



A&M Garden Club Newsletter

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APRIL 2012

A&M Garden Club Officers:

President: Hillary Jessup
1st VP Programs: Sandra Williams
2nd VP Web/Yearbook: Sarah Barrick
3rd VP Projects:
4th VP Hospitality: Rose Smith
Treasurer: Kay Hamn
Recording Secretary: Judy Schafer
Corresponding Secretary:
Reporter: Jane Cohen
Historian/Scrapbook: Sarah Barrick

At Large: Geneva Eubanks
 Sherry Ellison

Past President: Kaye Hobbs
Newsletter Editors: Heather White,
Suzanne Milstead

Upcoming Events:

April 13 9:30 am A&M GC Meeting
 Peace Lutheran Church

April 21 Earth Day
 Wolf Pen Creek
 Details on right

TIP OF THE MONTH

Horticulture Tip: Remember to deadhead your roses to keep the blooming nonstop through the spring. When blooming is finished, prune them back.

Design Tip: The Benz Design School introduced us to double sided carpet tape found in the flooring section of Lowe's or Home Depot. It is invaluable in doing leaf manipulation and sticking things down or attaching fabric to a container.

Conservation: Chip up those trees and dead branches and add to the compost pile. Free chippings are available in Bryan at the Compost Facility. Use mulch and consider putting in drip irrigation to help reduce your watering needs. Reduce, reuse, recycle ladies!

April Meeting

Friday, April 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, 2201 Rio Grande, College Station

Speaker: Molly Harris - "Backyard Habitat Gardening the Earthkind Way"

Hostesses: Norma Jean Stokes, Mary Ann Taylor

Program: "Backyard Habitat Gardening the Earthkind Way" by Molly Harris. A Backyard Habitat provides essential resources for different kinds of wildlife, such as birds, butterflies, small mammals and other creatures. This could entail something as simple as planting a few host plants for butterflies or as elaborate as creating a place that provides food, water, summer shade, winter refuge, perches, nesting sites, and hiding places for all kinds of wildlife. Creating a Backyard Habitat is the perfect way for you, your family, and your schools to help conserve wildlife while being able to enjoy observing it every day in your own backyard.

Membership Dues

Dues are due April 1, 2012. Regular dues are \$20.00, Associate dues are \$22.00. Please bring your checks to the April 13th meeting. Make the checks out to **A&M Garden Club**. You may also mail your check to me at: Kay Hamn, 113 Timberlake Drive, Bryan, TX 77801.

District V Spring Convention, March 8

The District V Spring Convention was held in Killeen, Texas, at the Community Center. Members who attended from A&M Garden Club included Jane Cohen, Suzanne Milstead, and Heather White. The meeting was chaired by Jane Cohen, our District V Director, and hosted by the Killeen Garden Club. Recyclable sacks were offered to attendees, as well as pens and notepads. Centerpieces for sale were

April Birthdays:

Geneva Eubanks - April 9
Suzanne Milstead - April 14
Penne Mathews - April 19

SCRAP BOOK ITEMS

Do you have an item to go
in the scrap book?
Bring it to the monthly meeting.

Please be kind, turn it in on time!
It's hard for the ladies to go back
and insert late items after
the pages have been designed.

WAYS & MEANS TABLE

Don't forget to bring your plants
and/or gardening items for the
Ways and Means Table.

**Please price the items before you
bring them to the meeting.**

National Garden Club Convention: May
18-19, Buffalo, New York

Have an article or photos to contribute to
the newsletter? Email Heather White or
Sarah Barrick.

small garden tool/plant holders in various colors packed with six 4" pots of assorted plants made by Marlene Gillman and her husband Jay for \$10. They were scooped up quickly before the meeting began! Breakfast snacks were offered and a plants and things sale for District Ways and Means was conducted. The club also held raffles for various items including a palm mounted on a stand for design that Heather won. During the Executive Board meeting, Heather & Suzanne attended two workshops. One was by Jean Stewart, of Giddings, on "A Tisket, A Tasket, Design in a Basket" with various designs using common baskets you would have at home. Several included table settings, and it was a great program. One was by Sherie Clarkson, of San Saba (but previously in our Zone so you may know her from our prior zone meeting), who discussed "Herbs and Their Use in Cooking". She provided recipes and had numerous high quality herbs for sale. There were other workshops on Firewise Landscaping, Square Foot Gardening, and Rainwater Harvesting available. Lunch was a buffet style with choice of soups and sandwiches, cookies, and tea. Several door prizes were given away at lunch but alas we did not win any! The business session began early and was chaired by Jane Cohen. Several recommendations were made from the board, and voted for passage by the group. These are summarized: 1) District V newsletter will be FREE to those who provide an email address and is issued September through May. Subscription for snail mail available at \$10/year. 2) District V Scholarship will offer a single \$1000 scholarship in the spring with a due date of March 1, 2013. Available to Horticulture related degree program candidates. 3) District V Nominating Committee for State will be Nell Ziegler and Alternate Virginia Pargmann. 4) District V candidates for State Office Nomination are 1 representative who will be Sarah McReynolds and two alternates-- Marlene Gillman and Jane Cohen. 5) District V will fund 2 ads for the upcoming State Convention in the Spring of 2013 to be placed in the Lone Star Gardener. 6) Charlotte Elrod will be the 2013 Spring State Convention Treasurer. 7) District Funds of up to \$500 may be spent for a reception honoring Sarah McReynolds as incoming State President for the 2013 Spring State Convention. For anyone who doesn't know, the 2013 Texas Garden Club Spring State Convention is going to be right here in College Station and is co-chaired by Marlene Gillman and Suzanne Milstead. All the members of District V are needed to help put on the convention, and are strongly encouraged to attend. Greetings from TGC given by Sarah McReynolds, and reports given by Jane Cohen who highlighted this is District V's 75th anniversary which was celebrated across the district in many ways. Zone reports were given by Sherie Clarkson, Zone I, Jan Miller, Zone II, and Dolores Rumpf, Zone III. Harriet Houston gave the Nominating Committee's Report. Slate includes Sherie Clarkson for District V Director, Becky Williams for Treasurer, Jan Miller as Recording Secretary. Awards were given out by Nell Ziegler, and A&M Garden Club won several. Jane will share these at the meeting. A great time was had by all - y'all come next time!

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Feb/Mar

A&M Garden Club Member, Heather White entered the Horticulture Show at the HLSR this year for the first time. Although there were two design sections – one was Dining with a Texas Flair, and one was Rodeo Action, neither entry placed. The winners in the design categories were all florists from Houston. However, she also entered the cut specimen sections. One section required 3 species in the same container (photo of Narcissus 'Carlton', Kalanchoe 'Flaming Katy', and Calendula 'Bon Bon Yellow') and Heather placed 1st winning \$1000, and one section required 3 species of cut edibles (3 varieties of lettuce) which placed 3rd winning \$500. There were also trophies given.



TGC State Convention, March 22-24, Grapevine

Four members of A&M Garden Club attended the convention in Grapevine: Jane Cohen, District V Director, Idalia Aguilar, State Historian, Heather White and Suzanne Milstead. The theme was "A Garden Party" and was hosted by the Grapevine Garden Club who did an awesome job of hosting! On Thursday, there was an opportunity to attend Consultant meetings and to shop at a succulent planter sale and raffles. Friday, the Judges Council Breakfast was highlighted by a design from Suzanne, a new design type called "Armature" (see photo). Executive officers and the Board had meetings, but Suzanne & Heather hit the downtown to shop and eat lunch. They particularly enjoyed a glassblower shop, art gallery and a fabulous bakery! A "Hats Off to Texas Gardeners" garden party was held at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens and then attendees were free to stroll the grounds with docents. Following the Tea Party, there was a TGC Launch Party for the Cookbook and Wine Reception. Districts had individual tables (see photo of Jane) highlighting their recipes. Following that there was a dinner and table design program. Heather had an Exhibition Type II design (see photo) called "Celebrating in the Winner's Circle" with a theme of an Elegant Gala at the Derby. On Saturday, the general assembly for the convention took place at the Palace Arts Center. Several items were addressed including the need for electronic communication and voting, email for the Lone Star Gardener magazine to reduce costs, and living within our means. LSG will still be available by read snail mail to those without email but whenever possible, members are encouraged to go email due to less paper use and reduced costs. A new youth award has been named for Hazel McCoy. Following the general assembly, members were bused to State Headquarters to see the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, headquarters pocket gardens, and to celebrate the historical building status of the headquarters building which was spearheaded by Barbara Baker, past TGC President. The Awards Dinner was held Saturday night and the Member Award of the Year went to Jimmie Nell Courtney, Garden Club of the Year was Grapevine Garden Club. The next convention is in the fall at Abilene, and the spring convention next year is right here in College Station hosted by District V. There were opportunities to see what other clubs are doing, meet new friends and see lots of folks from our own district. A state convention is a unique opportunity.





Kathy Cox, TGC president, Jane Cohen, District V Director, Idalia Aguilar, State Historian, Heather White

JoLoe Art Exhibit at the Benz School, March 25

An absolutely fabulous exhibit was shown from March 25-29 at the Benz School called JoLoe Art. This exhibit combined watercolor sketches, a chemical dye/paint modern paintings, wearable art as fashion in clothing and accessories, and the sale of a new book on Texas plants. The two artists, Loela Barry and Johan Kritzinger are native to South Africa and met while at Texas A&M. They own a store in the Woodlands and produce some amazing and unusual art. Several A&M Garden Club members attended including Sherry Ellison, Angelika Hoepfl, Judy Schafer, Heather White, and Margaret Ann White. There was a fashion show featuring floral design accessories fashioned by the new Benz School Director Bill McKinley - like head pieces, bouquets, and even purses! - along with the interesting fashions of JoLoe. They also had a feast of South African recipe snacks at the reception and the artists were kind enough to mingle with all the guests and autograph the new book they had illustrated, "Heirloom Bulbs for Today". Some of the proceeds go to fund a clinic for HIV/AIDS patients in South Africa. This was a very unusual experience of art, floral design, horticulture, and community service. The Benz Gallery seems to always have something interesting to see.



Leola Barry, Judy Schafer, Margaret White, Heather White

Container Gardening at Carriage Inn, March 28

A garden therapy program was given by Suzanne Milstead to demonstrate how to make a floral container. A total of six garden club members were on hand to help including Judy Schafer, Geneva Eubanks, Rose Smith, Sherry Ellison, Jane Cohen, and Suzanne Milstead. Fifteen residents made container gardens. Plants used were miniature Rose, Geranium Ice plant, and fountain grass. Judy propagated the ice plant for residents to use and coordinated the event with the activity director at the Carriage Inn.





Coffee Ground Bagging, March 30

These members met March 30 in Judy's garage to bag and label coffee grounds to give away at our Earth Day booth April 21. There will be coffee grounds for adult gardens and bookmarks made from recycled materials for children who visit the booth. We will also recruit new garden club members. Thank you to everyone who helped. We visited and had a good time - many hands make quick work. Hillary's husband will make a poster to use at our booth. Judy's husband Dale helped collect coffee grounds and get them ready to bag. Jane will print instructions to go with the coffee grounds. We still need some booth workers for afternoon hours on April 21 at Wolf Pen Creek Park.



Sherry Ellison, Geneva Eubanks, Judy Schafer, Rose Smith, Norma Jean Stokes bagging coffee grounds at Judy's home.



Dale Schafer and Jane Cohen, Hillary Jessup join the

Earth Day April 21

Set Up time is 9:00 am - -11:00 a.m.

Location: Wolf Pen Creek

all booths must be completely set up by 11:00 am Take Down: Exhibitor takedown will begin at 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Contact Sherry Ellison at 979-696-6793. We will be giving away bagged coffee grounds. Heather White is contributing a 'recycled' themed design.

