

Down the Garden Path

WINTER 2003

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Mrs. Irene Shlapak, AAGC President

On behalf of the AAGC officers, I wish all AAGC members, friends, sponsors and staff of the Parks and Recreation Department a new year of peace and happiness.

2002 was a pivotal year—we identified new needs, evaluated existing programs, created new staff positions, revised sections of our Bylaws, and created a management information system (centralized databases). 2003 will reap the benefits of our collective efforts.

Our financial obligations encompass such programs as Horticulture, Education, Volunteer Services, Information Services, Publicity, Publications, Gift Shop, and general operations. All these programs are supported by the funds in our general operating account (checking account), which is replenished each year by donations and the proceeds from Zilker Garden Festival. Although 2001 was a good year for the Festival, grossing \$87,775—the profit and loss statement for 2001 shows a profit of \$8,097 (income of \$192, 869 and expenditures of \$184,772). Our profit and loss statement for 2002 will be available in January 2003 after receipt of the December bank statements. Teresa Kingsbury has been retained to assist Alyne Fisher in updating and computerizing our accounts. As of the end of November 2002, we had \$26,459.14 in our checking account.

The Austin Area Garden Council is the sum of all its programs—and the AAGC officers honor this interrelationship by adopting a policy of balancing all programs with each other in accordance with projected income. Our focus for 2003 is on program development:

1. improving and maintaining a current Web site
2. expanding our horticultural activities in the Botanical Garden
3. implementing the Trail of Passages project
4. marketing our Friends of Zilker Botanical Garden program
5. constructing the Walk of Friends pathway
6. developing a program incorporating Cap Metro's Tour of the Town
7. marketing our Adult Education program
8. developing a curriculum for a year-long Children's Education program
9. developing a program for children with special needs
10. developing and providing comprehensive volunteer and information services
11. developing and maintaining a public awareness program (publicity, gift shop, publications, brochures, gift giving opportunities).

The common denominator throughout our programs and services is Community Outreach, as well as collaborating and partnering with like-minded organizations. Together we shall succeed. Thank you. ■

Zilker Botanical Garden

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TRUST IN THE FUTURE

Mrs. Irene Shlapak,
AAGC President

The AAGC, Inc. Trust was created in 2000 as an independent subsidiary of the Austin Area Garden Council. Its purpose is to grow the corpus of the Trust so that the revenue it generates can assist in Council programs and projects. To date, we have a Trust Committee in place and monies to be transferred.

It is my pleasure to introduce to you the members of the Trust Committee:

Douglas Hartman, President
Michael McCullough, Secretary
Clarence "Buddy" Utley, Treasurer
Toni S. McElroy

Ex-officio members:
Don Freeman, AAGC President Pro-Tem
Alyne Fisher, AAGC Treasurer

On October 8, 2002, the AAGC Board of Directors unanimously approved the transfer of \$51,083.75 from the following AAGC funds to the Trust fund: Memorial fund (\$19,464.74), Life membership (\$15,000), Life membership accrued interest (\$3054.15), and AAGC Friends (\$13,564.86).

We applaud this decision as a most auspicious beginning. Our future is bright!

In closing, on behalf of AAGC, I wish to thank Barry Lovelace for establishing the Trust on our behalf, and for his tireless efforts in finding such competent members to serve on the Trust committee. For, "good stewards don't just rest on their laurels, they try new things, serve people in new ways, are lifelong learners, and try to turn their organizations to be centers of excellence." Barry, thank you. ■

SPRING INTO FESTIVAL!

Joyce Billings, Festival chair

Come join us as we celebrate spring at this year's **Zilker Garden Festival, March 29 and 30**. We'll host over 90 vendors with wonderful plants, and as usual, everything your garden's heart desires! We invite all of our clubs to participate to make this the most successful Festival ever. This is ZBG's primary fundraiser to pay for our many projects throughout the coming year.

Once again we thank Motorola for donating T-shirts for all volunteers working a 4-hour shift. To volunteer, please call Tommie Clayton at 481-8256. Pre-sale tickets are now available. Call Marcella Wilson at 442-3361. They make great gifts!

I could use a few more committee chairs, so if you want to join a fun and exciting team to make GREAT things happen this spring, please call me at 832-6426. You are the reason that ZBG can meet its goals, so we hope to see you there! ■



GOING MAD WITH HATS

Margie Malone,
VP-Community Support



A great time was had by all who attended the first Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Volunteer coordinator Tommie

Clayton plans to make this an annual event, so that everyone can show off crazy hats. With hats on heads, and hats as decorations, the Mad Hatters enjoyed delicious tea party food. ■

JOYS OF THE GARDEN

Margie Malone, *VP-Community Support*

The Joys of the Garden adult lecture series was a huge success! It offered an opportunity for the public and AAGC members to learn more about gardening, and was an especially good outreach opportunity to attract new people to ZBG.



In October, Maggie Beaty, who creates fabulous arrangements for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and Stephanie Welch from Central Market's Westgate Flower department, demonstrated designs using natural materials, vegetables and flowers. Maggie showed us how to make beautiful fall and Christmas arrangements, and Stephanie created stunning table arrangements using cabbage, figs, and artichokes.

The 2003 programs will be announced soon. Suggested donations of \$10 per person, \$15 per household, and \$5 for ZBG volunteers help to finance the many projects of the AAGC. ■

AAGC thanks the Austin Pond Society who donated \$3000 toward the construction of a complete walkway for the Walk of Friends.

RESTOCKING THE CUPBOARDS

Margie Malone, *VP-Community Support*

Thank you to Irene Shlapak and Wanda Pack who organized and hosted the first ever AAGC Kitchen Shower! We've restocked with new plates, electric knives, pots and pans, organizers and many new serving pieces. Along with the revamped kitchen supplies, we received \$894 toward fabric tablecloths and an ice machine. This will certainly make things easier for AAGC club meetings and special events. Thank you to everyone who participated! ■

YULEFEST

Nelda Moore, *Chair*

Christmas trees decorated by scores of club members adorned the auditorium, where club members served hot chocolate and cookies. Handmade and painted ornaments created by artists were available for purchase.

Crowds in awe meandered through the glitter and beauty of the Trail of Lights, eager to select exquisite gifts for themselves, their children, and grandchildren in Chrysalis, which remained open during the event.

Saturday evening Santa Claus (John Musgrove) greeted every boy and girl with pieces of candy to take home as a reminder of the evening's wonderland. The decorating theme was "true Texas" as well as a tribute to ZBG clubs. Spruce trees were laden with cut out pieces of wood, Texas-shaped gourds adorned with bluebonnets, Texas angels that sparkled, butterflies, tiny boots, and flowers of every hue of the rainbow.

I thank all club volunteers who greeted our many guests and made this a successful event! Many thanks to Hella Holoubek, Becky & Kurt Johnson, Trey & Christian Wakefield, Diann Modariaga, Debbie Hood, Margarine Veaman, Troy & Ron Miller, Bryce McBride, Martha Sayers, Priscilla & Chuck Seubacher, Kit Manchester, Marcella Wilson, Leslie Violet, Penny Whiting, and Vera Eckhardt. Thank you also to Edie & John Musgrove (aka Mrs. & Mr. Claus)! ■

IN MEMORIUM

On November 22, we lost Paul Garnett, a dear friend who gave both his time and heart to Zilker Botanical Garden. Despite his illness, he tirelessly worked on every ZBG project he could get his hands on, and every year at Festival was one of our most energetic volunteers. The good work he's given to us over the years will always be remembered and treasured. ■

OPEN YOUR EYES TO IRIS

Nelda Moore,
VP, Iris Society of Austin

The Iris Society of Austin in cooperation with the American Iris Society will present its 15th accredited iris show on Sunday, April 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Show divisions include horticultural, seedlings, artistic, educational, and youth. Entries will be accepted between 7 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Judging begins at 10:15 a.m.

All artistic entries must be pre-registered with Pat Freeman by April 8. General show chairman Nelda Moore and co-chair Pat Byrne invite you to enter or to come to see the fabulous iris varieties suited for our area. ■

REFRESHING FLAVORED WATER TO MAKE AT HOME:

Michelle Chaput,
Austin Herb Society

How often do we go out and buy 'flavored' water off a shelf? It's so easy to make at home yourself and tastes wonderful too.

Wash herbs, chop, (pound rosemary, orange rind and mint to release the oils) then add to spring water or mineral water. Use about 1/2 cup of herb mixture to a quart of water or to taste. Let sit about 1 hour in the refrigerator, strain and serve.

Suggested herb/fruit combinations:
Cucumber/Mint Lime/Rosemary
Ginger/Mint Orange rind/Mint

*You may vary the ingredients with any herb or fruit you like. ■

HERBFEST 2002: ANOTHER YEAR OF SUCCESS....

Michelle Chaput, *President, Austin Herb Society*

With the help of the Austin Herb Society volunteers, this year's HerbFest was a success and we are very happy that again we can give a wonderful donation to the AAGC. As those of you who attended know, we had glorious weather this year and it added to our success. Joyce Billings and Cathy Slaughter worked very hard this year and again chaired the festival together.

Others like Judith Craft and Vee Fowler, Lydia Noble and Gwen Sederholm worked diligently to make sure we had wonderful day and that all went smoothly. The Children's Corner was a great hit and I want to thank the many people who brought their lovely herbs and flowers so that we could make 'halos' for children and adults alike! We had exotic teas thanks to our new member Cindy Burrows and the food booth (herbal delights provided by AHS members!) was a hit thanks to long time member Cindy Phillips. Our treasurer, Lydia Cates and Sharon Beam handled the accounting and money with aplomb and many people such as Alisin Genfan, Kay Culp, and Ann Wilson made sure we had a lovely selection of books. We have many new members thanks to Cindy Boyle, VP-Membership.

Lively music provided by the 'Studebakers' and a new group called 'Too Blue' was well received and enjoyed by all. I also thank

the many vendors who did a wonderful job of providing unusual plants and food. And of course I don't want to leave out a big thank you to the Master Gardener's Club for providing both a Plant Clinic and help with the parking situation. We couldn't have done it without them.

During the day we had many speakers who were thoroughly enjoyed. John Dromgoole of the Natural Gardener was absolutely wonderful to step-up and fill-in for a speaker who couldn't make it to the festival. John delighted, enlightened and educated his the audience as only he can do.

This year Howard Nursery and The Great Outdoors sponsored T-shirts for our volunteers, one way to say thank you to our hard-working members, family and friends. Also, Zinger Hardware provided door prizes. Thanks also to KUT for broadcasting information about HerbFest and for listing it on their Web site.

Speaking of Web site! I want to pay homage to Paula Middleton who has set up our wonderful new Web site www.austin-herbsociety.org and keeps it up-to-date, easy to use and simply beautiful. Paula, Rebecca Doll and Diana Hyland worked diligently on PR for our festival and it was very appreciated. Thanks to everyone at ZBG without whose help we could not produce this festival! ■

MAIDEN VOYAGE OF ZEE YA-YA'S

by Dr. MollyO

You may have noticed that a number of Zilker volunteers became “Frenchified” this past fall, the successful result of the first annual Zilker Ya-Ya trip to France. Marlene Carroll, Betty Dunn, Marcia Fife, Donna Freidenreich, Anne Gault, Doris Hill, Mildred Joseph, Sharon Latsha, Wanda Pack, Sarah St. Laurent and Nancy Wackerbarth were among the intrepid scoutesses who signed on for this premier adventure.

Our itinerary was planned to follow the route of those mavericks of the art world, the Impressionists. We traveled through countless scenes immortalized on the canvasses of Monet and his cohorts through Normandy along the coast and back to Paris. My own personal highlights include watching the mist rise in Monet’s Gardens; champagne toasts in bathrobes in the honeymoon suite of a castle overlooking the Etretat cliffs; a scavenger hunt for picnic ingredients at the market outside our hotel in Honfleur; a Sunday morning at Versailles with the fountains and music in full glory; and running into each other all over Paris even though we’d gone off in different directions.

Later, pooling our fondest memories of the trip we all agreed that the best part was traveling together with such a diverse group of women who share a love of gardens, plants and art. We had won-

derful conversations over some incredible, many-coursed meals, lit candles at a shrine we discovered to the 9/11 victims in the small church in Giverny, and learned how to pack and unpack our minivans in record time. Lots of wining and a minimum of whining, a great formula for a memorable trip!

Next year’s sojourn, scheduled from September 15-25th, will take us along many of the same roads, to Giverny and the beach at Etretat, down the coast for an evening in Honfleur (the charming fishing village that was the home to Monet’s mentor, Eugene Boudin) and through Deauville where we’ll hit the weekly market for another picnic. This time, however, we’re going to drive further down the coast to spend a night at the D-Day beaches and then inland for two nights at magnificent chateaux as we

visit the gardens at Villandry and a garden festival in Chaumont-sur-Loire. As before, we’ll end up in Paris to museum hop to see paintings of many of the places we’ve just visited, and to run into each other at the special shops we’ve discovered on past trips.

Our roster is full for 2003, but Sarah St. Laurent and I are already investigating a repeat for 2004, and I’m researching a trip to Southern France for fall 2004 that would allow us to experience olive harvest and visit perfumeries in this fragrant region. If any of this interests you, do be sure to put your name on our mailing list with a call or a postcard (329-5212 or Zilker Ya-Ya’s c/o MollyO, 5309 Petticoat Lane, Austin, Texas 78746. A bientot! ■



On the CALENDAR

Austin Organic Gardeners

Organic plant sale

March 8 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

First Austin African Violet Society Show & sale

March 15 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

March 16 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Heart O'Texas Orchid Society Show & sale

March 22 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

March 23 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Zilker Garden Festival

March 29 & 30

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Iris Society of Austin Show

April 13 1 – 4 p.m.

GET GROWING KEEPS GOING

by Dr. MollyO

If three's a charm, the third annual Get Growing and Keep Going symposium should be better than ever. As in years past, the symposium will be sponsored by a variety of local organizations involved in gardening and nature education and we're expecting an even greater attendance than the 200 we've attracted before. This year we're holding this daylong symposium on February 15, 2003 at Martin Middle School in East Austin.

Our plans include repeating some of the most popular workshops from years past such as Building Raised Beds, Grant Writing Basics and Supermarket Botany, and adding some new topics such as Worm Composting, Animal Husbandry and the Art and Science of Concrete. I'll be emceeing and presenting a slide show/lecture on Integrating Nature Education with the Academic Curriculum featuring projects from across Central Texas to show teachers how their peers are utilizing outdoor classrooms. Also new this year we'll be having local garden celebrity John Dromgoole presenting a program on pests and natural pest prevention.

It's a huge job and we hope that we can count on help from AAGC members. Clubs that are resources for educators are welcome to participate by setting up a booth at the Exposition. Texas Bamboo Society and Travis County Master Gardeners are among the member clubs that have done this in the past. Austin Organic Gardeners found the experience so valuable that they've underwritten this year's symposium with a \$1000 donation! The Newcomer's Garden Club also made a donation of \$250, which is a great way to support this important event even if your club is not otherwise involved with children.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Donna (394-0205, DonnaFried@aol.com) or me (329-5212 or mobobtex@ev1.net). There will be lots of work to do both before the event (distributing posters, assembling notebooks, etc.) and on the day of (registration, coffee making, etc.) so we hope to share the work and inspiration with you! ■



ORCHID OUTREACH

Jennifer Bird, *Heart of Texas Orchid Society*

On November 9, the Heart of Texas Orchid Society presented its 2nd free seminar to new and not so new orchid growers. It was very successful. Approximately 66 people attended, the majority being non-members, but definitely interested in orchid culture. With the increased availability of orchids at retail outlets, there seems to be growing interest locally.

Pam Noll started the program with an introduction of the major types of orchids grown commercially and available.

Monica Gaylord talked next on basic needs: light, temperature, humidity, air movement, water and fertilizer.



Jack Strickland talks on greenhouse design and upkeep and answers culture questions.



Pam Noll and Dave Levine at podium, welcoming participants.

A section on potting materials, supports and timing was presented by Pam Noll and Dave Levine. Growing orchids in the home environment followed, presented by Dave Levine, Society President.

Jack Strickland, a HTOS member for many years and one of the most accomplished growers in our area, talked about greenhouses, maintaining them in our area and also hosted questions on culture.



Participants during a break asking Monica Gaylord plant questions.

The attendees were given an information packet and a free orchid plant. There were also other plants available for sale at the event, as well as several information books. The Society looks forward to hosting another event next year.

If you are interested in the Orchid Society or any of its events, please call Dave Levine at 502-1145. The regular monthly meetings are usually held on the first Monday of each month and include a speaker, show table, raffle plants and refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you at one soon! ■

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!!

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The Friends of Zilker Garden

Iris (\$500+)

Mrs. Dorothy Z. Anderson
Nix Bodden
Charlotte Cranberg
Douglas Hector
Nap Mayorga
Rachel White
Beth Zimpleman

Geranium (\$250+)

Austin Herb Society (for Joan Looney)
Austin Herb Society (for Dorothy Cavanaugh)
Austin Rose Society
Molly Hill
Ikebana Study Group
Mr. & Mrs. John Musgrove
Optimistic Garden Club
Spade and Trowel Garden Club
Peggy & Kent Stewart
Town Lake Garden Club
Eduardo Vigil
West Lake Hills Garden Club

Daisy (\$100+)

Austin Butterfly Forum
Bomeliad Society of Austin
Cereus Garden Club
Cub Scout Pack 66
East Austin Garden Club
Vera Eckardt
First Austin African Violet Society
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FRIENDS OF ZILKER GARDEN

The Walk of Friends is already growing. Build a pathway to the future, and show your love and support of the Garden or as a tribute to a special person in your life.

\$500-900

8 x 16
3 lines w/
16 larger
characters

I want to be a Friend of Zilker Botanical Garden.

- Iris: \$500
- Daisy: \$100

- Geranium: \$250
- Bluebonnet: \$25

\$250-299

4 x 16
3 lines w/
28 characters

Check payable to the Austin Area Garden Center.
Mail to: Friends of Zilker Botanical Garden 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX. 78746

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

\$100-249

4 x 8 brick
3 lines w/
16 characters

Desired brick inscription:

Line 1 _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Fair market
value of each
brick is \$15

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Let's hear from YOU!

Return Service Requested

Austin Area Garden Center, Inc.
2220 Barton Springs Road
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