That’s the official word on the street! (Austin Monthly, January 2009 Social Datebook). With our 52nd Annual Zilker Garden Festival just around the corner, I am recalling that we celebrated our 50th year in the spring of 2007. As I look back, it seems like yesterday!

On Saturday, March 28th and Sunday, March 29th, we will welcome thousands of visitors—young and old—to Zilker Botanical Garden. From 10 am to 5 pm both days, they will shop for plants and other treasures for their gardens and homes: custom jewelry, ceramic pottery, herbal products, gardening tools and accessories, benches, baskets, and bags. Check out over 100 vendors listed on our festival website (www.zilkergarden.org) and take a visual shopping tour!

Add to the mix…

- the C3 Presents soundstage in the rose garden,
- the Joys of the Garden Talks under the big white tent next to the garden center,
- the fabulous Raffle with items donated by local merchants and garden clubs,
- Kids’ Corner activities,
- the ever-popular judged Flower Show,
- delicious food and drink offerings,

…and you will understand why the Zilker Garden Festival defines JOY!

Someone once said, “Volunteers are love in motion”… We should put that quote on a tee-shirt! For over 50 years, AAGC garden clubs have rallied volunteers for our primary fundraiser—the annual garden festival. Countless volunteer hours, months of planning and organizing, lots of phone calls and letters are the theme song of our festival. It’s the enthusiasm and sweat equity of hundreds of volunteers that bring this festival to life and make Zilker Botanical Garden a one-stop, garden-shopping destination for 2 days every spring.

Thank You for Being our Friends!

In these tough economic times, sponsorships are critical to the success of nonprofit events. Over the years, our garden festival sponsors have supported us in so many priceless ways: with money and in-kind goods and services--creative talent, promotional opportunities, equipment, and volunteer services.

C3 Presents… loves Zilker Park! They show that love to Zilker Botanical Garden by providing the soundstage, sound equipment, engineers, and a generous financial contribution for our garden festival.

GSD&M Idea City… their creative team designed our memorable logo for the 50th garden festival. That logo became a strong branding and continued into our 51st and now our 52nd year… along with a playful logo for our kids’ tee-shirts and stamping fans.

News Radio 590 KLBJ… our exclusive radio sponsor for years, KLBJ provides promo spots, ticket giveaways, live broadcast of their gardening talk show from the festival grounds.

Affordable Portable… donating a gazebo for our information & holding area.

Girling Health Care… provides professional nursing services, on site, for both days of the festival.

The Austin American-Statesman… negotiates generous promotional discounts for our print advertising, including the Inside Edition insert exclusively for the garden festival (comes out Thursday, March 19th).

The City of Austin and PARD… their partnership with AAGC is priceless, from the professional staff at Zilker Botanical Garden to the police that help festival visitors safely cross Barton Springs Road.

We say “Thank You” to all of our sponsors who help us make the garden festival a stellar celebration!

Tickets: $5 Adults $3 Children (ages 3-12)… available online at www.zilkergarden.org or at the Chrysalis Gift Shop.

AAGC members can purchase tickets for $3 through their garden clubs. Please leave Fido at home!
JOYS OF THE GARDEN TALKS

SATURDAY  MARCH 28

11:30 am  - Motivating Gardeners To Go Organic  
Speaker: John Dromgoole

12:30 pm  - Culinary Herbs Around The World  
Speaker: Lucinda Hutson

1:30 pm  - Diverse World of Bromeliads  
Speaker: Christopher Krumrey

2:30 pm  - Rock Gardening In Texas  
Speaker: Matt Welch

3:30 pm  - Cacti & Succulents For Central Texas  
Speaker: Jeff Pavlat

SUNDAY  MARCH 29

11:30 am  - Privacy Screening w/ 'Clumping Bamboo'  
Speaker: Jinji Willingham

12:30 pm  - Taniguchi Japanese Garden 1969 - 2009  
Speaker: - Terry Ward

1:30 pm  - Japanese Flower Arranging (3 designs)  
Speakers: Flo Doan Bowen & Alys Honey  
Marilyn Sharratt & Hiroko Miller

2:30 pm  - Rainwater Harvesting, Barrels To Cisterns  
Speaker: Dick Peterson

3:30 pm  - Garden Design Using Organic Texas Natives  
Speaker: James Dear

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE 52nd ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL WEB SITE

http://www.zilkergarden.org/about/events/ZGF2009/zgf.html


RAFFLE PRIZES

Tickets $1.00 each or 6 for $5.00

Drawing March 29th at the Festival. You don’t need to be present to win!

Port Aransas Condo weekend for 4  
Howard & Sandra Holt

SWA round trip tickets  
Southwest Airlines

Bicycle  
Bicycle Sports Shop-South Lamar

Digital Camera  
Best Buy-Hwy 290 W

I-Pod  
Best Buy-Research Blvd.

Japanese Maple Tree  
It’s About Thyme

Texas History Museum Membership  
Bullock History Museum

Photography Session  
Patrick Lane Photography

Prada Perfume Set  
Laura Joseph

Case of Wine  
Royce Herbert & George Gaston

Paper Shredder  
Western Trails Garden Club & Docents of Zilker

Orchid Basket  
Heart of the Hills Orchid Society

Decorative Rain Barrel  
Garden Club of Austin

Hammock  
Cater & Laura Joseph

Gift Certificate Great Outdoors  
Barton Hills Garden Club

Red Barn Nursery Gift Card  
Red Barn

Natural Gardener Gift Certificates  
John Dromgoole

Copper Yard Torch  
Barton Springs Nursery

More items will be added

Thank you to everyone who donated these wonderful items for the raffle!
Once again, Austin Area Garden Council is partnering with C3 Presents and the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department to present ongoing music and entertainment for the family in the Rose Garden. C3 Presents, our festival title sponsor, is providing state-of-the-art staging and sound. Many of Austin’s best musicians are taking to the stage throughout the festival. Your festival ticket is the ticket to our uniquely Austin entertainment.


**Staci Gray**, an Austin-based children’s performer joins us with her story and movement songs. Kids and their parents will be singing, dancing, and laughing with Staci, as she sings songs from her newest CD.

**Sunrise Beach Lawn Brigade** opens the afternoon entertainment on Saturday, with a march from the front gate to the C3 stage. You cannot miss this special opportunity to see a live lawn chair performance.

**Soniquete** entertains us with fabulous Latin sounds from the “World’s Largest City,” Mexico City, featuring Luis Angel Ibanez, lead vocalist and guitarist. Soniquete blends music and rhythm of Latin America from Mexico, to Cuba, to Brazil, and beyond.

**The Chase Scott Band** takes the stage with their lively mix of classic rock & roll sounds from the 60’s, 70’s, 80’s and 90’s. The band will play your favorites as well as some you might have forgotten.

**Los Klezmeros** offers traditional Old Country Jewish music from Eastern Europe and the Balkans, as well as Israel and the Middle East. This is a traditional celebration of life music played at weddings and bar mitzvah with lots of singing and dancing.

**Zydeco Blanco**—a huge hit at Festival 08— is back for a repeat high energy performance. Recognized as the best zydeco band in Texas Hill Country, they are firmly rooted in Creole and Cajun traditions of Southwest Louisiana.

**The Zest of Yore** joins us for a lively and rocking performance of pop/rock songs which are catchy, fun, and never contrived. They will “bring down the house”.

With over 100 vendors, shopping opportunities await you at the Festival!
The Austin Area Garden Center is a non-profit organization established in 1955 to support Zilker Botanical Garden. Our mission is to “be a benevolent, charitable, and educational undertaking to promote the education of citizens, emphasizing youth, in the art of gardening, for beautification of home and countryside; to do all things incidental or necessary for the accomplishment of said purposes; to conserve native flowers, shrubs and trees, and to protect wildlife; to promote recreational opportunities through the media of gardening and outdoor life; and to solicit funds for said purposes.”

Zilker Festival Team

Chairman- Margie Malone
Treasurer- Ingrid Estetter
Publicity- Donna Friedenreich
Vendors- Julie Johnson
On-site vendor- Sandy Schultze
Margaret Beaman
Transportation- Joyce Billings
Laurie Denchik
Concessions
Entertainment- Janice Morgan
Laura Joseph
Garden Talks- Judith Craft
Kids Activities- Linda Ray
Information/Holding- Lynn Sissney,
Dolores Rumpf
Raffle- Sandra Holt
Front Gate- Mike Ratliff
Back Gate- Dee Hodnett
Volunteer Booth- Timmie Critendon
Water Sales- Nelda Moore
Flower Show- Florene Lusk

Volunteers Needed & Welcomed
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Fellow Gardeners:

No loss. No selloff. No panic. In fact, all is well at Zilker Botanical Garden and the Austin Area Garden Council in 2008. We have had another terrific year. As the 2009 economic storm clouds grow more threatening, we can rejoice that every single one of our investments in our garden is not only safe, but paying tremendous dividends now and for years to come, and you can take that to the bank! Working with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, we made a conscious decision about what to do with our considerable assets, never putting at risk our heritage or our natural resources, never risking the good will and support of our leaders, our patrons, and each other. We decided to invest in ourselves, to get as many of our people on board as possible and to direct our energy to worthy projects. Just look at some of the 2008 dividends:

- A banner year for the 2008 Zilker Garden Festival
- A new and inviting Entry Gate to the Taniguchi Garden
- A huge hit with DinoLand
- A refreshing cold-water fountain outside the Children’s Garden
- A new high of inspiring garden talks and seminars for our members and the public
- A commitment of over 7,400 volunteer hours worth $79,000 in value

And, while our assets paid these and more dividends, we added to our principal along the way, getting to know each other better, making new friends, and adding a little more sparkle to Austin. Now it’s time to get ready for our 52nd Zilker Garden Festival. What we do here in this garden is not just fun as I have implied. No, it’s important too. Greenery is directly associated with better health. More time spent outdoors is one of the strongest health benefits, and exposure to grassy areas has been linked to less stress and a lower body mass index. Green space is also linked to longevity. In September, 2008, the U.S. Congress passed the No Child Left Inside Act to encourage local initiatives aimed at getting children outdoors. Even Congress is sprouting green ideas! We clearly responded to this national priority.

What we are doing to preserve, expand and develop Zilker Botanical Garden is critical and directly related to improving the quality of life in Austin. As we open our gates and welcome thousands of visitors to the festival, let’s roll up our sleeves, get outside and work together. Thanks for all you do.

Laura Joseph, President

April 2009

3 DEADLINE: Club calendar dates submissions to PARD Event Coordinator
4 10am -5pm Cactus & Succulent Sale
5 10am -5pm Cactus & Succulent Sale
11 1pm -4pm Iris Society of Austin Show
14 10am-Noon AAGC Board of Directors Meeting

May 2009

2 10am-4pm Austin Butterfly Workshop
9 10am-5pm Austin Daylily Society Show & Sale
12 10am-Noon AAGC Board of Directors Meeting
16 10am-5pm Austin Bonsai Society Show and Sale
17 10am-5pm Austin Bonsai Society Show and Sale
29 DEADLINE: Club dues paid to AAGC Treasurer

June 2009

6 10am-5pm Garden Club of Austin Flower Show
7 11am-4pm Garden Club of Austin Flower Show
30 DEADLINE: Yearbook submissions to AAGC Information Coordinator

July 2009

4th of July Holiday- Building Closed

Zilker Botanical Garden Calendar of Events

March 2009

1 Kite Festival: Zilker Botanical Garden CLOSED
7 8am - 2pm Austin Organic Gardeners Plant Sale
7 9am - 1pm It’s My Park Day!
   Registration is required by calling 477-1566 or www.austinparks.org/itsmypark.html
8 Daylight Savings Time begins: Zilker Botanical Garden closes at 7:00 PM.
10 10am - Noon AAGC Board of Directors Meeting
21 10am - 4:30pm First Austin African Violet Show
22 1pm -4:00pm First Austin African Violet Show
28 10am-5pm ZILKER GARDEN FESTIVAL
29 See 52nd Zilker Garden Festival Web Site for complete details.
   http://www.zilkergarden.org/about/events/ZGF2009/zgf.html

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July 2009

4th of July Holiday- Building Closed
RED TAILED HAWK MAKES A REAL IMPACT AT AAGC BOARD MEETING

A strange thing happened at the February AAGC Committee meeting. As business was being conducted, there was a loud bang heard as this poor fellow decided to literally crash the meeting but didn’t see the glass windows. Everyone sprang from their chairs, raced to the window, got on the cell phone to call rescue at the nature center, while the hawk calmly stood on the sidewalk below gathering his composure. Wild creatures are rarely seen at close range, so it was a great photo opportunity!

Well, there was a happy ending to this. Before rescue folks came, the hawk tried out his wings and flew onto a nearby branch proving to everyone that even a bird of prey can take a licking, and come back ticking.

Photo by Bob Beyer, VP Publications

AUSTIN BONSAI SOCIETY

If you’re a plant person (and the odds of that are good if you’re reading this), then maybe you’ll understand some of the intense fascination we in the Austin Bonsai Society have toward our trees. Not only are they small representations of nature, and a beauty to behold, but the time spent training and caring for them nearly make them a part of our family. Most people have that special plant, owned for many years, and cherished because they were given by a family member or friend, but imagine that you can grow and train a tree knowing you could actually pass it down to future generations. There is a shift in thinking: Bonsai aren’t our possessions, we’re merely the caretakers. Since many Bonsai are created from native material, they’re quite different from a greenhouse lily or fern you may grow. The native trees are able to withstand our temperature changes, and humidity levels like a pro, while tropical plants can wither away. I have some amazing, tough-as-nails Cedar Elm and Texas Persimmon Bonsai which are already older than I am, and I know with proper care will even outlive me.

If you’re interested in learning more about Bonsai, come to our educational display in the Greene Room during Zilker Garden Festival March 28th and 29th. We will have a display and members available to answer questions and demonstrate Bonsai techniques. Also visit our annual Austin Bonsai Society Show on May 16th-17th at the Austin Area Garden Center. There will be some amazing trees only displayed to the public during our annual shows. Come see the trees, and enjoy the demonstrations, raffles and sales. Visit with our members who love sharing stories about our art. Hope to see you there!

Joey McCoy, President
AUSTIN POND SOCIETY 2009 POND TOUR

“The Austin Pond Society will host its 2009 Pond Tours on Saturday, July 18th and Sunday, July 19th. We will tour 15 ponds each day.

It’s always been the group's objective to feature ponds that demonstrate the broad range of our member's interests and unique solutions. We will have at least one swimming pool that has been converted to a koi pond, rocky streams with noisy, gurgling water, large projects spread over several acres and small, intimate ponds tucked into backyard landscapes suited to quiet contemplation.

With about 30 ponds spread over our ever-growing metro area, it is unlikely that any individual will be able to see every single pond. This year, to make the process of "choosing" a little more helpful, we will post advance pictures on our website of the Tour ponds. If you are thinking about a narrow, lively stream in a confined space - you will be able to locate sites-of-interest that much easier.

Again this year we will have a full-sized executive bus with restrooms making the Tour rounds on Saturday and again Sunday if there is interest.

Finally, we cannot conduct the Tour without recognition that many families have reduced incomes this year and that there are many needs in the community. The Austin Pond Society will donate thousands of dollars to several area charities this year. It is our way of acknowledging civic duty and we have every reason to expect that our Tour Guests feel the same way. We are looking forward to a fantastic year at the Austin Pond Society. Please join us. Our meetings are on the 3rd Monday of each month, starting at 7 PM, at the Garden Center.

Marc Brewster, 2009 President

CLUB NEWS

Taniguchi Japanese Garden
"Bamboo Work Days"

The Texas Bamboo Society has regular “work days” at the Taniguchi Japanese Garden, located at Zilker Botanical Garden, Austin, Texas on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10am - 1pm. We meet in the Taniguchi Japanese Garden and perform basic bamboo grooming functions. Bring a saw, hand clippers and loppers and learn about the different species of bamboo that grow well in this area and become part of the Taniguchi Revitalization Project. Questions? Call 512-929-9565 or email bamboo@bamboocentral.net
For last minute changes and updates - please check www.bamboocentral.net
IRIS SHOW COMING IN APRIL

"Iris Through the Ages" will capture your imagination as you journey through history and fill your world with the beauty of dynamic colors of historical irises as well as newer hybrids. This year's judged show, sponsored by the Iris Society of Austin in cooperation with the American Iris Society, will be held on Saturday, April 11th, from 1 P.M. until 4 P.M. in the Austin Area Garden Center auditorium. The public will enjoy the horticultural class, and will be surrounded by the artistic division having titles such as "Pharaoh's Bouquet," "Going Dutch" using two containers to display the iris, "Crusades" for the religious design, and "Royal Repast," an apt description for the table decorated for two people.

Pat Byrne is the show chairman, Pat Freeman will record the members who enter the artistic division, Debbie Hood is clerk's chair, David Kraemer is placement chair and Dr. David Steed, Mike Renfro and Don Freeman will set-up the show. "All members of the local society will be deeply involved in this once a year event," explained Nelda Moore, who is in charge of hospitality.

Iris Facts: Did you know that:
- the fleur-de-lis, which appeared on flags, armor, tapestries, and heraldry represents an iris and was the emblem of French monarchs for centuries?
- in ancient India and Egypt the iris was a symbol of life while the lotus was a symbol of the essence of life? Soon the iris was a symbol of both the essence and the renewal of life.
- the flower is named for the goddess Iris of Greek Mythology? Iris was the beloved messenger of the gods as she traveled on the rainbow's arc to give commands and messages to mankind.
- the iris is first mentioned in the history of France during the reign of Clovis I in A.D. 481? In the early fourth century, an angel gave him an iris in honor of his becoming a Christian.
**VARIEGATED PLANTS FOR AUSTIN GARDENS**

Why Variegated Plants?

- Adds color to the garden when flowers are not in bloom.
- Less maintenance – slower growing than non-variegated plants.
- Eye catching foliage – gets your faster than most bloom

Things you should know about variegated plants........

- Any variegated plant grows slower than a non-variegated counterpart
- White variegated plants are more cold tender and slower growing than yellow variegated
- Variegated plants generally produce less flowering than non-variegated counterparts
  (WHY to all of the above? - less chlorophyll production)
- Most common variegated colors are yellow, white, cream, silver, and pink/red
- Every type of plant used in the garden has variegated forms or varieties
- There is often many variegated forms of the same plant
- Plant collectors looking for rare and unusual plants find them in variegated plants.
- Plant variegations are stable or unstable (reverting), light dependent or not.
- Blend variegated plants with others to create a pleasant palette, variation of color and textures.
- Too many variegated plants can be as boring as not having any.
- Variegated forms can be marginal, centered, striated, blotched, speckled, veined, patterned, or unpredictably variable

By: Bob Beyer
VP Publications

As Spring approaches, and we begin to think about what to include in our ornamental gardens this year, take an-other look at variegated plants in addition to flowering plants. There is no excuse for not having brilliant color in your garden year-round with the huge numbers of new and older variegated varieties of plants currently in the nursery trade. A variegated plant is any plant which has two or more distinct colors in the foliage. While flowering plants are seasonal or blooming periods last only for a finite time, you can enjoy color in your garden when your favorite flowering plants are not in bloom.

This topic will be the feature on the Central Texas Gardener, PBS/KLRU, Saturday, April 11th with an “On Tour” Preview of the a garden featuring variegated plants, along with our VP for Publications on stage to talk about some great variegated plants that you should consider growing in your gardens.

One word of caution however. You can overdo a good thing. Don’t get too carried away with variegated plants but blend them into your gardens colors, textures, and design as an artist would with the stroke of the paint brush.
Letters from First Graders  by Nelda Moore

When one evaluates the importance of Zilker Botanical Gardens, one usually writes at the top of the list, love of the gardens and the visitors who seek the beauty of flowers, the wonder of nature, and the serenity of the water features. Many other factors, however, provide docents with a deeper satisfaction, and this permeated the January meeting of the docents, when President Marion Alsup began reading letters received from a group of Austin first graders to Zilker Docent Hope Dyson. Some of their spelling is preserved for the ages as they express their appreciation of their newly acquired knowledge.

- “I wona tale you that Zilker park is the best park! There are butterflys and dinosaurs. You are the best women of all.”
- “I lrnd that one person bilt the Japanese Garden.”
- “Thank you for all we learned about the Botanical Garden. favorite part was when we ran and smelled the roses and all types of colors.”
- “We saw an old school and house. They had books desks like us. It was different it had a fireplace and it did not have a computer.”
- “We love the flowers in the water... in the Japanese garden. Then we saw the koi fish. Then we followed a stream from the beginning to the end.”
- “I’m sorry I didn’t go because I was sick. But I heard a lot of kids had fun. I wish I could have gone with the class.”
- “Zilker park Botanical Garden is the best! I loved when you told us about the Ornithomimid type of dinosaur it was osom.”
- “I larnde that Downtown Austin used to be muddy and they would walk on a metal bridge to keep their shoes clean en I larnde that the Pandas eate Bamboo.”
- “I learnt that the plants smell lek root beer and pizza.”
- “The old house reminds me of the book that Mrs. Smith reed to us about Abraham Lincoln’s one room cabin.”

Docent Hope Dyson captures the interest of each student on the journey by asking how many bridges are on the trail through the Japanese Garden. Then she asks them to enter the tea house with reverence as she talks about Mr. Taniguchi, who laid the rock for the ponds that spell “Austin.” If you would like to become a docent, call Marion Alsup at 480-0311 for more information.
Supporting Zilker Botanical Garden

“Brick by Brick”

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, or commemorate your company name.

It’s easy! For more information, contact Debra Keith-Thompson or Julie Johnson at 477-8672 ext. 12

Purchaser Information

Please return this completed form and your check to:
Austin Area Garden Center, Inc.,
2220 Barton Springs Road Austin, Texas 78746

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF ZILKER BOTANICAL GARDEN THROUGH OUR WALK OF FRIENDS PROGRAM
CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE AUSTIN AREA GARDEN COUNCIL

Austin Area Begonia Society
Austin Bonsai Society
Austin Cactus and Succulent Society
Austin Daylily Society
Austin Newcomers Garden Club
Austin Organic Gardeners
Austin Rose Society
Austin Butterfly Forum
Austin Herb Society
Austin Pond Society
Barton Hills Garden Club
Capitol City Judges Council
Docents of Zilker Botanical Garden
East Austin Garden Club
First Austin African Violet Society
Heart of the Hills Garden Club
The Garden Club of Austin
Heart O’ Texas Orchid Society
Austin Ikebana Study Group
Iris Society of Austin
The Optimistic Garden Club
Porcelain Art Club of Austin
Texas Bamboo Society
Texas Botanical Garden Society
Texas Flower Bulb Society
Travis County Master Gardeners Association
West Lake Hills Garden Club
Western Trails Garden Club
Violet Crown Garden Club
Yaupon Garden Club

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Return Service Requested