

# A&M GARDEN CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

### August 2013



President: Michele Wehrheim 979-703-8271 email: michelewehrheim@yahoo.com

#### OFFICERS:

President	Michele Wehrheim
1st VP Programs	Hillary Jessup
2nd VP Web	Sarah Barrick
3rd VP Com Event	Kay Hamn
4th VP Hospitality	Ceci Mathews
Recording Secretary	Pat Ritchey
Corres. Secretary	Sherry Ellison
Treasurer	Mary Staffel
Historian	Melissa McIlhane
Reporter	Jane Cohen
Past President	Kay Hamn
Member At Large	Carmen Billings



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8/2 10:00 am A&M GC Board Meeting, Home of Hillary Jessup
- 8/9 9:00 - 11:30 AM  
A&M GC August Social  
Home of Heather White
- 8/22 1:30 pm Garden Therapy  
Carriage Inn

#### AUGUST SOCIAL - FRIDAY AUGUST 9TH

Friday, August 9th - 9:00 to 11:30 am, at Heather White's home, **11650 Golden Mist, College Station, phone 776-6469**. We will start our season with a potluck brunch social. Members are encouraged to bring brunch type foods to share. We will plan to eat shortly after arrival, so come hungry!

Invite a prospective member. President Michele Wehrheim says we'll briefly talk about programs, pilgrimages and other things that members may want for the upcoming year.

#### Directions to Heather's Home:

Follow Harvey Rd EAST (makes a right at Central Baptist intersection) and follow 1.5 miles and make a RIGHT hand turn onto Rainbow Trail and first intersection (no light or sign) is Golden Mist, Heather's home is the 3rd house on the RIGHT.

OR

Follow Fitch (40) out until you have to turn onto 30 and make a LEFT and go about .5 miles and make a LEFT onto **Roan's Chapel**, first intersection (no light or sign for you on Roan's Chapel) is Golden Mist. Approximately 4th house is mine on the **LEFT**.

House has a limestone gate entrance - home # 776-6469. There is limited parking up by the house - please save it for the less sprightly. The driveway is a little hike about 400 ft.

#### MICHELE'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Greetings to all A&M Garden Club members! Hope you are all enjoying your summer. My goodness, but the weather has been hot lately. Since we are in the midst of the seasonal heat, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped with the activities and events that the Club has been involved in since our last regularly scheduled meeting.

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Johanna Roman Aug 1  
Heather White Aug 4  
Ceci Mathews Aug 10  
Delma Cassaro Aug 11  
Rose Smith Aug 17  
Norma Jean Stokes Aug 28

It has been hard to catch our breath since the First Annual Community Celebration at Wolf Pen Creek Park on May 28. Thanks for the excellent job throughout the summer of spreading the love of gardening to both young and adult members of the community as well as educating the next generation of gardeners in our community.

I think I speak for all of us when I say that I am looking forward to the annual August pot luck social on Friday August 9th at 9am at Heather White's home. It will be good to get together again as a group and share ideas and garden tips and discuss our upcoming year. Thanks again for all the member input and participation in community events. I think that our enthusiastic member participation in civic and conservation minded events continues to prove that we are indeed the Best Garden Club in the state of Texas!!

*Your President, Michele Wehrheim*



### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - MICHELE WEHRHEIM

Michele joined the Garden Club in 2012 after having attended a few meetings as a guest of Angelika Hoepfl. Michele and her husband Pete relocated to College Station from Warren, Michigan in the autumn of 2011. They were tired of the long winters and wanted to enjoy their garden all year round. Michele's love of gardening was cultivated at an early age. Her Mom taught her children to plant flower and vegetable seeds and assigned small garden chores to each of them each spring. Michele is the eldest of eight children and spent much of her childhood helping to take care of her younger siblings, since there is a fourteen year span between Michele and her youngest sister.

Michele was born in Detroit and grew up near Lake St. Clair. She attended a mix of Catholic and public schools and studied nursing and para-legal technology at the local community college before transferring to the University of Michigan where she received her Bachelor's degree in political science. Shortly after graduating she obtained a civil service position in the State of Michigan Department of Mental Health and began a 20+ year career as a social worker and housing advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

Michele married after her career was established and always enjoyed travel and the opportunity to tour botanical gardens and conservatories in any city that she visited. Art history, yoga and Sicilian cooking are her main leisure interests after container gardening. Learning about what grows well here in Texas has been a challenge and it has been very interesting watching her husband develop succulent and cactus beds.

Despite Michele's lifelong interest in horticulture and gardening her interest in garden clubs has only blossomed since relocating to Texas. Never before had she had the time and energy to devote to club activities and was surprised to learn that National Garden Clubs, Inc. has affiliates in her old home state. While she initially began attending the garden club meetings in order to be educated about growing plants in this area Michele ended up joining and continue to be involved as a result of the new friends and companions she has met.

In the upcoming months and throughout her presidency, Michele looks forward to sharing the love of gardening to other residents of the Brazos Valley and to spending more time with A&M Garden Club members.



#### **GARDEN THERAPY**

August 22, at 1:30 pm we will help the residents at Carriage Inn, 4235 Boonville Road, Bryan, make "**Pressed Flower Greeting Cards**". Michele W has worked with their Activity Director, Alison Coleman. Judy S is sharing her collection of pressed flowers. Any GC Members who still plan to attend and help should let Michele know by August 15th - [michelewehrheim@yahoo.com](mailto:michelewehrheim@yahoo.com)



#### **CONSERVATION TIP**

Garden Club Conservation Pledge - "I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of the planet earth and promise to promote education so we may become better caretakers of our air, water, forest, land, and wildlife."

From the National Gardener Magazine - A 100 foot tall tree with 200,000 leaves can take 11,000 gallons of water from the soil and "breath" it into the air. Moisture in the air means rain, and we need rain. We can foster awareness in our communities and their choices will make a world of difference.



#### **HOSTESSES**

Ceci Matthews reports that a few hostesses are still needed, so let her know ASAP so you'll be in the yearbook. Contact Ceci at 936-239-0219 or e-mail - [cecimntx@GMAIL.COM](mailto:cecimntx@GMAIL.COM).



### **FALL CONVENTION**

TGC will meet in Houston, "Fall Faire", Oct 17 Thurs.-Oct 19 Sat. The program information should be in the next LSG. Briefly, a dragonfly program is at the Friday breakfast at 7:15 am. Lunch is at noon with Brookwood program. TGC Board mtg starts at 2 pm on Friday. Saturday is vendors, programs, and ends with evening dinner and design program. Make hotel reservations direct with Marriot Greenspoint on N Sam Houston Pkwy, \$79 nightly for double. When Jane C checked on rooms, they had 58 left in the block. Mtg registrations will be due by Oct 10. Michele W will help coordinate travel for those interested.



### **LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL**

Sherry E will coordinate the A&M Garden Club hostesses at the Fall LDS to be Sept 23-24 in College Station with TAMU. Member can register to attend the course for credit. Hostesses may attend lectures when duties completed. Great training opportunity. Sherry E will have signup list at the upcoming meeting for helpers. The web link for members to register for course is below: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSep13/>



### **MAY 28 COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**

Convention & Visitors Bureau - 1st annual community day. The A&M GC had a table display, shared membership brochures, bookmarks, and helped children plant sunflower seeds in peat pots. Good networking with community groups.



Thanks to Hillary J for coordinating.



## JUNE 2-8 GARDEN CLUB WEEK



To celebrate 2013 National Garden Week, three library exhibits "Gardening in Bryan and College Station", were displayed May 8 to June 20. The week ended with the GC Flower Show. College Station Mayor Nancy Berry and Bryan Mayor Jason Bienski signed National Garden Week

Proclamations, which were displayed in the cases at the libraries. Photographic displays of Gardening in the Brazos Valley, Gardening in the Community, and Learning about Gardening showed community members and A&M GC members learning and having fun. Pictured were activities showing trees planted in memory of loved ones, flower arrangements made as gifts, raised flower beds, lectures, and workshops. Books about gardening, cooking, and medicinal herbs were in the displays. A poster invitation to a June 9th Flower show, flower paintings by Geneva Eubanks, membership brochure, and crafts including a gourd hat and pressed flower cards by Judy Schafer were displayed. Sherry E chaired the committee, with Judy S and Geneva E.



## JUNE 9 FLOWER SHOW

The A&M GC held a Standard Flower Show, Carnival Cornucopia, in partnership with the Keep Brazos Beautiful (KBB) at the Hilton. Members exhibited 12 designs, 157 horticulture, and 2 exhibits. WOW. Members learned more about Flower Shows and about novel and unique methods of flower designs and staging and great sharing with the community. KBB presented awards to top winners.



Winners - Jane C, Geneva E, Heather W



Thanks to Eugenia W for the hat creations.



#### **JULY 4 BRAZOS HERITAGE SOCIETY AT HERITAGE PARK.**



The A&M GC continued last year's tradition of participating in the patriotic celebration in Bryan, Our colorful booth attracted much interest. Judy and Dale contributed to the booth set up and generously brought bookmarks and pass-along cuttings that they had potted up prior to the event. Kay H distributed booklets about native plants, while Geneva E and Michele W

helped decorate and showed youngsters how to sow sunflower seeds in peat pots.



#### **JULY 27 BUTTERFLY**

The Butterfly Educational Exhibit at the "Wish Upon a Butterfly" release, honoring loved ones, at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History was a great educational outreach. Michele W coordinated with Deborah Cowman at BVMNH. The A&M GC educational table on butterflies included Butterfly Program slides photographed here in the Bryan-College Station area by Judy and Dale S and a Presentation Board providing butterfly life cycle by Judy S, lighted magnification to look at butterfly wings, butterfly craft projects and paper butterfly to color, plant lists for butterfly friendly gardening, seed packets, and A&M GC Membership Brochure.



Many people of all ages visited our booth, asking questions and sharing lots of butterfly stories about their own yards. Thank to all who helped at the workshops to prepare (not pictured at the exhibit - Sandy W & Mary Ann T) and setting up and being at the booth. The A&M GC provided an educational exhibit for the community just as our national president has asked us to do. The BVMNH asked us to have a booth at another of their events in Oct. We received a request to help establish a bee garden at the Riverside Campus. Let us know if someone knows about plants that bees like and use to

make their honey in this area. . We had our club signpost, our membership app/brochures (thanks to Melissa Mcl for updating) and other club and gardening info to distribute to event attendees. Thanks to all who helped in our recruitment and education efforts! We had fun doing this event!



#### **MAY 15 DISTRICT MEETING**

The District Meeting is for incoming District Board - Officers and Committee Chairs to coordinate plans. Jane C, Idalia A, and Heather W attended the District Orientation Meeting in Georgetown. Plans for the upcoming year were discussed.



#### **JUNE 13 SUMMER WORKSHOP**

Nine members attended the training workshop hosted by McGregor GC at the Carleen Bright Arboretum in Woodway/Waco. A membership challenge to recruit members was announced, so invite prospective members to meetings and to join us. Jane C presented Publicity Workshop, Idalia A presented Youth Contests, and Suzanne M presented Designs. The workshop was an opportunity to help get our club year off to a strong start in planning with information and guidance.



Michele W receives club holder for our sign post.



Attending, L-R: Jane C, Ceci M, Michele W, Sherry E, Kay H, Idalia A, Suzanne M, Pat R, Hillary J



**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Audit Committee of Mary S, Kay K, and Michele W, assisted by Kelly K met on June 14 and closed the financial records for the year, reporting we're in good shape.



**TREASURER**

Mary S says 44 members have paid dues, including 8 new members. Be sure and invite a friend to the social and the meetings. Last year - 29 members in yearbook, 6 associates, 4 honorary. Dues are \$20 for Members and \$22 for Associates annually. Help recruit new members so we can share our educational programs with others and win a District Award.



**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Michele W, Sherry E and Jane C met with Idalia A at her home on July 19 to plan on award applications. Each committee will need to write 3-5 paragraphs about your project with 2 to 5 pictures. The award report is a 3 page summary and can be done on the computer. Each committee knows best about their project, so writing a summary report is needed for the award application.





### **KEYHOLE GARDENING PLANNING MTG**

On Aug 1 at Save Our Streets Ministries (SOS). Plans were made for fall veggie garden classes, on Mondays, 3:45 pm to 4:55 pm, beginning Sept 9. Jane C, Rose S, Marianne Maxwell, Michele W met with SOS Programs Coordinator to discuss classes. Helping with the project will be TAMU students Melissa P and Bradley F, who helped teach the classes last spring. New volunteers are the Botany Brothers Youth Group, Ashton, Hayden and Heather H, as shown in the picture. If you'd like to help with some of the classes or have some veggies to transplant, such as pumpkins, tomatoes, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, let us know. We're thinking we might plant 4 to 6 of each type. If you could help teach a veggie related craft - such as making veggie id markers out of wooden twigs or other ideas, let us know.



### **BOTANY BROTHERS**

The Botany Brothers will have a Plant Sale on Saturday, August 3 and August 10, 9 am until dark, 902 Esther, Bryan. Their parents, Aaron & Heather Hendrick, were missionaries in Nigeria. They are teaching their children about healthier food choices, growing their own organic seedlings (about 800) for fall/winter gardens, with heirloom and exotic varieties available. The A&M GC is networking with them as a youth group and they will be sharing some plants with the SOS classes and helping teach some sessions. Their seedlings will be sold for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. More information on line at [www.botanybrothers.blogspot.com](http://www.botanybrothers.blogspot.com). They are connected with the Community Church at Grace Southwood and with Brazos Christian School, but did say we could share their sale information with the A&M Garden Club. We hope to work with them as a youth group, also.

