



Can You Dig It

Newsletter of the Piney Hills Master Gardeners of Louisiana

Publisher Kathy Love

January 2008

Special Winter Edition

Beginning January of 2008 "Can You Dig It" will be a quarterly publication. The first issue will be available after the 3rd Thursday of the month. Members are encouraged to submit articles. To be included in the April/May/June edition, articles must be presented by March 15th. Photos are also accepted. The purpose of the newsletter is both to educate its readers and to keep members informed of activities in which they can participate.

As editor I would like to thank those who have submitted articles in the past, Ann Meares, Glenda Collums, Liz Wilson and Sally F. Martin. I would also like to offer my apologies to those who submitted articles that never got to appear in the newsletter. The following article was submitted by Marjorie Thomas, just after our Trails & Trellises tour in May. It is a timely reminder that next year's Trails & Trellises is just around the corner.

Trails & Trellises 2007

"We were blessed with a beautiful sunny and unseasonably cool day for our Garden Tour on May 19. It was a delightful day to spend outdoors and obviously many other people thought so too. We counted 285 visitors to our gardens. These folks came from Texas, Mississippi, Arkansas, and every corner of Louisiana! These travelers were not disappointed. Our gardens were lovely! The cool weather may have delayed the opening

of some blooms, but at the same time the bloom season of others was extended. Our visitors oohed and aahed and asked questions and thoroughly seemed to enjoy themselves. We heard comments such as, "We love it!," "Great guides," "Will take the class."

Financially, Trails & Trellises was a success bringing in a profit of \$4183.97 for tickets and plants. Our Plant Sale was a hit, bringing in \$600. One of the suggestions we heard was to have unusual or striking plants for sale that the visitors would see in our featured gardens. We'll all have to work to make this suggestion reality.

This year our tour brought people to Minden and Haughton. We were concerned about the distance between gardens negatively impacting us, but we don't think that was the case. Our numbers were more influenced by another widely publicized home tour that same day in Minden. It's a shame that a city the size of Minden had 2 similar events on the same day. Instead of complimenting each other, they competed. Our committee hopes this conflict can be avoided in future years. Two such far reaching events would multiply the number of visitors to our community if held separately. Although the goal of Trails & Trellises is to raise funds for projects of the PHLMG, showcasing beautiful gardens and encouraging folks to visit our area is certainly of equal importance.

Advertising was a key to our success. This year a goodly part of our budget was spent on publicity. Our signs were very visible scattered around the community and newspaper coverage from Minden and

Shreveport was wonderful. There is room for improvement in more distant papers and maybe we will need to purchase ads. That's something for the committee to consider.

I must thank each PHLMG who worked that May 19, greeting the public and sharing our love for gardening. Your friendliness and enthusiasm are vital to making folks want to return year after year. To the Trails & Trellises Committee for their year-long commitment to this project, I thank you for your time, input and hard-work. Thanks also to the garden owners for their hours and hours spent getting ready, the businesses who contributed door prizes and products, the Webster Parish Visitor's and Convention Bureau for the advertising grant, to the newspapers for their coverage and to the community for their support."

Mark your calendar! Next year's tour will be Saturday, May 17, 2008.

Marjorie Thomas
Chairman, Trails & Trellises 2007

Volunteers & Projects— Where do we go from here?

Since this is the beginning of a new year, now would be a good time to introduce our newest group of volunteers (Drum roll please!) --***The Class of 2007!!*** This was our largest class ever. A total of twenty five attended the classes and labs and passed the final exam with flying colors. The Class of 2007 includes: Cari Ayres, Garry Bacle, Martha Belton, Jan Bockhaus, Cheryl Calhoun, Rita Chisholm, Mary Coburn, Nan Edwards, Kay Elzen, Rita Frankie, Claire Fussell, Harold Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Judith Milam, Richard Noles, Judy Noles, Sheryl Palmer, Sue Ranger,

Debby Reggio, Diane Sentell, Carol Smith, Judy Stall, June Taylor and Gayle Walker.

Passing the test was the hard part. Now comes the FUN--participating in the many projects and activities that benefit the community in which we live. Many of our projects benefit the 4-H organization.

Following is a list of our approved and on-going projects and the respective chairpersons: ***Germantown Colony & Museum***, Glenda Collums; ***Lake Bistineau State Park***, Kay Boykin; ***Haynesville Butterfly Festival***, Loice Lacy; ***Gibbsland Jonquil Jubilee***, Sally F. Martin; ***Pine Hills Country Club***, Linda Berry; ***Trails & Trellises***, Marjorie Thomas; ***Union Elementary*** teaching garden, Kay Boykin; ***Meadowview Nursing Home Garden***, Joan Smith; ***Buds & Blooms***, Judy Burge.

Special Announcement for All Members of Piney Hills Master Gardener Group

While participation in all of our projects is on a volunteer basis, it is hoped that every member will give high priority to signing up to help with our annual garden tour. It is also an excellent way to fulfill the requirement of 40 volunteer hours required for the first year. We still need volunteers for this year's event which will be held on Saturday, May 17. We need approximately 15 people to help out at the gardens as ticket takers, greeters, etc. and 15 to work at the First United Methodist Church in Minden, where we will be featuring a well-know speaker, we'll have box lunches for sale and there will be a raffle and door prizes. If you would like to help in any of these capacities at the gardens or at the church, call Kay Boykin at

745-2630 and let her know where you would like to help. If you can help with the box lunches, contact Kathy Love at 377-6394. We urgently need your help!!! P. S. If we don't hear from you, be expecting a phone call.

Germantown Colony & Museum

Glenda Collums, Project Director

The Germantown Colony & Museum is located a few miles north of Minden, Louisiana. The Museum was established in 1975 on the original site of the Germantown Colony that dates back to 1835.

The Webster Parish Police Jury maintains the Museum. Visitors to the Museum come to see a part of history in a quiet and beautiful setting.

The Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardens have been asked by the Webster Parish Police Jury to play a part in the beautification of this historic site.

As a first effort, members of the Germantown Colony & Museum Landscaping Committee placed yellow



mums, scarecrows, hay bales and pumpkins

to help dress up the landscape for the Germantown Bluegrass Festival held the end of September.

Plans are in the works for several new flowerbeds that will brighten the landscape and make a visit to Germantown Colony even more pleasant and interesting!

Got a Question?

Many people do not realize that one of the requirements of a Master Gardener is to volunteer to answer the phone at the Extension Service to help answer questions for problems local gardeners may experience. We are there on Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Give us a call at 371-1371.

Tips for Rose Growers

Lou Osburn, area rosarian, was the speaker at the January monthly meeting, her topic being Earth Kind roses, or low maintenance roses. Earth Kind roses were developed by *Earth-Kind Environmental Landscape Management System*™ with the intent of appealing to a wide range of people because it removes fears and concerns about growing roses by:

- ❖ Eliminating the need for additional soil work after the initial bed preparation;
- ❖ Eliminating the need for applications of synthetic or organic fertilizers;
- ❖ Eliminating the need for deadheading of spent blooms.
- ❖ Greatly reducing the need for supplemental watering after the first year, except in extreme circumstances.

Earth Kind roses, including the award winning “Knock out” roses can be purchased from Chamblee’s Rose Nursery in Tyler, Texas. www.chambleeroses.com

Lou says now is it the time to toss some alfalfa pellets among your roses. They’ll thank you for it!

Buds & Blooms

One event this time of year that lifts the winter doldrums is **Buds & Blooms**. Due to increased popularity the last two years, chairperson, Judy Burge had to find a larger place to hold the event. This year’s seminar will be held February 9, 2008 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at First United Methodist Church in Minden, 903 Broadway. Fabulous speakers and demonstrations are on the agenda.

“**Heirloom Daffodils**” will be the subject of The Daffodil Lady of Gibsland, Celia Jones of Sisters Bulb Farm. Celia is passionate about the bulb farm that was once owned by her grandmother.

“**Hydrangeas—Not Your Grandma’s Flower!**” Denyse Cummins, area LSU AgCenter Horticulturist will instruct on the planting, pruning & care of hydrangeas.

Have you ever wanted to design a “**Fairy Garden?**” If so, Kay Boykin & Sarena Cox will inspire you to design a miniature garden that will delight both young and old.

“**Gourds—Not Your Usual Work of Art**” is a fitting description for a lecture to be given by Susan Breeland, the Gourd Lady on growing, harvesting and creating a work of art from a gourd.

Door prizes and lots of give-away seeds will complete the fun filled day.

For more information call 318 949-4800 or 318 371-1371.



One of the many items raffled at last year’s Buds & Blooms

Mark Your Calendars

February 12 “Plants that shock and awe” featuring Bob McCartney of the Woodlanders Nursery, Aiken, South Carolina at Gardens of the American Rose Center in Shreveport from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Reservations required. RSVP lou@nokout.com or 318.869.1526

March 1 –Jonquil Jubilee in Gibsland, Louisiana. A day-long festival featuring speakers, plant sales and tour of homes.

March 29 "Spring Fling" at Yellow Pine Inn, 432 Yellow Pine Road, Sibley, Louisiana
For information contact Mary McKinney
318-377-3600 www.yellowpineinn.com

Jonquil Jubilee

One sure sign that spring is just around the corner is the arrival of the jonquils--and they always manage to put on a grand display for the Jonquil Jubilee, planned for March 1st in Gibsland, Louisiana. Each year several homes may be visited on the Tour of Homes. Featured this year will be the Colbert House, home of Charlie and Marsha Andrews, Cedar Ridge Camp, retreat cabin of J. R. and Jan Johnson, and Sylvan Retreat, home of Lester and Sally Martin. The Martin's home will also be host to demonstrations by Master Gardeners and a plant sale featuring "Texas Star" daffodils, which are no longer grown commercially. These particular bulbs were lovingly donated by Celia Jones of Sister's Bulb Farm. Across the road from Sylvan Retreat is Sally's Field with over 6,000 named and identified jonquils. Another daffodil field that may be visited is at Oak Grove Farm, home of Joyce and Roy Lilly. On tour for the first time this year will be Gibsland United Methodist Church where a historical pipe organ can be viewed and will provide musical entertainment throughout the day. There will also be a quilt show at the church. Tour hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Lots of food and vendors add to the fun.

A Note from the Editor

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. You may submit an article or comment by contacting Kathy Love at 318 377-6394 or love7190@bellsouth.net.

Missing!!

Some of the decorations used at the graduation party have been reported as lost. If you have seen any of these items used as centerpieces, please call Kathy Love at 377-6394.



