

March meeting set for Sunday, March 9th - 2 PM Become a Pro at Container gardening!

Join us for the fun and interactive session on Container Gardening! Learn all about the basics of growing plants in containers. Tim Thompson of Brumley Gardens will lead a session that will cover such topics as:

- The best container for the type of plants
- Soil mixtures, drainage and plant care
- Arranging the plants for an attractive container garden

Tim will assign teams of 3-4 members each.

Each team will then proceed to do its own container. Each container will be judged. Plus the containers will be auctioned as a fundraiser for the club.

Brumley Gardens is a full service nursery, gift shop and landscaping company. It is located at 10540 Church Rd., Dallas, TX 75238. Brumleys is described by a reviewer on Gardens.com as "small but nice with a good selection of annuals, perennials and shrubs. They also carry a good selection of pots, garden accessories and unusual and unique gifts.



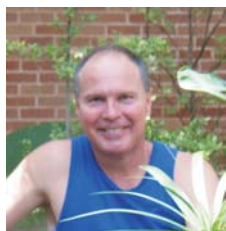
Brumley Gardens

Prices are reasonable, and staff is very helpful and knowledgeable."

You can visit our website at www.rainbowgardenclub.com to
article continued on page 2...

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
NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE SHADY GARDEN
June 8
Don & Patrick
XERISCAPE LANDSCAPING
July 13
Ron & Kim
PRACTICAL PERENNIALS
August 10
Jessee & Jeff
SWIM PARTY
Sept 14
Jeffrey & Tim
SOUTHWEST STYLE GARDEN
Oct 12
Chris Henderson
TREE PLANTING
Nov 9
Shannon Wyatt
ACID LOVING PLANTS
Dec 14
Jon Papp
CHRISTMAS PARTY



From the President Tom Forsyth

Our club has had a great start to 2008! We had 17 members attend our January meeting and 14 who attended our February

meeting! In February, we gathered at the greenhouse of the Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park and learned how to start our own plants at home from Randy Johnson, Director of Horticulture at the Gardens. Randy gave us a full hour presentation on how to propagate plants from

cuttings and how to best germinate plants from seeds. Members were given quite a learning session! Randy was engaging, passionate and humorous! Randy demonstrated how everything is inter-connected in the plant and animal worlds. He even got into a fascinating discussion about the role of butterflies in the natural cycle. Randy also told us a lot about finding native plants in the few natural prairie habitats that remain in North Texas. He has even offered to host our club on a tour of a native prairie site during the early spring! Stay tuned for further details on this outing!

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March meeting.... Brumley Gardens

find out more about our club. Please RSVP your plans to attend this meeting by sending an email to info@rainbowgardenclub.com.

Directions - Brumley Gardens is located just off the intersection of Church St. and LBJ Freeway. Go east of Central Expressway on 635 and exit Church St. Take a left and Brumley Gardens will be immediately in front of you! For more information (or better directions!), you can contact:

Tim Thompson
Brumley Gardens
(214) 343-4900
Email to: birdman1@aol.com

www.brumleygardens.com

Texas Discovery Gardens... Workshops Planned

Learn to 'think green' at the Conservation in Action Community Fair

Sat. March 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FREE family event

Going green can be fun for the whole family at the annual Conservation in Action community fair. The City of Dallas Environmental Education Initiative and the University of North Texas will have giveaways, crafts, games and more. Kids will learn about water conservation and recycling as they follow an interactive map adventure at Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park. The first 500 visitors will receive FREE T-shirts, canvas bags, hotdogs, popcorn, bottled water and much, much more!

Kids can run off excess energy with a litter walk and recycling relay. Families can interact at more than 20 hands-on water conservation and recycling stations. Guided garden walks start at the Shade Garden every hour on the half-hour. Soils Alive presents a talk on composting at 11 a.m. Preservation Tree Service will demonstrate tree climbing and put on a Tree Detectives program at 10 a.m. and noon.

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From the President - Tom Forsyth

We will continue our programs for 2008 with a visit to the Brumley Garden Center, a gay-owned business located in North Dallas (see article in this newsletter for more details). We had met owner Chris Brumley at Anthony Klatt's program on Rose Gardening in 2007 and he had extended an invitation to host an RGC meeting for us this year.

The program at Brumleys will be an interactive session on Container Gardening. Tim Thompson from the staff at Brumleys will give us the entire do's and don'ts for successful gardening in containers. He'll tell us about selecting the right pots for the plants, the best soil mixtures to use and even show us how to arrange the plants! Tim plans to organize our members into teams and have each team put together a container garden from scratch! We will then judge the containers done by each team and then auction off these creations as a fundraiser for the club!

Our programs for 2008 will continue with an emphasis on hands-on sessions and programs on native plants for Texas. We have Dallas County Master Gardeners giving presentations this year on Native Plants for Texas, Native Plants for the Shady Garden, Practical Perennial Gardening and Southwest Style Gardens. Other meeting programs planned for 2008 will be on Xeriscape Gardening and Tree Planting.

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 also be active in the local community this year. In addition to returning to the Oak Cliff Earth Day Celebration in April, we also plan to have an exhibit at the Lee Park Celebration after the Gay Pride Parade in September. Our club is planning volunteer efforts to plant a garden at the Oak Cliff MCC church and to help with the efforts of the Oak Cliff Community Gardens project. We hope you will join us to help in all of these activities!

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!

Tom

Notes from Stan's Garden.... The fantastic Muscari!

This month, I want to share with you an article about a plant that you should see blooming during the month of March in public and private gardens - the muscari (also known as grape hyacinth):

Muscari

If you're looking for hardy, no-care, "Plant and Forget" spring flowering bulbs, look no further - load up on **Muscari**. These bulbs are so winter hardy and easy to grow that no garden should be without them.

There are about 30 different species of Muscari, but only 4 or 5 are widely available. Best known are the **Muscari armeniacum** or, as they are more commonly known, **Grape Hyacinths**. They are so named because their clusters of small, bell-shaped, cobalt-blue flowers look like clusters of upside-down grapes.

There is a famous planting of them at the Keukenhof Gardens in Holland which is known as the **Blue River**.

This is a dense planting of *Muscari armeniacum* that winds through the Gardens, past trees, shrubs, and other spring flowers. Year after year, this is one of the most photographed scenes in this park. Try planting a large drift of *Muscari armeniacum* in your garden for a similar effect.

An additional benefit is that all Muscari have a lovely **fragrance**. The more you plant, the more fragrance you get.

Other, cultivated varieties of *Muscari armeniacum* come in different shades of blue, and one variety

comes in white. Different species of Muscari provide additional variety in terms of color and form: **Muscari aureum** has a somewhat more open and less "grapey" look, **Muscari latifolium** is two-toned: light and dark blue, and **Muscari plumosum** is feathery and mauve in color.

In terms of their care:

- all species' bulbs should be planted at least 3" (8 cm) deep, in a location where the water can't settle in winter
- plant bulbs in zones 3 - 9, except for *M. latifolium* which prefers zones 2 to 5



All species will **naturalize** extremely easily (i.e. come back year after year and gradually multiply); that is, unless you plant them in completely sunless or swamp-like conditions!

Muscari are all-round flowers: they are excellent as cut flowers, when planted in rock gardens, beds, borders, under shrubs, and trees, and can be used for indoor forcing.

Type this link into your browser to read the article on Muscari and to look at some photos:

http://www.theplantexpert.com/spring_bulbs/Muscari.html

- R.G.C. 2008 OFFICERS -

President - Tom Forsyth

Vice President - Dennis Hein

Treasurer - Shannon Wyatt

Secretary - Jon Papp

Newsletter Editor - Anthony Klatt

Spring blooming bulbs...

Iris, Onions, Anemone Put on a Show in Spring

For a showy garden in Spring, that will come back year after year, consider these bulbs that will flower in March or in early April.

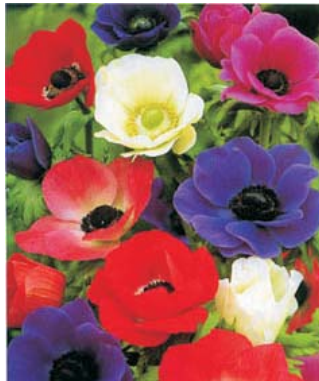
Iris (*Iris* sp.): The small yellow Danford Iris (*I. danfordiae*) and the blue *Iris reticulata* are beautiful, early, jewellike flowers. They bloom on 6-inch stems in early spring. Dutch iris (*I.x hollandica*) grow to 20 inches tall and thrive in soil that becomes dry and warm in summer. The flowers have an elegant, airy form. They are available in several shades of blue, white, purple and yellow.



Ornamental Onions (*Allium* species): These beautiful relatives of onions have small flowers in globular clusters that range from just an inch wide to over 8 inches across. The flower colors range from white to bright yellow, lavender, blue and deep magenta. Some are less than a foot tall, while others can grow to 4 feet tall or even more. Some of the best alliums for the South are the Naples onion (*A. neopolitanum*), the drumstick allium (*A. sphaerocephalon*), *Allium ostrowkianum* and the star of Persia (*A. christophii*). All bloom in late spring.



Anemone (*Anemone* species): The two anemones commonly grown from bulbs (actually small tubers) are Grecian windflowers (*Anemone blanda*) and poppy anemones (*Anemone coronaria*). The low-growing, early-blooming windflowers are blue, white or pink.



Poppy anemones have larger crimson, violet, pink or white flowers. They may need to be replanted every few



years since the foliage emerges in fall and is sensitive to hard freezing. Soak anemone tubers

overnight before planting. The Anemone is also known as the 'windflower', as the large petals catch the slightest breeze and pivot left to right on its long thick stems. The blooms are always a colorful surprise when planted in groups in the flower garden. In the garden they bloom for several months and as a cut flower the individual stems will last for 7 to 10 days.

Spanish Bluebell (*Endymion hispanica*): This is a late spring-flowering bulb for naturalizing in woody areas. It bears tall flower spikes of blue, pink or white. This species will thrive throughout Texas

Hyacinths

Few flowers can surpass the extensive color range and fragrance of hyacinths. Hyacinths can be left in the ground to multiply, but flower size will decline as the bulbs multiply. If you want to have large flowers every year, dig the bulbs after the leaves wither and store to replant, or purchase new bulbs each fall. Roman hyacinths (*H. orientalis albulus*) have smaller flowers but are more persistent.



Hyacinths will need six to eight weeks of refrigeration in order to bloom in coastal areas. Wait to plant hyacinths until the soil temperature stays below 60 °F. This could be late October or November to late December or early January in Texas. Plant hyacinth bulbs in full sun 3 to 6 inches apart 4 to 6 inches deep.

Plant Ahead for Dallas Arboretum Event... Mid April Brings \$1 Plants at Annual Plant Sale

Once a year, the green thumbed public has a chance to buy some of the most beautiful plants proven to thrive in the North Texas area when the Dallas Arboretum hosts its 5th annual plant sale on Saturday, April 19- 8am to 5pm and Sunday, April 20- 8am to 12pm. For those looking to spring into the new season and get their gardening gloves on a little earlier, there will be a member preview sale on Friday, April 18- 5:30pm to 8pm

From full sun to deepest shade or annual to perennial there will be something for every gardener at this plant sale. Many of these plants have been chosen by Jimmy Turner based on the results from the Plant Trials and the display gardens at the Arboretum. As those who have attended in the past can attest, you never know what neat, new and rare plant might show up for sale!

"There is one chance a year to buy the neat and rare, as well as the tried and true," said Turner. "And even though we buy a lot, there is never enough!"

With over 23,000 plants on site for sale, there will be something for everyone, including some of the most gorgeous perennials, succulents, and summer annuals. There are also tropical and rare plants for the seasoned horticulturalist

With some plants starting from \$1 up, it doesn't cost a lot of "green" to get something beautiful that will be enjoyed for many years to come.

MARCH 08 BIRTHDAYS

Jesse Rochar - March 2nd
John Papp - March 19th

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

Texas Discovery Gardens... Workshops Planned

Workshop: Creating a Beautiful Easy Care EarthKind™ Landscape

March 15, 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

\$20 in advance for members, \$25 in advance for non-members; \$30 at the door

Dr. Steve George will lead a workshop on proper care for EarthKind™ roses. Learn how to manage your landscape in harmony with Mother Nature by following the research-based principles of Texas AgriLife Extension Service's exciting EarthKind™ system. We will cover EarthKind™ environmental soil management (including expanded shale and living mulches), new EarthKind™ fertilizers for turf, EarthKind™ irrigation techniques, and how to select the best landscape plants, including the newest beautiful easy-care EarthKind™ roses. This class will feature a tour of an actual EarthKind™ rose demonstration garden in Fair Park. To register, call (214) 428-7476 ext. 23 or visit their website.

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.

If you want to assist with the booth, don't be bashful. Send an email to that effect to the RGC email address:

info@rainbowgardenclub.com



Dallas City Council Approves \$4.7 Million Bond... Butterfly House Coming to TX Discovery Gardens

The Dallas City Council in February approved \$4.7 million in bond funds to complete construction of Texas Discovery Gardens' Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium.

Construction for this exciting Fair Park facility will begin in March 2008 by Phoenix I Restoration and Construction, Ltd., a company well known for historic restoration and construction projects both in Fair Park and throughout Texas.

The existing Texas Discovery Gardens conservatory will complete its metamorphosis into the Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium, an attraction filled with more than 100 species of free-flying tropical butterflies. Encompassing more than 230,000 cubic feet, the Sammons Butterfly House will be one of the largest year-round live butterfly exhibits in the world.

Visitors will enter onto the second floor, eye level with the tree tops. They will then walk down a winding ramp through a vibrant rainforest complete with tropical vines, trees, exotic flowers and captivating carnivorous plants. A path at the forest floor will lead through exhibits featuring water insects and life at the soil level. The experience culminates with the pupae emergence chambers, where butterflies will leave their chrysalis and get ready for their new life in the Butterfly House.

Another exciting addition will be the EarthKeepers® Children's Classroom, an

interactive space for students to take research inside with microscopes, slides, computers and scientific equipment. The classroom will also serve as a space for adult workshops, allowing the Gardens to expand its weekend programs.

The construction project's original keystone gift of \$3.5 million (held in trust by the Rosine Foundation Fund of Communities Foundation of Texas) was given by Mary Anne Cree in honor of her mother, Rosine Smith Sammons, who was a butterfly enthusiast. Other major donors are the Woodall Foundation, the Hillcrest Foundation, Hoblitzelle Foundation, Meadows Foundation, Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation, Fidelity Foundation, Jonsson Foundation, and the Harold Simmons Foundation.

Texas Discovery Gardens is scheduled to complete hard construction by winter of 2008 and unveil the Sammons Butterfly House in 2009. The Gardens will raise an additional \$2.5 million for educational environmental exhibits in the lobby, audio visual displays and a "Life in the Soil" Discovery Gallery filled with interactive displays, insect kiosks, action videos and "crawl through" experiences for children. For more information on how to be involved, contact Melissa Martin at (214) 428-7476 ext. 25 or

mmartin@texasdiscoverygardens.org.



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 Phone: _____ 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