

THE GRAPEVINE GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE



TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2009

Stacy's Furniture & Accessories

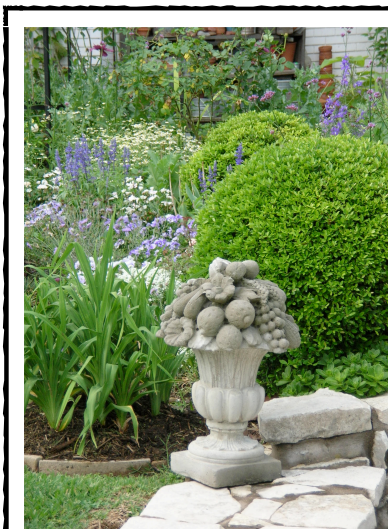
Community Room, 3rd Floor

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 park in the outer slots as to allow
Stacy's customers to park near the store entrance.*

THANK YOU TO OUR HOSTESSES: Toni Moorehead, Joy Mayo, Ella Barber, Carol Crosser, Edie Williams, Linda Krimm, Elayne Vick, Beth Hawkins and Margie Greenho



MARCH PROGRAM:

MOON GARDENING

By Maggie Ross McNeely

Maggie Ross McNeely, free-lance writer, will be our speaker this month. It will be a special treat to hear her discuss Moon Gardening. During the summer, haven't we all wished we could see our gardens after the sun sets? Maggie will provide us with white and silver plant info which will make it possible for us to extend the hours we enjoy our gardens. *Please note this is a change from our yearbook.*

ARE YOU A MASTER GARDENER OR MASTER NATURALIST? Please wear your MG or MN name tag to our monthly garden meetings so that you can be easily identified by those needing horticultural assistance or information about becoming a Master Gardener or Master Naturalist. Thank you!

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MARCH 2009

PRESIDENT'S NOTE:

I want to personally thank Sarah Erickson, her committee, and all the generous club members who gave everything that was needed, and more, to make our District II Spring Convention a success.

I'm always amazed and deeply thrilled when our club starts a project such as this. We start with a simple meeting to discuss what we have to do and it always seems that one or two people say they will take the lead. We proceed to a list of what needs to happen and as each item goes on the list, someone says "I'll do that." That's how easy it is.

As always, our success depends on working as a team, pitching in on the hard tasks, and sharing leadership. At the Convention we received recognition for our teamwork.

Awards:	Presidents Report	First Place 100
	Yearbook	First Place 100
Director Citations:	Support for Botanical Gardens in Grapevine	
	Congratulations on 76 Years of Garden Club Activities	
	\$4,000 in Scholarships from Plant Sale Project	
	Hosting District II Spring Convention	
	Congratulations, Grapevine Garden Club. <i>You all are the best!!!</i>	

René Herndon

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PROVIDED ITEMS FOR OUR RAFFLE BASKETS! They were overflowing with wonderful stuff and were such a big hit at the District II Spring Convention. You provided so much that I had to get tubs instead of baskets! My heartfelt thanks to all of you. ~ Valerie Reed

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Your membership chairpersons will soon be collecting the annual membership dues of \$20.00 for the next fiscal year, June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010. These will be received at the sign-in table at the monthly meetings, or it can be mailed to: Grapevine Garden Club, P.O. Box 811, Grapevine, Texas 76099. Please make checks payable to the Grapevine Garden Club. Thank you! ~ Sheri Jones

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS:

President: Julie White

1st VP Program: Joan Kowalski & Joyce Wuetig

2nd VP Membership: Sheri Jones & Pat Mingus

3rd VP Communications: Sarah Erickson

Corresponding Secretary: Angela Ozymy

Publicity: Anne Hogue

Recording Secretary: Barbara Oldani

Treasurer: Karen Rice

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GARDEN CLUB COUNCIL OF FORT WORTH:

Garden Club Council of Ft. Worth will have another informative and interesting program Thursday, March 18th at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens. The meeting will begin with coffee at 9:30 a.m., with the program at 10:00 a.m.

Eleanor Tuck will bring her insect collection and discuss insects found in North Texas. Eleanor was born and raised in Corpus Christi. She has two sons, four grandsons and two great-grandchildren. While raising her sons, she completed her Masters in Social Work and worked for many years at The Edna Gladney Home and later Catholic Charities.

Before retiring, she began what she later termed her retirement degree in horticulture at TCC. During that time one of her courses was in entomology, and upon entering Master Gardeners, her collection suddenly became much wanted, and it expanded quickly!! She shares the insect collection with schools, camps and various gardening organizations.

Primarily, Eleanor likes to have fun with the collection in pointing out the valuable protein and iron content of insects and their very low calories. She has been a Master Gardener since 1997 and is probably busier now than when she was working full time—as most retirees quickly learn!

If you would like to carpool, please contact Barbara Munn at 817/337-4955.

REDBUD TREE GIVE AWAY FOR 3RD GRADERS IN GCISD:

They are ready for us!!!! Are we ready for them? The Grapevine Garden Club and The City of Grapevine will be presenting redbud seedlings to three elementary schools this spring. Glenhope and Grapevine elementary school students will be receiving a red-bud, a book for their class and a presentation on how to plant their tree and the benefits of trees. (The third school is yet to be determined.)

We need your help, Garden Club!

We will be bagging individual trees Monday, March 30, at 12 noon at the home of Laura Ball 3516 Regent Drive, Grapevine. This time commitment will be about 30-45 minutes.

We also need volunteers to present the trees, read the book and give a short talk about trees, benefits, etc. to each class. The date is Tuesday, March 31. Glenhope is scheduled for 2-3 p.m. Grapevine Elementary is 8:30-9:30 a.m. The time commitment would be 1 hour. All of the materials, supplies and instructions will be included. All we need is your smiling face.

The kids and teachers love this program and it is so fun!!! There will be sign up sheets at the March meeting, but if you know you can help please email Laura Ball at lauravb1@verizon.net

CALADIUM BULBS HAVE BEEN ORDERED! YOU WILL BE ABLE
TO PICK THEM UP AT OUR MARCH 24TH MEETING.

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DISTRICT II CONVENTION:

Over 112 people attended the District II Convention at the Grapevine Convention Center on March 5th. The attendees were treated to interesting programs by Darwin Breaker and Kevin Mitchell, and had the opportunity to meet new friends and bring home goodies from the raffle.

A big "Thank You" goes out to all the garden club members who helped make the convention a success: **Linda Krimm, Valerie Reed, Suzi & Dick Guckel, Edie Williams, Paula Jones, Barbara Munn, Barbara Morrell, Ileana Craft, Rene Herndon, Karen Rice, Barbara Atkins, Lisa Grove, Rachel Clark and Kevin Mitchell.**

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS FOR THE GRAPEVINE PARKS & RECREATION PLAYBOOK

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

Learn the parts of a seed, and how it develops. Plant the seeds and take them home. This session includes a story time and a take home garden activity.

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

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, March 19, 4:00-4:30

THE GREAT COVER UP--\$5.00 FEE

There are insects all around that you might not see. Learn how insects camouflage themselves. Many plant and animals use camouflage to hide. This session includes a story time and a craft activity.

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

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, April 16, 4:00-4:30

INSECT LIFECYCLES--\$5.00 FEE

Have you changed since you were born? Insects grow and change in cycles. Learn about the growth process called metamorphosis. This session includes a story time and craft activity.

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

Day/Date/Time: Thursday, May 21, 4:00-4:30



Blue Princess Verbena, (*Verbena x hybrida 'Blue Princess'*) is a spreading perennial with showy lavender-blue flowers. This butterfly attracting, easy care perennial has masses of beautiful, lavender blue flowers. Resistant to powdery mildew. Verbena has many attributes such as heat tolerance, ever-blooming and enduring, which makes it a **Texas SuperStar Plant**.

MARCH 2009

GARDENS ON VIEW: SOUTHLAKE TUESDAY, MARCH 24—Following the General Meeting

RSVP, not required but certainly appreciated! Joetta King yb p.40
Recommendations - Carpool, wear flat sole shoes, bring a 'brown bag lunch.'
It's an opportunity to socialize and share our gardening successes and failures.

During February the daffodils, deciduous magnolia, helleborus and Carolina jessamine offered a breath of spring to the entry driveway of **Dick and Marge Carpenter's** home. Although the spring blooming flowers may have faded before our tour, follow the meandering crushed granite path to the heart shaped perennial bed built by Dick in celebration of their 43rd wedding anniversary and study the emerging perennials as you rest in the seating area. **Did you 'brown bag it' today?** Have lunch on the screened covered porch that overlooks the terraced back yard with its pool, perennial beds and undisturbed natural habitat on this 1 acre property. Marge will furnish you a beverage and dessert!



Upon being asked to be on Gardens on View, **Liz Colin-Presley** declared, "The garden is under construction. All advisement would be welcome." Thank you, Liz! The wonderful thing about this tour is the opportunity to see your vision and the potential development. The flagstone deck (laid by Liz!) with the concrete board columns which will eventually be covered with Venetian plaster sets the mood for Friday Night Happy Hours. Wander to the backyard to see the former koi pond (dug by Liz!) that now serves as an intimate pool along side the piazza. Shade & sun perennial beds, a vegetable garden - they are all a work in progress. Enter the home and be amazed by the construction transformations that showcases the eclectic furnishings and the art work of Liz's daughter and father. Conveniently accessible to the kitchen is the east side wood deck bordered with herbs. A dry creek bed manages drainage issues. **Hungry? Didn't eat at Marge's?** Choose your sitting area and munch on your 'brown bag' lunch. Ice tea and water furnished by Liz.



Yes, you have probably been to see **Lou and Wayne Milner's** garden, but did you foolishly think it was finished? Their planned small "retirement" yard set aside by a wrought iron fence wasn't enough for this couple. There is always something to build or a new flower bed to install and their gardening ideas have exploded over the entire one acre. If it is made of wood and it is in the Milner garden, more than likely Wayne built it! This garden has it all! Bird houses, arbors, swings, a decorative windmill, *a bridge to no where*, raised vegetable beds, perennials and at least 70 old garden roses. Interested in hybrid Knockout roses? The Milners have them all. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from these two experienced gardeners.

Sit on the wrap around porch and enjoy the view of cattle grazing and take pleasure in the contrasting West Texas landscape and home of Garden Club member, Mary Jo Milner. (Mary Jo is a renowned cutting horse champion and was inducted into the FW Cowgirl Hall of Fame.)

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SPRING TRIPS AND TOURS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Trinity River Audubon Center (South Dallas) 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.

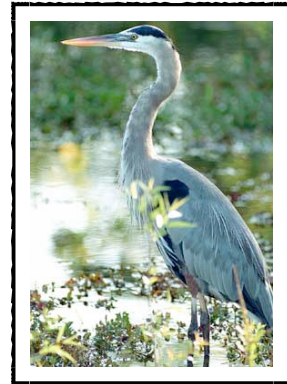
Reservations required! Members may invite a guest.

Members may wish to include their children on this tour.

The Trinity River Audubon Center is situated on 120 acres of the Great Trinity Forest - the largest urban bottomland hardwood forest in the United States. A one hour guided tour will introduce you to the Center and the Audubon Society. Following the tour, we will have our 'brown bag lunch' on the overview deck (indoors and outdoor facility.) You then will have time to view the exhibits, stroll the four miles of trails through restored prairie, wetland and bottomland forest habitats and shop the Nature Store.

Greg Hudson (Executive director of the Dallas Zoo), "One of my favorite new places to observe animals in the wild is the Audubon Center. ...no matter what time of year, you'll see wildlife."

Trinity River Audubon Center www.trinityriveraudubon.org



THURSDAY, APRIL 2

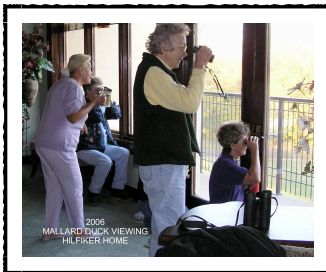
SMU Campus "Arboretum on the Hill" (Dallas) 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reservations required! Members may invite a guest. No children.

Walk the SMU campus with horticulturist, Ann Allen.

Lunch on your own at Snyder Plaza following the tour.

Kevin Dilliard brought a vision for the SMU campus to be known as the "Arboretum on the Hill." Fortunately, for the home gardener, many of the same practices employed by the campus staff will work for their own gardens. There are 2,200 trees on this campus. 50,000 tulips, daffodils and hyacinths usher in the spring season. The goal is to have constant blooms. Seasonal flowers combined with knockout roses make that goal possible.



TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Barbie's and Birds (Grapevine) 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Attendance restricted to Garden Club members

Anita and Bill Hilfiker's home with its fabulous view of their backyard pond offers a great opportunity to observe the season's gathering of mallard ducks as they feed. The mallards may be viewed from the windows of the home or from the balcony overlooking the pond.

After viewing the birds gorging on bird seed and enjoying their outing on the pond, you are invited to tour Anita's special display of 500 unique and exquisite designer and theme Barbies. Although Anita has only been collecting for 15 years, she has dolls dating back to 1979.

2009 is the Barbie Doll's 50th Anniversary.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN ATTENDING ANY OF THE TOURS,
PLEASE CONTACT JOETTA KING.

You will be provided with information about carpooling and "the where, when and how much" by email or telephone. If you are not contacted by Joetta within about a week prior to the tour, you have not been included in the reservation list either because she has made a mistake or you have failed to RSVP. So, call or email her!

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MARCH 2009

SPRING TRIPS AND TOURS:

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

CLARK GARDENS

Weatherford - Mineral Wells

9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Reservations required!

Members may invite a guest.

What began as a small private garden in 1972 is now a 35 acre Botanical Park. Over 50 different gardens of native Texas and Texas adaptable plants embrace waterfalls, lakes, ponds and winding pathways. The 1,200 varieties of iris should be at peak bloom during our visit!



The Southern Living Magazine March issue has nice article about Clark Gardens.

For further information and history of the garden: www.clarkgardens.com

Event Cost: **\$20.50 per adult/\$18.50 per senior** (65 or over) and includes admission fee, a 1 ½ hour guided walking tour with Clark Gardens staff and a catered lunch from Yesterdays (assorted sandwiches, chips, pasta bowl, green salad bowl, handmade cookies and iced tea.)

**Make check payable to Grapevine Garden Club
& submit to Joetta King at the March general meeting
or by Friday, April 10.**

You will also need to contribute towards gas expenses
of your carpool driver on the day of the tour.

WE NEED YOUR PASS-ALONG PLANTS FOR OUR UPCOMING PLANT SALE IN APRIL.

There are plenty of 1 gallon and quart size containers at the tree farm for those of you who are potting your own plants. Mini-blind slats with a pencil are available at the tree farm for labeling the plants and alphabetical flags to let you know where to put your plants. You can bring the plants at any time to the tree farm but we would like to have all the pass-along plants there one week before the April 18th plant sale so that we can inventory and price them. For those of you who would like help digging, contact Valerie or Karen and we will schedule the dig. Remember that this is pure profit for us so it would be stupendous if each member brought in 10 plants from their yard! Be sure to check your emails as we will be sending updates on imminent digs.

Valerie 817-481-2645 or Karen 817-416-1739

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GRAPEVINE GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Farmers' Market by the Gazebo on Main Street

Saturday, April 18 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thanks to everyone who signed the volunteer sheets at the February GGC meeting. We still need club members to participate in this major fund raising event, so if you have not yet volunteered, please email **Sarah Erickson** (Cashier & Assistants) or **Suzi Guckel** (Setup/Cleanup) or **Joyce Quam** (Sales Consultants) or **Anita Hilfiker** (Holding Area).

We are starting to scout out wholesale nurseries to get an idea of what will be available and looking good in time for the sale. Thanks to the "apprentice" plant buyers who volunteered to help. We will update you at the March meeting on what we are ordering. Contact **Diane Cauwels** if you would like to order specific rose varieties from Chamblee's before the plant sale. She will have more information at the March GGC meeting.

As you divide and clean out your gardens don't forget to set aside a few extra plants in one gallon size containers for donation to the sale. Donated pass-along plants are our best sellers and all profit! Please label your plants with a mini blind slat and a #2 pencil. Email a list of your plants, the number of each and the pot size to

either **Val Reed** or **Karen Rice**. You may drop off your donations at the Grapevine tree farm any time before April 15th. If you want to schedule a potting party, call Val or Karen.



Let your friends and neighbors know of our upcoming plant sale by emailing them the Plant Sale flyer. Our best advertiser is YOU. Flyers will again be available at the next general meeting or **Barb Atkins** will email you a file that you can forward.

Thank you for your support and help with this project. Any questions, please email lkrimm@tx.rr.com or call **Linda Krimm**, 817-430-4286.

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GRAPEVINE BOTANICAL GARDEN:

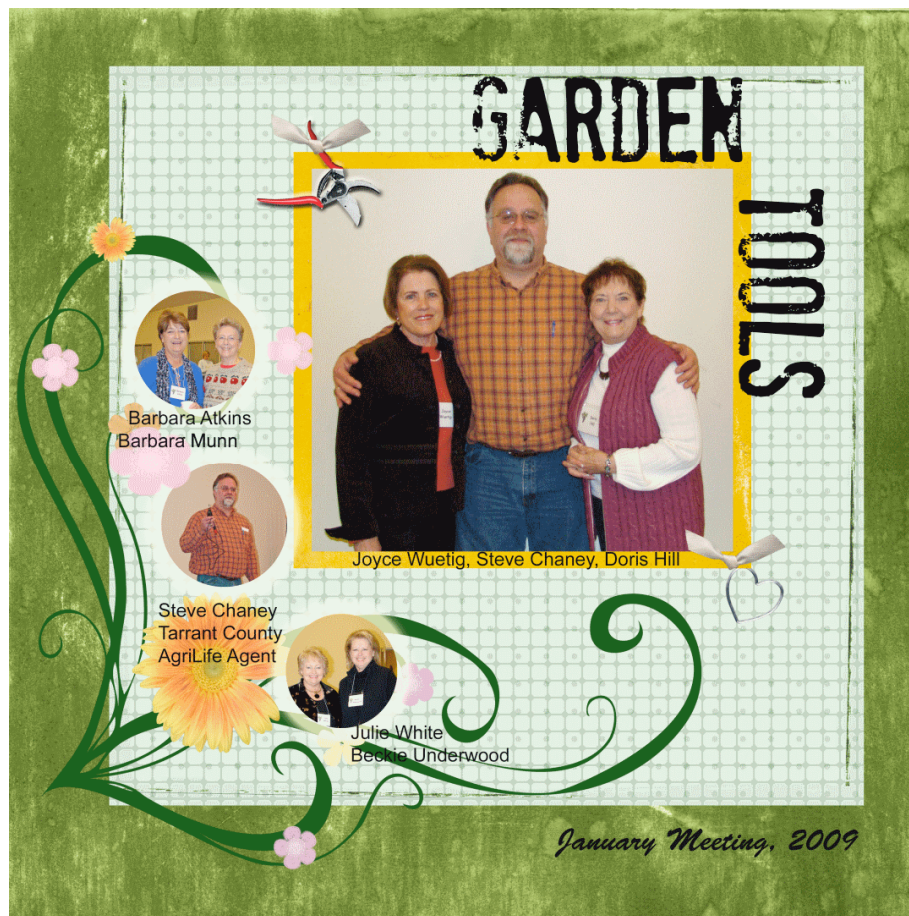
Last month we had a large group for training and refresher training for the Docent Program for the Grapevine Botanical Garden. There are lots of eager new recruits. We had numerous bookings for tours and activities for the spring.

Some facts to know and be proud of: The Garden has all the Encore Azalea series (27) and it is an official Monarch Waystation. This month is a good time to wander the Garden and observe the different textures and colors of the tree barks.

Another bridge will be placed across the creek in the area between the Pewitt Pavilion and the pond. A quiet, meditative garden area across the creek is being developed in memory of Julie Florence.

Check out the kiosk—Ileana Craft has rejuvenated the display. Bring your other clubs and groups to the Garden for a morning or afternoon. Call or check out the website and book a tour or activity. Lisa Grove can use volunteers in the Garden on Thursday and Friday mornings. Be sure to call her (817-532-7343) beforehand.

~ Rachel Clark



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The month of March is the perfect time to prepare your flower garden for the butterflies! The Monarchs will be passing through our area early in the month, and they will need to visit nectar plants to survive their long journey. Provide them a Monarch Way Station! Here's what you need to know for a Butterfly Garden of your very own. ~ Barbara Atkins

REQUIREMENTS FOR A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

A butterfly habitat must provide food, water, shelter and a place for butterflies to lay their eggs—a host plant.

DID YOU KNOW?

Butterflies are important pollinators, second only to bees.

All butterflies metamorphose from egg to caterpillar, then harden into a chrysalis for the pupal phase; then emerge as the beautiful butterfly.

The feet of the butterfly have taste receptors that sense sweet liquids. When those receptors find a flower, the butterfly uncoils its proboscis, a tube-like tongue, and it dines on nectar.

Butterflies are attracted to a flower's color, shape, fragrance and nectar. The length of a butterfly's tongue also determines which flowers it visits.

In the winter, some butterflies hibernate as chrysalises, as caterpillars and as adults; and the monarch butterflies migrate south to Mexico. Adult butterflies hibernate in trees, in fallen leaves and in rock crevices.

Some butterflies live only a few days, some such as the monarch will live for 8 to 10 months.

FOOD:

Learn which butterfly species are found in our area.

Plant a large variety of flowers to attract a variety of butterflies

Some butterflies rarely visit flowers, preferring tree sap, fermenting fruit, dung—build a butterfly feeder for a ripe banana or over-ripe fruit of any kind.

Supplement food supply with applesauce, watermelon rinds, bananas, commercial nectar.

CATERPILLAR NEEDS:

Plant host plants for females to lay their eggs on and for hatched caterpillars to feed on.

Learn which plants are needed for which butterflies: monarchs must have milkweed (*Asclepias*), black swallowtails like dill, sweet fennel and parsley; giant swallowtails like Hercules Club (prickly ash—a native in Texas)

WATER:

Butterflies like mud puddles where they can sip needed nutrients

Bury a bucket or clay saucer of wet sand with a few rocks for “puddling”

Damp areas on edge of bird bath, fountain or water feature provide moisture.

Continued on next page...

MARCH 2009

SHELTER:

Provide an area sheltered from wind
Choose an area with at least six hours of direct sunshine
Provide a few large rocks for resting and sunbathing
Leave fallen leaves and debris for shelter
Arrange stacked firewood for hibernation and safe haven

BUTTERFLY-FRIENDLY GARDENING PRACTICES:

Avoid all insecticides and pesticides in your garden, otherwise, you will kill the very insects and caterpillars you want to attract.

Fire ants eat butterfly caterpillars. Individual mounds may be treated.
Aphids can be blasted with strong stream of water or squirted with soapy water.
A gardener must be prepared to accept the sight of chewed and eaten leaves on the larvae plants.
Very few butterfly species cause significant damage to garden plants.
Butterfly-friendly gardens also attract beneficial insects, hummingbirds, song birds, reptiles and small mammals.

PLANT CHOICE:

Choose mixture of annuals, perennials and shrubs that provide nectar and caterpillar food
Tall plants and shrubs will buffer the wind, as butterflies need wind protection

PLANT SELECTION: Plant native plants to attract native butterflies!

Following are plant selections for Texas.

ANNUALS:

fennel**, dill, parsley**, cosmos, marigold, purple cone flower, salvia (many varieties) zinnia, pentas.

PERENNIALS:

black-eyed Susan, asters, daisies, goldenrod, milkweed**, monarda, phlox, salvia (many varieties) yarrow, lantana, verbena, Turk's cap, winecup, rosemary, penstemmon, liatris, daylily, coreopsis, sedum

SHRUBS:

abelia, butterfly bush (buddleia) hibiscus, lilac

VINES:

autumn clematis, coral honeysuckle, coral vine, passion flower**

**larval plants

For more information about butterflies and the plants they love, look at the following websites:

www.westongardens.com

www.dallasbutterflies.com

www.monarchwatch.org

www.tpwd.state.tx.us/wildscapes.

YOU MIGHT WANT TO CERTIFY YOUR GARDEN AS A BACKYARD HABITAT
THROUGH THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT.

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MARCH 2009

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 18 Garden Club Council of Forth Worth, “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (Insects!)” at the FW Botanic Gardens

March 24 GGC General Meeting

March 27-28 South Central Region Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico

March 30-31 Prepare and distribute redbud seedlings to elementary schools in GCISD

April 3-5 FW Home and Garden Show, FW Convention Center

April 4 Spring Into Nash Farm, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 15 Garden Club Council of FW, Excursion to FW Japanese Gardens

April 18 GGC Annual Plant Sale

April 18-19 Spring Festival, Japanese Garden

April 24 Grapevine Arbor Day Program

April 24 Flowercade Workday

April 25-26 Participate in FW Flowercade