



2014-2015 Officers

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Helen Quinn
VP Web/Yearbook:
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Hillary Jessup
Reporter:
Jane Cohen
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Mary Aasterud &
Myrna Wright

A&M GARDEN CLUB

March 2015

March A&M Garden Club Meeting

Friday, March 13th - 9:30 a.m.

College Station WW Facility, 2200 North Forest Parkway
(Training Room)

SPEAKER: Peggy Cathey "All About Irises"

Hostesses: Shirley Baker, Pat Ritchey, and Jane Cohen

Upcoming Events

March 4 District V Spring Meeting, Austin, TX
March 6 10:00 am A&M Garden Club Board Meeting
March 13 9:30 am A&M Garden Club Meeting
March 12-13 TGC Texas Design Seminar, College Station, TX
March 28 Master Gardener's Annual Spring Plant Sale
(Link to the Master Gardener's page to view plants for sale at:
<http://www.brazosmg.com/>)

NOTE: No coffee get together this month due to Spring Break. See you in April.

New Member

We have a new member. Her name is Joyce Wilkinson. Be sure to give her a warm welcome when you see her at the next meeting. Welcome Joyce!!!

March 28th at Richard Carter Park

Our planting day at Richard Carter Park is only three weeks away! We want to add more native plants, a crepe myrtle tree, and other plants to attract birds, butterflies, and bees to this 7.14 acre urban nature park. We chose Saturday, March 28th, because we will have 15-20 eager volunteers from TAMU through The Big Event that day!

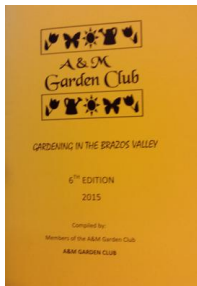
We will be adding fresh soil and mulch for a more healthy setting for new plants and seeds. We will be planting in the circular bed around the "Staking the Claim" statute (a new site for our work) and

also in other beds. Eight AMGC members have chosen the times they would like to work already, **but we could use more helpers**, particularly any time in the 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. period.

We also need to borrow gardening tools and 2 wheelbarrows.

Debbie Puetz and Mary Aasterud have signed up to bring cookies and snacks for people who work that day. Ryan Matthews (Ceci's son) has volunteered to pick up the pizzas that will be for everyone's lunch. Judy Schafer has donated seeds of Turks Caps and Inland Seaots for us to plant. Sherry Ellison **also needs someone who can bring a truck** and help load and take supplies and plants from her home to the park about 8:00 or 8:30 a.m. that morning. Please contact Sherry Ellison at 979-696-6793 or ellison@txcyber.com, if you can help in any way.

"Gardening in the Brazos Valley (6th Edition) booklet is now available



The A&M Garden Club has revised its "Gardening in the Brazos Valley (5th Edition) booklet. The revised "6th Edition" is now available to our members and the community. The cost of the booklet is \$10.00. They will be available at the monthly club meetings. If you would like to purchase one using a check, please be sure to note on the check that it is for the "Gardening in BV" booklet. Please give your cash/checks to Debbie Puetz, our Treasurer.

Watch KBTX Tuesday, March 10th at 10 a.m.

Our Club member, Sherry Ellison, will be starring on KBTX Tuesday morning to share information about the A&M Garden Club. Thanks Sherry for representing the Club. It is really appreciated.

Suzanne Sharing Her Knowledge with the Club

After the meeting on February 13th, Suzanne Milstead gave the second of her three scheduled talks on navigating through the Handbook for Flower Shows. This one covered various aspects of Traditional Vertical Line Design, and included tips and tricks used to cut Oasis, types of containers, plant materials, construction of Line Design and placement of flowers. Suzanne has the knack of explaining things in a way that make sense; we all learned a lot! Her third presentation will be on April 10th, after the regular meeting.



Landscape Design School Volunteers - February 22-24

Many Thanks to Everyone!!!!



The 2015 Spring Landscape Design School of February 23 and 24 at the George Bush Library and Museum was a great success! Attendees came up and thanked us for all of our help, for the tasty snacks and drinks, and for the good lunches. Once again A&M Garden Club members have carried on the tradition of

providing education to people about gardening in the Brazos Valley and beyond. By working with Dr. Bill Welch and the horticulture specialists whom he recruited to speak, 106 people from around the state learned through the school.

Our thanks go to all who participated in preparations as well as working Sunday afternoon, Monday, and Tuesday. Michele Wehrheim and Debbie Puetz handled all preregistrations for 109 people, prepared all of the program/information packets and name tags, and then worked full time each meeting day!



Marianne Maxwell, Rose Smith, Sherry Ellison, Diane Perez (TGC Course Chairperson), Belinda Love, Helen Quinn, Hazel McCoy (TGC), Sandy Williams, Myrna Wright, Ceci Matthews, Sarah Barrick, Kay Hamn, Johanna Roman, Angelika Hoepfl, Carolyn Guillotte, Greta Merritt and Mary Aasterud were our excellent representatives!



We thank Tracy Paine and her staff and interns at the Bush Library and Museum for all of their help. They made sure we were on their schedule, had nice space with plenty of chairs and tables, kept providing empty bags in the trash cans even throughout lunch, helped empty ice chests,

helped oversee lunch deliveries by Jason's Deli, and much much more!!! Their experience and gracious help made everything run smoothly.



District V meeting in Austin, TX



Another adventure completed!!! The journey to Austin took a lot longer than it should have due to rain, heavy fog, and traffic, but we still arrived with time to spare! Our special member Margaret Ann White was recognized as having been a Garden Club member for 50 years (Michele accepted a



certificate on her behalf), Michele was installed as Assistant District Director for 2015-2016, Suzanne Milstead was installed as District Director (she was not able to be present because she was at the Philadelphia Flower Show in a Judge capacity), and we were notified of the results of our submissions for awards & posters - great results, and "most of which were sent on to State" Great food, great company, great programs - the only disappointment was that the tour of Zilker Botanical Gardens had to be cancelled because of the nasty weather. Instead of the tour we were treated to a slide show of the gardens.



March Gardening Calendar

PLAN: Prepare soil to move mums next month if you divide plants rather than root new ones. Be sure to move each year. Pinch off tops for cuttings through May. Fertilize lightly each month until color shows in the bud. Use liquid fertilizer to force blossoms.

PRUNE: Finish pruning bush roses and dormant shrubs. Crepe myrtles may still be cut back one-third to one-half their height, but leave several buds to produce new shoots and to insure flowering. Prune any shrubs that have finished blooming.

PLANT: Cuttings taken from hardwood shrubs that have been pruned. Divide and reset cannas now. Canna beds need thinning every year for quality bloom. Set out plants of coral vine, dahlia, ferns, gerbera daisy, hibiscus, petunia, verbena. Seed planted after March 10 should grow.

FERTILIZE: Feed all roses, shrubs and plants with quick-acting fertilizer to stimulate rapid spring growth. Ageratum and flowering shrubs should not be too heavily fertilized at this time, because overfeeding of these tends to produce foliage at the expense of bloom. Do not allow fertilizer to touch stem or leaves of any young plants or seedlings unless it is a foliage fertilizer; it will cause them to scald or rot. Trees may be fertilized this month. After fertilizing, be sure to mulch well. Also apply copperas or aluminum sulfate to gardenias. DO NOT fertilize grass this month as it is still partially dormant and cannot use the food, but the weeds can!

INSECT AND DISEASE PROBLEMS: Watch for red spider mite, aphids, thrips and bagworms. Begin looking for early-season leaf-feeding pests by the end of February and during March.

WEATHER PROTECTION: Watch for late frost and protect tender plants. Mulch against a hot dry summer. Water plants deeply if needed.

BLOOMING: All hardy annuals, many shrubs, trees and roses, many bulbs.

VEGETABLES: Sow directly radishes, lettuce, snap beans, dry beans, sweet corn, cucumber, okra, watermelon, and cantaloupes. Set out plants of tomato, eggplant and pepper plants and protect against frost.

Birthdays

March

Myrna Wright March 3

Belinda Love March 19