

A&M GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

September 2012



President: Kay Hamn (979) 204-9216 email: k_hamn@yahoo.com

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

9/7	10:00 A&M GC Board Mtg
9/10-11	XXII Landscape Course I TAMU
9/14	9:30 A&M GC Meeting CS WW Facility 2200 North Forest Pkwy
9/26-29	NGC Fall Board Mtg Little Rock, AR

TIP OF THE MONTH

Design Tip

Rhythm - Do you have it? Rhythm, a key floral design principle, is defined as the dominant visual path of line/s, form/s and/or color/s throughout a design. It is achieved through all of the following techniques including: actual linear materials placed to carry eye movement smoothly; repetition of form, color, and/or texture in a linear direction (though exact repetition can be monotonous); gradation (where adjoining parts are similar or harmonious) - this is gradual away from a focal area in size from large to small, heavy to light, coarse to fine, pure color to non-pure or analogous color harmonies - gradation is important in a Traditional Design to achieve pleasing rhythm; Creative Designs achieve rhythm through areas of interest carefully equated over the entire design and seldom rely on gradation, with push-pull tensions creating eye movement from one area to another. Rhythm is what tends to draw you to the design and keeps you looking. If you don't have it, your design will not draw the right kind of attention - like a clumsy dance partner. If you have it, it's like watching a great pair of dancers on the floor moving together flawlessly and it makes for a design that takes your breath away and gives you a blue ribbon winner!

Horticulture Tip

Plant & Seed Selection - Choose the best plant material available, suited to local growing conditions and climate and to your growing expertise. If you start with vigorous healthy plants, you will get high crop yield for fruits/vegetables, and more flowers on your ornamentals. Remember, the sale plant may be a great buy, but unless you nurse it, it will be less likely to be a great plant. In our area, the heat, drought, and alkaline soil are our biggest challenges. Select appropriate plants in the nursery or catalog for our zone - 8b, relative drought resistance unless you have irrigation, alkaline tolerance, and check to see if it is a sun or shade plant. Texas sun is brutal!! Hybrids offer many benefits including improved growth habits, longer flowering periods, broader range of colors, better disease resistance, improved substance, and better adaptation to local conditions. However, many hybrids are "sterile" and you cannot reproduce them from seed so this is a big issue especially for edible crops. Keep a record of what you buy and where you plant it. The botanical name is critical when entering flower shows and for sharing with other gardeners your prize specimens. The Texas Agri-Life Extension site has many suggestions to get you started.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Staffel Sept 2
Kelly Klimple Sept 23

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING MEMBER TO YOUR 2012-2013 YEARBOOK:

Joyce Menefee

778-2925
950 Deer Hill Dr
Bryan 77807
joycemenefee@hotmail.com
Birthday: Nov 1

Conservation Tip

Do you shred documents? If you do, use the shredded paper instead of just throwing it away. It can be used as packing supply instead of expensive bubble wrap or styrofoam popcorn, it can be used in collages for your own design or for your children/grandchildren, and it can be used in pet litter boxes under litter to help absorb and reduce the amount of litter you need.

A&M GARDEN CLUB SEPTEMBER, 14, 2012

Note new location - College Station Waste Water Facility (in the Training Room) at 2200 North Forest Parkway, College Station, TX, 77845 at 9:30AM. Speaker for the meeting will be David Creech on "Climate Change for Plants", and the Topic of the Month will be given by Judy Schafer on "Genetically Modified Organisms or Organic Foods" from *The National Gardener*. Hostesses are Rose Smith & Geneva Eubanks. Please invite a friend or neighbor to join you.

NEW MEETING LOCATION FOR 2012-2013 - Directions

Starting with the **September 14th** meeting, the A&M Garden Club will be meeting in a new location this year (2012-2013). The new meeting location will be at the **College Station Waste Water Facility Building**.

College Station WW Facility building

2200 North Forest Parkway

College Station, TX

(in the training room) The Waste Water Facility building is at the very, very end of North Forest Parkway.

DIRECTIONS:

1. From Highway 6 take the *Emerald Parkway* Exit, also known as FM 2818.
2. Go *north* on the east side frontage road (side away from town) of Hwy 6 a short distance until you can turn right on *North Forest Parkway*
3. Go to the Very Very end of North Forest Parkway, even past the dead end road sign (it means you are on the right track) and then then through the open gate, not Emerald city, but you are at the right place.
4. There is parking in front if you get there early, or more room in the parking lot to the left side of the building.

Note: If, as you go north on the frontage road you get to the Catholic church, you have missed North Forest Parkway, but cut through the church parking lot back to North Forest Parkway then turn left and go to the very very end as above.



Film Stars in our Midst

A&M Garden Club members Jane Cohen, Kaye Hobbs, and Sarah Barrick are featured in the State Convention Spring 2013 video shot by Chairman Marlene Gillman on Thursday, August 23, at the Hilton. Look for them - at least their feet! - when you see this video at the zone meeting and when Marlene comes for a visit in November!!!

A&M GARDEN CLUB KICKOFF SOCIAL, AUGUST 10



The A&M Garden Club kicked off the year with an herb-themed snack & social at Hillary Jessup's historic home in College Station. Kay Hamn, incoming President, welcomed all visitors and one guest. Sarah Barrick had completed the yearbooks and these were distributed. If you did not get yours, contact Sarah. Hillary Jessup, program chair, announced several programs for the upcoming year including: Climate Change, Keyhole Gardening, Drip Irrigation, Yard Art, Rose Propagation, Sensory Gardening, Container Gardening, Day Lilies, and of course our annual Holiday Party with Plant Swap which will be at Pat Ritchey's home this year. Hillary, with Jane Cohen's assistance, completed a new brochure for the club and had new business cards printed which are available for club members to distribute to prospective members. Jane Cohen described the Keyhole Garden in some detail and it is planned as a community outreach project in conjunction with the SOS (Save Our Streets) ministry located in Bryan, to develop a garden for the kids that go to school there and have afterschool programs. Save the date-- November 10 for this project. Jane Cohen also had state cookbooks for sale for \$20, and District V cookbooks for sale for \$7. Rose Smith, hospitality chair, stated we will be scaling back on the snacks this year and have less food at the meetings with 2 hostesses per meeting beginning in September. Suzanne Milstead, State Convention Spring 2013 co-chairman, gave information about the upcoming state convention (see related article in this newsletter issue). Idalia Aguilar, awards chairman, announced that there will be 20 awards for submission this fall. She thanked Geneva Eubanks for her invaluable assistance, and the work of Judy Schafer, Jane Cohen, and Heather White who have submitted photos and/or text for the awards. Idalia also thanked the club for submitting her name for Garden Club Member of the Year. She has been nominated as the District V nominee. After a great social hour and snacks, a plant raffle was held and the winner was Idalia Aguilar.



Fall Gardening

Time to start planting that Fall Garden with its tasty vegetables. Seeds and plants are available at the big box stores, Producers and the Farm Patch.



CALLING ALL A&M GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS:

Need pet food and seed woven plastic bags

Sarah McReynolds is making recycled tote bags from pet food and seed woven plastic bags. Judy Schafer has graciously agreed to collect them from us and send them on to Sarah. The tote bags are being made for State Convention and to sell at the Canton Flea Market for funds for a cancer patient medical expense. Bags with photos of birds, dogs, cats, rabbits, poultry, or whatever critter you have would be appreciated. Please bring them to the next A&M Garden Club meeting or contact Judy Schafer.



KEYHOLE GARDEN PROJECT, NOVEMBER 10, 2012

The Keyhole Garden Project will be on November 10, 2012, a Saturday, at the SOS (Save Our Streets) Ministry on Groesbeck in Bryan. This is a community outreach project to encourage gardening in the youth that attend the charter school at SOS and an afterschool program there. A&M Garden Club will be building keyhole gardens designed with recycled materials and sustainable at the facility. Club members can help by saving newspapers, cardboard, and later in the year leaf clippings (no pesticide/herbicide please!!) to help fill up the keyhole garden. Debbie Tolman, PhD, has a facebook page detailing the process, and a handout was passed around at the social. For questions, contact Jane Cohen.



A&M GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS ATTEND NEWCOMER'S JUNE COFFEE



Marge Watkins, longtime A&M Garden Club member, hosted the June coffee for Newcomer's Club at her home. She asked Suzanne Milstead, another "co-club" member to design a centerpiece and Suzanne did a fabulous job! Suzanne has also given a design program to Newcomer's in the past, as well as a horticulture container garden program. Several other A&M Garden clubbers are "co-club" members in Newcomer's so it is great to share this with our community. Let's show our other organizations how A&M Garden Club can overlap in their programs and activities.



NEWSLETTER REQUESTS

If you have an article for the newsletter, or a picture you would like to share with the whole club, please send it to either Sarah Barrick or Heather White. Articles sometimes have to be edited for length and content. The newsletter is generally published near the first of each month except for a single summer issue.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL I SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2012

The Landscape Design School, run by TGC administered under Nell Zeigler and co-ordinated with Dr. William Welch, of Texas Agri-Life Extension and TAMU will be on Sept. 10-11, 2012, at Christ United Methodist Church here in College Station. You must take all 4 courses and the examinations at the end of each to become a Landscape Design Consultant - but it is informative and easy. Information about registration for this worthwhile course is available at the District V Website.

Traditionally, A&M Garden Club has assisted Nell Zeigler with this course and she has asked for our help this year. Please contact Judy Schafer if you are available to assist either Monday or Tuesday as we help with registration, hostessing refreshments (all food is provided by the course), and test administration.



TEXAS GARDEN CLUB SPRING CONVENTION 2013

Ladies! Heads up and Save the Dates - April 22-24 is the TGC Spring Convention. College Station/District V is hosting this jam-packed extravaganza at the Hilton Convention Center. We need your help - we will need volunteers to help greet conventioners at the hotel for check-in, people to assist for checking tickets for entry to meals/events, liasons for speakers/workshop presenters, and of course we want **ALL A&M GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS to attend**. This is a great opportunity to participate in the convention if you have never gone before because it is in your own backyard. There will be an evening design program by Dr. Jim Johnson, Keynote Speakers include Dr. B. Patil from the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center at A&M, Dr. William Welch on Heirloom Plants and Gardens for Texas, and Dr. Jason Locklin on Dragonflies - Aquatic Habitat Dwellers. Workshops planned include: Pressed Wildflower Cards by Judy Schafer, Leaf Manipulation by Nell Shimek & Pat Spiller, and Planning a Sensory Garden by Pam Rodgers. There will be other treats and surprises as well as a "road trip". We are installing a new TGC President, Sarah McReynolds, from the Mexia Club (technically she's from Groesbeck), who has visited us several times and is a huge contributor to Zone II & District V. Please make plans to save this date. Contact Suzanne Milstead, co-chairman for the State Convention, at 832-746-2875 OR scisuz@gmail.com if you would like to help.