

A&M GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2012



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OFFICERS

President	Kay Hamn
VP Programs	Hillary Jessup
VP Web	Sarah Barrick
VP Ed. Projects	Geneva Eubanks
VP Hospitality	Rose Smith
Rec. Secretary	Jane Cohen
Corres. Secretary	Sherry Ellison
Treasurer	Kelly Klimple
Historian	Sarah Barrick
Reporter	Judy Schafer
Members at Large	Michele Wehrheim Sandy Williams



UPCOMING EVENTS

12/1	Awards due from District Committee Chairs
12/7	10:00 A&M GC Board Meeting
12/14	10:00 am A&M GC Holiday Social Home of Pat Ritchey

TIP OF THE MONTH

Design Tip: The next Principle of Design we will cover is Dominance. Dominance is defined as the greater impact within each of the physical characteristics of elements of design. Dominance is the first thing noticed - pops at you so to speak and should be readily apparent in a pleasing design. Dominance implies a subordination meaning that one characteristic of an element, such as line, form, color, or texture dominates another. One line must be stronger than another, one color purer and more intense than another to be dominant. Largest amount does not always have the greatest effect; for example a small area of intense, bright color will appear much stronger than a large area of light hue value. Much like a group of people, one usually stands out as dominating the group and draws the center of attention so is dominance in a design. Care must be taken in choosing components in a design so that an unintentional selection of a component does not dominate when it is not desirable. For example a white container can often dominate an otherwise fabulous design acting as a "bullseye" that is undesirable. This also happens with oversized containers (scale issue) that can overwhelm the design. One test is to look at the design, look away and look back - what is the first thing your eye is drawn to? That is what is dominant.

Horticulture Tip: A good month to talk about temperature! Maximum and minimum temperatures affect plant growth - we are usually concerned with too much heat but as we enter the winter months, remember your minimums are also important. Temperature varies with geography, and USDA has divided the United States into ten climatic zones based on minimum winter temperatures; other zone maps indicate maximum summer temperatures. Bryan/College Station falls into Zone 8b. Areas to the north of us are gradually into zone 7, and south of us, like Houston is zone 9. Often plants are sold with zone indicators on them - check these out when buying as big box stores will sell plants that don't grow in our area. This is especially important for tropicals which are usually zone 9 or 10, and plants that need more chilling hours like bulbs and some varieties of fruit trees. Some tropicals will be damaged at 50 degrees, and some will freeze even above 32 degrees so when the temps fall into the 50's you need to bring them indoors or cover them up! You can accommodate the need for warmer winter

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jane Cohen	Dec 16
Helen Quinn	Dec 20
Kaye Hobbs	Dec 29
Frances Sadler	Dec 30

HOLIDAY SOCIAL REMINDER:



Meeting at **10:00 am**. Members are encouraged to bring a snack or appetizer to share, and a gift to be exchanged in the plant exchange. The gift can be a plant or garden related item(s).

with a greenhouse, a warm garage, or indoors, and bulbs theoretically can be dug up and chilled in a refrigerator but all of these things take extra effort on the part of the gardener. Plants will acclimatize or adapt to the changing seasons. Often shrubs and trees go dormant in the winter and then trigger activity when climate changes-those that do that are called deciduous trees and shrubs and those that retain their foliage are evergreens. Some plants need cold to germinate, and some need a period of cold and dryness to initiate buds. The concept of "microclimate" is important. These are areas within your landscape where areas may be warmer or colder, wetter or drier, than other areas. This can be created by enclosed or sheltered spaces like patios or decks or it can be vegetation related such as trees and shrubs acting as windbreaks. This is how some of our clubbers can grow zone 9 or 10 plants in our area leaving them out of doors year round. Even indoors, there will be areas of rooms that are warmer and drier or those that get circulation or even cold drafts and this can affect the success of your plants. For example, orchids, in my experience, can be temperamental about their location indoors if you don't have a greenhouse! They like air circulation and filtered light but hate drafts. Most people have experienced leaf burn when they put plants too close to a southern exposure window even if they are double paned.

Conservation Tip: Conserve water in the winter months. Generally, gardens will not require as much water in winter as there is less heat and evaporation, and most of the plants are not fast growing. Unless you have an unusual plant that takes a great deal of water, cut back your frequency and duration of watering. Indoor plants may need water once a week because forced air heating systems tend to dry out the air (and plants). However, dormant plants use less water and overwatering may cause rotting. Also, remember to disconnect your irrigation systems and drain them when it freezes. Cover hose bibbs with protective cuffs to prevent pipe freezes.

DECEMBER MEETING: Holiday Social & Annual Plant Exchange

The Annual Holiday Social is on **December 14, 2012, at the home of Pat Ritchey**. Her address is **8603 Rosewood, home #703-6206**.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 am with a brief business meeting at 10:30AM and then the plant exchange. Members are encouraged to bring an snack or appetizer to share, and a gift to be exchanged. The gift can be a plant or garden related item(s). There is a "rob your neighbor" aspect where things can be taken 3 times and then they belong to the taker. This can get pretty aggressive...but it is all in fun and there are some great items. Lenora Patranella will give a topic of the month on "Improved Horticulture Practices". Guests are welcome and we recommend you either tell them about the exchange or bring a gift for them to put in for the exchange as everyone likes to participate.



ZONE II MEETING, NOVEMBER 7, MARLIN GARDEN CLUB

Zone - Jane Cohen and Hillary Jessup attended the Zone II meeting in Marlin on November 7. Hillary gave the A&M GC highlights and Jane gave the Director's report. Heather White was elected the Zone II incoming Director. The program was on "Preserving Our History" by Dixie Hoover, Site Manager of the Confederate Reunion Grounds, SHS Texas Historical Commission. We are so glad we have the A&M GC records at Cushing Library at TAMU. Hillary won the door prize, a statue for her garden. We both came home with plants for our gardens and enjoyed visiting with other clubs and getting ideas for programs and projects.



KEYHOLE GARDEN PROJECT AT SAVE OUR STREETS MINISTRY



The KHG Project was a big success! Thanks to all who assisted with many A&M GC members helping at all stages of the project - planning, finding a location, building the wall, seeds, leaflets, getting donations, contacting media, growing starter plants, name tags & registration, refreshments, and

turning out for the big day. There were many positive comments from participants and there were 75 registrations from throughout the Brazos Valley. Dr. Deb Tolman did a great job also and shared information. Final financial information is not yet available but may be at the December club meeting. A special thanks to Jane Cohen, Kelly Klimple, Sherry Ellison, Rose Smith, and Hillary Jessup who made above and beyond contributions to make this project a success. This is an important part of National Garden Club's mission statement with contributions to community and collaborative efforts with other individuals.



SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, March 26 - District V Spring Convention in Temple, Texas, hosted by the Temple Garden Club. Temple is an easy 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 hour drive from College Station. It is shorter than going to Houston, and the traffic is much less heavy! We will be installing the new officers for the District. Sherie Clarkson, of Mason, will be the incoming District Director as our own Jane Cohen steps down from this office. Heather White will be the incoming Zone II Director as Jan Miller steps down. The program has not yet been set, but the Spring Convention had great workshops last year that were well attended and there were great plants to buy as well as other interesting sale items. Sherie runs an herb store and in the past has always brought lots of plants to sell--more information as it becomes available. All incoming officers for A&M Garden Club should attend and all club members are invited and encouraged. In the past, rewards for at least 4 club officers, and most club members attending have been given. A&M Garden Club members need to participate and support this meeting encouraging those present to attend the Spring State Convention here in College Station.



SEARCH FOR DISTRICT V TRUSTEE:

Marlene Gillman will be stepping down as District V Trustee in the early spring as she will be installed as VP Youth for TGC. To be eligible, members must have 2 years Executive Committee TGC experience, and attended 2 or the last 3 State Conventions. If you or someone you know might be interested, contact Marlene Gillman for more information about the job and nomination.