



FRIENDS OF ZILKER GARDEN

The Walk of Friends is already growing. Build a pathway to the future, and show your love and support of the Garden or as a tribute to a special person in your life.

BRICKS:

I want to be a Friend of Zilker Botanical Garden.

() Iris: \$500

() Geranium: \$250

() Bluebonnet: \$25

\$500

8 x 8

6 lines w/
16 spaces
each

Check payable to the Austin Area Garden Center.

Mail to: Friends of Zilker Botanical Garden 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX. 78746

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Desired brick inscription:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Fair market
value of each
brick is \$15

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Let's hear from YOU!

Return Service Requested

Austin Area Garden Center, Inc.
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Permit No. 1969
Austin, TX

Down the Garden Path

LATE SPRING 2003

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL



Volunteers RULE!

Tommie Clayton,
AAGC Volunteer Coordinator

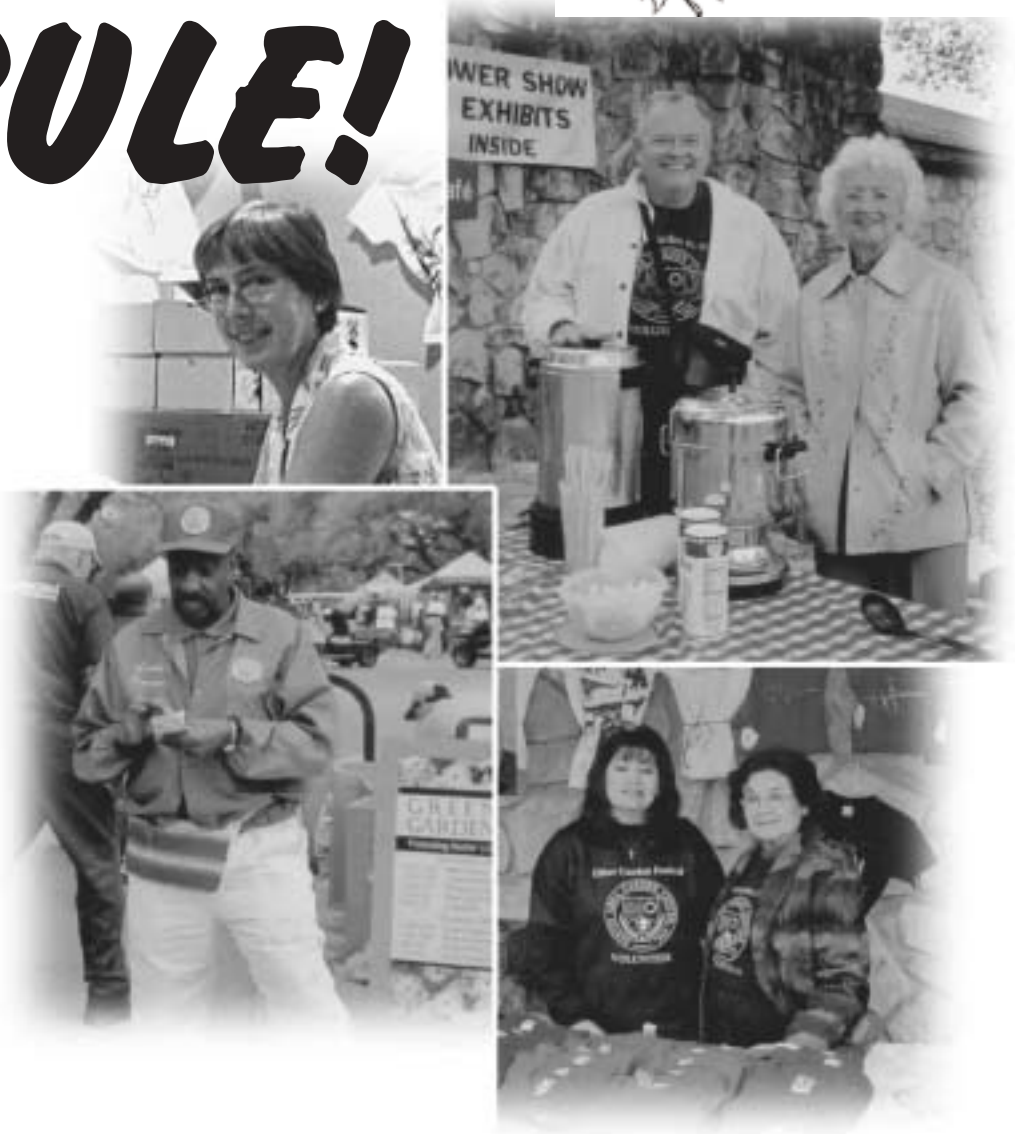
Words aren't eloquent enough to express my thanks and appreciation to the hundreds of AAGC Zilker Garden Festival 2003 volunteers! You were awesome! Thank you all for signing up and showing up to take care of all the many little activities that made our event a joyful one for the public to attend. Our vendors were pleased with the smoothness of set up and break down procedures – again, thanks to AAGC volunteers! Want to do it all over again? Mark your calendar for Zilker Garden Festival 2004 to be held March 27 and March 28!

AAGC needs YOU! You can also form your own little helper group – inviting club members, neighbors and friends to volunteer in their activity of choice.

Garden Greeters/Gift Shop – Especially Saturday and Sunday. Greet our guests and make them welcome, point out the features of Zilker Botanical Garden. Call 481-8256.

Docents – School and Adult tour groups: It's easy, fun, and we'll train you! If you're truly a supporter of AAGC's

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Zilker Botanical Garden

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www.zilker garden.org

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Continued from Page 1

mission statement, "...to promote the education of citizens, emphasizing youth, in the art of gardening, for beautification of home and countryside...", then this is for YOU! You'll learn about the history of Zilker Botanical Garden, the plant collections living here, and how to relate that information to the public.

Work shops will be scheduled throughout the year for your pleasure and Continuing Docent education. Don't wait – call us today! Note: Docent tours are potentially scheduled Monday through Friday, usually starting around 9:30 a.m., lasting about an hour and a half. As tours are scheduled, we'll contact you to sign up. Call 481-8256.

Horticulture – Hartman Prehistoric Garden: Workdays Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday...call Craig Nazor at 836-5087 for details; Thursday Morning Work Day contact Volunteer Coordinator at 481-8256 for details...includes occasional Saturday work days.

Volunteer Office Help – I need a few volunteers to help answer the phone, schedule activities, call volunteers, enter reports and help with production of AAGC mailouts. Contact 481-8256.

Have a wonderful summer - stay involved – stay busy! Volunteer with AAGC... giving your time is the most important way individual club members can support AAGC in its effort to serve the citizens of Central Texas!!

Till We Meet Again,

Tommie Clayton
AAGC Volunteer Coordinator ■

FESTIVAL 2003 SUPER!

Once again, the volunteer team at ZBG pulled off one of the major spring events in Austin, and our primary fundraiser! Everyone should congratulate themselves for a significant effort, run by volunteers, that was flawlessly organized and smooth. From the vendors to our guests, kudos came in for "having a great time."

Led by delightfully organized Joyce Billings in her first year as chair, the Festival committee worked for an entire year, fitting in volunteer activities around their day jobs and other commitments. On Festival weekend, club members and their friends ran the event like seasoned professionals, making everyone feel welcome. Our team deserves credit, also, for quick response to last-minute "fou fous" that happen at any huge production.

Irene Shlapak jumped in to smooth the way for the week-before city decision to institute a parking fee. And every volunteer handled whatever came up with precision and decision.

Of course, the limited, hard-working paid PARD staff covered all the bases beautifully, working overtime to guarantee a public event that rivals those with a staff of hundreds.

We'll have our net income in a later report, but for now, 6000 folks graced our gar-

dens, and money raised at the gate, from the vendors, and from pre-sale tickets, will help support ZBG in the coming months.

Please don't ever take for granted what we accomplish at ZBG. Festival is living proof that we've got a great team! Hope you'll join us as we plan for 2004. The friendships you make and the sense of accomplishment for supporting Austin's only free-admission garden is something that you'll never forget. ■



YOU COUNT

Did you know that the value of your volunteer hours at ZBG is now \$14.35 per hour? That's for official records. Of course, your expertise and friendly spirit is worth far more than that to contribute to Austin's only free admission botanical garden, but there's no way to ever put a figure on that contribution! In the meantime, please turn in your volunteer hours, which really add up. There's no way, especially now in this day of budget cuts, that a botanical garden can make it without dedicated volunteers like you. The recording of your hours is essential in obtaining grants and letting the city budget planners know that ZBG ROCKS! ■

HABITAT RECOGNITION

On March 29, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the National Wildlife Federation awarded Zilker Botanical Garden a Best of Texas Backyard Habitats certification. This award recognizes ZBG for its outstanding efforts to create a wildlife habitat garden that benefits local wildlife and demonstrates to visitors how easy it is to provide much needed wildlife habitat right at home.

This is indeed an honor, especially for a botanical garden. After all, part of the joy of gardening is sharing it with our beloved wildlife. And even in our own backyards, we can help support the wildlife whose habitats are more endangered every day. Take a walk around ZBG and borrow a few ideas for your own little friends! ■

WALK OF FRIENDS

For a Walk of Friends that truly shows off the dedicated people who support ZBG,



new categories of bricks have been determined. For \$250, a 4x8 brick holds three lines, 16 spaces each line. For \$500, a brick 8x8 holds 6 lines, 16 spaces each.



There's also a category of membership at \$25 to support the valuable work of ZBG.

Larson Burns & Smith, Inc. is designing an attractive walkway to feature the bricks and the gardens. It will be a truly magnificent addition to ZBG, one that highlights our devoted supporters. ■

NEW OFFICERS COMING UP

CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES! to the new officers for the 2003-5 AAGC term.

Irene Shlapak, President
Barry Lovelace, VP Community Support
Dr. Carol McKenzie, VP Education
Don Freeman, VP Horticulture
Nelda Moore, VP Operations
Linda Lehmusvirta, VP Public Information
Shaun Jordan, VP Publications
Claudette Hartman, VP Special Projects
Bette Millis, VP Public Affairs
Tommie Clayton, Recording Secretary
Betty Garnett, Corresponding Secretary
Alyne Fisher, Treasurer
Tommy Zettner, Historian ■

PUBLICITY UPDATE

There have been several changes in the publicity list in just the past few weeks. If you want an updated copy, please email me at Linda_Lehmusvirta@klru.org. Dave Dickson, now at News 8, is ready to publicize anything we want to do! Also, I recently learned that the local commercial television stations all feature a community calendar on their Web sites. I haven't had a chance before publication to get the URLs, but I'll do so after the spring rush. In the meantime, they should be easy to find on a Web search. ■

MOST NEIGHBORLY

Author Jessie Gunn Stephens visited Zilker Botanical Garden last year as she was writing her fabulous new book, *Touring Texas Gardens* (Republic of Texas Press, 2003). I recommend this guide for all the information you'd ever want about our state's great public gardens. But the best part is that she features many unique, theme-oriented, and little-known gardens that guarantee a lot of fun touring around Texas. In her list of "best of," she listed ZBG as "most neighborly." That's us! ■



OPEN YOUR EYES TO IRIS

Nelda Moore,
Iris Society of Austin

Thornbird, a tall bearded Space Age iris introduced by M. Byers, and winner of the Dykes Medal in 1997, became Queen of the Iris Show held April 13. Grown by Pat and Don Freeman, the ecru, tan, and yellow iris with purple horns was judged the Best Blend and the Best Specimen in the show entitled "Iris Symphony."

Because Don and Pat received the most blue ribbons in the show, which had 146 entries from 21 exhibitors, they will be awarded the Silver Medal.

Charles and Sonja Hensley will receive the Bronze Medal for earning the second most blue ribbons. Of the 12 entries in the Artistic Division, Pat Freeman won Best Design and earned the Artistic Sweepstakes. Congratulations to you and to all who entered! ■

KID KUDOS

One Austin's computer-literate young people sent in a question to info@zilker garden.org, and thanks to Tomye Zettner, got her answers. Here's her response, unedited. Indeed, we ARE "most neighborly," and perhaps this young girl will chair Festival 2033!

zilker garden,

thank you very much for the info on the garden. I turned the paper in yesterday and receive it about 10 mins ago from the teacher. I GOT A 105!!! she gave me extra credit for taking the time to get the right info i needed. an i would mostly like to thank you for that, because half of the other places i had to look up just blew me of. thank you for your help,

melissa--bedichek middle school-7th grade

THANK OUR LOCAL MEDIA

Local media certainly went out of their way to assist our publicity efforts for Zilker Garden Festival. Our Kids magazine featured a picture that Dianna Walker took last year, and I was able to get free listings in every weekly and monthly publication along with the Statesman and the Austin Chronicle. Like last year, I coordinated efforts with Kathy Shay from the Green Garden program, so our dollars went "twice as far."

On kick-off Saturday, I thank KXAN-TV for their fabulous First Cast presentation, NewsRadio 590 KLBJ (our sponsor) for their live broadcasts, and News 8 for live and taped spots. KXAN

even came back to tape more Festival footage for broadcast, and News 8 taped a spot to run all weekend.

KGSR and especially NewsRadio 590 KLBJ went out of their way with ticket giveaways and lots of public service announcements in addition to our paid spots. Really super people! As you know, this time of year there's a lot of competition for limited airtime, and they all went overboard to support ZBG.

And I thank Texas Highways for a beautiful write-up, and to Southern Living who called me twice to get more information. Guess people have discovered that Texas gardening is a happening thing! ■

WOW WEB SITE!

Thank you to Paula Middleton for a beautiful, easy-to-navigate Web site! And thanks to Tomye Zettner for coordinating this major effort. Our Web site is the best free publicity available, and our way to involve thousands, if not millions, of people every year. It's gorgeous! And please note our new URL: zilker garden.org. There's also a place for AAGC members to log in to submit volunteer hours and other information. Feel free to submit information and pictures to make our Web site the best place to go for gardening information, and to entice people to join YOUR club. ■

PHOTO THANKS

Thank you to volunteer Dianna Walker, a professional photographer, who has given her time the last two Festivals to photograph the joyous occasion. This March Our Kids magazine used one of her photos that I submitted to publicize our event. She's also providing the Festival pictures for this issue. Dianna, we really appreciate the great photographs you've provided for our archives, as well.

I also thank Margie Malone who once again provided photographs for this issue: the two volunteer pictures and the Porcelain Arts photo. ■

HERBS IN SMALL PACKAGES

Michelle Chaput, *President, Austin Herb Society*

Having a container garden with herbs is very easy and something almost everyone can do. A few simple rules to determine what you want in the containers are all you really need. The Rules: Site - sun or shade; Herbs - for hot or cold weather and use; Water and Fertilizers; Drainage and Container. There is your simple list.

First of all most herbs can be classified as those summer grown and winter. A few like parsley and garlic chives we can grow virtually year round. Most of the herbs that grow in the Mediterranean environment grow readily in Austin during the summer. Herbs like rosemary, lemon verbena, oregano, marjoram, etc. do well with our heat and sun. In the winter, herbs such as chives, parsley, cilantro, and thyme like our usually mild winters. These herbs can be combined in a container and can either be used for culinary uses or as just a pretty pot of fragrant plants. Many herbs flower such as the sages and salvias, pansies and thyme and make lovely accents to your deck, patio or walkways. Or just one large container with prostrate rosemary is simply beautiful.

Many gardeners buy 4" pots and simply transplant them into containers. When selecting them be sure to group them by need (hot or cold weather). You can create lovely large containers using a variety of herbs in the same pot. The primary rule of herbs whether they are in pots or in the ground is drainage. They all simply require good drainage. Don't let your containers sit in water. Better yet, remove the saucer

and put them up on little legs and let them drain. Good potting soil, some compost and a little sand will be the perfect mixture for your new plants. You can put gravel or even shipping 'peanuts' at the bottom of the container to ensure good drainage too.

Almost any container can be used. Little ones of course require lots of watering during the summer months and larger ones less. I would steer away from metal containers simply because in Austin they'll cook. The new 'lite' or faux terra cotta containers do very well with herbs and make it easy to move them around from time to time as the seasons change.

Fertilizing herbs and caring for them is easy too. They don't need much fertilizing and when you do a little liquid fish emulsion or seaweed is all they want. Be sure to clip them back often too. They like to be snipped and used. They will be nicer plants that way, prettier and last longer too. And a good mulch is pea gravel. So don't be afraid of trying out a container or two this year of pretty herbs, they are simply too easy to dismiss.

For information our Web site is www.austinherbsociety.org

A few good books on herbs to use as reference are:

The Herb Garden Cookbook by Lucinda Hutson
Southern Herb Growing by Madalene Hill and Gwen Barclay
The Container Kitchen Garden by Antony Atha
Along the Garden Path by Bill & Sylvia Varney ■

INTERIOR DECORATING

Dolores Gibbs, *First Austin African Violet Society Show chairman, charter member since 1964*

Members of the First Austin African Violet Society held their annual judged show on March 15th and 16th. Fourteen active members participated at the Austin Area Garden Center.

Our friends and the public have come year after year on the third weekend of March to see blue ribbon African violets and designs and to be able to buy plants and supplies. Although we are few in numbers, everyone in the club does their share to accomplish this.

We are grateful to be able to hold our shows in such a lovely setting. Many who visit the gardens come into the Center to see our show, and tell us what a great city Austin is. We are fortunate to live in Center Texas!

Editor note: KLRU-TV's Central Texas Gardener features Dolores' garden on June 21. ■

THANK YOU CACTUS & SUCCULENT!

Thank you Cactus & Succulent!

We thank the Austin Cactus and Succulent Society for their donation of \$3,780.66 from their fall show and sale. Their contribution helps keep ZBG a great place for all to visit! ■

On the CALENDAR

Joys of the Garden Lecture: Austin Biodiversity Project

May 3 9 a.m. – noon

Municipal Art Show May 10 & 11

May 10 & 11
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Austin Bonsai Society Show

May 17 & 18 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Austin Hemerocallis Society Show

May 24 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Garden Club of Austin Show & Sale

June 7 & 8 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Capitol of Texas Gourd Patch Show & Sale

June 14 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Austin Pond Society Tour

June 21 & 22
9 a.m. – 5 p.m. \$10

Joys of the Garden Lecture

June 28 9 a.m. – noon

Joys of the Garden Lecture

July 12 9 a.m. – noon

9TH ANNUAL POND TOUR

Betty Korts, *Austin Pond Society*

The Austin Pond Society invites you to our annual tour, Saturday, June 21st and Sunday, June 22nd from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10, which includes both days. They are available at the following locations:

EMERALD GARDENS

5700 Highway 290 West, 288-5900

AUSTIN AQUA DOME

1604 Fortview Road, 442-1400

ZILKER GARDEN CENTER

2220 Barton Springs Rd. 477-8672

DESIGNER STONE

2600 CR 172, Round Rock, 244-0222

HILL COUNTRY WATER GARDENS

1407 N. Bell Blvd. (Hwy 183),
Cedar Park, 260-5050

MCINTIRE'S GARDEN CENTER

303 Leander Rd., Georgetown, 863-8243

WATER GARDEN GEMS

IH10 east of San Antonio, north
frontage rd., between exits 593 & 595,
Marion, Texas, 210-659-5841

Ticket price includes map, directions and description of ponds for this self-paced tour. Additional info:

Mary Huck, 231-8151.

APS website: www.austinpondsociety.org

One half the proceeds will be donated to the Austin Area Garden Council.

The pond tour will be in June again this year in an effort to beat the heat. We will have old favorites but more than half of the

ponds will be new. This year we will have some ponds that are technically advanced with sprayed liners and drains in liner ponds as well as some great fountains. There will be 15 ponds on the north tour Saturday; 15 ponds on the south tour Sunday. The diversity of the ponds is wide, each reflecting its owners own specific interest in water gardening, raising Koi or goldfish or just creating a special ecosystem.

Ponds range in size from 100 gallons to 40,000 gallons, with many types of landscaping, from English gardens to formal granite, to truly Austin flavored. As always, the owners are available at their ponds to answer questions. Many have construction pictures to show the before and after of pond building. It's amazing to see how quickly a landscape can change around a pond.

The Austin Pond Society is an educational and charitable organization. Monthly meetings are the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Ripples, our newsletter, is distributed to members and advertisers quarterly. Membership includes the use of a library of books and videos, available at each meeting, covering every aspect of ponding. A Web site and speakers at meetings add even more information for the 300+ members. ■

AUSTIN HERB SOCIETY WINS THE PRIZE



AHS member Paula Middleton and owner of Red Bird Design designed a fantastic vignette, which was presented at the Texas Home and Garden Show during the weekend of February 28th. She incorporated many components to 'paint' a picture of a lovely day spent in an herb garden using gorgeous, colorful plates, goblets and table clothes from Guatemala, herb books, herbal

jellies and vinegars, potpourri and an enormous amount of live herbal plants. The AHS vignette was one of eight to be pre-

sented at the show. And with this beautiful presentation the Austin Herb Society won 1st Prize, \$500.00! Many members and sponsors helped by donating material and their time. They were Kim Lehman, Roberta Showerman, Cindy Boyle, Jan Bland, Jean Bazar, Julie Crouch, Marlene Carroll, Michelle Chaput, Nancy Wackerbarth, Sue Kothman, Vee Fowler. Sponsors that lent a hand were El Interior, It's About Thyme, The Austin School of Herbal Studies, ScentGarden, and Fredericksburg Herb Farm. ■

KLRU-TV thanks the Austin Organic Gardeners and the Austin Pond Society for assisting in our March fundraiser for Central Texas Gardener. Thanks to these wonderful folks, KLRU-TV raised almost \$17,000 to support the program. And we sure had a blast, too!

PRETTY IN PORCELAIN

The door prize at the Porcelain & Arts show was painted and donated by Gladys Henry Henderson. Gladys started painting in 1955 and today at age 90 continues to turn out beautiful work. Her granddaughter, Candy Ferren, also a member of the Porcelain & Arts Club, is an artist as well. The picture shows Gladys presenting her art to the winner. ■



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!

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KXAN-TV 36 INSTY-PRINTS
COCA COLA
GIRLING HEALTH CARE NURSES

The Friends of Zilker Garden

Iris (\$500+)

Mrs. Dorothy Z Anderson
Charlotte Cranberg
Douglas Hector
Nap Mayorga
Rachel White

Geranium (\$250+)

Austin Herb Society (for Joan Looney)
Austin Herb Society (for Dorothy
Cavanaugh)
Austin Rose Society
Molly Hill
Mr. & Mrs. John Musgrove
Spade and Trowel Garden Club
Town Lake Garden Club
Eduardo Vigil

Daisy (\$100+)

Margarine Beaman
Cereus Garden Club
Judith Craft & Steven Barnes
Cub Scout Pack 66
Leo Drobnic
East Austin Garden Club
Vera Eckardt
First Austin African Violet Society
Alan & Jan Geistman
Grandmother's Delight Club
David & Brenda Griffith
Cynthia Hamlet
Robert & Janie Houck
David & Stormy Hull
Kurt & Becky Johnson
Janis Keene
Jake and Ann Ledbetter
Master Gardener's Class Spring 2002
Louise Meyer
Joe & Nelda Moore
Stephen Moy
Craig Nazor
Karen Neuwald
Wanda Pack
Raymond & Nancy Risk
Georgia Showers
Barbara E. Vackar
Richard Wackerbarth
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Christian Wakefield
Trey Wakefield
Andy Wilson
Peggy & Matt Winkler
Yaupon Garden Club