Dear Friends and Fellow Gardeners:

Like all anniversaries, the 50th Annual Zilker Garden Festival is a time for us to look both ways – to the past and to the future. In the troublous year of 1957, Mother Nature was unkind, as Barton Springs was ravaged by its worst ever flood. Austin’s own famed suffragist Jane McCallum died, and that same year our beloved John Henry Faulk was blacklisted in Hollywood, ruining his career.

Austinites like Mrs. Alden Davis, Mrs. George Moffatt and Dr. Willis Bodine responded to that tough year by celebrating Zilker Botanical Garden and planning for a better future. It took a team effort to put together that first event, and we continue the work of those visionaries who saw a lasting Austin institution in our public garden. If only they could see the fruits of their labor now – how proud they would be!

Zilker Garden Festival 2007 is less than a month away. The leadership of Festival Chair Guille Hector and her team will ensure that the next 50 years will be even greater. Our fund-raising goal is $100,000.

To meet our goal, we need your involvement. It is critical that every member buy at least two tickets (less than the cost of two tickets bought at the gate).

Looking Both Ways

— Julie Bonnin, writing in the Austin American-Statesman on March 18, 2006

continued on page 8
City Manager Visits

Austin City Manager Toby Futtrell joined me in a tour of Zilker Botanical Garden early in December before all the rain.

She was impressed with the gardens’ beauty and complimented the staff on doing a great job. The roses were in full bloom and butterflies fluttered around all the wonderful color in front of the building.

We were joined by Warren Struss, Sarah Macias and Mel Hinson of the Parks and Recreation Department, who showed her the work in progress on Lauren’s Trail and the proposed extension of the Butterfly Trail.

— Margie Malone, VP-Public Affairs

Beautiful Butterfly Gift

David O’Dell donated $1,200 to AAGC for the purchase of a butterfly chair in memory of his late mother, Penny O’Dell Godfrey. David has fond memories of his mother bringing him to Zilker Botanical Garden when he was young.

This beautiful chair has been placed at the beginning of the Butterfly Trail and will be enjoyed by all.

Fern Festival on June 8-9

The 2007 Fern Festival at Zilker Botanical Garden is set for June 8-9. The event will feature Dr. John Mikel, international authority on hardy ferns and curator of ferns for the New York Botanical Garden, and Dr. George Sanko, director of the Georgia Botanical Garden and noted expert on native and hardy ferns.

Festival activities will also include a plant sale of outstanding ferns and companion plants with experts on hand to answer questions and help with selections.

All proceeds from the seminar and sale will go directly into the fern beds at Zilker Botanical Garden.
GARDEN NEWS

Pond Society Turns Out for Koi Roundup

On a cloudy, cold Saturday in January, the Austin Pond Society joined the Parks & Recreation staff in a fish roundup at Zilker Botanical Garden.

The project goal was to identify each fish, reduce the overpopulation and keep a nice variety of healthy Koi in the garden’s ponds.

It was a team effort, with 25 members of the Pond Society and 12 ZBG staff members catching Koi, evaluating each fish and adopting out the fish that needed to be moved. PARD provided lunch and almost everyone stayed the entire day despite the weather. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Busy Spring Ahead for Docents

By Marion Alsup
VP - Education

It looks like the docents will have a busy spring conducting tours for visitors of all ages in the Garden. We have already led two tours and have many more scheduled for upcoming months. We will also provide docent-led tours during the Zilker Garden Festival this year. We are thrilled to have several enthusiastic new volunteers going through docent training.

AAGC member garden clubs are still doing their share of gardening education in Austin. Every week the Austin American-Statesman lists many gardening events in the area, and every week AAGC’s clubs sponsor about a third of the events.

One of our most active clubs is the Travis County Master Gardener Association. President Susan Decker shares some highlights of this organization in this edition of Down the Garden Path.

Meet the Master Gardeners page 10
Finding Joys of the Garden!

As a way of celebrating its 50th birthday, Zilker Garden Festival will host a series of gardening talks under the big, white tent on the east side of the Garden Center building. The talks begin at noon on each day of the festival. We are thrilled to have speakers who can teach us from their own experience or studies how to find Joys in the Garden.

Keynote speaker Felder Rushing will speak both Saturday and Sunday. Rushing, a syndicated garden columnist and radio/television host, has written 15 gardening books. His articles and photography have appeared in countless magazines, including Garden Design, Landscape Architecture, Organic Gardening, Better Homes and Gardens, Fine Gardening, Horticulture and National Geographic. He started his horticultural career at a garden center in Corpus Christi and married a University of Houston graduate accountant (now a federal attorney).

Rushing has presented dozens of programs in all parts of Texas, including most of the state’s botanical gardens and to many Master Gardener groups around the state. He prides himself on being “a distinctly non-stuffy board member” of the American Horticulture Society.

He believes too many horticulture “rules” interfere with the pleasure of gardening (“We are daunted, not dumb,” he insists). Rushing preaches a bottom-line garden approach, using humorous, down-home anecdotes and zany metaphors. Don’t miss him!

**JOYS OF THE GARDEN TALKS**

**Saturday**
- Noon   Create Your Own Tropical Jungle
  Merrideth Jiles, The Great Outdoors
- 1 p.m.   Roses for Austin
  Dickie Patterson, It's a Jungle
- 2 p.m.   Texas-Tough Plants for Busy Gardeners
  Felder Rushing, writer/speaker
- 3 p.m.   Gardening Questions Answered
  Skip Richter, Travis County Extension Office
- 4 p.m.   Rainwater Harvesting
  Renee Trepagnier, Master Gardeners

**Sunday**
- Noon   Slow Gardening — Gettin’ More Out of Life
  Felder Rushing, writer/speaker
- 1 p.m.   The Fragrant Garden
  Mitzi Van Sant, The Fragrant Garden
- 2 p.m.   Basic Gardening 101
  Barry Lovelace, author/Master Gardener
- 3 p.m.   A New Look at Old Roses
  Glenn Schroeter, Antique Rose Emporium
- 4 p.m.   7 Steps to a Dream Landscape
  Robert Leeper, R. Leeper Designs

Congratulations on 50 Years of Festivals! Check out the wide variety of plants for sale at our booth during the Zilker Garden Festival.

For information, visit www.tcmastergardener.org or call 512-854-9600.
nurtured this 33-acre garden over the last 50 years.

2007 Festival Sponsors

Many of our old friends are back and new friends have stepped up to the plate. Our sponsors contribute to Zilker Garden Festival in so many ways: money, in-kind goods and services, time, creative talent, publicity and equipment. They are the primary reason that AAGC’s major fundraiser has earned a reputation for being the most popular one-stop, garden shopping destination for thousands of Austinites every spring for 50 years now. Thank you for being our friends!

The Word is Out … Everywhere!

When this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, marketing and advertising the garden festival will have been under way for months!

• Our Billboard on Barton Springs Road and Kinney Court has been up since early March, displaying our new festival logo designed by GSD&M and recognizing our major sponsors. As you head west from Lamar Boulevard up Barton Springs Road, the billboard’s on your left. Thanks to Laura Joseph and Reagan Advertising for donating this space to us for the second year in a row!

• The street banner went up March 19 at the intersection of North Lamar and San Gabriel, across from Pease Park, a prime location for commuters to and from downtown Austin. Fence banners went up in early March on all of Zilker Botanical Garden’s fences – you can’t miss them!

• Print ads are our primary marketing tool for the festival. This year, we ran a half-page ad in the March issue of The Good Life magazine to promote the special events at our 50th garden festival. Larger ads will also appear in the Austin American-Statesman (March 28-April 1), on www.Austin360.com and in The Austin Chronicle.

• Promotional radio spots are one of the most effective ways to reach folks in their cars! Tune in to KLBJ Newsradio 590AM (one of our longtime major sponsors), KGSR-FM 107.1 and KMFA-FM 89.5 for information. KLBJ’s live broadcast of Austin Gardener with John Dromgoole and Sheryl McLaughlin from the festival on Saturday and Sunday definitely increases our attendance.

• Promotional TV Spots through our in-kind sponsor, KNVA – The CW Austin, are appearing on CTWhat’s Good Community Calendar. Check out KNVA (Channel 12) to catch the spots.

• Event listings in local and statewide publications and websites have been posted for several months – a great way for us to promote the festival through free advertising.

• And, if you haven’t checked it out lately, click on www.zilkergarden.org to see the special festival “home page” that links to vendors, musicians, gardening talks, the flower show, the raffle and our sponsors. Thanks so much to Paula Middleton and Margie Malone for their creative ideas and efforts!

Last spring, as I was wrapping up my festival article for Down the Garden Path,
FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Creative Collaboration

BY DONNA FRIEDENREICH
VP-Public Information

To tell the full story of two class-act sponsors, we would need more space than this! We can say that Zilker Park, Zilker Botanical Garden and AAGC have made friends with some of the most creative people in Austin, if not the world.

Last year, Capital Sports & Entertainment (CSE) joined our family of sponsors for the 49th Annual Zilker Garden Festival. Not only did they support us with a generous financial contribution, CSE also designed and produced our brown “Dig It” T-shirts. This year, GSD&M—the renowned advertising firm whose Idea City lives on Sixth Street—has joined hands with CSE to make our 50th festival a stellar celebration.

Visionary Ideas That Make a Difference

Here’s what CSE and GSD&M have contributed to this year’s festival:
• CSE is providing the soundstage and sound equipment for our guest musicians in the Rose Garden (see Music Schedule on page 7).
• GSD&M has developed the “purpose-based branding” for our 50th annual festival. Their creative team designed a memorable logo that will appear in all print advertising, on the volunteer T-shirts, and on the fans with the Joys of the Garden schedule that will be handed out at the entrance gate. CSE is generously producing the T-shirts that GSD&M has designed for us.
• It doesn’t stop here! GSD&M created a playful logo for children’s T-shirts (that AAGC will sell at the festival) and the “stamping fan,” which was such a hit with the kids last year.
• Finally, we will unveil a commemorative poster created by GSD&M (wait until you see it!) to be sold to the public.

If you visit their websites (planetcse.com and gsdm.com), you will understand what these two companies have in common. CSE strives to “Come together to create experiences,” while GSD&M says, “Our talents are gifts...and it’s an honor to share them.” I couldn’t have said it better!

Supporting Zilker Botanical Garden

Show your commitment to Zilker Botanical Garden with a brick on the Walk of Friends.

This commemorative brick program is growing one brick at a time, supporting ZBG’s educational programs and horticulture displays. You can: celebrate a special occasion • honor the memory of a loved one • leave a message for future generations • commemorate your company name.

It’s easy! For more information, contact Charlotte Grim at 342-0373.

Thank You to Our Newest Brick Donors!

$500 BRICKS
Bob & Kay Wilson

$100 BRICKS
Larry & Charlotte Cranberg
Ann Daly & Ross Baldick
Eileen Garcia-Matthews
Debbie K. Fu

Beth Giblin
Monica Havelka
Sandra & Howard Holt
Sean Paul

Jennifer Sheppard
*Freddie & Jim Wells
Zilker Garden Club

*Multiple bricks donated
FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Music to Make the Garden Sing

Throughout the festival, Zilker Botanical Garden will be abuzz with the sounds of live local music. This year’s music schedule is an eclectic mix, from community groups to one of the favorite performers among Austin’s children.

Just off the release of her two-CD set *Motherlode*, Sara Hickman will headline the festival Sunday with a family-style singalong.

Hickman grew up as the daughter of artistic parents—a mother who was a fiber artist, a father who was a painting professor. At age 7, she started to play the guitar, and she wrote her first song at 8.

During her career, Hickman has released more than a dozen albums for adults and children, appeared on VH1 as a countdown host and in music videos, toured the country and appeared on *The Tonight Show*. Her children’s albums have won numerous awards, and she’s lent her celebrity to causes including the Hill Country Youth Ranch, a safe haven for severely abused and neglected children.

### MUSIC SCHEDULE

**Saturday**
- 11 a.m. Opening ceremony with the Westlake High School Band & the Bowie High School Choir
- Noon Bells of Joy
- 1 p.m. Gilmer and Moore
- 2 p.m. Panorama
- 3 p.m. Dian and Joel Reimer
- 4 p.m. Austin Banjo Band

**Sunday**
- 11 a.m. Austin Mandolin Orchestra
- Noon Frontier Brass Quintet
- 1 p.m. SingAlong with Sara Hickman
- 2 p.m. Susan Torres & Las Giggingalas
- 3 p.m. Double Eagle String Band
- 4 p.m. Floramay Holiday Band

Two mariachi groups will stroll through the garden both days.
FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Flower Show Captures Life in the Garden

In a festival that will celebrate the past 50 years at Zilker Botanical Garden, it's only fitting that the flower show reflects that history as well.

“Through Zilker Garden Gates” is the theme of the Zilker Garden Festival Standard Flower Show, and all the divisions, sections and classes pertain to things in the gardens.

**Life in the Garden** (Miniature Division)
- Creatures that Fly
- Creatures that Swim (underwater design)
- Creatures that Crawl

**Features of Zilker Botanical Garden**
- Prehistoric Garden: Stretch Design
- Japanese Tea House: Any Design Style
- Pioneer Ways: An Assemblage

**Flowers and Foliage in the Garden**
- The Rose Garden: Table service for two
- The Fern Garden: Exhibition Table I
- The Butterfly Garden: Exhibition Table II

**Swinging On the Garden Gate**
- Herb Festival: A Pot-et-Fleur
- Zilker Garden Festival: Designer's choice
- Moon Festival: monochromatic design

**Horticulture Division: A Potpourri of Garden Splendor**

Looking Forward to the Festival from page 1

of a hamburger), and our success depends upon those who volunteer. It is also crucial that we support festival vendors as well as present Zilker Botanical Garden in her “Sunday best” to the thousands who visit on March 31 and April 1.

Our 50th festival will open with a ceremony featuring city officials honoring past AAGC presidents. The two days will have something for everyone – gardening talks, a showcase of Austin’s unique live music and, most importantly, recognition of individuals who have been leaders in the development of Zilker Botanical Garden over the past 50 years. The Westlake High School Band and the Bowie High School Choir will join in a salute to our past.

More than 125 vendors are participating this year, so be sure to take a stroll through the garden, where you will find unusual plants as well as crafts, garden art, tools, great food and a spectacular raffle (6 tickets for $5.) A very special children’s concert is planned for Sunday, featuring Austin’s own Sara Hickman.

I wish that all of us could see the Zilker Garden Festival of 2057. I am certain Austinites will be celebrating the good people who worked together to put on Zilker Garden Festival of 2007.

With thanks for all you do,
A Look Inside the Children’s Garden

BY LESLIE VILAS
Western Trails Garden Club

The Children’s Garden, full of plants with animal names, was originally started by the gardening staff of Zilker Botanical Garden as a “tended” gift to the children of Austin. At that time it was referred to as the Animal Garden.

Two long-term volunteers built and donated the wrought iron arch at the entry and the giant lizard lying amidst the rocks. They are works of art and add a unique charm to the garden. In 2003, the Western Trails Garden Club took over maintenance of more than 25 varieties of animal- and food-themed plants.

Each plant is identified by a brick marker made by the Western Trails Garden Club. The addition of the garden accessories, including children’s benches and bird baths, has made this small garden a delight for children to visit.


“Foodie” Plants: Marshmallow, Pinnapple and Root Beer

CATER JOSEPH
OFFICE: 2932 Guadalupe, Austin, TX
(512) 476-1100  (512) 480-8078
FAX (512) 478-4200

RESIDENCE:
1610 Virginia Avenue
Austin, TX 78704
(512) 444-0931

MOBILE PHONES:
Car (512) 422-7166
Truck (512) 422-1051
Ranch (817) 634-4639

ON THE CALENDAR

To submit a calendar item, e-mail jess@jessforkner.com. All events take place at the Austin Area Garden Center unless otherwise noted.

MARCH 30
The garden will be closed to the public and photographers in preparation for Zilker Garden Festival.

MARCH 31-APRIL 1
Zilker Garden Festival
10 a.m.-5 p.m. both days. For information, visit www.zilkergarden.org.

APRIL 7
Iris Society of Austin Show
1-4 p.m. Free admission. Plants will be judged in several categories, including artistic, educational and youth awards.

APRIL 14-15
Austin Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free admission. Vendors will be on hand to sell a variety of cacti and succulents, and many specimens will be on display. For information, contact Bob Barth at 512-327-1173 or b.barth@mail.utexas.edu.

APRIL 18
“The Right Plant in the Right Spot” 7-9 p.m. The Seasonal Seminar Series continues with Entomologist Wizzie Brown and Master Gardeners Carolyn Williams, Sue Nazar, Susan Decker, Kathryn King and Wayne King. The free seminar concentrates on helping you select plants that work in your situation. More info at tcmastergardener.org.

MAY 26-27
Annual Bonsai Exhibit
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sponsored by the Austin Bonsai Society. Demonstrations at 2 p.m. each day. Raffles and sales by members.
Travis County Master Gardeners Make a Difference

BY SUSAN DECKER
President, Travis County Master Gardeners

Travis County Master Gardeners love to spread the joy of gardening and that is how we make a difference in our community every day.

Education is our primary goal and we are committed to helping people – whether steadfast gardeners or neophytes breaking ground in their back yards for the first time – find the information they need to be successful in their gardening ventures.

As a Travis County Extension program, we use the training we receive to answer 4,000 calls a year from people wanting to know everything from how to plant a seed to how to prune mature trees.

Every year we take the phone desk on the road to plant clinics at various festivals and events. These clinics give us a chance to get out and talk to folks face to face and give them advice and our numerous free gardening publications. It is amazing how a little sound guidance and positive encouragement can result in people enjoying their gardens, while using less water and fewer chemicals and in turn making less of a negative impact on our ecosystem.

One of our least well-known services to the community is our Speaker’s Bureau, which offers lectures by Master Gardeners on all manner of topics for free to garden clubs, neighborhood associations and any other group that wants a speaker.

Our Master Gardener Propagation Specialists offer step-by-step propagation classes for the public several times a year to help people learn the value and economy of growing plants successfully from seed.

In 2006 we instituted a new free public seminar series that we have expanded for 2007. The seminar series offers great lectures and demonstrations on the most requested topics by Master Gardeners and Extension staff and are all free and open to the public.

We extend our reach to the children of the community as well, with our youth gardening programs. Master Gardeners volunteer as mentors to school teachers who want to include gardening in their curriculum. We work with schools and the Boys and Girls Clubs to teach container vegetable gardening and to plant the seeds of a gardening frame of mind in kids who otherwise would never experience it. We have a Landscape Design Group, which offers design services to local non-profit organizations, including school campuses.

Our Master Gardeners are devoted to Zilker Botanical Garden and we have volunteered our time and expertise over and over again.

We have helped to plant and grow ferns, irises, sunflowers, azaleas and cycads, we have built walls and dug new beds and led school groups as docents and we have enjoyed working side by side with the other AAGC clubs.

In our greenhouse, we propagate numerous plants every year that we donate to Zilker for the beds in the Botanical Garden. We have used our love of gardening to help make the Zilker Botanical Garden a place for everyone to learn.

For more information, visit tcmastergardener.org.

2007 Seasonal Seminar Series Schedule

The 2007 Seasonal Seminar Series concentrates on gardening topics just before it is time for implantation.

The series includes vegetable garden preparation, rain water harvesting, lawn care and alternatives to lawns, beneficial insects, wildfire prevention, oak wilt and many other topics. Several of these public seminars take place at the Austin Area Garden Center.

All the seminars are free and the public is invited. Reservations are not taken, just arrive early! Details on the seminars are posted on our website, tcmastergardener.org. Gain knowledge for successful experiences that insure a flourishing garden.

SHOWY, LOW MAINTENANCE ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS
Saturday, March 24
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
North Rural (Travis County) Community Center, 15822 Foothill Farms Loop, Building D, Pflugerville

THE RIGHT PLANT IN THE RIGHT SPOT
Wednesday, April 18
7–9 p.m.
Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road

Topics: Sun Adoring Plants, Deer Resistant Plants, Which Grass is Right?, IPM: Winning the Bug Battle.

Plant Clinic: Bring plant specimens and receive diagnostic advice.

— ROSALIE RUSSELL
VP Education, TCMGA
CLUB CORNER

Bazaar Fun

On November 18, the AAGC’s annual holiday event brought together more than 30 clubs for fun and fundraising.

A Fresh Opportunity

Gardeners love a challenge! They pit their insufficient knowledge against all that the powerful Mother Nature can throw their way during all seasons of the year. Their quest for knowledge is insatiable as they seek the answers to proper soil composition, insecticide, fungicide, fertilizer and the pH of a water garden. If you have conquered most of these challenges in your own garden, maybe this is the year to tackle a new one — like trying all of this in a bonsai pot!

Each year our members answer questions and hear all the reasons why our visitors have no bonsai during events like the Zilker Garden Festival and the annual Austin Bonsai Society exhibit in May.

Just like your garden, it takes commitment to learning all you can about your bonsai tree. Then you can become the artist in styling and maintaining this growing and ever-changing piece of sculpture.

Charlotte Cranberg had an excellent article in the fall issue of Down the Garden Path. Please re-read this, visit our exhibit at the Garden Festival and come by our May exhibit when the building is completely filled with beautiful bonsai art of every variety to inspire you. You just might decide to take up the challenge!

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month with refreshments at 7 p.m., business meeting at 7:30 and workshops until 9:30.

Floribunda

Jon Hutson

2041 South Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78704

512-441-6145
fax 512-441-1894
FloribundaPlantworks@hotmail.com
Feelin’ Lucky?

The 2007 Zilker Garden Festival Raffle is going to be the biggest yet! The drawing will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday, April 1. Tickets are $1 each or six for $5 — available at the Zilker Botanical Garden Gift Shop.

Some of the raffle prizes:

- **Waterfall** (Donated by Lowe’s-Brodie Lane)
- **Mini Barrel BBQ Pit** (Donated by HEB-Hwy 71 West)
- **Chainsaw** (Donated by Lowe’s-Shops Parkway)
- **Leaf Blower & Yard Trimmer** (Donated by Home Depot-Brodie)
- **Fire Pit** (Donated by Home Depot-Hwy 620)
- **Kenneth Cole Luggage** (Donated by Dillard’s-Highland Mall)
- **Bicycle** (Donated by Bicycle Sport Shop)
- **$50 Gift Certificate** (Donated by Wal-Mart-Hwy 290W)
- **Lawnmower** (Donated by Sears-Hancock Center)
- **Outdoor Garden Art $400 value** (Donated by Verna & Susan Grice)
- **Photography Session $500 value with 11x14 picture** (Donated by Patrick Lane Photography)
- **Computer system with monitor and printer** (Donated by Best Buy-Shops Parkway)
- **Two Glazed Vietnamese Pots** (Donate by The Great Outdoors)

More items coming…

Have you moved? Send your new address to info@zilkergarden.org or call 512-477-8672.

Austin Area Garden Center, Inc.
2220 Barton Springs Road
Austin, TX 78746

Return Service Requested