

February 2014



THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

GARDEN CLUB of the YEAR

February 25, 2014

Stacy's Furniture & Accessories

Community Room, 3rd Floor

1900 South Main, Grapevine

Social 9:30 A.M. Meeting and Program 10:00 A.M.

*We thank our members for continuing to carpool and to park in the outer slots
to allow Stacy's customers to park near the store entrance.*

THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTESSES:

Chair, Lindle O'Neil, Linda Barraclough, Tina Boserup, Nancy Carlson, Jimmie Nell Cook, Margaret Hutchins, Paula Jones, Candace Kyler, Karen Pafford, Sharon Swagerty

February Program

Tons of Tomatoes

John Hunt, landscape consultant, garden writer, and Dallas County Master Gardener will tell us how to grow the best Texas tomatoes ever. His authoritative & essential information will help all of us produce the bumper crop of our dreams.

Elayne Vick,
Programs



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President's Message

I don't know about you but I'm tired of covering up my plants and hauling pots in and out of the garage each time we have a freeze. Thank goodness I have my handy pot mover to reduce the strain on the back. If you want to learn more about other tools that make gardening easier, come to the workshop by Lisa Grove after our meeting on February 25th starting at 1:00 P.M. at the Mitchell House.



This week the kids planted onion sets and potatoes at the Heritage Elementary school garden so spring can't be too far off. In another month, it will be time to plant that all time favorite garden vegetable—the tomato. Be sure to come to the February meeting and learn all about growing the best ones.

We have a vibrant, active club with new people joining every month. I'd like to encourage both new and long-term members to volunteer for upcoming spring events. This is a great way to meet other members, help our community and learn. We will have sign-up sheets at the next several meetings but keep these dates in mind and **join in**:

**☞ Pam Braak,
President**

VARIOUS DATES

POTTING PARTIES

In preparation for the Spring Plant Sale

Contact: **Paula Wilson** to be added to email list

Saturday, April 5, 2014

EPIC EARTH DAY

Gazebo, Downtown Grapevine

Man a table with butterfly garden information, etc.

Contact: **Karen Rice**

Friday, April 25, 2014

PREP DAY FOR FLOWERCADRE

Contact: **Lindle O'Neil**

May 16 – 18, 2014

MAIN STREET DAYS

Downtown Grapevine

GGC will get paid for your volunteer time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
February 11 th	Work Day—Wear RED for Valentine's Day!	West Texas Street Grapevine, TX
February 25 th	Workshop: <i>Work Smarter, Not Harder, In Your Garden</i>	1:00 – 2:30 P.M. Mitchell House Grapevine Botanical Gardens
February 19 th	District II Spring Convention	Fort Worth Botanical Gardens
Feb. 28 th – Mar. 3 rd	Fort Worth Orchid Society Show	Fort Worth Botanical Gardens
Mar. 1 st – Apr. 6 th	Butterflies in the Gardens	Conservatory Fort Worth Botanical Gardens
March 7 th	Gardeners on the Go	<i>Daffodils in the Land of Oz</i> Dallas Arboretum

February Birthdays

Connie Bacon
 Dave Buhr
 Marge Carpenter
 Margaret Collins
 Tom Crook
 Dick Guckel
 Dee Huston
 Betsy Anne Marsh



Mary McCallister
 Barbara Munn
 Lindle O'Neil
 Valerie Reed
 Lois Revell
 Bea Stevenson
 Roy Stewart
 Renie Stricklen
 Joyce Wuetig

Save the Dates!

Date	Event	Location
March 25 th	Workshop: Container Gardening	1:00 – 2:30 P.M., Mitchell House Grapevine Botanical Gardens
April 8 th	Work Day	West Texas Street, Grapevine, TX
April 16 th – 18 th	Gardeners on the Go	Orange, Texas
April 26 th	Spring Plant Sale	Grapevine Botanical Gardens
April 25 th	Prep Day, Flowercade	TBA
April 26 th – 27 th	Flowercade	Fort Worth Botanical Gardens
May 20 th	GGC Spring Luncheon	Lake Grapevine
May 28 th	Gardeners on the Go	Celina and McKinney, Texas
June 5 th	Gardeners on the Go National Garden Week Tour	Fort Worth, Texas



New Members

Beverly Gill
Pat Howard
Tammy Meeker
Bob Williams

Workshop, February 25, 2014

Work Smarter, Not Harder, in Your Garden

1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M., Bessie Mitchell House

Grapevine Botanical Gardens, Lisa Grove, Horticulturist



Several years ago a new book came out written by Sydney Eddison, *Gardening for a Lifetime*, about how to balance the demands of aging and gardening. I had to buy it since, while I don't consider myself too old, I do have handicaps and her book is about managing reduced activity in the garden. I even considered writing a book review for the GGC newsletter since we have quite a few members over 75 or so. However, her advice is good for all ages, so, as Lisa Grove directs, "work smarter, not harder."

Eddison began an article in *Country Living* magazine by telling how one day she was stunned by a glimpse of an old woman in the sliding glass doors into her kitchen, hobbling around her garden – and realized it was her! She offers some interesting advice for the older gardener: reject perfection, thin the perennials, switch to shrubs, use more shade plants, incorporate your surroundings, miniaturize where you can, use lower-maintenance plants, prioritize garden tasks, make the most of containers, and learn labor-saving techniques. You are welcome to bring your brown bag lunch to the workshop after the general GGC meeting.

Elayne Vick
Programs

West Texas Street Workday Tuesday, February 11, 2014 – 9:00 A.M.

Greetings to all! It is that time of year again. Valentines and cold weather means it must be time to prune the roses on West Texas Street.

Dress for the weather and bring your pruning shears, weed diggers, loppers and anything else you might need to get the job done. The sooner we start the sooner we get finished and can go have hot chocolate at Main Street Bread Baking Company on, you guessed it, Main Street. This is a great time to visit and catch up on what has been going on in our gardens.



So come out to play so we can share some Valentine cookies and warm apple cider.

Stayed tuned to your email early February 11th in case we have to postpone the workday. But usually it has to be really, really bad for that to happen. See you then! Call if you have any questions. I'm in "the book".

**☞Suzi Guckel,
West Texas Street**

February Craft Bazaar

Do you have a crafting hobby? Do you bead, paint, bake, or sew? Would you like to sell items, or simply donate crafted good(s)? It is time for the annual GGC Crafty Corner Bazaar to be held before and after the February general meeting. GGC encourages members who would like to sell or donate their hand crafted item(s) for the February Bazaar. It will be a perfect time to do a little shopping. If you would like to sell your items, a \$7.00 donation is requested to participate. If you would like to donate or sell items, please contact Cindy Miller.



**☞Cindy Miller
Ways and Means/Other**

Spring Plant Sale Preparation



It's time to start thinking about our Plant Sale that will be on Saturday, April 26th at the Grapevine Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park. In preparation for that day, we need to take a look at our gardens and see what perennials we have that we would like to donate to the Sale and start digging.

If you would like, we can schedule a "Digging Party" for you. Please contact Paula Wilson to make arrangements to have a Digging Party in your garden or sign up for one at the February meeting. A group of garden friends will come to your house with one gallon pots and landscape mix to pot up your donations. We are asking members to hold these potted plants at their homes until the week before Plant Sale day. For those of you who would rather pot up your own donations, contact Chuck Voelker for one gallon pots and landscape mix. Your plant donations are so important to the success of our Sale. Our customers truly want these tried and true plants because they trust our expertise.

There will also be a sign up sheet at the February meeting for a "Digging Committee." We need volunteers to help dig up and pot plants in members' gardens for our Plant Sale. These are fun events where you are working side by side with friends in the garden for about an hour. If you are a new member, this is a great way to meet new people and learn new information about plants. Please join us!

Here is a picture of fun! Either join us for digging or let us dig in your garden!



Chuck Voelker
Plant Sales

Plant Dig at Sylvan Sigler's Gardens

Desired Heirloom Plants - Are you wondering what plants sell the best? Certain plants are in demand and sell well. (See example list in the box below.) We **love** to get your heirloom plants, however we **do not** encourage donations of non-species types of iris, daylilies, grasses (except muhly), and cactus. Please use **one gallon pots** for your donated plants.

Desired Heirloom Plants - Anemone, Artemesia, Aster, Beautyberry, Brazilian Rock Rose, Clematis (Pitcheri), Columbine, Coral Berry, Coreopsis, Daisy, Datura, Gaura, Golden Groundsel, Gregg's Mist, Lenten Rose, Lily (Crinum, Oxblood, Red Spider), Loosestrife, Mexican Bush Sage, Mexican Mint Marigold, Mint (Apple, Lavender, Peppermint), Moneywort, Oxalis, Passion Vine, Penstemon, Phlox, Pink Skullcap, Pipevine, Plumbago, Cone Flower, Purple Heart, Rain Lily, Rudbeckia, Ruellia, Sage (Autumn, Black & Blue, Indigo Spires, Mexican Bush, Pineapple, Russian), Sedum (Autumn, Dragon's Blood, Gold Moss), Snowflake, Society Garlic, Spiderwort, SunDrops, Texas Betony, Thyme, Turk's Cap, Winecup, Zexmenia



Spiderwort



Turk's Cap



Oxalis triangularis

Grapevine Garden Club, Inc.

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday, April 26, 2014

8:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Botanical Gardens at Heritage Park

411 Ball Street, Grapevine



Free seminars

Featuring

Survive and Thrive - drought tolerant plants for your landscape

What's Your Favorite Plant?

Do you have a tried and true favorite plant?



Four Nerve Daisy

How about a favorite drought tolerant plant—or something new to you that you grew last year—a plant or a gardening method? Please send me your favorite tried and true, drought tolerant or new plant suggestion and a picture if you have one. My favorite newly tried plant for last year is fall crocus. These fall blooming bulbs were bright and cheerful when everything else was dying back. And here is my favorite all around plant. This four nerve daisy photo was taken February 5th when the high temperature was 32 degrees. It is drought tolerant and happy all year round! Send me your suggestions.

☞Karen Rice

Container Gardening Workshop

March 25th, 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Bessie Mitchell House at the Grapevine Botanical Garden

Fee \$15 for supplies, attendance limited to 25. Come join Lisa Grove and Karen Rice as we build a container garden.

☞Karen Rice

Gardeners on the Go – Upcoming Tours

Dallas Blooms Festival and Daffodil Flower Show

Dallas Arboretum – 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. – Friday, March 7

Following Keith Kridler's program, *All Things Daffodils*, in October, members expressed interest in visiting his Mount Pleasant farm to view the daffodils in bloom. Unfortunately, there have been extensive rains in the last two months, the lower daffodil fields are under water, and the soft, spongy soil where we would be walking would be a concern.

Instead of the Kridler farm tour, Gardeners on the Go will be attending the Texas Daffodil Society Flower Show at the Dallas Arboretum on Friday, March 7. The flower show, *Daffodils in the Land of Oz*, is free with admission to the arboretum.



The Texas Daffodil Society

Presents

Southern Regional Small Standard Flower Show "Daffodils in the Land of Oz"

March 7, 2014

**The Dallas Arboretum
and Botanical Gardens
Rosine Hall**



Dallas Blooms 2011

Attendees will have an opportunity to view Dallas Blooms and have lunch prior to attending the daffodil show. Now in its 30th year, Dallas Blooms offers one of the most spectacular floral displays in the world featuring over 500,000 blooming spring bulbs. Visitors are invited to view the outstanding collection of tulips, daffodils, pansies, violas, poppies and thousands of other annuals and perennials. Highlights of the festival include the blooming of over 100 Cherry Blossom trees and the mass flowering of 6,000 azaleas that bloom into April.

Tour sign-up sheets will be available at the February meeting or notify Joetta King by email of your interest in attending. Tour details will be emailed to members attending the event. If you do not receive email, you must provide a self-addressed stamped envelope at the February general meeting or ask another member who receives email to update you.

Mark your calendar for other tours:

May 28th – Celina and McKinney to visit the Chambersville Tree Farm, Three Creek Gardens Daylily Farm, and Eden Hill Farm and Vineyard

June 5th – National Garden Week tour to Fort Worth to visit the Fort Worth Botanical Garden and the water-wise landscape of Kathy and Jack Clark. The Clark garden was a 2013 EcoScape Residential Landscape Contest 2nd place winner. Sponsored by the Fort Worth Water Department and the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT), the contest challenged area homeowners to create the perfect water efficient landscape. Jack's special collection of cacti will intrigue you.

**Joetta King
Trips and Tours**

Exploring the Bob Jones Nature Center and Preserve with Dr. Ray Chancellor

It was an excellent day – sunny, calm breeze, chilly rather than freezing – as GGC members were joined by other birders on a hike at Bob Jones Nature Center (BJNC) on January 18 as a kick-off to Grapevine's Bird Sanctuary Week.



Pat Mingus and Joetta King

With 28 birders walking along the trail, it isn't surprising that bird sightings were minimal. But as Pat Mingus commented, "We enjoyed all his knowledge and stories about trees, plants and birds." Indeed, Dr. Ray Chancellor related interesting facets of the local ecology including the flora and fauna and the role of habitat in supporting birdlife. If only I could recollect with accuracy all the insightful information that he shared! Here are a few tidbits that I recall and that challenged me to learn more.

Sixty-six percent of the birds will disappear when the underbrush is destroyed. Our tendency is to create a clean looking home landscape by removing small shrubs, brush, and understory trees from beneath existing trees. This prevailing

attitude has to be reconsidered if you want to provide shelter and nesting sites for wildlife. How well I remember giving directions to our home builder that he was not to remove the undergrowth on the west side of the house only to return to find that the native coralberry, flowering dogwood, and redbud trees had been stripped from the area leaving bare soil under the oak trees.



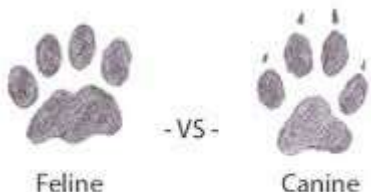
Chancellor suggested that one of the best plants to attract birds to your garden would be the **American beautyberry (Callicarpa Americana)** as the clumps of berries along its branches are an important food source for many species of birds. Its appearance along the trail throughout our hike is a testament to the hardiness of this Texas native.

With the foliage gone from hardwood trees, hikers began to notice nests in the trees. Is it a bird nest or squirrel nest? Ray stated that a squirrel's nest is primarily composed of leaves and although we had just viewed a great horned owl nest, what we were seeing was a squirrel nest. The large, ragged-looking nest was located about 20 feet up in a tree. Greg Braak's question about what supports the leaves led me to do a little research. A squirrel's nest is called a drey. Construction of the nest begins with a platform of twigs roughly woven together and a spherical skeleton of interwoven twigs and vines is erected around the base. Both the platform of twigs and outer shell is completed with addition of leaves, moss, and even paper.

Feral hogs' excessive rooting left areas of plowed soil. Feral hogs are domestic hogs that either escaped or were released for hunting purposes. According to Chancellor, the hog's domestic characteristics diminish in 2-3 years as they develop the traits needed for survival in the wild. Why are the uprooted soils at BJNC a concern to the ecosystem? Weed seeds will germinate before native seeds consequently replacing plants most needed for wildlife preservation.

Although **greenbrier (Smilax rotundifolia)** may be considered a nuisance plant in a home landscape, the bluish-black berries of this prickly vine is a food source for both animals and birds. It was seen growing on trees and forming thickets. The thickets are great cover for wildlife, and many birds build nests in greenbriers. The leaves of the greenbrier are heart-shaped and feel leathery to the touch. The stems have sharp thorns.





How can you tell a canine track from that of a feline? Canine tracks will show nail marks since the nails do not retract.

If you are walking along nature trails or city streets and sight a 3-6" diameter, yellow-green ball – the surface covered with bumps somewhat resembling a brain – lying under the canopy of a tree, it is probably the fruit of **Bois d’Arc (Maclura pomifera.)** Chancellor indicated that the tree acquired the name bois d’arc, or “wood of the bow”, from early French settlers who observed Native Americans using the wood for bow-making because it was strong and flexible with a natural curve to branches. According to Paul W. Cox and Patty Leslie in *Texas Trees A Friendly Guide*, “The hard, heavy wood is very resistant to decay. In the past it was so renowned for its durability that in some areas of Central Texas, house loans were refused unless the wooden structure rested on Bodark piers.”

The Bois d’Arc fruit is commonly called a horse apple. Chancellor recalled that as children growing up in the Texas countryside, the horse apple was a make-do ‘Texas snowball’ – snow being a rare event! Because cleaning up the large fruit in the fall can be a chore, the tree could be considered a nuisance tree in the home landscape. Lisa Stokdyk was seduced by the texture and color of the horse apples to collecting a few for decorating purposes. However, as the fruit ripens a pungent odor develops and the ball becomes sticky from the white latex filling. The seeds of the fruit are edible by some birds and animals, and Lisa mentioned that she has noticed squirrels tearing the horse apples apart to get at the seeds. Few other wild animals make use of it as a food source.



Chancellor recommended refraining from collecting the Bois d’Arc fruit as its decomposition serves a purpose in the ecosystem. I must admit that my response (screaming hissy fit) to a sudden appearance of spiders in the tool sheds has prompted me to place a horse apple in each shed. (This was a hint from Joyce Quam. There is insufficient evidence to support its repelling insects, but I continue the practice.)

There are prickly trees in the woods! Among a few that Ray pointed out were the gum bumelia, lime-prickly ash, and honey-locust.



A small tree of interest, **Gum Bumelia** (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), is often armed with stout thorn-tipped branchlets. Growing up on a Texas farm, Chancellor recalled that children would break off a twig and use the sap that exuded from the bark as chewing gum.

Lime prickly-ash (*Zanthoxylum fagara*) is a rounded shrub or small tree with branches bearing many sharp - hooked thorns and its leaves have a lime-like aroma. According to the North American Butterfly Association – lime prickly-ash provides a native plant caterpillar food source. Despite being heavily armed with spines, it can be included in gardens where evergreen barrier plants are needed. Inconspicuous, though fragrant, flowers will draw in butterflies as well as other pollinators. The plants also provide important food and shelter for birds.

The honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) observed on our hike had thorns about 3 inches long, but its three-pronged thorns can sometime reach 12 inches in length in west Texas. According to Chancellor, the Greater Roadrunner may build a nest among the branches about 4 feet from the ground thus using the thorny tree as protection against predators. He also related that Native Americans used the thorns to punch holes in hides in preparation for stitching.



The Hercules club (*Azanthoxylum clava-herculis*) typically reaches 15-20 feet tall and is easily identified by its knobby warts on the trunk. It is commonly seen along a fence row where its seeds have been voided by birds while resting on the wires but we saw it growing at the edge of tree areas. Chancellor said that it is sometimes called the toothache tree because chewing on the bark or foliage will produce a numbing effect on the inside of the mouth.

If you missed this birding hike with Dr. Ray Chancellor, consider notifying him (raychancellor@aol.com) of your interest in joining a hike and you will receive notice by email of the Southlake Ornithological Society scheduled hikes. Visit www.bjnc.org for the Bob Jones Nature Center hike activities. Be adventuresome – go on your own! The area offers habitats for over 250 species of birds over the yearly cycle.

Joetta King
Trips and Tours

Birds and Aircraft Don't Mix!

Not much can be done to prevent a wildlife strike at an airport. However, some suggestions made by Cathy Boyles, DFW airport's qualified airport wildlife biologist, during the Bird Sanctuary Week program at the library seemed obvious.

Don't feed birds while on airport property!

Founders' Plaza Observation Area located at Texas Trail and North Airfield Drive is a great little park to view many types of aircraft as they take off and land. The plaza provides picnic tables, telescopes, historic information, a commemorative monument, and a radio that broadcasts air traffic control communications from the FAA tower. If you are enjoying refreshments during your visit, make sure that trash is properly disposed. Don't feed the birds! Doing so will encourage wildlife to congregate and can attract large flocks of pigeons or gulls.



The airport property has all the ingredients to attract wildlife – shelter/cover, food, and water. But the goal is to keep birds away and in safe places. Creating backyard wildlife habitats and preserving habitats in area parks could minimize wildlife continuing to use the airport property as a home.

Eastern Meadowlark in Favorite Habitat

Wildlife at an airport is a safety issue. Surprisingly, the small meadowlark is the most common bird strike. One bird strike can cause total engine loss. There were



Cathy Boyles and Karen Rice

304 documented bird strikes at DFW in 2013 at a cost of \$1,000,000. While 97% of wildlife strikes involve birds, they could also include mammals. Don't abandon pets at the airport!



Boyles' responsibilities include conducting a Wildlife Hazard Assessment, an ecological study that examines the potential for wildlife strikes. Proactive measures are taken to identify features supporting wildlife at the airport and making changes to remove the attraction. It can be as simple as making sure that trash cans are closed or using bird spikes on structures. Of particular interest was the use of a Master Falconer to conduct nighttime falconry. It has effectively rid the terminal of roosting blackbirds. Harris hawks are used since they are a social predator (allowing other hawks to hunt in their territory). According to Ms. Boyles, the hawks dive into the trees for food, effectively scaring the birds there into finding other roosting locations. Obviously, Operation Nighthawk does not occur in areas where planes are flying.

If you are interested in further information about airports and wildlife, check out the FAA wildlife database on the internet.

This article was based on my notes from Cathy Boyles' presentation (which are hopefully accurate) and a brochure distributed at the program – *Airports and Wildlife, What You Need to Know*. It was a very entertaining and extremely interesting program!

Joetta King

CALADIUMS FOR 2014



TOM TOM

Color: Dark rose-red blotches with deep red central veins and medium green margins

Growth Habit: Short with very many small leaves

Development: Late

Height: Medium-Short

Sun Tolerance: Partial Sun

Use: 4" & 6" pots; semi-shaded areas



CANDIDUM

Color: White with green netted venation & thin medium green border

Growth Habit: Upright, strong with very large leaves

Development: Medium

Height: Tall

Sun Tolerance: Shade only

Use: 4" & 6" pots; but must de-eye for 4" pots; good in landscape in shade.



PINK BEAUTY

Color: Large medium pink spots & blotches with dark pink veins

Growth Habit: Very strong & upright with medium number of leaves

Development: Early

Height: Medium

Sun Tolerance: Full Sun

Use: 4" & 6" pots; can be used in sunny location in landscape



WHITE QUEEN

Color: Creamy white with green netted venation & dark red central veins

Growth Habit: Tall with very large & medium number of leaves

Development: Late

Height: Tall

Sun Tolerance: Shade or medium shade

Use: 4" & 6" pots; with large tubers giving best color; use in semi-shaded & sunny areas



AARON

Color: Large white center with white veins & narrow green margins

Growth Habit: Tall with few leaves but excellent in full sun

Development: Medium

Height: Tall

Sun Tolerance: Full Sun

Use: 6" pots or larger; excellent landscape plant in full sun



CAROLYN WHORTON

Color: Large medium pink blotches with red veins and green mottling

Growth Habit: Large leaves, very upright and strong

Development: Late

Height: Tall

Sun Tolerance: Full Sun

Use: 6" pots or larger; excellent background plant in landscape

GGC Members Caladium Bulb Order Form 2014

It's time to order Caladium Bulbs for your spring planting and summer color. These will be #1 size, healthy and a good buy for our gardening friends! The orders this year will be **\$.55 per bulb, minimum order 10 bulbs please.** Contact Cindy Miller for additional information.

Please make your check out to Grapevine Garden Club.

Turn in this completed order form at the GGC meeting with payment attached no later than **February 28, 2014** or mail to Grapevine Garden Club, P.O. Box 811, Grapevine, TX 76099-0811. Bulbs will be available for pick-up in the latter part of March.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

CLUB NAME _____ Grapevine Garden Club _____

Total # of bulbs (10 bulbs minimum) _____

@ \$.55 each = _____

Check enclosed for \$ _____
SELECTION (10 bulbs minimum, each variety selected)

Candidum (White with green veins, Shade, Tall) Quantity _____

Pink Beauty (Large medium pink spots and dark pink veins
Full Sun, Medium) Quantity _____

Tom Tom (Dark rose-red blotches and deep red
central veins, med green margin, Partial Sun, Short) Quantity _____

Carolyn Whorton (Large pink blotches, dark
veins, green mottling, Full Sun, Tall) Quantity _____

Aaron (Large white center with narrow green
margin, Full Sun, Tall) Quantity _____

White Queen (Creamy white with green netted
veins and dark red central veins, Shade, Medium) Quantity _____

Note: You may select a different variety of caladiums, other than the above listed types. But please order a case (200 bulbs), or a half case (100 bulbs).

Also note: If you order Strap /Lance Leaved or Dwarf Leaved - the price is \$1.10 per bulb.