

Through the Grapevine

The Grapevine Garden Club Newsletter

Happy New Year! This year is starting off with some technical glitches. Hence, the newsletter is late and is being emailed instead of placed on the website. Please bare with us, we are trying to resolve these issues.

January General Meeting

Tuesday, September 22, 2007 Stacy's Furniture, Third Floor Community Room, 1900 South Main Street, Grapevine. Social begins at 9:30 a.m. program begins at 10:00 a.m. We thank our members for continuing to carpool and park in the outer slots as to allow Stacy's customers to park near the store entrance.

Bring a friend to our January meeting! This program is going to be great to share with friends and family. Maybe they'll thank you by cooking for you!

Welcome our new member, LaVonne Nowlin!



January Program: Cooking with Herbs

Acclaimed chef David McMillan will be sharing with us helpful ways to integrate herbs in our cooking. David McMillan is owner and chef of 62 Main in Colleyville. What better way to learn from a gourmet chef!

"Heads up! Our March 25th program on Plant Propagation will be a two part program. Gailon Hardin, our presentor, will present the basics during our regular program at Stacy's Furniture and will then lead an hour "Hands On Propagation Workshop" at the Mitchell House at the Botanic Gardens. The workshop will start at noon. You'll get an opportunity to dirty your hands and actually take something home that you've propagated. A box lunch and beverage will be included for a \$10 fee (pre-paid only). Reservation for the "Hands On Propagation Workshop" is required! Sign up at the January meeting for the Workshop and pay for your March lunch from Jason's Deli. For questions, contact Margaret Collins.

GGC Diggers: We have had a few glorious, warm days so we surely have the Spring Digging Fever! Look over your garden beds now and locate things that need to be divided or possibly removed entirely. Pot them up and label them for the Spring Plant Sale! April 11 & 12 is just around the corner and your plant will need time to grow in the pots to look good for the sale. Perhaps you have waaay too much to do by yourself, or perhaps you have a neighbor who is willing to donate to the sale. In that case, call in the GGC Diggers. We will arrange a convenient time and will bring the pots and soil. The Club truly appreciates your plant donations. Give me a call!

The Diggers are a cheerful bunch of GGCers just itching to get our hands in the dirt! No experience needed to be a GGC Digger. Watch you E-mail for a planned dig and bring your trowel or shovel. Spring may be around the corner!

As always, be on the lookout for pots: gallon and quart sizes.

Joyce Quam
Plant Sale, Heritage Plants

Star Search!!

It's time to begin the search for the Grapevine Garden Club Scholarship recipient for the school year 2008-2009. The deadline is April 1st for applications. If you know anyone who is qualified and interested in applying, please have them contact me for an application form. Our recipient must be majoring in Horticulture, Floriculture, Landscape Design, Conservation, Forestry, Botany, Agronomy, Plant Pathology, Environment Management, City Planning or other gardening related subjects.

The recipient must be either a:

1. graduating senior who resides in the city limits of Grapevine or is enrolled in GCISD
2. graduating senior who is a child or grandchild of any Grapevine Garden Club member
3. scholarship recipient from the previous year
4. college student with a permanent residence in Grapevine or within the GCISD district majoring in the listed subjects
5. Garden Club member enrolled in college courses with a declared major in any of the listed subjects.

For the last two years we have been very happy to have Aaron Cooper, son of member Debbie Cooper, as our recipient. He is majoring in Landscape Architecture at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. We are also very proud to announce he has been awarded a scholarship from the District II Garden Club. It's great to see our choice of recipient achieving further recognition. (Way to go, Aaron.) We recently received the following letter from Aaron. It's really interesting to hear the about the things he's studying this year. You can tell he's excited about the classes he's taking. We're very glad we could help.

Scholarship Chairman
Rene' Herndon

Grapevine Garden Club-

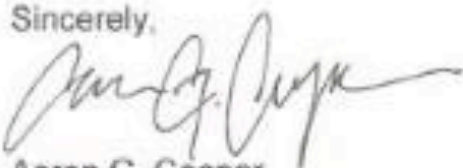
Thank you for your continued assistance in my attendance at Texas Tech University. My third semester has been the most involved yet, and is now passing the basic understandings of Landscape Architecture. We are now expected to include certain design elements in each of our drawings, all the while maintaining practical design qualities for both the design site and surrounding sites.

My classes now include both LARC drafting design lectures and labs, and LARC CAD design lectures and labs, which are now entering 3D CAD design. Our design projects are now all applied to live sites in Lubbock that are in the early stages of development including the redesigning of the cricket fields to a combined polo/cricket arena with seating for 250 and included recreational facilities, designing a beer garden on private property in downtown Lubbock, redesigning the Library Mall on Texas Tech Campus, and other such projects. The benefit to designing these local projects is that it forces us to visit the property multiple times to assess the land and it's features, and what it needs in order to be improved. This includes visiting the property while it is raining to see how our designs could be potentially affected by runoff and how its runoff could potentially affect other properties. This is detrimental to designs on or near Texas Tech Campus as the University and City of Lubbock have an ongoing battle of redirecting their runoff onto each others land.

My other class that was directly related to the Landscape Architecture curriculum this past semester was that of Urban Soils, in which we were lectured on how soils have many limiting factors on construction and development and how as a Landscape Architect this will significantly alter my designs (at least until the soil is altered). This class included an extensive Soil Survey research report of Kerrville County (South-West of Austin) in which we were to identify all the soils present in our plot, their limiting factors, and where we would recommend the construction of both a combined camping/recreational facility, and a shopping strip according to our interpretation of our researched information.

My classes are getting more in depth with Landscape Architecture, and I'm enjoying them more each day. I'm looking forward to my LARC 3D CAD design lecture and lab, my fourth LARC drafting design lecture and lab, LARC portfolio design, Agricultural and Applied Economics, and my PolySci class next semester. Again, thank you all for your support.

Sincerely,



Aaron G. Cooper

WEST TEXAS STREET GARDENS

This past October, Joetta King, Joyce Quam, Peggy Harris and I pulled weeds, trimmed a few shrubs, planted pansies, and spread mulch over on West Texas Street. The residents were so happy to see us because they know we work so hard, but most of all they always enjoy visiting with us. Thanks you so much ladies for all your hard work!!

There have been a few changes in the residents at the West Texas Street housing facility. Two of our “friends”, Les and Betty, have moved. Les went to assisted living and Betty went to a nursing home. I also learned that our mentally challenged friend, Janet, died in her sleep. But as we all know, this is a sad side of life.

As a result of the changes in the residents, we have some new folks that have moved in that do not currently meet our criteria, i.e., being a senior citizen, but, they are still residents in the low income housing, which suggests they have problems, and they are our neighbors.

In talking with the garden club board, we have decided to take responsibility for more of the landscape in the apartments on West Texas Street and continue to maintain the gardens we have already installed. Once we install edging and landscape material, the general maintenance is not very time consuming and if the residents would like to participate, that would be an added benefit. Keep in mind that these are low income residents and we hope that the majority of the younger ones will be able to work. What a joy it would be for them to come home to a pretty garden and to know that someone cares.

That being the case, I would like set a work date for the 4th Monday of each month as a work date; the first work day to be named later. If you are interested in becoming a part of this team, please call me or just send me an e-mail expressing your interest.

We do currently have a request by one of the senior's in residence for some assistance in her gardens. It is my understanding that she has recently been diagnosed with cancer and as a result is not able to maintain her gardens. --Suzi Guckel

Spring'08 Member Garden Tours

Does your garden shine in the spring? If you would like to show your garden to GGC members in Spring 2008, please send a message to “Gardens on View” coordinator Karen Rice (YB pg. 40). Please include information such as your location, and about the best month / dates and plant types that would be “shining”.

Upcoming Garden Club Events and Community Events

GGC Trips & Tours Birding Walk, Thursday, January 17, 2008, 8:30am,
Southlake – North Walnut Grove

GGC Trips & Tours will join local Ornithologist, Ray Chancellor on a winter birding and nature walk. The walk will begin at the entrance to the North Walnut Grove trail, located at the very north end of White Chapel Rd in Southlake (3+ miles north of Hyway 114 - go past the Dead End sign, onto a gravel road to a small gravel parking lot). Wear your walking shoes and bring a pair of binoculars. Please arrive early as the walk will commence promptly at 8:30AM. RSVP's appreciated – please reply to Karen Rice (YB pg. 40)

GGC Trips & Tours Tree Identification, Tuesday, February 19, 2008 – Tuesday
Cedar Hill State Park

GGC Trips & Tours will join Texas Parks & Wildlife Naturalist Linda Dunn on a “Getting To Know The Trees” walk at Cedar Hill State Park. We will carpool to Cedar Hill State Park which is 25 miles SE of Grapevine. The trip will include an opportunity for lunch and visit to a local plant nursery, Petal Pushers. This walk is a fun way to get native tree identification tips from an expert, so please join us on Feb 19, 9:00AM to 2:30PM. Contact Karen Rice (YB pg. 40) to RSVP and for carpooling sign-up and further directions.

Children's programs for the Grapevine Parks & Recreation Playbook

INTRODUCTION TO BACKYARD BIRDFEEDING--\$5.00 FEE

Discover the joys of bird watching from your own home. Learn how to choose feeders and feed and the placement of feeders within your own landscape. This session includes a craft activity, making a pine cone bird feeder.

Site: Grapevine Botanical Gardens Educational Pavilion **Ages:** 6-10 (maximum of 20)

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, Feb. 21, 4:00-5:00

STARTING FROM SEED (Plant Growth & Development)--\$5.00 FEE

This is a hands on activity for small children involving egg cartons, seeds, and potting soil. Learn the correct way to plant seeds, take proper care of plants, and then enjoy watching your plant grow!

Site: Grapevine Botanical Gardens Educational Pavilion **Ages:** 3-6 (maximum of 15)

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, March 20, 4:00-5:00

GROW CARDS--\$5.00 FEE

Receiving birthday cards or special holiday cards is always a delight but have you ever heard of planting a greeting card? Children will make a greeting card for that special person in their life that can be planted in the garden and then watch it grow! **Site:** Grapevine Botanical Gardens Educational Pavilion

Ages: 3-6 (maximum of 15)

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, April 17, 4:00-5:00

Plant Sale Information

Mark Your Calendars

The plant sale is April 11-12 this year. It's earlier than in the past so spread the word.

All Club Members are Needed!

Make this years Annual Plant sale a success! We need each and every one of you to volunteer for at least one duty. It is painless, worthwhile, necessar and extremely fun! We will have our trusty sign up sheets at our Januaru meeting. Be sure to sign up!

Pre-Sale Sale: Our garden club members will have a chance to purchase plants at our presale on Friday, April 11th from 5:00 to 7:00pm at the gazebo on Main Street in Grapevine. Prices will be discounted for our members only. The plant sale area will be roped off and signs will be posted that state the sale on Friday will be for Grapevine Garden Club members only. Anyone who would like to purchase plants and is not a member can fill out an application that evening for 2008-09 club membership for the annual fee of \$20. Because the earthkind roses are very popular and in high demand by the public, they will not be for sale on Friday. Instead members will need to preorder their roses. Order forms will be available at the January and February general meetings.

It's time to Contemplate Caladiums!

It's time for ordering those beautiful Caladiums. Brochures and order forms will be available at the January and February GGC general meeting. We will be ordering from the same company as last year with similar choices and prices. Your caladium bulb order accompanied by cash or check will be required no later than 28 February 2008.

Note from our President, Valerie Reed

I want to personally thank Susan Boelens, her committee, the generous garden club members who sponsored the music program given by Jill and Wren Robinson, and Anita Hilfiker for an absolutely delightful holiday luncheon. It takes time to plan an event, attend to the many details, follow up, decorate, and make it happen. I know that we all wish to give each one of you a big round of applause for the fellowship, fun, great food, and entertainment that put big smiles on every face. (By the way isn't it wonderful that Kevin is such a good sport when it comes to being serenaded!)

Your generous donation of \$1250 to GRACE was deeply appreciated!