

A&M GARDEN CLUB

NEWSLETTER

April 2013



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

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President	Kay Hamn
VP Programs	Hillary Jessup
VP Web	Sarah Barrick
VP Ed. Projects	Geneva Eubanks
VP Hospitality	Rose Smith
Rec. Secretary	Jane Cohen
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TIP OF THE MONTH

As the Flower Show is about 2 months away, the next two newsletters will focus on tips related to the flower show. It is great that A&M Garden Club will be having a Small Standard Flower Show on June 9, 2013, at the Keep Brazos Beautiful Extravaganza and we want to show our best work.

Design Tip

This month's tip is about the first stage of design preparation. Carefully review the schedule and note the show and section title, the class title, and the design style and type, and plant material, if specified. It is also important to bear in mind the dimensions allowed for the design and any staging provided or required by the show. Why is this important? Your design should convey and interpret the theme of the show, section, and class, as well as have it's own title.

What this means for us is - "Carnival Cornucopia", Section 1 title "Ringmaster" - NOTE - special information included that background and underlay supplied by designer must be used. Space allotted is 30" X 36" . Class title - Class 1. "Circus Carnival Attractions". Design Style - Creative, Design Type Creative Line Mass (Handbook pg 200), no specific restrictions on plant material; Class 2. "Nature's Cornucopia". Design Style - Creative, Design Type Pot-et-Fleur (Handbook pg 207), by definition pot-et-fleurs require fresh plant material; Class 3. "Exotic Circus Expressions". Design Style Creative, Design Type Horizontal Line Design (Handbook pg 199), requires using weathered wood.

Once you know what your theme is, you need to brainstorm about what you are going to create. Look at the Designing by Types book, the Vision of Beauty Calendar, the NGC Website, and hopefully you have attended the workshops offered by the club in preparation so you know what creative design is and a little about each of the types in the show. For this show, you may want to internet search some circus websites OR think about circus shows you may have attended as a child. Some people sketch ideas, others just visualize it in their mind. This is a critical part of the design process because you need to have of the above in mind or your design will not conform

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/5 10:30 A&M GC Board
Mtg - Hillary's Home
- 4/8 3:30 pm Keyhole Garden
Workday at SOS
- 4/12 9:30 A&M GC Meeting
CS WW Facility
2200 North Forest Pkwy
- 4/15 3:30 pm Keyhole Garden
Workday at SOS
- 4/22-24 TGC Spring Convention
College Station, TX
- 4/29 3:30 pm Keyhole Garden
Workday at SOS

(this means meet rule criteria) and this may affect not only it's ability to be exhibited but also has a dramatic impact on your point score - you lose at least 10 points right off if you don't conform and there is another 10 points for Artistic Expression (interpretation of the theme).

Horticulture Tip

This month tip is about success in obtaining a blue ribbon. Exhibiting in a show requires learning methods of selecting, preparing, conditioning, grooming, and transporting cut specimens or container-grown plants (HB pg 99). *Selecting specimens* means plan for what you may enter during planting and growing seasons, realize that *special growing or grooming techniques* such as disbudding, and protecting the plants from inclement weather may be important, and *plants must be mature* with a color and growth pattern as compared to "perfection" of type.

Entry Cards: Although mentioned before and at the meeting, it is critical that you know the botanical name of your plant - both the genus and species (or variety/cultivar if a hybrid). ***Due to very limited setup and entry time at the show, Horticulture Committee staff simply do not have the time to "help you" do your card or find the botanical name of your plant.*** NOW is the time to find the names of any plants you even think you might enter (you should probably know the names of plants in your garden anyhow)! Design Entry Cards will be completed by the Design Chair PRIOR to your arrival except for your title which you will have to supply. However, ***Design entries must be accompanied by a 3" X 5" index card with a printed title and on the other side list the plant materials used in the design; a short description is permitted.*** Do this in advance of your arrival; if you don't know what your plant material is then ask!

Conservation Tip

If you are thinning your bed of perennial plants, don't just tear them out. Bring them to a meeting to sell/share with others. It helps if you know the name of your plant.

April A&M Garden Meeting

April 12, 2013 - 9:30 a.m.

College Station WW Facility, 2200 North Forest Parkway, CS

Speaker: David Whiting - "Garden Tips"

Topic of the Month: Helen Quinn - "Landscaping Plants"

Hostesses: Mary Ann Taylor and Norma Jean Stokes

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Geneva Eubanks April 9
Suzanne Milstead April 14

MARCH 8, 2013 A&M GARDEN CLUB MEETING

Jo Colonetta, Master Judge from Georgetown, presented Designing in Clear Containers. She brought several different designs in many container types to demonstrate the wide variety of clear containers. She used some unusual "filler" materials including marshmallows (colored & white), fabric, mesh, fruit, and she also showed how you could "party up" some designs with gift bags or special accents. It was a great demonstration and Jo was very interactive with the club.



Thanks to Viola Delagarza and Judy Schafer, hostesses for the meeting.

Jane presented a certificate from TGC President Kathy Cox to Carolyn Guillotte in appreciation of her support of the Daffodil project.



TGC DAFFODILS AT THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION

Feb 28th almost 100 people attended the luncheon and tea hosted by Anita Perry, Texas's First Lady at the Governor's Mansion. Carolyn Guillotte, Jane Cohen, Idalia Aguilar, Kaye Hobbs, Suzanne Milstead, the A&M Garden Club were all donors. Viola Delagarza and her daughter attended, as well as Hillary Jessup. Thousands of daffodil bulbs were planted at the mansion and we should be proud of our contribution to this. Jane Cohen was the State Chairman for this committee and spent 4 years getting it accomplished - JOB WELL DONE, Jane.



A&M GARDEN CLUB MAKES MANY FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS



On Sat. March 16 garden club members met at Pat Ritchey's house and made floral arrangements that were delivered to area nursing homes. A&M Garden Club members that contributed their time and talents included Judith Schafer, Michele Wehrheim, Geneva Eubanks, Myrna Wright, Johanna Roman, and Pat Ritchey. Thanks to the bountiful contribution by the A&M School of Floral Design 63 arrangements were made and delivered to Lampstand Health and Rehab, Fortress Health and Rehab, and the Millican House Senior Living. Total hours contributed to project - approximately $3 \times 6 = 18$ for participants on Saturday and 2 hours for Pat and Judy (plus husbands) on Friday to pick up and deliver to Pat's $2 \times 2 = 4$ and One hour each for Idalia and Suzanne to gather the flowers for pick up $2 \times 1 = 2$. Total volunteer hours app 24 hours service time. Value in smiles and beauty incalculable! One special arrangement was made and placed at the St. Mary's Catholic Church in memory of our Maryan Manson.



DISTRICT V SPRING CONVENTION, TEMPLE, MARCH 26



District V held the Spring Convention at the lovely Grand Reserve community in Temple on March 26. Co-chairs, Charlotte Elrod and Cynthia Kliewer, really planned a great event! There was early shopping for plants and things, as well as raffles for District including a fairy garden, a mounted wood piece for design, and a lavender basket of goodies, as well as the club raffle item of a large embroidered linen piece. A&M Garden Club members attending included: Dr. Jane Cohen (District V Director), Hillary Jessup, Suzanne Milstead, Norma Jean Stokes, Michele Wehrheim, and Heather White. Business meeting and installation were in the morning, and Heather White is the incoming Zone II Director

(encompasses the south and eastern portion of the district from College Station to Waco). Lunch was salad, green beans, rice, roll, and chicken cordon bleu with peach cobbler for dessert. The speaker was from Precious Memories floral shop in Temple talking about signature color and he brought floral designs in monochromatics for several colors. The "it" color for this next year is to be emerald green, and we are likely to see chevrons in many of the fabric patterns. It was very entertaining. The afternoon was filled with awards and prizes. A&M Garden Club won many awards (see article below) and the awards were accepted by Michele Wehrheim, our President-Elect. Everyone at the A&M Club won door prizes but none of them won the raffle items. Centerpieces were hypertoufas with multiple plantings. Several were purchased by A&M Club members, and sold for \$20. A good time was had by all, and we loaded up our goodies for the trip home.



A&M GARDEN CLUB AWARDS AT DISTRICT V CONVENTION

Dr. Jane Cohen, District V Director, presented award certificates as announced by Nell Ziegler, District Awards Chairman, to Michele Wehrheim, our President-Elect, at the District V Spring Convention in Temple. A&M Garden Club won the most awards, but Macgregor was close on our tail. There will be additional award(s) at the State Convention, based on a postcard announcement that the club received and was read by Sherry Ellison at our last meeting.

Awards presented in Temple included:

President's Report Bronze, Honorable Mention
Conservation - Magnolia Green Award, 1st Place
Conservation N-8, 1st Place
Club Service, Bronze Citation
Club Program, 1st Place
Butterfly Aii, Bronze, 1st Place
Arbor Day Aii, Bronze, 2nd Place
TGC Community Service Award, Bronze, Honorable Mention
Historic Preservation, N51, 1st Place
Horticulture Award of Merit, Class Aii, Bronze, 1st Place
Literary Horticulture Interests, Class Aii, Bronze, 1st Place
World Gardening, Class ii, Bronze 1st Place
Website Award, N63, Class 2, Bronze, 1st Place
Litter Control/Recycling, Class 2, Bronze, 1st Place
National Garden Week, N53 Bronze, 1st Place
Special Achievement Award, N7 Class 2, Bronze, 1st Place
President's Book Hillary Jessup
President's Book Kaye Hobbs
Donations Seeds for Life - Brookwood
Donations Daffodils for Governor's Mansion

Congratulations to all the members of the club who participated in these many projects and to those who took up the gauntlet to lead them. A special thanks to Idalia Aguilar and Jane Cohen who helped prepare the awards, as well as those club members who supplemented the award submissions by saving documents and sending photographs. We win as many of the awards as we do not only because we have great projects, because if you heard everything all the clubs do around the district it is amazing! We win because we have fabulous award writers - the A&M Garden Club awards are consistently mentioned as some of the best written in the state, and they often go on to South Central Region and sometimes even to National. We are hoping to win more awards at the State Convention and some even have potential for money!!!



RICHARD CARTER PARK WORKDAY, MARCH 23



Sherry Ellison planned and executed a fabulous work day at the Richard Carter Park in College Station. The A&M Garden Club has applied for grants from both Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Daughters of the American Revolution to help fund the park project, but the workday was done to initiate the actual plantings at the park.

Heather White started the outpouring of help by making 8 dozen cookies for all to share. Sarah Barrick brought the hardwood mulch and unloaded it all herself for us before others arrived. Ceci Matthews, Rose Smith, Geneva Eubanks, Michele Wehrheim, Judy Schafer, Dale Shafer, Jane Cohen, Bob Cohen, Kay Hamn, John Ellison, Pete Vanecek all worked Saturday. The Big Event A&M students were cheerful and very hard working.



Everyone helped doing everything from taking photographs of the event, turning on the water valve, explaining how to do things, bringing tools and plants, digging holes, putting in plants, watering, bringing and watching over supplies, cleaning up, and sharing laughter, energy, and work. Pete Vanecek made sure the soil with compost was delivered ahead of time and was placed very near our work area. I enjoyed myself very much working with all of you!



The plants look really good and can be seen from Brazoswood Street. It is a project of which the A&M Garden Club can be very proud!

Sherry Ellison is to be congratulated on a job well done and many thanks to all who volunteered. If you have time to visit the park this month, please drive by.



TEXAS DESIGN SEMINAR, MARCH 15-16, 2013

Three members of A&M Garden Club, Idalia Aguilar, Suzanne Milstead, and Heather White, attended the Texas Design Seminar with instructor and honorary A&M Garden Club member, Jim Johnson. A more intensive study of Underwater Design, Framed Spatial Design, Armature, and a delightful opportunity to do a "designer's choice interpretation of an artistic piece". It was challenging but well worth the effort. It was also a great opportunity to work with designing garden club members from across the state and to discuss the challenges of design.



HELP WANTED FOR THE A&M GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

A copy editor for the A&M Garden Club Newsletter will be needed for next year to replace me (Heather White). I have done this job for 3 years and due to commitments at the District level (I will be the Zone II Director), State (Ways & Means Co-Chairman), and National (Chairman, Therapy Gardens for the Blind & Handicapped) I simply cannot continue to do the monthly newsletter. Sarah Barrick has the gift of putting everything together and does all the computer work so this is mostly collecting information and writing up articles (very short). You do need to have email and minimal computer skills. Please contact Heather White if you are interested. In discussing this with Sarah, although she is willing to continue her part of the job, she is also very open to someone else taking over the computer aspect of the editing. For this, you would need computer skills to manipulate printed copy, templates, photos. Please contact Sarah Barrick if you are interested.



A&M GARDEN CLUB HONORS JANE COHEN

A&M Garden Club has been honored to have Jane Cohen represent us as District V Director for the past 2 years. She has worked very diligently to bring much of the district to the "new millennium" by instituting an electronic messaging system, and most members receive the District V newsletter electronically, saving money and time. Jane felt we all grew together, improved communication, and the opportunity to celebrate the 75th anniversary was a big joy. Renee Blaschke did a 75th anniversary album that is a treasure. Jane regrets the loss of 2 clubs in the district but is thrilled that Mason was a new club formed, with at least one other club in the formative stage. Our own club has grown a lot - we need to continue to reach out for new members. She wants to thank the members that serve on committees and clubs that volunteer to host workshops and meetings, and reaching out to our community with our gardening, design, youth, environmental activities.



MEMBERSHIP DUES DEADLINE APRIL 1ST

Regular Membership Dues are \$20.00 and Associate Membership Dues are \$22.00. Address/phone/email changes need to be submitted to Sarah Barrick to be sure it is correct for the new yearbook.



WORKDAYS AT THE KEYHOLE GARDEN

A&M Garden Club members are assisting the Save Our Streets (SOS) elementary students every Monday in April (except the 22 which is during State Convention). The location is 1700 Groesbeck in Bryan at 3:30 PM. JoLynn Easter is the point person at SOS, and several other club members usually attend. Rose Smith, Jane Cohen, and Geneva Eubanks have worked the project. The goal is to upkeep the beds and teach the children points of horticulture maintenance. Teaching this last session included a discussion of soil and compost, need for watering, and assessment of plants. Please join the group to assist at risk children and teach them to grow at an early age. It will increase their bond with the community, improve their dietary choices, and you might get something out of it you don't expect - a good time!



REGISTRATION FORMS ONLINE FOR APRIL CONVENTION

The registration form for the April Convention is on line. It is 2 pages, one for details of events, the other actual registration. Remember a daily registration is only 15.00 and the whole convention is 30.00 without meals or tour. The workshops are free is not filled up and so are the keynote speakers. Hope to see you there.

<http://www.amgardenclub.com/links.htm>

