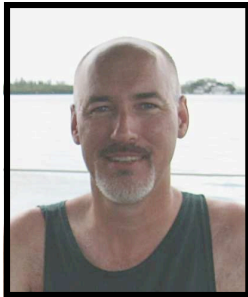




Message from our President



Greeting Gardeners!

What a wonderful month it has been for all things green in North Texas! Even though we had to suffer through several days of triple digit heat, the recent rains have brought everything back to life in my yard and around the metroplex. As we move into the homestretch where summer is concerned, the Rainbow Garden Club is gearing-up for a number of exciting events!

In August, we will trade in our rakes and shovels for speedos and flip-flops for the annual RGC pool party. Jesse Rocha and Jeff Tennial will be our hosts for this event again this year. It promises to be a fun-filled and sun-filled afternoon in beautiful surroundings. This is typically one of the best attended club events, so don't miss out on the fun!

September brings us two events. Our monthly meeting will be hosted by Sergio J-M, as we learn all about palms and other tropicals that thrive in the North Texas climate. September is also time for the Alan Ross Freedom Parade and Lee Park Festival. The RGC will again host a booth at the park where we will be providing information about the club, signing up new members, and selling tickets for our upcoming Garden Tour in October.

Speaking of the garden tour, things are really taking shape as we have confirmed all six tour locations featuring a variety of gardening styles, designs and plantings. There is much left to do so that this year's tour can be the rousing success we are envisioning. Please consider what you can do to help make this happen, either by assisting us in the planning, selling tickets, or volunteering to work at one of the gardens on the day of the tour. You will have the opportunity to sign up at both the August and September meetings, or drop us a line via email at info@rainbowgardenclub.com to let us know how you can help.

From cooling things off at our annual pool party to heating things up as we prepare for the busy months ahead, the Rainbow Garden Club needs each of you to get involved! Whether by attending one or more of our upcoming events, or by giving of your time to help support the efforts of the club, every member is vitally important to the our success. In the words of author and poet Vita Sackville-West, "The most noteworthy thing about gardeners is that they are always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied. They always look forward to doing something better than they have ever done before." Over the coming weeks and months, I encourage each of you to take some of that gardening passion we all share and turn it into positive action for the RGC!

Perennially yours,

Dennis



2009 Rainbow Garden Club Officers:

Dennis H ~ President

~ Vice President

Tony M ~ Secretary

Shannon W ~ Treasurer

Todd S ~ Membership Chair

Don K ~ Newsletter Editor





Garden Tour 2009 ~ Update

Oh my goodness have we got six gorgeous confirmations for this year's tour?! Plans for our second annual garden tour are taking shape and it's looking really exciting. The date for our garden tour is Saturday, October 3rd. Put it on your calendar. Ticket information and locations will be announced soon.

The tour will wind its way through East Dallas; primarily the White Rock Lake area. Our members' gardens offer something for everyone! We are looking for help to make final preparations for the tour. Email your board members at info@rainbowgardenclub.com for information on how you can help make this year's tour an incredible event.

Make plans now to get your tickets, bring your friends and family, and come experience the beauty of these beautiful gardens!

RGC Member Birthdays for August



Happy Birthday to:

Tom D ~ 15th
Bill O ~ 22nd

Did you hear about the blond who tried to bake a birthday cake? The candles melted in the oven.

If we missed your birthday or made a mistake, please email Shannon Wyatt at Shannon-wyatt@sbcglobal.net.

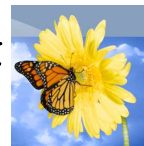
Water-gardening

Since our water-gardening speaker for last month's club meeting was absent, an article will be included in next month's newsletter providing lots of advice for planning and installing water features.

Summer Lawn Tips

When mowing, leave lawn clippings-don't bag. Many lawn mowers have a recycling feature which allows you to mow without bagging the clippings. Lawn clippings contain water and nutrients that can benefit your lawn. The result is a need for less water and fertilizer.





The Breakfast Club

The Don Ritz Memorial Garden at Ewing House looks awesome! Thanks to the guys who came out Saturday, August 1st to help with the monthly maintenance. The folks at Ewing House are so grateful and are enjoying the beautiful garden our club recreated. Come join us Saturday, September 5th for a couple of hours. It feels great to keep that garden healthy and beautiful. We begin with breakfast at 9:00a.m. The gardening begins close to 10:00 a.m. Bring your garden tools.

El Jordan Café ~ 9:00 a.m. ~ 416 N Bishop Ave, Dallas, 75208

Ewing House at 10:00 a.m. ~ 731 N Ewing Ave., Dallas, 75203

Todd Smith 214-803-0955

info@rainbowgardenclub.com



Todd, Robert, and Guinn in front of the beautiful fountain waterfall at Ewing House this past Saturday. This is a small part of the garden. Everything is so lush and green. Of course it helps that we've had a good amount of rain. But we are glad the garden we put so much hard work into in May is thriving and looking great.

The Hottest Pool Party in North Texas!



Ok, it's time to drag out that hot new swim suit, thong, or Speedo, grab the sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, and beach towel, and come on over for the hottest pool party in North Texas! This Sunday, August 9th, 2:00 p.m. at Jesse and Jeff's house. Please email them so they will know how much food and drink to have on hand. Come get wet, cool down, and enjoy the day with your favorite gardeners.

Please RSVP by sending an email to Jesse and Jeff at:

jesse_rocha@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, August 9th

Jesse and Jeff
3056 El Tovar Circle
Dallas, Texas 75233



Flowers for Texas Summers

This is an article written by Greg Grant and Jerry Parsons in 1989 after an extensive lantana trial for several years on the Verstuylt farms; the article appeared in *San Antonio Light and Express-News* newspapers. Parsons had written a similar article in June, 1987, about 'New Gold' lantana and did the first television on the variety on June 26, 1987 (televised on CBS news affiliate KENS-TV in San Antonio).

Lantana, of the vervain family Verbenaceae, consists of more than 150 species of shrubs and herbaceous perennials. Lantanas are mostly natives of the Tropics and subtropics of the Americas but some are natives of warm parts of the Old World. Their name is an ancient one used for the quite unrelated genus *Viburnum*.

Wild lantanas are hairy and often prickly-stemmed. If rubbed and bruised, their leaves usually have a pungent odor. Verbena-like flowers are formed in clusters from the leaf axils or at the ends of branches. The small, berry-like fruits contain seeds. In some regions, Texas included, lantanas grow wild as weeds, chiefly spread by birds that are very fond of their juicy fruits. The species name for the native *L. horrida*, refers to the pungent odor of the crushed leaves.



Lantana camara 'Irene'

Lantanas are very free-flowering from spring until frost. All types can be used in containers and the trailing types make excellent hanging basket specimens. Lantana has been improved in its usefulness as a bedding-plant largely through the efforts of French hybridists. The older varieties are tall and lanky and set a heavy crop of berry clusters but are showy in hot weather. The new varieties are dwarf, spreading and bushy in habit, early blooming and free-flowering, and are available in a much wider color range.

The ABSOLUTELY BEST improvement which has been made is sterilization. Several new varieties bloom profusely but NEVER form berries which normally have to be removed before more blooms will be produced. This revolutionary new development in lantanas insures that the plant will be a continuous blooming beauty. The lantana is a great landscape plant which is very adapted to this area provided they are grown in a sunny location. When established, the plants are very drought tolerant, and continue to produce bright and attractive blooms in the hottest of weather. Although a tender perennial, lantana is best used as a warm season annual, replanted each spring.

Some of the best varieties which are available from local nurseries are:

- New Gold -- bright yellow, sterile flowers, spreading habit. Weeping Lavender -- Fragrant, lavender, sterile flowers, low spreading habit
- Weeping White -- Fragrant, white, sterile flowers, low spreading habit
- Pinkie -- Pink/cream bicolor, sterile flowers on an extremely compact plant which never requires cutting back
- Texas Flame (Dallas Red, New Red) -- Orange/yellow/red tricolor blooms which turn to deep red, a compact bush. The reddest lantana available.
- Samantha (Lemon Swirl) -- Bright yellow, sterile blooms and beautiful variegated foliage on a compact bush. A beautiful plant even without blooms!



Membership Information

Our club's roots began to grow in 1992 in the gardening chat rooms of the Internet. Two local gardeners found each other and agreed that gay and lesbian gardeners should organize and utilize their talents to aid not only one another, but also our community. The organization grew and today our members represent all levels of gardening skill and knowledge and enjoy sharing their gardening skills with each other. All gardeners, from novice to master, are invited to join Rainbow Garden Club of North Texas. Annual membership dues are \$15 per household, renewable at the beginning of each new year. Dues help to pay for club activities and programs. Other fund raising events, including annual plant sales, meeting raffles and our annual home tour, help to fund community beautification projects. All current paid members have the right to vote at meetings. The Rainbow Garden Club traditionally meets on the second weekend of the month, usually on a Sunday afternoon but occasionally on a Saturday. Please check our website for up to date information on meeting dates and times.

Benefits of membership include:

- ~ Monthly Meetings
- ~ Field Trips
- ~ Educational Programs
- ~ Community Projects
- ~ Monthly Newsletter
- ~ Networking
- ~ Discounts
- ~ Food and Fellowship

To join the club, please print and complete the form below. Please provide as much information as possible so we may be able to contact you. Emails are sent to members on a regular basis to communicate club activities, events and programs. Members will receive our newsletter by email. The newsletters are also posted on our website in PDF format for anyone to download and print. You can access our website at:

<http://www.rainbowgardenclub.com/>

RGC Membership Application

Your Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Partner Name: _____ Birth 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 Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

MAIL TO: R.G.C. - Membership - P.O. Box 226811 - Dallas, TX 75222-6811

Please make your check for \$15, payable to "Rainbow Garden Club," .