☀

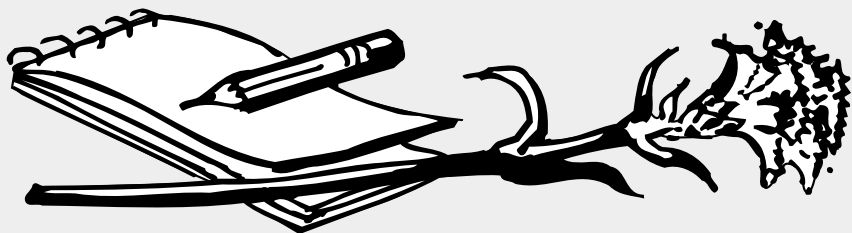


GET THE WORD OUT!

Linda Lehmusvirta, VP-Public Information

I've compiled an extensive list of media contacts, including monthly and weekly print publications along with radio and television folks. You're welcome to use this list for your publicity. For a copy, email me at Linda_Lehmusvirta@klru.pbs.org.

You may have noticed the new Saturday gardening section in the Austin American-Statesman. They're looking for submissions, 200-250 words in length. This is an excellent opportunity for you to share your gardening knowledge and publicize your club! Celeste Seay at LCRA is the contact. She prefers submissions by email: celeste.seay@lcra.org.



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