



**Liberty County Master Gardener Association
Newsletter March 2005**



Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee meets the second Monday at 1:30 p.m. at the extension office to coordinate and plan the activities of the Liberty County Master Gardener Association. This meeting is open to all members of the association.

**Does your company pay for your
volunteer work?**

The Liberty County Master Gardener Association is now a 501(c) 3 organization so financial contributions can be made to it that are tax deductible. A number of companies will make a financial contribution to organizations that their employees or retirees volunteer their support to. If your company does this then please contact Sandy Gammon for information you need to get these funds for our Master Gardener Association.

**LIBERTY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER
ASSOCIATION MEETING SCHEDULE
FOR 2005**

(Third Thursday of the Month)

2005 Meeting Schedule

January 20, 11:30 a.m. – Sam Center
 February 17, 6:30 p.m. – Ext. Office, Nancy Brandli program
 March 17, 11:30 a. m. – Sam Center, Al Brandli program
 April 21, 6:30 p. m. – Ext. Office, Sandy Gammon program
 May 19, 11:30 a. m. – Sam Center, Charlott Krigar program
 June 16, 6:30 p. m. – MG Class
 July 21, 6:30 p. m. – MG Class graduation
 August 18, 6:30 p. m. – Ext. Office, Allan Barnes program

September 15, 11:30 a. m. – Sam Center, Denise Barkis program
 October 20, 6:30 p. m. – Ext. Office, Michelle Moyer program
 November 17, 11:30 a. m. – Sam Center, Paul Schmidt program
 December 15, 6: 30 p. m – Christmas Party

Please note that this year specific Master Gardeners have been assigned responsibility for the program at our meetings. You have the option of either doing the program yourself on a topic of your interest relating to any aspect of horticulture or to arrange for a speaker.

Upcoming Events for your Calendar

2005 Master Gardener Class:

- Informational Meeting May 3, 2005
- Mandatory Meeting May 31, 2005
- Classes will begin June 2, 2005
- Workday at Montgomery County is planned for June 29, 2005 (also open to interns and certified Master Gardeners.
- Graduation to be held July 28, 2005

Field Trip:

May 20, 2005 (Friday) there will be a garden tour at Barbara Lopez's place (25 acres) in Cut 'N Shoot; she sells 600 varieties of daylilies, plus perennials out of the ground and there will also be available herbs and gourd craft. Barbara is a Montgomery County Master Gardener and runs the Montgomery County Co-op. This will be a brown bag event and Barbara would like us to be there by 10 am.

Liberty County Horticulture Society

They meet the 4th Monday each month, at 11:30 at the Sam Center—brown bag lunch & speaker. Dues for that group are \$10 yearly and include a quarterly magazine from the state called The Lone Star Gardener.



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From the President:

The Executive Committee has engaged in discussions for nearly a year on how to handle the volunteer hours reporting. Bo Whittington, our chairman, has rendered service above and beyond to keep track of hours, decipher handwriting, and give proper credit when the form was not signed. Our March meeting resulted in the following decision: Each member and/or intern has until June 1, 2005 to turn in any hours for 2004 and prior. After that, all hours will be kept on an annual basis EXCEPT for the 50 hours of Community Service, which the Interns have a 12-month period following their July graduation to obtain and report. After June 1st, only 2005 hours will be accepted, and those need to be turned in by the 5th business day after the end of the month being reported (e.g., March 2005 hours would be due April 7, 2005)

This is a change, but our organization is only as good as our service. We will be re-certifying annually. **This is a requirement of 6 educational hours and 12 hours community service.** That, **AND** your annual paid dues, entitle you to be recertified. These are not difficult requirements—each Association meeting is worth one educational hour.

The State Program depends upon the counties to administer training, track classes & hours, and to report them. Both the Extension Agent and the Association President report these on an annual basis. This means that YOUR hours need to be turned on time, in a readable format.

Announcements from Dr. Doug Welch

The **Benz School of Floral Design** has set dates for Master Gardener Workshop through December 2005. The two workshops held thus far have been fabulous. Each workshop is held

twice, once Saturday and repeated Sunday. They are 6-hours, include lunch, and two floral designs to take home. The dates are:

- April 16 or 17
- June 11 or 12
- August 6 or 7
- October 8 or 9
- December 3 or 4

This link will provide more information, <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/benz/index.html>

Extension Entomology at Texas A&M University has committed once again to hosting a fun, intense and rewarding Master Gardener Specialist training in Entomology. Access the following website:

<http://insects.tamu.edu/mgtraing/>

This class will be held July 11-15, 2005

This class will be taught by John Jackman and the rest of the Entomologists.

Apr 2, 2005 - Greater East Texas Gardening Extravaganza

FEE: \$20 pre-registration/ \$30 at the door

TIME: 7:30 AM till 3:30 PM

LOCATION: Pitser Garrison Civic Center, Lufkin, Texas

SPONSER: Angelina County Extension and the Master Gardeners

PROGRAM: Steve Bender - Senior Writer for Southern Living Magazine

Greg Grant - noted author, educator, & researcher

Brenda Beust Smith - the Houston Chronicle's "Lazy Gardener"

Dr Jerry Parsons - Professor & Vegetable Specialist at Texas A&M University

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