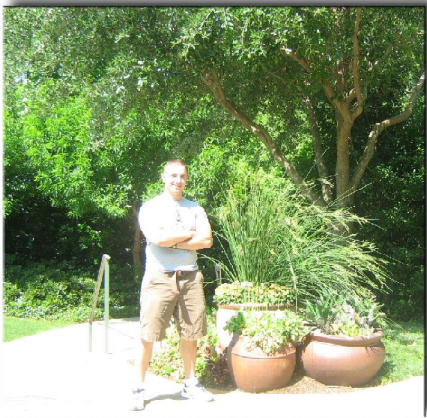


# Rino's Garden



Rino is one of our newer members, and probably our youngest. He is from the small seaside town of Rimini, Italy. Rimini is on the northeastern coast of Italy, about 100 miles south of Venice.

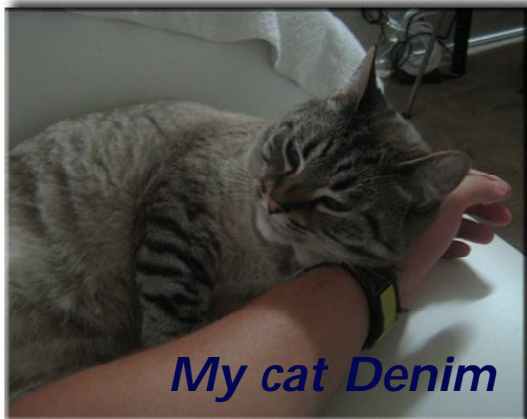
Rino moved to Dallas in December, 2006 to attend the University of Texas, Arlington. He is close to completing his bachelors degree in accounting and will then go on to get his masters. He has an infectious smile and a vivacious approach to life.

Rino met his partner Todd after moving here. Rino says, "He is the most helpful and compassionate person I have ever met."



Rino and Todd

(The remainder of this narrative is in Rino's own words [with some minor editing]).



I am from the seaside Italian town of Rimini. I always thought Rimini was a mix between Galveston and Miami. There are long sandy beaches that extend for miles and miles and have thousands of shops and bars all along the coastal road. This is where crowds of young Italians and foreigners (mostly Eastern Europeans) gather to party during summer.

My mother loves growing plants. Even if she is exhausted from working all day, she is not happy until she has watered the plants all around

the house. She is also good at selecting plants that thrive in the climate of Rimini. That is why every time I go see my parents for Christmas, I always ask my mom to give me cuttings that I can add to my planter!



I moved to Dallas in December 2006. I quit my job at an accounting firm near my home town to go back to school. I decided to study abroad because I wanted to learn English beyond what they teach in textbooks in Italy.

I am currently a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington. I will continue my education here until I receive my master's in accounting and eventually a CPA certification.



I built and painted the planter that is in front of the patio at my apartment. Todd helped me set it up and plant the first flowers!

This summer has been hard on my garden. I had 6 Hellebores that I was growing in the container and only one survived after the month of August. I also had some Impatiens that I grew from seed. They became rather ugly by the beginning of summer, probably because they were not a variety suitable for Texas.

The perennial plants that really made me happy were evergreen violets (*Viola odorata*), Bergenia, (or Pigsquick) (*Bergenia cordifolia*), Japanese Maple, Japanese Anemones, but most of all, Chinese Foxglove (*Rehmannia Elata*), an evergreen plant that thrives in poor light condition. It is in front of my patio. It produces beautiful pink trumpet flowers almost all year long!



I recently planted two hardy Gardenias. They seem to be doing well so far. I will see how hardy they are as they go through this coming winter. Meanwhile, I intend to plant fall-blooming bulbs such as *Crocus speciosus* and *Crocus zonatus*, and a big load of spring daffodils, hyacinths and crocus.

