



GRAPEVINE
GARDEN CLUB
 Established 1932



GARDEN CLUB of the YEAR

2011, 2014, 2015

Member of
 National Garden Clubs, Inc., South Central Region,
 Texas Garden Clubs, Inc., District II,
 and Garden Club Council of Ft. Worth

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

June 2020

An Iris Garden...



*Sun Shine In Hybridized by Keith Keppel 2009
 Grown in Sylvan Sigler's Garden
 Submitted by Karen Rice. (See page 4.)*

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Grapevine Convention Center
1209 S. Main Street
Grapevine, Texas 76051

Please Note:

Please watch our website and e-blasts for a survey and information about fall events!

President's Message

“May you live in interesting times.” According to Wikipedia, this quote is known as “The Chinese Curse”—although no one seems to know its exact origin. Today, I think we are truly experiencing interesting times! According to a letter to the Quote Investigator, “The most fascinating periods in history were filled with tumult and upheaval. Tales of treachery, wars and chaos provide compelling reading, but the participants who were living through the momentous changes were probably experiencing trepidation, hunger and pain.” I think all of us will be glad when we can look back on these “interesting times.”

And yet—as gardeners, we persevere and find joy in simple things: a seed sprouting, bluebird fledglings learning how to bathe in a bird bath, a new piece of garden art (See below!), gulf fritillaries discovering the passion vine growing on the trellis. Ray Chancellor has dusted off his watercolors and is relearning the satisfaction of portraying feather patterns in the migrating ruddy turnstones at Meadowmere Park. And I am discovering how special each of you is to me. Our Calling Tree project gave the GGC Executive Board a chance to personally touch base with you. I had some wonderful conversations myself! I miss your faces but your voices are real and tell intriguing/compelling/satisfying stories.

As we look ahead and continually gauge the safety of life beyond our homes and gardens, we have much to look forward to. Please be on the lookout for a short survey we are writing to assess your comfort level as we plan projects, programs, workshops and meetings for the 2020 – 2021 gardening year. Stay patient. Stay safe. Enjoy your gardens.

Dinah Chancellor



Garden Art in Daylight, Chancellor Deck, 2020



Garden Art at Dusk, Chancellor Deck, 2020

Please refer to GGC's website for full calendar of club events.

<http://grapevinegardenclub.org/calendar>

Please note that club meetings, events and tours are canceled at this time.

Volunteering in the time of social distancing

Wall-Farrar Trail Tidy-up June 1, 2020

After a rain delay of a week the Wall-Farrar Trail Tidy-up group met to walk the trail. We first had to admire the newly updated Adopt-An-Area sign with our GGC name displayed as the adopters. We social distanced our way along the 2 sections of the nature trail looking for trash (very little was found) and having a good time chatting during our time "out of the box."



Submitted by Karen Rice, Civic

MEMBERSHIP

I have so missed our regular meetings the last couple of months!

Just to put the 2019-2020 year behind us, we finished with total of **282** members!
(**157** Individual Memberships and **59** Family Memberships)

Even without meetings we are welcoming 7 new members for the year **2020-2021!!**

Please welcome our 5 newest members:

Misty Adams (Grapevine city)

Diane Cauwels - former member – welcome back!

Hildy Chanter

Cindy Harris (Grapevine city)

Janis Honeycutt

David Quam -Joyce's husband, former member – welcome back!

Submitted by Susan Holley, Membership

A VISIT TO SYLVAN SIGLER'S IRIS GARDEN

Over the years many of us have had the pleasure of visiting with Sylvan Sigler in her much-cherished iris garden. During these times of social distancing I took the opportunity to view the garden while keeping a proper distance from Sylvan.

From the moment you leave your car and walk up the driveway you know that you're at a very special place. Groups of irises of different colors and varieties greet you as you head to the back yard. Sylvan has lived (and planted iris) at this house for over 36 years and had developed a love of iris before that. She has grown over 300 varieties of iris and this year (I visited in late April) had seen over 200 of those varieties blooming. She has historic iris, medal winners (for example the first Dykes medal winner from 1926) and iris she has hybridized herself. Her passion for this hobby has enriched her life and she has willingly shared this passion with many of her friends and acquaintances. For that we are grateful! Here are a few photos that I took of her special iris.



A sample of one of the many iris beds, all neatly organized and labeled.

Reckless Abandon hybridized by Keith Keppel 2010 tall bearded



Pretty Bubbles hybridized by Joseph Ghio 2004



Spuria Iris Silence in Heaven hybridized by Anna & David Cadd 2004

Queen's Circle hybridized by Frederick Kerr 1999



Submitted by Karen Rice

Please join us for
New Member Coffee

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

9:30 am - Social

10:00 am - We do more than dig!

Grapevine Botanical Gardens

Bessie Mitchell House

hosted by

Grapevine Garden Club

RSVP by October 12, 2020

Reply by email or call
miriamward524@yahoo.com

817-488-1650



Ways And Means

Our online store is available now to members and the general public alike.

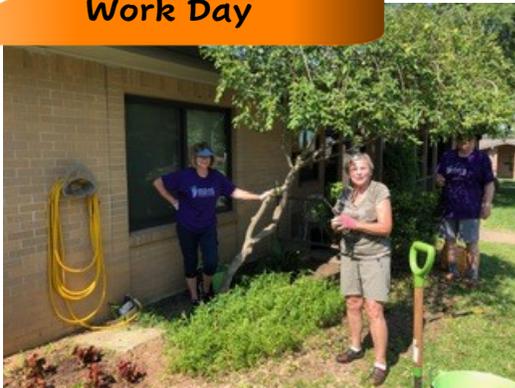
A number of people have taken advantage of the convenient way to support the GGC. The store is available through links on our website and Facebook pages. It offers all the garden tools and supplies, brochures, accessories, and GGC-branded clothing you would usually find at our meetings. Since we cannot have any meetings for now, purchasing items through the website helps keep our club finances going forward.

You can shop at any time day or night, and then, because of social distancing, we'll arrange for you to pick up your order in Grapevine at a convenient time, usually as soon as next day. The location will be shared with each order.

Please share our Facebook page so we can reach so many more people that way.

Thank you! Alexandra Evans, Ways & Means

West Texas Street Work Day



West Texas Street Work Day article on page 10...



Conservation Corner: Reduce and Reuse

We all have something we are passionate about. Me? I am passionate about earth friendly organic gardening methods that benefit wildlife.

My sister-in-law, Kerri, is passionate about eliminating single use plastics. A point at which our passions overlap, like on a good Venn diagram. Kerri and I are both very interested in the 3 Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. We both put an emphasis on the first two Rs – Reduce our impact on the earth. Reuse whenever possible.

Kerri founded a small business a few years ago, to encourage others to look for alternatives to single use plastics. Her business has encouraged me to reflect on my own gardening practices and see what I already do to eliminate single use plastics – and to see where I have room for improvement! (Because. Don't we all have room for improvement?)

One thing I have long done was purchase compost and mulch in bulk from a local supplier. One cubic yard of compost or mulch fits in the bed of a regular pick-up, which saves about 14 plastic bags from going to the landfill. If I order four cubic yards for delivery (the minimum amount my supplier will deliver), the price by bag and by bulk is comparable, but I save about 56 bags from going to the landfill. My garden can easily handle six cubic yards of fresh compost and mulch every two to three years, at which point it saves not only money but also 84 empty plastic bags from the landfill. I also find it easier (lazier...) to shovel the compost or mulch into a wheelbarrow than to wrestle the heavy and often wet plastic bags and get them ripped open.

I will admit that I do buy potting soil and fertilizers in plastic bags, as I have never seen them available any other way. This is obviously one of my areas for improvement. I do try and save empty nursery pots, for our club's annual plant sale. This is another area, though, that I would like to improve on. I do wish the nursery pots were recyclable or – better yet – biodegradable.

Composting... Not only does it keep food wastes out of the landfill, but it is a great way to make your own fertilizer. When shopping, I look for items in their natural containers that can be composted instead of sent to the landfill. One example is lemons.

I buy 'real' lemons (or limes) instead of lemon juice in a little fake plastic lemon. The remains of the real lemon can be composted, whereas the plastic lemon may or may not end up recycled.

I also grow my own herbs, instead of buying store-bought herbs in plastic containers in the produce department.

Most herbs are extremely easy to grow, esp in flower pots! And nothing is more satisfying that stepping out the back door to pick your own herbs for supper.

I use our leaves on our own property rather than bagging them to send off to the landfill. We own a chipper/shredder and rake and shred the leaves before returning them to the garden beds, though a mulching mower is another alternative. Shredded leaves make excellent mulch. They can also be added to the compost pile, where they will break down quickly. Earthworms love shredded leaves, which is an added bonus. If you must bag your leaves, consider using large paper bags, purchased at home improvement stores, instead of plastic bags.

Submitted by Suzie Agnew

GARDENERS ON THE GO

April 6-8, 2021

Wildflowers, Gardens and Painted Churches Tour

3 days / 2 nights - Travel on a chartered bus – Tour limited to 33



Painted Church in Dubina

The road trip to view wildflowers, gardens and painted churches has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 6 – Friday, April 8 in 2021. Members who registered for the 2020 tour will be given priority in registration, but other members may decide to register beginning in September if all details and itinerary for the tour have been confirmed.

The Painted Churches in the Schulenburg area are worth a visit on their own, but this is a tour for gardeners and we wanted to include more diversity. The itinerary plan is to include a couple of museums, bird hike, public & private gardens and garden center shopping. Three days of fun, learning and fellowship! We can only hope that the wildflowers are as profuse along the highways as they were during a previous tour taken in mid-April. It was truly amazing.

For more information contact - Joetta King (GGC Yearbook A-38)



The Grapevine Garden Club will offer a selection of fall bulbs for sale this year. The list of varieties will be sent out by eblast this summer so be sure to check your emails for messages. Bulbs will be available for distribution late September / early October.

Karen Rice, Fall Bulb Coordinator

A Fresh Start at My Kitchen Porch

Welcome to my kitchen porch--where it's all happening! It's the site of pick-ups and drop-offs, friends and neighbors dropping by. The staging area for walks with my two 80 lb. Golden Retrievers. Where I wait for my sons to come home from college or my neighbor's son to bring his new puppy for a visit. It's where bunnies come for dinner and toddlers come to walk the stone path. We eat dinner at our kitchen table each night while watching the same blue jay flap his wings in the fountain outside the door.



For years our covered kitchen porch seemed lackluster, despite the typical chair and potted plants. Finally, I had a light-bulb moment! I refinished the stained ranch style double door, cleaned the windows and light fixtures and purchased a half-price indoor-outdoor Target rug to ground the space. That rug defines the blue/grey/tan color scheme. I potted a small Gingko tree with various plants sitting about, a neighbor's gift of agapanthus, my MG caladiums, a fan flower and a navy Sunbrella cushion from Costco. It all pops against the white Austin stone. I breathe a sigh of relief.

I should have taken a hint from the blue jay!

Submitted by Donna Detzel

2020-2021

Based on who has paid their dues to date for this coming year, we only have 190 members ... OOOPS!!

Where are the other 90 members? YOU???

We will be reaching out to the other 90 members to give everyone a chance to renew their memberships as soon as possible! The yearbook is getting updated right now and will need to go to print soon. So, please let me know!!



You can pay your dues online by clicking one of the Pay Now buttons at this link:

<http://www.grapevinegardenclub.org/members>

Individual membership is \$30 and Family Membership is \$35.

It is super easy even if you do not have a PayPal account. After you chose your Pay Now membership button, just click the "Pay with Debit or Credit Card" button. It will let you put your own credit card information in as a Guest. No permanent PayPal account is necessary!!

Or you can mail your check directly to:

GGC, P.O. Box 811, Grapevine, TX 76099-0811.

Checks are payable to: Grapevine Garden Club.

You can even send your checks to Pam Braak's home address, page A8 in the yearbook, so she won't have to make a trip to the GGC post office box.

Susan Holley, Membership

Grapevine Garden Club Wins National Awards

National Garden Club First Place Awards for 2019



WALL FARRAR LITTER PROGRAM	Karen Rice
NEWSLETTER	Julia Garza (Sept) & Suzie Agnew (Oct—June)
BIRD SANCTUARY WEEK	Karen Rice
COOKBOOK	Barb Atkins

In addition GGC won numerous **District and State awards** for calendar year 2019

Communication Awards

Cookbook	Barb Atkins	1 st Place District & State
Yearbook	Sheri Jones	1 st Place District & 2 nd Place State
Video	Chuck Voelker &	1 st Place District & State
Newsletter	Julie Garza & Suzie Agnew	1 st Place District & State
Website	Kate Dohrer	2 nd Place District & State

Community Awards

Wall Farrar Litter Project	Karen Rice	1 st Place District & State
Redbud & Plant Sale	Miriam Ward & Evelyn Urbanosky Cecilia Mitchell & Annemarie Garlin	1 st Place District & State
Butterfly Flutterby	Cindy Miller & Harriet Perrello	1 st Place District & State
Bird Sanctuary Week	Karen Rice	1 st Place District & State
Art Contest	Terry Curcio	1 st Place District
Civic Seed	Debbie Boyle	1 st Place District & State
West Texas Street	Suzi Guckel	2 nd Place District
Scholarship, etc.	Joan Kowalski	Citation District & State

Other Awards

Rose Trials	Pam Braak	1 st Place District & State + \$50
Greenhouse Project	Debbie Boyle	1 st Place District & State
President's Report	Dinah Chancellor	2 nd Place District
Club Program Award for Sponsoring Club Youth		1 st Place State + \$25
Best Conservation Projects with Youth	Special Award	1 st Place State + \$50

*Continued
on page 10*

Four South Central Regional Awards for 2019

West Texas Street	Suzi Guckel	1st Place, three way tie
Wall Farrar Litter Project	Karen Rice	1st Place
Cookbook	Barb Atkins	1st Place
Youth Programs	Raptor Program, Scholarship Program, Red Bud Program, Butterfly Flutterby, and Youth Art Contest	

These awards reflect our hardworking and committed club that enthusiastically serves our community and unfailingly educates the membership and the public.

Congratulations to the committee chairs and all the volunteers involved.

West Texas Street Work Day

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Hot! Hot! Hot!

Yes, it certainly was a lot warmer than we were used to working and planting on West Texas Street; we had a great day, though. After deciding how best to have our work day, we decided that it was best to have each member of our committee select their team members so that they would feel comfortable working, even though we were outside. We kept our maximum number of workers at each building at no more than 4, so that 2 could work at each end of the buildings.

A big thank you to all that came that day to help us and for always being mindful of everyone's

"space." Our volunteers, including committee members, were Pam and Greg Braak, Robin Pond, Laurie and Doug Evens, Debbie Boyle, Irene Binyon, Ginger Jones, Lefty Mitchell, Karen Rice, Chuck Voelker, Rene and Bruce Herndon, and last but not least, Joe Krimm. It has been my pleasure to work with all these folks to finish out our work for this year.

A special thanks to Bruce Herndon for helping me figure out the best way to do this work day and also for bringing the mulch we were able to spread. Everything looks so nice.

Have a great summer and stay out of trouble. Just remember, the Greatest Generation was called to go to war, we were called to sit on the couch, so play like a well behaved dog and SIT AND STAY.

Suzi Guckel, Chair
and all my Committee: Irene Binyon,
Laurie Evans, Bruce Herndon,
Joe Krimm, Lefty Mitchell and Paula Wilbanks

Pam Braak, Awards Chair



Scholarship News

I have recently received two letters that I want to share with you. Through your help with our Annual Plant Sales, whether through purchases or behind the scene preparations, we are able to provide scholarships to those interested in horticulture related studies. The first is from one of our recent scholarship recipients, Sydney Turgeon:

Members of the Grapevine Garden Club,

Thank you so much for choosing me to be a recipient of this scholarship. I look forward to using the money to further my education at Texas Tech University. I could not chase my goals and dreams without your support! Thank you again! Sydney Turgeon

The second is from the mother of Joanna Lambert who was a recipient last year and graduated this past December:

Dear Grapevine Garden Club,

We are so appreciative of the support ya'll have given to Joanna during her college years. She graduated December 2019 Magna Cum Laude from LSU with a degree in Horticulture. She is working at Seville Farms in Mansfield as an assistant grower. You might see her plants at Wal-Mart, Kroger or Lowe's.

In February Joanna married her high school sweetheart. We are grateful the event happened before Covid started! I have attached a few pictures from her wedding. It should be no surprise that a flower lover like Joanna was more concerned about her flowers than her dress!.....

One of my favorite moments was when her grandmother arrived and Joanna rushed over to show her all the flowers in her bouquet. Her grandmother has been a garden club member for decades and encouraged Joanna's love of plants!.....

Thank You again for your support and encouragement!

Sincerely, Rachel Lambert



I checked in with several of our scholarship recipients during our "stay at home" time:

Ashton Bisballe is graduating from Tarleton State University and hoping to "walk" to receive her diploma in August. She did her Student Teaching this Spring semester at Northwest ISD. While in Houston with students ready to show their lambs at the Houston Livestock Show the show was cancelled due to the virus. Earlier, she had been teaching classes in Floriculture and Horticulture. She ended her student teaching semester with presenting online instruction for her students. She will be the Ag Science teacher at GCISD in the fall.

Drake Dancilla has been spending his time fishing and will be doing an internship on quails from May- August at a Research Ranch in Abilene. He will be continuing his Wildlife and Fisheries studies at A&M this Fall.

When I called **Nina Michel**, she had just finished finals at Tarleton and was enjoying her time reading lots. She had recently applied at Texas A&M and was awaiting her acceptance. Her Mom recently moved to Italy and she is hoping to be able to visit her there this August.

Annemarie Martin has finished her first year at the University of Alabama and will be returning in the Fall. She will be working at Sonic through the Summer.

It was fun speaking with them! They all were doing well and we wish them the best in their future.

Joan Kowalski, GGC Scholarship Chair