



Rainbow Garden Club

DALLAS TEXAS
FEBRUARY 2008

2008 Dues Are Now DUE
see page 6
For Renewal Information

February meeting set for 2nd SATURDAY, 2 PM Plant Propagation at TX Discovery Garden

Learn all about the principles and best practices involved with plant propagation and production! All of the plants that you see in the landscapes at the Texas Discovery Gardens are grown in their greenhouse. Randy Johnson, Director of Horticulture, will give this great program on starting plants on your own for your home garden.

Randy will give growing tips that will apply whether you have your own greenhouse or you're starting your plants on your back porch!

Located at historic Fair Park in Dallas, Texas Discovery Gardens is a year-round urban oasis filled with natural wonders for visitors of all ages. Ten different themed areas include a butterfly habitat, native wildlife pond, scent garden, shade garden and heirloom garden. The first certified

Texas Discovery Gardens features spectacular native and adapted plants grown using sustainable methods that conserve water and protect the environment.

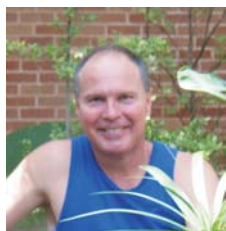


Weather permitting, we will have a short business meeting and enjoy some refreshments on the picnic tables located outside of the greenhouse. Please RSVP your plans to attend this meeting by sending an email to info@rainbowgardenclub.com.

The Texas Discovery Gardens is located inside Fair Park at the MLK Gate 6. After you turn into the MLK Gate 6, take the first right,, go past the regular parking lot o to the end and make a left on Pennsylvania. The back of the greenhouse will be on your left. Park in the big parking lot for the greenhouse, which will be on your right.

2008 MEETINGS

- January 20
North Haven Gardens
GREENHOUSE TOUR
Saturday, Feb 9
Texas Discovery Gardens
PLANT PROPOGATION
- March 9
Brumley Gardens
CONTAINER GARDENING
- April 13
Tom & Glenn
TEXAS NATIVES
- May 11
Tony Martin & Gary Grennier
FERN GARDENING
- June 8
Don & Patrick
XERISCAPE LANDSCAPING
- July 13
Ron & Kim
BUTTERFLY GARDENING
- August 10
Jessee & Jeff
SWIM PARTY
- Sept 14
Jeffrey & Tim
HARDSCAPING
- Oct 12
Chris Henderson
TREE PLANTING
- Nov 9
Shannon Wyatt
ACID LOVING PLANTS
- Dec 14
Jon Papp
CHRISTMAS PARTY



From the President Tom Forsyth

The Rainbow Garden Club got off to a successful start with our first meeting on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008. Over 17 members

attended our tour of the Northaven Gardens Greenhouse. Mark from the Northaven staff gave an hour-long tour of the greenhouse and we learned all about the best houseplants and how to take proper care of them! The Northaven staff was very impressed with our turn-out and thanked us

for bringing so many people to participate in their greenhouse tour! They provided us with their conference room where we were able to conduct a short business meeting after the tour.

During the business meeting, members expressed their enthusiasm for the exciting line-up of gardening programs and speakers that your board has organized for 2008. You can find the updated calendar in this newsletter.

One of our goals this year is to offer interactive,
continued on next page

Videos on the web Watch Glen Nichols

Is your green thumb looking a little brown? You can find solutions to all of your garden problems by watching Channel 4's garden guy, Glen Nichols. From planting tips to ways to save water, Glen knows it all. You can check out his regular segment every Tuesday on Good Day.

Channel 4 maintains an archive of Glen's appearances on its website. You can watch these videos of his programs during the past year:



- July 17 - Battling Mosquitoes
- July 10 - When to Water Your Plants
- June 29 - Make Your Own Less Toxic Insecticide
- June 5 - Keeping Pests Off Your Plants
- May 29 - Perennials, Flowers That Keep on Giving
- May 15 - Best Bloomers for Lasting Color
- April 24 - Prepare for Spring
- March 27 - Whack Those Weeds!
- March 6 - Growing Healthy Plants
- Feb. 6 - Ants and Vines
- Jan. 9 - Tree Pruning
- Jan. 2 - Get Your Garden Winter Ready

On the same page you can find answers to the Top 5 Gardening questions that Glen gets on the call in part of his program. The questions are:

1. How do I get rid of fire ants?
2. How do I get rid of brown spots in my lawn?
3. When should I fertilize my lawn?
4. How do I get rid of aphids on my roses?
5. When should I prune?

www.myfoxdfw.com
type "gardening glen archive"
in the search bar & hit "go"

From the President - Thom Forsyth

hands on programs!

Our February meeting will be a primer on plant propagation at the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. More about this meeting is provided in an article on page one of this newsletter. Plan to park in the shadow of the Ferris Wheel, come inside the greenhouse, and look forward to learning more from the experts at the first certified organic garden in the state. A short business meeting will follow.

We also will be bringing in knowledgeable speakers! Dione Lineberry from the Dallas County Master Gardeners will be returning as a presenter this year. Ron LaBlanc, club member and Master Gardener, will be giving a great presentation on perennial gardening at his home in July. Steve Houser from the Urban Forest Advisory Committee will be lending his team of arborists to guide us through the do's and don't of tree planting!

We're also working to bring back Glen Nichols, the Garden Guy from Channel 4, who gave a great program a few years back (see more on Glen Nichols in an article that appears in this issue).

Please let us know if you have any ideas for another program that would fit well with this interactive, hands-on program format! We want to make sure that we have programs that you will enjoy and that will help you to be a better gardener! Make sure to let your friends know about the good things going on in our club and bring them along with you!

Our club will participate again at the Oak Cliff Earth Day Celebration in April and we'll need volunteers to help us man our booth all day. Please let me know if you can work an hour or two at our booth at the OCED Celebration!

With your involvement and the leadership of our officers, we can make our club a dynamic, active, educational and fun group of gay and lesbian gardeners in DFW!

Sharpen your shovels and your hoes! We have a lot of rows to plow in 2008!

Tom

Begonia Garden Society invites RGC Members to participate.... Take Begonia Gardening to the Next Level

We had the pleasure to meet the President of the local Begonia Garden Society club at the January meeting of the Rainbow Garden Club at Northaven Gardens. The Begonia society president is Elizabeth Cassimatis and she extended an invitation to our members interested in advancing their knowledge of begonia gardening to attend their monthly chapter meetings.

for info on the DFW
Begonia Garden Society email
eapcassimatis@yahoo.com

Elizabeth was thrilled that our RGC President bought a begonia specimen called 'B. Challenger' while on the Northaven greenhouse tour. She promised to send more information on this wonder Begonia which she says is "the love of My Begonia Life." We'll make sure to certain to pass this information on the wondrous B. Challenger in a future edition of the RGC monthly newsletter!



bloom on a
tuberous begonia

For information on the Begonia Garden Society or an invitation to a future meeting, email Elizabeth at the address appearing on the left..

Free class scheduled February 19th....

Texas Smartscape Speaker Training Class Set

Richard Smart, our friend from the City of Dallas Storm Water Management, has informed us that there will be a FREE "Train the Speaker Class" for TX SmartScape on February 19, 2008. The SmartScape class will be held from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Tarrant County Resource Connection which is located at 2300 Circle Drive in Fort Worth, TX, 76119.

The class gives training to individuals on how to present the TX SmartScape principles to audiences, so this could be very useful for your organizations. RGC President Tom Forsyth

To register and for more information go to:

<http://www.nctcog.org/envir/events.asp>

There are only 36 spaces available so hurry and register now!

You can also find a wealth of information on the best plants for your home landscape at the SmartScape website which is:

<http://www.txsmartscape.com>

Free mulch still available...

Need some shredded wood and leaf mulch for your own garden or MG project? Hope Community Garden has piles of free shredded mulch. Bring your truck or containers to 1108 Cristler in Dallas and take all you want. For more information, contact Carolyn Bush at 214-328-0102.

- R.G.C. 2008 OFFICERS -

President - Tom Forsyth

Vice President - Dennis Hein

Treasurer - Shannon Wyatt

Secretary - Jon Papp

Newsletter Editor - Anthony Klatt

New year underway...

Three Great Programs Kick off R.G.C. in 2008!

Our calendar for the first three months of the year will be filled with activities that we have lined up at local garden centers. Our January meeting was a tour of the greenhouse at North Haven Gardens in North Dallas! 17 members came out on a sunny 60 degree day to take a walking tour through the NHG greenhouse with Mark, one of the NHG garden advisors.

We learned about a wide variety of indoor plants including palms, ferns, succulents, african violets, orchids and begonias!

In February, we will gather at the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. An article about the February Meeting appears on the first page of

this newsletter. This month's meeting is on a Saturday and will start at 2:00 pm. Park in the Shadow of the State Fair of Texas Ferris Wheel.

We'll finish the first three months of the year with a visit to Brumley Garden Center, also located in North Dallas. The Brumley Garden Center is a gay owned business and owner Chris Brumley had extended an invitation to host an RGC meeting last year. Owner Chris Brumley is planning an exciting and interactive session on Container Gardening. You'll learn from the experts on selecting the right pots, the best soil and even learn how to arrange the plants! It will be fun and you'll have the opportunity to get your hands dirty arranging a container garden!

Discounts offered to garden clubs on Daylillies...

Buy Direct From JD Squared Wholesale Grower

With spring fast approaching, now is the time to plan and pre-order your new daylilies and other perennials for your gardens. With that in mind, JD Squared Wholesale Growers has announced direct sales to Daylily Clubs and Garden clubs beginning January 2008. Please visit

www.jd2ranch.com/GardenClubs

for details. We encourage you to bundle orders to maximize the discount and reduce overall shipping costs.

JD Squared is committed to producing high quality beautiful plants for garden enthusiasts and professionals alike. Since we are the professional grower, your bare root plants will spend no time on shelves or in pots. In order to ensure the greatest selection, please visit the link above to see the best ordering

times, expected delivery months and approximate bloom month.

Orders in excess of \$100.00 will receive a 10% discount, orders in excess of \$200.00 will receive a 20% discount (order amounts do not including shipping or taxes). If you would like a price list, have any questions or if we can be of any assistance, please contact us. We look forward to working with you and your club.



DAY LILLY

Scientific classification
Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Liliopsida
Order: Asparagales
Fam: Hemerocallidaceae
Genus: Hemerocallis

JD Squared is a south central Texas grower of Daylilies, Iris, Asiatic Lilies, Cannas, Hostas, and Muscari specifically grown to be tolerant of south Texas Weather. We are located on 137 acres southeast of San Antonio, Texas. Our plants are field grown which improves hardiness. We continually add new plant types and increase the number of cultivars we sell.

JoNelle Zager - Owner



RGC to participate Earth Day is April 20

The purpose of Oak Cliff Earth Day is to promote awareness of the environment and our place in it, and environmental conservation in our government, neighborhood, and ourselves.

This year Oak Cliff Earth Day will be held on Sunday, April 20, 2008, 11am- 5pm. The Rainbow Garden Club will have a booth on site to promote our organization. The Board will be recruiting volunteers to man the booth at upcoming monthly meetings.

Organizers are inviting the community at large to come and celebrate the Second Annual Oak Cliff Earth Day at historic Lake Cliff Park in Oak Cliff. Become a part of our effort to save and protect our environment.

Visit information booths on environmental issues and products. Enjoy the all day entertainment, browse and shop art from local artists and eat great food. Bring your children, your pets (on leashes), and your family.

Last year was the first time that Earth Day was celebrated in Oak Cliff. Over 2,500 people attended this event. There were booths for buying plants, gathering information about protecting our environment, an art show, science fair for children and food booths. For additional information, you can go to the Oak Cliff Earth Day website at

<http://www.oakcliffearthday.com>

The beautiful event site in North Oak Cliff is easily accessible by freeway from all parts of the Metroplex. Parking is limited so car pooling is encouraged.

FEBRUARY 08 BIRTHDAYS

Tim Higham - Feb 9th • Johnny Green - Feb 11th
Jim Garnsey - Feb 16th

The R.G.C. records are missing several birth dates for our members. If you would like yours mentioned in the newsletter, please email info@rainbowgardenclub.com

Website up and running... CGOC to be at Earth Day

The Community Gardens of Oak Cliff (CGOC) had their third organizational meeting on Jan. 13, 2008 with 8 persons in attendance. The CGOC website is now up and running, thanks to Sabin Jacob. A volunteer with website skills is still needed to maintain the website. The URL for the new site is:

www.communitygardensofoakcliff.com

The site is currently in development and is seeking information, links to other sites, event dates, etc.

Additionally, the CGOC has reserved a table at Oak Cliff Earth Day on April 20th, 2008 and will need volunteers to man the table.

Efforts to encourage community gardens at local schools were discussed. Sample designs for a school-based community garden were used for a meeting with Rosemont faculty, PTA and parents on January 17th to discuss a school garden project with Rosemont. A science teacher at Bishop Dunne has also been chosen to head up their Garden Club and is planning a butterfly garden for the school.

Neighborhood gardens at various locations are being considered by the CGOC. Among the possible sites for community gardens under consideration are: Sam Lopez's property on Kings Hwy, property at 2800 Gladstone and Ravinia, an area near Moss Park and land near the YMCA on North Hampton. The CGOC will tour these possible sites on the weekend of Feb. 3rd. The CGOC is also working with two local churches on proposals for a church garden on their property.

The organization plans to submit a Fiskars grant application package which designed for Community Gardens. The club plans to apply for a 501 (c) (3) status and to open a post office box. Future meetings may be held at the Kidd Spring Recreation Center.

If you would like to join their effort or have ideas on a good place for Oak Cliff's first community garden, then please contact Hansa Jacob Martin at: communitygardensofoakcliff@gmail.com.



Monthly garden walks ahead in 2008... Texas Discovery Gardens Planning Rose Walk

The Texas Discovery Gardens will be providing a series of "Guided Garden Walks" during the year in 2008. These walks will give an in-depth look at different gardens, plants and insects as you stroll along with knowledgeable staff and local experts. Each starts at 10 a.m. and lasts one hour. The Garden Walks are free to members. A small admission is required for non-members.

The next Guided Garden Walk on the calendar is the "Growing Greener Roses Garden Walk" on Saturday morning, Feb. 16 at 10:00 a.m. Give yourself time to stop and smell the roses and learn about hardier varieties that require

less care. Tour participants will also learn proper pruning techniques under the guidance of rose expert Peter Schaar. Those who heard him speak at our Feb. garden club meeting in 2007 know that there is no better expert on Rose Gardening!

This newsletter will keep you up to date on future Garden Walks provided by the Texas Discovery Garden! To receive advance notice about garden events, you can go to <http://www.texasdiscoverygardens.org> and give them your email address. The folks at the TDG will then keep you up to date on their events!

Dallas Blooms Festival runs six weekends... The Star of Texas Celebrated March 8 - Apr 13

The 2008 Dallas Blooms festival theme is "The Star of Texas"! One of the best things about our great state is the incredible beauty of the Dallas Arboretum. The festival celebration will include music, food, celebrities, poetry, and our rich history. The centerpiece of Dallas Blooms, The Star of Texas, will include a giant flower-filled star and other theme-inspired topiaries that will fill the garden. Dallas Blooms will feature more than 400,000 spring-blooming bulbs, over 3,000 azaleas and thousands of annuals and perennials spread throughout the

66-acre garden. The 2008 festival is a fun-filled five-week, six-weekend event and is the largest outdoor floral festival in the Southwest. Popular themed activities include: trick roping, hay rides, armadillo races and country and western entertainment with an old fashioned square dance. Favorite activities return from years past, including Mommy & Me Mondays and Tiny Tots Tuesdays. You can go to this URL for more information on Dallas Blooms 2008

<http://www.dallasarboretum.org/Events>



Membership Renewal / Application 2008 Membership Year - \$15 Single or Couple

Name: _____ Birth Day & Date: _____

Partner Name: _____ Birth Day & Date: _____

(Please provide Partner's Name If Any - \$15 Membership Covers Both Singles & Couples - Birthday Info is Optional)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address(s) _____

Home hone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

MAIL TO: R.G.C. - Membership - P.O. Box 226811 - Dallas, TX 75222-6811
The Rainbow Garden Club traditionally meets on the Second Weekend of the Month - Usually on a Sunday Afternoon