



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.

\$500

8" x 8"

6 lines w/
16 spaces
each

Iris: \$500

Geranium: \$250

Bluebonnet: \$25

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
PAID
Permit No. 1969
Austin, TX

Down the Garden Path

SPRING 2004

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL



Photo courtesy of
www.wildseedfarms.com ©2004

Message from the President Bette Millis

Finally, spring is almost here and we can look forward to better weather, beautiful gardens and Zilker Garden Festival! Let's all put that dreary, winter weather behind us and focus on our wonderful and essential annual fundraiser.

I invite each and every one of you to join us March 27 and 28 for, yes, some hard work but also a lot of fun. It's time to build our bank account so we can continue to be a successful volunteer organization and so our 38 clubs will continue to have use of our beautiful facilities.

Zilker Garden Festival is the Austin Area Garden Council's main fundraising event and that's why this is so vital to all of us. From this one event we pay our terrific staff and fund our successful education program that introduces thousands of schoolchildren to nature. By working together we can all help in our mission to educate the public in the art of gardening; we can preserve and improve upon the beauty of this gem of a botanical garden, right here in the heart of our beautiful city.

I know we're going to have a successful 2004 and look forward to seeing everybody at the Festival. Beautiful gardens, fellowship, plant sale, arts and crafts, live music, food and games for the kids. What more could you ask for?

See you there!

Zilker Garden
Festival
March 27-28
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Zilker Botanical Garden

2220 Barton Springs Road, 78746 477-8672

www.zilker garden.org

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND IT IS FESTIVAL TIME

Joyce Billings, 2004 Chairman,
Zilker Garden Festival

For two days out of the year, AAGC members have a chance to show their pride and hard work as volunteers for Zilker Garden Festival. We have an opportunity to pass on a small bit of our experience to each visitor that comes through the Festival gates. Spring is a time of renewal of our gardens, so let the Festival be a renewal of your commitment to AAGC. It is a wonderful time to see AAGC members you haven't seen in awhile. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities. Sign up sheets are being distributed at your monthly meeting and a member of your club will be calling you. Don't wait to be called upon to volunteer. Call 477-8672 ext. 11 and leave your name, phone number and area where you would like to volunteer. Be part of the renewal, be part of making Zilker Botanical Garden bloom with spirit that the founders of AAGC would be proud of.

Volunteer opportunities for Saturday,
March 27th and Sunday, March 28th are:

Front & Back Gate	Cart Drivers
Water Concession	Kid's Corner
Garden Rangers	Holding Area

If you haven't marked your calendar, please do so now for Saturday, March 27 and Sunday, March 28. ■



Photo courtesy of
Dianna Walker

THE WORD IS OUT

Linda Lehmusvirta,
Vice President, Public Information

Zilker Festival publicity is well underway! We've even nabbed a few new vendors through free listings in monthly publications and Web listings. The list of monthly publication listings is extensive. In the next few weeks, I'll submit press releases to local television and radio stations, the Statesman, Chronicle, and neighboring weekly newspapers. Julie Bonnin with the Statesman's garden section plans to write a story.

KXAN-TV and KLBJ-AM radio have joined us again as Festival sponsors. KLBJ will have ticket giveaways and free announcements along with our paid ads and broadcast from the Festival Saturday. Capitol 10,000 is Sunday, so we probably won't see them then, but we'll hope for News 8 and the other TV stations. We'll also have ads and ticket giveaways on KGSR. In print, we have ads scheduled for *The Good Life* magazine's garden section, and extensive print ads in the Statesman and Chronicle.

This year we'll have a new banner! After many years on the city's streets, and a lot of costly repair, the old one risked falling apart when it was hung. The Herb Society generously offered us their banner, but the expense to convert it made a brand new one more practical. It'll be bright and attractive, constructed of the latest banner "technology" (the things you learn as a volunteer!) and last us for a long time. Watch for it on 38th Street by Seton. Once again, we'll also have a banner on our MoPac fence.

The best publicity is to tell all your friends and neighbors! As a volunteer with Zilker the past several years, I'm truly impressed about our team spirit, organization, and devotion. Through our efforts, we're raising the most significant single chunk of income for Zilker Botanical Garden and making a difference in Austin.

I've said it before, but I'll say it again: Your volunteer work makes a lasting impression to everyone who comes to Festival and throughout the year at Zilker. Next year we celebrate our 50th anniversary. The people who have made Zilker one of Austin's most spectacular venues—for visitors from around the world—all had busy lives and personal commitments. They took the time to make a commitment to their city as well. What would Austin be like now without them and Zilker Botanical Garden?

And finally, I went to FloraRama and Festival long before I was a volunteer. I always loved it, and it's been a kick to be behind the scenes. I knew nothing about publicity when I "signed up," but I've learned so much, and met wonderful people I will never forget. Over and over, I hear from long-term Austinites as well as newcomers that Festival is one of their most treasured and fun spring outings. So, help me spread the word, and let's make this the best spring event of 2004! ■

IRIS SHOW TO Dazzle

VIEWERS APRIL 11

Nelda Moore



Persian Berry, Rare Treat, Dance Man and Rhonda Fleming will blossom in glorious color, perfectly groomed for the early judging at the 2004 Iris Show, Sunday, April 11, in the garden center auditorium.

The public will be admitted free from 1-4 p.m. to enjoy the bearded iris, Louisianas and spurias grown in this area. All irises in the Horticultural Division must be correctly identified so this is an opportunity to pick out and record more favorites for your home landscape.

Other divisions of the show include artistic, educational and youth entries. All entries will be judged according to show schedule rules written in cooperation with the American Iris Society.

Last year the iris, Space Ager Thornbird, won Queen of the Show and Ms. Pat Freeman captured Best Design and Artistic Sweepstakes in the highly competitive Iris Symphony.

Penny Whiting and Debbie Hood chair the show this year and Pat Byrne serves as president. ■

ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL

*Carolyn Williams,
Master Gardener's*

She is the Grand Dame of Austin. She lies in the very heart of the city and she is having a festival in her honor. Who is she? She is Zilker Botanical Garden and during the weekend of March 27 - 28 she will be alive with garden vendors, food booths, music, plants of every kind and description, and the people of Central Texas that come out for her support. This is the one and only annual fund-raiser that Austin has for Zilker Botanical Garden and we can each help.

Please come with your family and friends and enjoy a truly Austin experience. There will be plant friendly people at each booth to share their knowledge and love of plants. Learn more about your garden and how to maintain its own natural system. Where else can you find the best plants at the best price and enjoy learning from the masters of gardening?

Mark your calendars: MARCH 27 - 28
ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. ■



Photo courtesy of
Dianna Walker

FERN WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 17
Austin Area Garden Center
Zilker Botanical Garden
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Keynote speaker will be Naud Burnett, owner of Casa Flora, Inc., of Dallas. Mr. Burnett is the landscape architect who designed and installed the fabulous "Ferndell" at the Dallas Arboretum. Workshop attendees will learn about hardy ferns for indoors and outdoors, perennial ferns, and tropical ferns, and ferns for the Southwest. You will also learn about fertilizers, temperatures, and water requirement of ferns.

Each workshop attendee will receive a fern from Mr. Burnett's greenhouses. Additionally, Laura Joseph of the Austin Fern and Cycad Society will conduct a session on staghorn ferns. Each attendee will have the opportunity to mount a fern on a plaque to take home and enjoy. The staghorn ferns are compliments of Casa Flora.

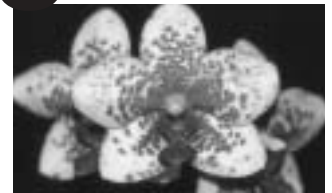
Lunch at the Garden Center is included in the \$20 fee. Please make your checks payable to: Texas Botanical Garden Society and Mail to:

T.B.G.S
P.O. Box 5642
Austin, TX 78763

The Texas Botanical Garden Society, the Austin Fern and Cycad Society and the Travis County Master Gardeners Association sponsor this workshop. If you have any additional questions, call 477-8672 ext. 14. ■

ORCHID SHOW TO Ogle YOU!

Jennifer Bird



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Bird

The Heart O' Texas Orchid Society will present its annual show and sale at Zilker Botanical Garden on March 13 and 14, 2004, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. The show is free and anyone interested in seeing beautiful flowers will surely enjoy this event. There will be 10 vendors from around the United States selling orchids, plus there will be about 15 exhibits full of colorful and spectacular blooming orchids.

These exhibits will have been judged the previous day, and you will be able to see the winners, "Best Grown Plant" and "Best Flower" of a number of different categories and types. Often the panel of judges will select a flower for excellence and award it one of the highly prized American Orchid Society awards.

Orchids, once thought of as virtually unavailable and extremely expensive, are becoming popular in the flower world. Techniques such as mericlone have made it possible to reproduce superior plants and bring them to the market at reasonable prices.

Orchids make up one of the largest and most highly evolved families of the entire plant kingdom, with more than 30,000 species already known. More are being discovered all the time. They are found on every continent, except Antarctica. There are native species in every state of our country, including Alaska.

Most of the orchids in the temperate and arctic zones are terrestrial — meaning they grow in the earth. In tropical and subtropical

areas most orchids are epiphytic — that is they grow attached to trees or rocks, clinging by their roots. They are not parasitic — they do not harm their hosts. Most of the ones you will see for sale are of the epiphytic types.

Many easily adapt to home and greenhouse growing conditions. Crossing both wild and cultivated forms has produced an almost unlimited number of hybrids. Orchids range in size from plants only a fraction of an inch high with flowers the size of pinheads to some with 5-10 foot stems. All orchids, however diverse they may seem, have a common flower structure.

When purchasing an orchid, make sure you select one with the ability to thrive in the conditions you can provide — whether in your home or a greenhouse. If you plan to grow orchids in your home, the choice of types will not be as large as for a greenhouse. They need humidity, light, temperature and air circulation. Also, they must be regularly fed (with a weak solution) and their watering requirements are different from most plants. Orchids (unless terrestrial) are not grown in "soil." Because they require air to their roots, most are grown in a loose, quick draining "mix." Some are even grown in baskets with no mix. In nature most of these plants are clinging to a tree or rock, so growing in a loose mix more closely approximates the conditions found in nature.

Plan now to attend the Orchid Show in March and find out more about these exotic, beautiful and fascinating plants. You'll be glad you did! ■



Butterflies OF ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN

John Kelly

The Austin Butterfly Forum will be conducting more surveys of the Zilker Botanic Garden during 2004. You're welcome to join us. Watch the Garden's bulletin board for the latest information.

On your strolls through the Zilker Botanical Garden, you've surely noticed all the butterflies sipping at the Garden's flowers. But have you ever wondered what those butterflies might be?

Learning about butterflies can be enjoyable—and a challenge. That's because the Botanical Garden, like all of Central Texas, has an abundance of butterflies. Almost 180 species occur in the Austin area, a fourth of the 726 butterflies known from North America. One reason for this abundance is our location: Central Texas hosts species from both eastern and western North America. And it's also a great place to look for visitors from the tropics.

Those tropical visitors were especially common in 2003. The first Zebra Longwings began appearing in late June, about seven weeks earlier than usual. By mid-July Zebras were common, and Lyside Sulphurs, Julias and Coyote Cloudyings had all made an appearance. Lacey's Scrub-Hairstreaks, Common Mestras and Tropical Leafwings arrived by October. And the Austin area even had reports of an Orange-barred Sulphur, a Soldier, and (a real rarity this far north) a Zilpa Longtail.

Not all of these tropical visitors were found in the Garden, but there's no doubt that the ZBG is a magnet for both visiting and resident butterflies. How major a magnet is it? We really don't know for sure—there's never been a thorough study of the Garden's

butterflies. So as part of a survey of Travis County's wildlife, the Austin Butterfly Forum has begun collecting observations of butterflies found in the ZBG. To date we've recorded 52 species, and we expect to find more. Here's the current list:

- Pipeline Swallowtail
- Black Swallowtail
- Giant Swallowtail
- Southern Dogface
- Cloudless Sulphur
- Orange-barred Sulphur
- Lyside Sulphur
- Little Yellow
- Sleepy Orange
- Dainty Sulphur
- Gray Hairstreak
- Lacey's Scrub-Hairstreak
- Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak
- Dusky-blue Groundstreak
- Ceraunus Blue
- Reakirt's Blue
- American Snout
- Gulf Fritillary
- Julia
- Zebra Longwing
- Variiegated Fritillary
- Bordered Patch
- Texan Crescent
- Pearl Crescent
- Question Mark
- American Lady
- Painted Lady
- Red Admiral
- Common Buckeye
- Red-spotted Purple

- Common Checkered-Skipper
- Desert Checkered-Skipper
- Clouded Skipper
- Fiery Skipper
- Sachem
- Dun Skipper
- Celia's Roadside-Skipper
- Eufala Skipper
- Ocola Skipper
- Brazilian Skipper ■



**CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS
AT ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN
AUSTIN AREA GARDEN CENTER
March to June 2004**



**Saturday, March 6
Organic Plant Sale**

Austin Organic Gardeners
Time: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 13-14
Orchid Show**

Heart 'O Texas Orchid Society
Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 20-21
African Violet Show**

First Austin African Violet Society
Time: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, March 27-28
Zilker Garden Festival**

Austin Area Garden Council
Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 3-4
Cactus & Succulent Show**

Austin Cactus & Succulent Society
Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 11
Iris Show**

Iris Society of Austin
Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 17
Fern Workshop**

Call 477-8672 ext. 14
and see page 4 for details

**Saturday-Sunday, April 24-25
Violet Crown Flower Show**

Time: Noon – 5 p.m.
Noon – 4 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, May 8-9
Municipal Art Show**

Municipal Art Guild of Austin
Time: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, May 15-16
Bonsai Show**

Austin Bonsai Society
Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Saturday, May 29
Hemerocallis Show (Daylilies)**

Austin Hemerocallis Society
Time: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, June 5-6
Garden Club of Austin Flower Show**

Time: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WALK OF FRIENDS

Dave Levine, Chair

With changes in personnel at Zilker, the “Walk of Friends” project was crawling instead of walking. Dave Levine volunteered to rev up the project. In early February the contractor was running about a week behind due to inclement weather. We hope to have the walk finished before the Zilker Garden Festival.

The plans drawn up by Brian Larson at Larson, Burns, Smith show a walk approximately 125 feet long, curving in an arc from near the rose garden to just short of the dinosaur garden. The start and finish of the walk will be irregular cut limestone set in mortar with a plaque at the start of either limestone or granite reading “Walk of Friends.” The rest of the path will be brick pavers set in sand, so that they can be pulled and replaced by 4 x 8 inch or 8 x 8 inch engraved pavers.

The pavers will be used to raise money for ZBG. They can be memorials or dedicated in any way the donors desire. The 4 x 8 inch will raise \$250 and the 8 x 8 inch will raise \$500. All but \$15 of the contribution will be deductible from income tax as a charity.

At the end of January, the plain bricks to temporarily finish the walk and slightly more than 100 engraved bricks were delivered. We have commitments for more dedicated bricks so orders will be placed at intervals and engraved bricks will replace the plain ones.

We estimate we can insert about 3,000 engraved bricks in the walk, which will raise substantial income for ZBG. We should be able to get some commitments at the Garden Festival. ■

NEEDED – VOLUNTEER TO MAINTAIN AAGC MAILING LIST!

Shaun Jordan, Vice President, Publications

Tomye Zettner maintains our mailing list database but she is now pursuing another degree at Texas A&M. We urgently need someone to step up and take over this job for her so she can continue making good grades! They'll need personal computer experience in simple databases and perhaps Microsoft Word. She currently uses My MailList but the data can easily be exported to another database program. Tomye says fall is the busiest time because clubs put out their new membership lists then. At newsletter time we create a file and the printer prints the addresses right on the newsletters. Please help! Call Joyce at 477-8672 ext. 10 or e-mail Shaun, your editor, at sjaagc@hotmail.com. Thank you! ■

WISH LIST

Joyce Billings

The garden center needs a new slide projector. Occasionally guest speakers will bring their own slide carousel only to have our projector ruin their slides. Our old projector is not compatible with the newer model carousels. We need a current model slide projector and also a projector for computer-generated presentations such as PowerPoint. Any clubs or club members that would like to donate money for new equipment, please call Joyce Billings at 477-8672 ext.10 for more information. Thank you AAGC members! ■

AUSTIN CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE

Craig Nazor

Saturday and Sunday, April 3-4, the Austin Cactus and Succulent Society will host their annual spring show and sale at the Austin Area Garden Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. Many choice specimens of rare and unusual cacti and succulents from around the world will be on display. Club members will also have hundreds of species of plants for sale at excellent prices. There is always a good selection of cold-hardy plants for landscape use, as well as rare greenhouse specimens and even some cycads. Lots of experienced growers will be there to answer all your horticultural questions, so come enjoy the show! ■



MUNICIPAL ART GUILD MOTHER'S DAY SHOW

The Municipal Art Guild of Austin will have their annual Mother's Day Show Saturday and Sunday, May 8-9 at the Austin Area Garden Center. ■

Photo courtesy of www.wildseedfarms.com ©2004



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MOTOROLA COSTCO
KXAN-TV 36 INSTY-PRINTS NE
AFFORDABLE PORTABLES
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN
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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
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