



Through The Grapevine, March, 2007

Welcome To Our 75th Year!

www.grapevinegardenclub.com

Grapevine Garden Club Newsletter-Grapevine, Texas

IT'S TIME FOR A CELEBRATION!

Congratulations Grapevine Garden Club!

*You are cordially
invited to the
Grapevine Garden Club
75th Anniversary Tea.*

*Bessie Mitchell House
Grapevine Botanical Gardens
411 Ball Street
Grapevine, Texas*

*Tuesday, March 27th
3 to 6 p.m.*

*Education Center Groundbreaking
Program at 5 p.m.*



*We welcome three new GGC members who joined at the February, 2007 meeting:
Mary Rossman, Diane Sopka Gibson, Lisa Adams Grove
Bring a friend to the March General Meeting&Anniversary Tea!*

MARCH ANNIVERSARY TEA!

The anniversary committee would like to extend our invitations to the spouses of GGC members to attend our anniversary tea on Tuesday, March 27. We encourage members to park in the field next to the Mitchell Meeting house; thank you for your cooperation. As we expect many guests and visitors, we encourage our members to all serve as tea "hosts/hostesses" and welcome those joining us on that day.

We wish to extend out thanks and appreciation to our Anniversary Tea Hostesses: Co-Chairs Lynn Kugler and Paula Jones; Sherry Schultz, Camille Kissell, Jessie Misch, Jill Lakey, Jan Bowling, Barbara Munn, Barbara Oldani, Karen Rice, Katherine O'Connor, Valerie Reed, Judy Smith and Sarah Erickson. Thank You, Ladies!!

We wish a safe and traffic-free journey to our members who will be participating in the Trip N' Tours excursion to Nacogdoches on March 19th. We look forward to seeing wonderful pictures of your tour and reading about your adventures!

FLOWERCADE UPDATE

Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, April 26th**. We will be preparing our horticulture specimens that afternoon to be taken to the Flowercade show for judging the next morning. This is a change from our traditional schedule. More information will follow in the April newsletter.

GARDENING PROGRAMS AT THE GRAPEVINE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.- "Herbs" presented by Bea Stevenson. Join us in the program room and get a jump on your flavorful, colorful spring garden!

GGC T-SHIRTS!

Need a GGC tee-shirts with the 75th anniversary on the sleeve? These are short sleeve shirts, not polos. I have one small, four medium, and five large shirts for \$15.00. Anyone interested can call or e-mail Club President Val Reed (See YB p. 71). These are perfect for wearing to GGC volunteer activities, such as the annual plant sale. Also, members embarking on the Nacogdoches trip might want one. Thank You!

"Never go to a doctor whose office plants have died." (-- Erma Bombeck, American humorist (born 2/21/1927))

ROSE ORDER FORM

After compiling data from our Rose Trial Garden, the committee has chosen the following Tyler roses to sell at our 2007 Plant Sale. In order for you, our members, to have first choice, below is a Pre-Sale Order Form. The original order was conservative, as far as quantity; but I will certainly ADD to our order if you let me know which roses you wish to purchase. Please send your preferences, together with your check payable to GGC, to Barbara Munn

(YB P. 68). ***PLEASE NOTE:*** The one gallon roses will be priced at \$10.00; however, you may deduct 20% from that amount of your Pre-Order. Feel free to go into the grower's website for color and detail of these roses: <http://www.chambleerose.com/> then click on EarthKind or Buck Roses in the box to the left.

In order to ensure the varieties you have chosen are available, please let me know no later than **March 9th**.
Thanks, Barbara Munn

Grapevine Garden Club Pre-Sale Order Form

Club Member: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date Reserved: _____

Check in the amount of \$ _____ attached.



Variety	Qty Ordered	Reserve for me:	Paid:
Belinda's Dream	10		
Cecile Brunner	8		
Climbing Pinkie	6		
La Marne	8		
Lafter	8		
Livin' Easy	8		
Maggie	8		
Mutabilis OGR	6		
Pink Knock Out	12		
Serendipity (Buck)	6		
Quietness (Buck)	8		
Rainbow Knock Out	12		
The Fairy	8		
White Katy Road Pink	8		
Total ordered	116		

DISTRICT II SPRING CONVENTION

At the District II Spring Convention on Tuesday, March 6, new officers were installed for 2007-09 biennium. These are very special people since many of them come from our very own club! Marty Swindell will be the director, Linda Krimm will be Assistant Director Bulletin, Barbara Munn will be the Lone Star Gardener Correspondent, Joyce Quam will be taking care of the Ways/Means Projects & Sales Table, Rachel Clark will be in charge of Yearbooks/Bronze and Green, Sarah Erickson will be Community Concern/Service, and Edith Pewitt will be on the State Nominating Committee. The District II Director in 1991 was Bettie Simmons, our club member since 1985.

Can you imagine what this group will accomplish? Every one of them are dedicated, hard working, creative and extremely efficient workers.

Marty Swindell has been a member of our club since 1977 and is very involved in TGC, Inc., TAMU Master Design Consultant, Avant Gardeners, Ft. Worth Council of Nationally Accredited Flower Show Judges, and a Ft. Worth Garden Club member. Did you know she was named District II Garden Club Woman of the Year last year? She and her husband, Brennon, who is retired from the Army Aviation, have lived in Grapevine for 31 years. They have four children and six grandchildren. What got her started in the Grapevine Garden Club? She professes she was bored and read a newspaper article about an upcoming meeting of the Garden Club. She went to her first meeting, met 25 avid gardeners, and decided to join them the next month. She was immediately asked to do a flower design for an upcoming flower show. Not knowing anything about flower designs she went to the Grapevine Library to read up on the subject and to the chagrin of some of the older club members, won a red ribbon. The club made her Flower Show Chairman the next year so she decided to enroll in a Flower Show School which at that time was offering only one class per year. Five years later she became a Flower Show Judge. She prefers design over horticulture ; maybe because she did not acquire her mother's green thumb. In fact she primarily grows cacti and succulents because they survive on neglect. (Probably moving a lot with her Army husband had something to do with that.) However, one of her favorite plants is the bromelia from Central and South America.

District II encompasses 66 clubs, four councils, and 15 affiliates (like the Perennial, Iris, and Day Lily Societies). Marty, you and your team will be very busy and we, your Garden Club wish you the best for 2007-09! Submitted by Val Reed, GGC President

Congratulations, Ladies!

ANNUAL GGC SPRING LUNCHEON

“Celebrating 75 Years of Dedicated Gardeners”

TUESDAY, MAY 15 - 10:30 AM

You are encouraged to continue the celebration of the Club's 75th year at the Spring Membership Luncheon. Make merry with gardening friends, rejoice in the installation of the 2007-2008 officers, visit with our scholarship award winner(s) and enjoy the salads and desserts prepared by members. Join in this convivial event by:

- providing a salad or dessert (serving 8-12) with serving utensil
 - bring your recipe or e-mail the recipe to Barbara Atkins (yb p.50) so it can be included in the 2007 edition of *Out Of The Garden and Into The Kitchen – Great Recipes From the Members of the GGC*
 - **RSVP by April 27 – Luncheon Coordinator, Anita Hilfiker (yb p.61)**
- Help Wanted!!! Sign Up and Be an ACTIVE member - Make New Friends!!!**

Set up: Arrive at 9:00 AM to help set up tables, chairs, table cloths, napkins, centerpieces, get service tables ready, etc.

Clean Up/Take Down: Stay after the luncheon, wash & dry the glassware, fold tables & chairs & stack them on the rental cart.

Joyce Quam, Set Up & Clean Up Coordinator (yb p.71)

THANK YOU!

“Reflecting on 75 Years of Dedicated Gardeners”

“History Of The Annual Plant Sale”

Written by Barbara Munn, GGC President 2003-2004, GGC member since 1996

Gardeners love sharing plants that they have grown successfully, and as early as 1935 members contributed plants and seeds for a Garden Club plant sale, which netted \$14.20. In 1982 & 1983, the pass-along (heirloom) plant sale was held at the Safeway parking lot. Although there have been sporadic plant sales through the years, the tradition of an Annual Plant Sale started as a fundraiser to help with general expenses. Heirloom plants, in addition to some annuals from Pipe's Plant Farm, were sold in the early 90's at Liberty Park. Club member, Peg Albrecht, held demonstrations on container planting. IT RAINED! Although it was April, we all about froze. The Plant Sale blossomed from this event, and each year it has gotten bigger and better.

What fun it is to have been involved with our annual Grapevine Garden Club plant sale since 1998! Each trip to a prospective nursery was an adventure, hoping that this one would supply all our needs. (What naive thinking!). Therefore, we drove from Weatherford (herbs), to Aledo (perennials), to Ft. Worth (shrubs and perennials), to Keller (annuals), to Dallas (ferns), and to Tyler (hanging baskets and more annuals and perennials). Get the picture? Along the way, we picked up the nursery's availability and price lists and started compiling our favorites. At this point, you're probably wondering who WE is. Actually, over the years that I was involved, there were several that joined me on these “expeditions”. Nancy Searl, Linda Krimm, Barbara Atkins, Debbie Cooper, and Tammy Nicodemus, just to name a few. Many months (and miles) were spent on researching our best nursery sources. From the nurseries listed above, only two would deliver. Therefore, when other plants were purchased, they ended up in the Munn Holding Area for several weeks prior to the sale. Some years, it took 4-5 trips to Grapevine to deliver our purchases the morning of the sale. (Doug Munn surely will have stars in his crown!)

Making a spreadsheet that included wholesale & retail prices, projected profit, and individual specifications for each plant was always my “homework”. The Internet came to my rescue many times. These spreadsheets were given to our “sales force” in advance to familiarize themselves with each plant that would be sold at the plant sale.

We transitioned from a plant sale at Liberty Park to the Farmer's Market at Heritage Center. Preparing the Farmer's Market at the Heritage Center consisted of chalking off the concrete areas for the plants and walk-ways. We put the “heirloom” plants in the northern most area of the market; sometimes spilling into the parking area. We hung ropes for the hanging baskets and had special tables for garden crafts. I remember one year, most of the heirloom plants were brought to the area the evening prior to the sale. I hung signs with skulls and crossbones stating **“POISONOUS PLANTS—DO NOT TOUCH”**. It worked.

On the morning of the sale, plants were delivered, checked off our list, and placed in the chalked off areas (sun-shade-annuals-perennials, etc.) One year, we were to begin the sale at 8:00 a.m., which meant the “set-up crew” had to arrive no later than 6:00 a.m. to meet the two trucks, unload, price the plants; and place them in their appropriate spots. It was always a super busy time just getting all set up. No tables, all plants were on the ground. I remember one year we purchased some beautiful hanging plants, Bougainvilleas, Swedish Ivy, etc. and the “early birds” grabbed them even before we could get them hung! No matter what the hour we set to begin the sale—there were always eager patrons there one hour prior to that time! Several years it rained during our frantic set-up exercises—the whole crew put on their rain gear jackets and never missed a beat! (Continued on page 6)

“History Of The Annual Plant Sale”

(continued from page 5)

Coffee and cookies were frequently donated by some of our members who couldn't work at the plant sale. It was so appreciated by all of our hard working crew! When the actual sale began, it was so much fun and there was so much energy that the next five hours just flew by. There are many events sponsored by our club; but none more fun and profitable as our Annual Plant Sale. The tradition continues with the 2007 Annual Plant Sale being held at the Farmers' Market which is now located at Town Square Park on the last Saturday in April.

2007 PLANT SALE

The rumors you heard are true. We're going to have a 20% Discount sale on Friday afternoon, April 27th, for MEMBERS ONLY!!! Yes, the Members Only Sale will run from 4:00 until 8:00 PM. This will be followed by a cleanup, straighten-up session to get ready for the 8 AM start of our annual/perennial Plant Sale. The security guard will arrive at 9:30 PM and will be there until 5:30 AM Saturday morning.

Barb Munn is busy making her plant selections so that you will be excited to add new as well as tried & true plants to your landscape. There are not many plant growers in the area that Barb has not gotten to know on a first name basis. She is making a list and checking it twice so stayed tuned for more developments.

Sheri Jones is working diligently to have a new and exciting flier for you to share with your friends and neighbors. This flier will be available in hardcopy as well as an attachment through e-mail so you can continue to be paper-free when it comes to notifying family, friends and neighbors.

Joyce Quam will be ready to organize a plant dig at your house to help you pot up all of your extra plants. Remember, there are lots of people in our community that come just for the heritage plants at our sale. These plants are a 100% profit for our fundraiser and are the backbone of our sale so be sure they are well labeled to assist our customers in their purchase.

Barbara Oldani has a new slogan – Sign up and sign up often!! She will be looking for lots of volunteers so be sure to call her or e-mail her (page 69 in your Year Book) to work a shift with your friends or to get to know more members. This is a way to find out not only how much you have learned about gardening, but also to learn something new. WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!

Pat Mingus will be setting up our Plant Sale area to allow for the best flow for our customers so they can easily view the plants, make their selections, and get to the cashier's tables to check out.

This is a big job and it takes all of us to make it work. Volunteers are what make this club work. Come join in on the fun.

Suzi Guckel

Plant Sale Co-Chair

President's Message **Val Reed 2006-2007**

HELLO FROM VAL!

I cannot believe that it is already March. You club members have been so busy since September that the time has whizzed by and here we are at our very own special celebration! You have my admiration and gratitude in making this quite a unique year. Our 75th anniversary will truly be an accumulation of much thought, work, and sincere drive to make this event just right. Sarah Erickson and her committee have planned an afternoon you will not want to miss. The Mitchell House will have plenty of ambiance. I can just picture it now: white tablecloths, exquisite flower arrangements, beautiful serving pieces, delicate and dainty foods, and you dressed up in your finery. The photostow will surely impress you as it displays 75 years of gardening right before your very eyes and viewing all the people who have made this club what it is today! I imagine a gorgeous warm spring day strolling through the gardens, listening to the harp and stringed instruments and being overwhelmed with the colors and scents of new growth. We will visit with old and new friends, reminisce and enjoy each other's company. Our cups will be filled with punch, coffee, or tea and our plates will carry sumptuous delicacies. We will meander over to the far south side of the gardens to dedicate our new addition to the Botanical Gardens, our Educational Pavilion, and then leisurely amble back to the Mitchell House. It will be a relaxed and momentous afternoon and we will remember it for years to come. I can almost taste the mint juleps and feel the white gloves caress our hands. Okay, okay, get real—it is Texas, where the winds blow, the rains come, the temperatures get cool, our garden gloves are smelly and dirty, and country western music is in. The committee members are scurrying like crazy just to get it all perfect, not to mention the fine group of men in our club that probably aren't visualizing this afternoon quite like me but I can always daydream!

HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY GRAPEVINE GARDEN CLUB!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOUND!

GGC member Jocelyn Sandruck has volunteered to serve as newsletter editor for the 2007-2008 term. Thank you, Jocelyn!!

WAIT! To Fertilize and Water Your Lawn. By. Dr. Calvin Finch. Mow your lawn two times before you fertilize your lawn. If you fertilize earlier the nutrients are partially wasted. Your turf grasses are inactive and will not take up too many nutrients but the weeds will love it. The best time to start fertilizing is the last week of April or the first half of May.

*"IT IS ALWAYS WISE TO STOP WISHING FOR THINGS LONG ENOUGH TO ENJOY
THE FRAGRANCE OF THOSE NOW FLOWERING. " (-- PATRICE GIFFORD)*

It's time to dust off your walking shoes and put on your sunscreen!

TRIPS N' TOURS

Thursday, April 12, 2007

GARDENS ON VIEW & AREA ATTRACTIONS

BRIDGEPORT & DECATUR

[Coordinators - Joan Pierce & Joetta King]

For further details and reservations - **RSVP, yes only - by April 5** - Joetta King yb p.63

CARPOOL: Meet at Jo-Ann's Fabrics parking lot sign at 8:35 AM

(1250 William D. Tate Ave, Grapevine)

Depart from Jo-Ann's Fabrics at 8:45 AM

Visit the Bridgeport lakeside garden of Joan & Art Pierce - Arrive at 10:00 AM

Light Refreshments will be served at the Pierce Home

Having left an imprint on Grapevine through their contribution to the development of Nash Farm with the donation of antique farm equipment and serving an active role in many Grapevine events, Joan and Art have recently turned that same enthusiasm to local development in Bridgeport and Decatur. Having built a new home at Bridgeport Lake, Joan (Garden Club member since 1998) is having fun developing their lakeside landscape. Art continues his interest in carving totem poles which are on display in area parks and at their lakeside property.

Wise County Veterans Memorial Park in Decatur

(Located on Ash St. between Trinity St. & State St - 2 blocks north of the Town Square)

The Bridgeport and Decatur Garden Clubs in partnership with the Wise County Veterans were instrumental in the development and landscape beautification of this Memorial Park. The City of Decatur donated the land. Scout troops were involved in the planting of annual color. The Bridgeport & Decatur Garden Clubs received \$1,500 from the National Garden Clubs, Inc. to assist in the landscaping. Lantanas, esperanza, hardy hibiscus, Martha Gonzales roses, yuccas and white crepe myrtles offer a colorful addition to the memorial monuments for each war in US history.

Elizabeth Renshaw/Sarah Jorgenson Decatur Garden

Not far from the Veterans Memorial Park, we will tour the garden of a lovely old Decatur home at 603 N. Cates St.

Main Street Home and Garden - Decatur

603 West Main Street Decatur, TX 76234 940-627-0235

Former owners of Green Mama's in NRH, Cary & Beth Hardin, have opened the Main Street Home and Garden center in Decatur.

Good plant material for this area, garden related items, vintage garden art & antiques are available. "The property itself is vintage on historical Main Street complete with barns, chicken coops with chickens, and a fancy outhouse - all of which complement the lovely old brick house that is the garden center.

Tour guests will enjoy a yummy box lunch catered by Court House Café in one of the many sitting areas at the garden center at 12:30 p.m. The cost of the box lunch is \$10 which you will pay on the day of the luncheon. Following our lunch, we will gather for a 25 minute program on organic gardening. We will be departing Decatur at 1:30 p.m.

Petunias Anyone??

There are basically five types of petunias: the double Grandiflora, double Multiflora, single Grandiflora which includes the large flowering cascades, single Multiflora, and California giants. The size of the flowers vary anywhere from the smallest of one inch in diameter to five to six inches. In the case of petunias, big IS NOT best! The big blooms of the Grandiflora petunias are showy and look nice in catalogs but they are not durable or practical. The lightest rain or watering will droop and discolor the large Grandiflora blooms. Since the bloom is the focal point of a flower bed, the gardener wants as many beautiful blooms as possible.

Multiflora petunias such as the Carpet series have been the champs -- small, but durable and prolific. Multiflora petunias have medium-sized blooms and lots of them. Multiflora types are more disease tolerant and withstand Texas winters better than other bloom types mentioned. Because 'Laura Bush' is a Multiflora petunia type, it inherits these characteristics which make it durable and beautiful.

Petunias should be planted in full sunlight, if possible, since even the 'Laura Bush' will become spindly and have fewer flowers if grown in the shade. This is not to say that petunias will not tolerate moderate or light shade, but they need a minimum of seven hours of direct sun. The 'Laura Bush' petunia has a trailing habit which can be enhanced by periodic trimming during the growing season. I have mentioned that the 'V.I.P.' petunia is tough but I have not indicated just how TEXAS TOUGH this petunia type really is. Normally petunias planted any later than April in this area NEVER have a chance to bloom before the extreme summer temperatures annihilate plants.

It is generally not necessary to apply any fertilizer before planting. However, one week after the plants have been planted, begin applying fertilizer. Use a slow release fertilizer with an analysis such as 19-5-9 at the rate of 2-3 pounds per 100 square feet of bed area. Be sure to water the fertilizer into the soil and remove any that may have fallen on the foliage of the plants. Apply fertilizer monthly throughout the growing season. Water soluble fertilizer high in analysis such as 20-20-20 may also be used with the first application being made the day the petunias are planted. Apply the water soluble fertilizer as instructed on the container.

It is also important to remember that petunias don't like water on their flowers. Note that, after a rain, petunias close up and appear to be wilted. So, when you water, use a watering wand or drip irrigation system so plants are watered well at ground level. Once water has touched the flower, it will take several days before it is fully open again. This is especially true of the Grandiflora bloom types.

Which is the toughest petunia for our weather? The Wave series, VIP and Laura Bush seem to be the most heat tolerant. The Carpet series is in the second tier but also is tough.

The 'Wave' series of petunias are low growing, ground cover petunias that come in lilac, purple, pink and rose colors. If you cannot find transplants of these petunias in your local nurseries, both Burpee and Park Seed carry them in their catalogs. Both of these companies have Web sites where you can order on-line or ask for a catalog. Here are their Web sites: www.burpee.com... www.parkseed.com... (continued on p. 10)

Petunias Anyone? (Continued from p. 9)

Petunia Wave: Low, wide ground covers for carpets of color all summer long! * The perfect petunia for hanging baskets! * Use just 9 plants for more than 100 square feet of coverage! ANNUAL. Petunia Purple Wave won the All-America Selections award for 1994, and since then the Wave series has generated more excitement and interest than just about any other plant! Although they vary slightly in the width that they achieve, all have a low-growing, densely spreading habit that makes them a delight as ground covers or as trailing plants in baskets. Purple Wave, for example, grows just 6 inches tall and spreads up to 5 feet or more across, with growth measured at 2 inches per day! Pink Wave is a bit more restrained in growth, spreading 3 feet across — which makes it an even better performer in baskets. Our two new selections for 1999, Misty Lilac Wave and Rose Wave, each spread 3 to 4 feet wide.

Old Fashioned Petunia: This hybrid swarm represents the parents of our large flowered, brightly colored modern petunias. Although these old fashioned petunias are rare in the nursery trade, they are still quite common in old gardens. A logical explanation would center on their beauty and fragrance. However, the most like answer is their tenacity. After all, they tend to come back whether you want them or not. Though certainly not weedy, these old fashioned petunias are prolific reseeding annuals. Reseeding annuals return each year from self sown seed, as opposed to perennials that return each year from a portion of the same plant. The two parents of these old fashioned petunias are the white flowered Petunia axillaris and the violet flowered P. violacea (P. integrifolia), both perennials from South America. The larger white petunia was introduced from Brazil in 1823 while the smaller violet petunia was introduced in 1831 from Argentina. We need the toughest, most heat tolerant, persistent petunias horticulture has to offer. And lucky for us, we've had them all a long.

The 1998 Texas Superstar TM, 'VIP' Petunia: was a selection of the wild P. violacea. It's unprecedented vigor certainly showed its sun cultivated ancestry. After all, it grew up without the benefit of raised beds, irrigation, pesticides, etc*

The 'Laura Bush' Petunia: a proposed 2002 Texas Superstar TM, resulted as a cross between the 'VIP' and the Old Fashioned Petunia. With its larger flowers and prolific reseeding capabilities, it may prove to be even more popular than 'VIP'. In addition, most of the recently introduced vigorous petunias like 'Purple Wave', 'Tidal Wave', and 'Kahuna' have these wild petunias in their immediate lineage. So if you're looking at planting petunias in your future, look no further than the past. Because in this case, the older the better. *Old Fashioned Petunia seed sources include:*

**The Fragrant Path P.O. Box 328 Fort Calhoun, Nebraska 68023 Catalog \$2

**J. L. Hudson, Seedsman Star Route 2, Box 337 LaHonda, California 94020 Catalog \$1

Retail plant sources for Old Fashioned Petunias include:

**The Antique Rose Emporium 9300 Lueckemeyer Rd. Brenham, Texas 77833 1-800-441-0002

**New San Antonio location. King's Nursery Hwy. 84 Tenaha, Texas 75974 1-888-944-5113

Old Fashioned Petunias at a Glance:

Lifecycle: Annual to short lived perennial that thrives during the cooler temperatures of spring and fall.

Exposure: Full sun to part shade in a well drained soil.

Flowers: Medium sized in shades of purple, pink, and white. Fragrant, especially at night.

Habit: Vigorous. Bushy and sprawling. Water: Deep and infrequently. Fertility: Heavy feeders.

Care: Shear once per month during the growing season and apply a light application of high nitrogen fertilizer.

Propagation: Seed or cuttings. *Submitted by Lou Milner*