

Learning Excursions

Les Reeves Lecture Series

Usually held on the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in Room 110 of the Agriculture Building located on Wilson Drive on the Stephen F. Austin State University campus. Free plant raffle following the lecture. The Les Reeves Lecture Series is made possible through the Les Reeves Memorial Fund. Sponsors include King's Nursery, Haden Edwards Inn, Llano Grande Plantation, and the SFA Mast Arboretum Volunteers.

2003

November 20: Maarten Van der Giessen, Van der Giessen's Nursery, Mobile, AL, "Boutique Azalea Hybrids for the South."

December 18: David Creech, SFA Mast Arboretum Director, "Twenty Plants You Shouldn't Live Without."

2004

January 15: Greg Grant, Arcadia plantsman, "My Plants are the Laughing Stock: Humor in the Garden."

February 19: Jill Nokes, landscape designer and authoress, Austin, TX, "Natives That Work for You!"

March (Date to be announced): Todd Laseigne, JC Raulston Arboretum, North Carolina, "Plants and PhDs: Do They Really Make Sense?"

April 15: Brent Marable, Tree Introductions, Georgia, "You're Gonna Pay for a Clonal Oak Whether You Buy One or Not!"

May 20: Jimmy Turner, Dallas Arboretum, "Behind the Scenes at Dallas Blooms."

June 17: Keith Hansen, Tyler Extension Horticulturist, "The Idea Garden Comes of Age."

July 15: George Hull, Mountain States Nursery, Phoenix, AZ, "Report From Hell: You Know, There Really Is a Point to Agaves in the Landscape."

August 19: Aubrey King, King's Nursery, Tenaha, TX, "Don't Tell Me to Get Out of My Rut—I Like It Here!"

September 16: Dawn Parish, SFA Mast Arboretum, "Ginger and Spice and Other Things Nice."

October 21: Ted Stephens, Nursery Caroliniana, South Carolina, "Wow! Have You Seen That Weeping, Contorted, Variegated, Red-Flowered Grancy Gray Beard Run By Here?"

November 18: Jim Berry, PDSI, Alabama, "Tomorrow's Plants Today."

December 16: Dave Creech, SFA Mast Arboretum, "End of the Year Review."

Garden Seminars

To register, contact Elyce at 936-468-1832 or by email erodewald@sfasu.edu

November 1, 2003: Raised Dead Gardening with Greg Grant. Yes, he's BACK! On his birthday, Greg will talk about growing and decorating with traditional plants and flowers both at home and in the cemetery. He will discuss the customs associated with All Hallows' Eve and Halloween (October 31), All Saint's Day (November 1) and All Soul's Day/Day of the Dead (November 2). In addition to information on sacrificial burning of plastic flowers, Greg will detail the ups and downs of growing REAL plants in the cemetery (must everything in there be dead?). Learn about tough cemetery plants that are knock-outs in residential, school, and business landscapes. This seminar is one to die for. Raised Dead Gardening will be held in Room 110 of the Agriculture Building from 9 a.m.-Noon. \$15.00

February 28, 2004: East Texas Jonquil Jubilee Tour with Greg Grant. We will return to Arcadia, TX for another popular garden tour—this time to relish in the magnificent display of our different naturalized Narcissus. Before the tour, Greg will present a lecture on identifying and growing the best spring bulbs for East Texas. Afterwards Greg will show us his little heirloom bulb farm and take us on a tour of his garden. Meet at the Agriculture Building on Wilson Drive. Transportation provided. Be prepared for late winter weather. Tours offered from 9 a.m.-Noon and from 1:30-4:30 p.m. \$20.00.

Mark your Calendars!

April 17, 2004—Garden Gala

October 5, 2004—Fabulous Fall Festival



SFA Mast Arboretum News Fall 2003

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Monstrous Beauties New to the Daylily Garden

If you haven't visited the Arboretum recently, make a point to stop by in the next week before the weather turns chilly. There is a new plant growing in the Daylily Garden's water feature that you won't want to miss! The monstrous beauty growing there is the giant Longwood Hybrid Victoria Lily. Victoria water lilies with their 5'-8' diameter leaves are native to the Amazon River system of South America where they are known as "*Yrupe*." "*Y*" meaning water, and "*rupe*" meaning big tray. The Victoria 'Longwood Hybrid' is a cross between *Victoria amazonica* and *Victoria cruziana*. The underside of the large leaves and stems of the Victorias are covered with spines, presumably to protect the plant from predation.

In the native habitat, the night-blooming Victoria lilies are pollinated by a beetle. This presents a challenge to gardeners in other parts of the world who wish to propagate the lily. Nathan Unclebach, SFA horticulture student and lily caretaker, explains that the anthers from a flower blooming on the second night must be collected and saved to pollinate a flower that opens for the first time. Flowers blooming on the first night are white, while second and third-night blooming flowers change to a deeper purple. Culture becomes even more complicated after pollination occurs. Seeds must be collected, scarified, and kept in fresh water in an aquarium at a constant temperature. Seeds can take from three weeks to three months to germinate and germination rates vary widely. The young plants that sprout in the aquarium are gradually put into larger containers until they are ready for the outdoor water garden

in 40-200 gallon plastic buckets. Victoria lilies are annuals and prefer to grow in water above 70 °F.

When asked his thoughts on the Victorias, Nathan responded, "They're monsters, but their fragrance is amazing. When you smell the lily, you just can't get enough of the incredible fragrance." If you would like to catch the heavenly scent, try visiting the garden around 9:30 or 10:00 p.m. (By the way, Nathan took a lead role in renovating the water feature in the Daylily Garden, and he is still searching for the perfect, sophisticated sculpture to complement the water feature. No gnomes, please!)

The Victoria lilies were donated to the Arboretum by John Cash, owner of Exotic Plant Nursery in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. Cash specializes in aquatic plants.



The Victoria lilies share the water garden with two hardy water lilies and a distant tropical cousin from China, the thorned waterlily, *Euryale ferox*.

Fern Garden Stumpery

By Roger Hughes

In the early eighteen hundreds in England where rocks were scarce, stumps were used in gardens in place of rocks. These were called “Stumperies.” Stumps were dug in the forest and planted up side-down in the gardens. The type, size and shape of the stumps were considered in the design to create texture, structure and dimension.

When the Prince of Wales purchased Highgrave about twenty-five years ago he incorporated a Stumpery in his garden. He requested that it be planted with ferns, hellebores and hostas. The tall plants were placed around the larger stumps and allowed to grow up through the roots.

In a woodland garden this creates a beautiful backdrop when the fern fronds intermingle with the various shades of brown and the rough shape of the roots. With this in mind we decided to build a stumpery in the fern garden at the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden.

The new stumpery in the Azalea Garden is on schedule. The water system and sprinkling heads have been tested and are ready to go. All of the dirt work and setting the stumps in place is completed. A six-inch layer of mulch has been added and worked into the top layer of soil.

All of the two hundred and fifty plants now planted in the Stumpery have been donated. Some of the plants came from as far away as Birmingham, Alabama. These were donated by Sarah & Ralph Johnson. Both Sarah and Ralph are very active volunteers at the Birmingham Botanical Garden. Besides volunteering, they enjoy growing ferns from spores. Another very nice donation came from Mary Elliott in Ponchatoula, Louisiana. Mary is the owner and operator of Fronderosa, which sells wholesale landscape ferns and plants for the gulf south. She has a large collection of ferns plus a big variety of shade loving plants. Roger and Shirley Hughes donated the balance of the plants. The following is a list of the plants that have been planted:

Acer japonicum ‘Giant Leaf’
Adiantum capillus-veneris
Adiantum hispidulum
Adiantum raddianum ‘Fragrans’
Adiantum tenerum ‘Scutum Rose’
Amorphophallus
Amorphophallus
Arisaema triphyllum
Cyrtomium falcatum
Dryopteris erythrosora
Dryopteris kuratae
Dryopteris ludoviciana
Dryopteris namegatae
Dryopteris stewartii
Dryopteris X australis
Galium odoratum
Hosta ‘Blue Angle’
Hosta ‘Blue Cadet’
Hosta ‘So Sweet’
Onoclea sensibilis
Onychium japonicum
Osmunda cinnamomea
Osmunda regalis
Pellaea
Pinellea cordata
Pinellea pedatisecta
Pinellea tripartite
Polystichum polyblepharum
Pteris actinopteroides
Pteris cretica ‘Mayii’
Pteris cretica ‘Rowerii’
Pteris ensiformis ‘Evergemiensis’
Pteris vittata
Saxifraga stolonifera
Selaginella ‘Wordoff’

We are working on creating more shade for the south edge of the Stumpery. We want to reduce the hot midday sun. Moving a few plants and planting two fast-growing trees should solve this problem.

The Hardy Fern Foundation Satellite Garden is doing very well in its new location. The 2003 shipment of ferns from the HFF will be shipped October 13.

We will be changing our signage in both the HFF Satellite Garden and the Stumpery, so we will be consistent with the Azalea Garden.

Fall Fandango

Picture perfect weather and a full moon graced the first Fall Fandango honoring 2003 Friends of the Arboretum members. This elegant evening of delicious food, heavenly jazz, and extraordinary company was created by a host of volunteers guided by Carol Moore. Special thanks to Josie Crowson, Sherrie Randall, Gayla Mize, Mary Louise Jobe, Bill Jobe, Heinz Gaylord, Rachel Emrick, and, of course Carol Moore!

Win Day Honeybee Observation Hive Dedicated

On August 21, 2003, the honeybee observation hive located in the Mast Arboretum was named in memory of Winthrop “Win” Day. Mr. Day was instrumental in bringing the hive to SFA. He worked patiently and enthusiastically with SFA administrators, contributors from Eastman Chemical in Longview, and the East Texas Beekeepers to ensure that the hive would become a reality. Since the hive’s construction, thousands of children and adults have been introduced “up close and personal” to honeybees, their importance as pollinators, and their fascinating biology and behavior. Over 85 friends, beekeeping colleagues, Arboretum volunteers, and family members attended the dedication, including his wife, Alberta; daughter, Cynthia Bird; granddaughter, Molly Bird; and great-granddaughter, Cheyenne Watson. Marcie Nelson presented a plaque to Dr. David Creech with a photograph of Win in his beekeeper’s suit and the inscription: In Memory of Winthrop “Win” Day beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather, and Friend dedicated to the art of apiary education for children and adults and the love and appreciation of bees. His gentle spirit and kindness will be remembered.



Win Day shared his time and enthusiasm for bees and beekeeping freely with staff, students, volunteers, and thousands of school children who visited the SFA Mast Arboretum.

SFA Completes Universally Accessible Trail

Thousands of azalea blooms, Japanese maples, and other spring ornamentals attract hundreds of visitors each spring to the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. Garden officials are hoping that that recently improved trails will attract even more visitors.

The trails now meet Americans with Disability Act standards through a joint effort by SFA Disability Services, the Physical Plant, and the SFA Mast Arboretum to pave a 5-foot-wide path of asphalt along the entire 1.25 mile trail network.

In addition to making navigation of the trails easier for visitors with physical challenges, the garden is more user-friendly for bikers, joggers, walkers, and families with children in strollers.

“What I like about this project is that it is a vast improvement for everybody, not just those with special needs,” said Michael Stevenson, chairman of the Nacogdoches Mayor’s Committee for People with Disabilities.

A new parking area located at the west side of the garden is marked for handicapped parking and unloading. One-way access to this parking area is by way of the road down the middle of the garden, named “Axes Promenade.”

“Now the garden is ready for all visitors,” said Dr. David Creech, Mast Arboretum director, “just in time for camellia season which begins in October!”

Special thanks to our 2003 Fall Fandango Sponsors!

Doremus Nursery, Warren
Earth and Stone, Lufkin
David Kolb Excavating, Nacogdoches
Trees USA, Lindale
East Texas Pinestraw, Lufkin