

ENCHANTED

NURSERIES & LANDSCAPES

2 0 0 7 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

ENCHANTED FOREST
10611 FM 2759
RICHMOND, TX 77469
281-937-9449

ENCHANTED GARDENS
6420 FM 359
RICHMOND, TX 77469
281-341-1206

Enchanted Moments



Here Comes Peter Cottontail!

Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunts! There will be a grand prize and lots of little prizes for our gardening buddies. Bring your children for a fun-filled time. (Age limit 10 years and under.) Refreshments will be served and the Easter Bunny will be visiting!

Enchanted Gardens:
Saturday April 7, 2007 10:00 a.m.

Enchanted Forest:
Saturday April 7, 2007 2:00 p.m.

Spring Memories & Traditions

Some lovely traditions just seem to disappear without a trace. In my school days, the coming of Spring meant great anticipation and excitement.

Every grade school child participated in the "May Fete" - a celebration of the glorious season. Each grade studied and performed a traditional dance. Many nations were represented and costumes were as authentic as possible. One class may have been assigned the polka, another an American square dance, or a historic minuet.

The minuet was, as we would say today, "over the top!" Our mothers struggled making "powdered wigs" out of bandage cotton, complete with curls and black-ribboned pig-tails for the boys. The girls wore long ruffled colonial dresses and the boys waistcoats, knee pants and buckled shoes. The girls Loved their costumes - the boys not so much!

Fifth graders were to be envied - they had the privilege of "wrapping the Maypole."

Each Maypole dancer gently holds a fabric streamer attached to a tall central pole. Through the dance, the colorful streamers are woven about the pole in a soft pattern. It was a moment of magic, children and adults alike caught up in the music and dance. I know we all realized what cooperation can accomplish. Teachers, parents, and children working together, neighbors cutting their roses, daisies and sweet peas, transforming a football field into a spring garden worthy of a celebration or "fete."

Some traditions, seemingly "old-fashioned", are somehow comforting and I promise that the "dancers" were oh-so-glad that they were there.

Create some traditions with your family, friends or neighbors this Spring! Celebrate the beauty that surrounds us. Someday we may look back at these as the most lovely of days.

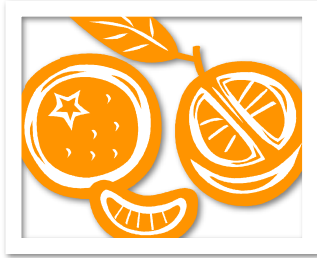
---Betty

"Let no one come to you without leaving better and happier."

- Mother Teresa

Fresh Fruit

Stepping out your back door and picking fresh fruit may sound like something only a lucky few living in an orchard or on a tropical isle may get to do, but think again...here on the Gulf Coast we can grow many varieties of fruit and even some in a pot on our patio! Check out some that our nurseries will have available:



Citrus-

Satsumas- Miho, Seto, Kimbrough and Brown Select. All are cold-hardy; thin skinned with few seeds and have excellent flavor; Most ripen around Thanksgiving while Brown select ripens a bit earlier than the others in mid-October to early November. The trees may differ slightly in leaf appearance or structure but they all produce awesome fruit. Dwarf varieties are more suited to containers.

Improved Meyer Lemon - Excellent for containers. One of the hardiest and easiest to grow. Actually a cross between a sweet orange and a lemon. Bears very juicy, sweet fruit year-round at an early age.

Bloom Sweet Grapefruit - Cross between a Pummelo and a sour orange; thin skinned, very juicy and sweet; Ripens Nov./ Dec.. Good moderate freeze tolerance. YUMMY!!

Mexican Lime (Key Lime) - Good in containers or in the ground, reaches 10 to 12'; protect if below freezing. Produces throughout the year.

Fruit Trees

All of the following fruit trees need to be planted in the ground with full sun. They are chosen for our region largely based on the low number of "chill hours" required during the winter. All but the apple trees are self-pollinating and can be planted individually. Two apple trees are needed for good pollination and fruit production.

'Celeste' Fig; 'Asian' and 'Kieffer" Pears; 'Sam Houston' and 'Florida King' Peaches; 'Methely" Plums; 'Anna' and 'Golden Dorsett' Apples.

Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits-

In addition, we will be carrying some tropical and sub-tropical fruit trees. Some of these may require protection if the winter weather is particularly cold but will develop more cold tolerance as they mature. We have chosen the best varieties for our area and many are suited to containers. All produce delicious tropical tasting fruit and love sunshine.

Mangos, Papayas, Carambola (Star Fruit), Dragon Fruit, Guava, Avocado and Barbados Cherry.

NEW AT THE FOREST

New at the Forest-We have been busy this winter despite all of those rainy days! You might notice a new configuration in the gift shop so that we can offer two check-out areas during busy times – one inside and one outside ... Yeah!!!! (This should really help speed things up, though you are always so patient!) In addition, you will find a new gazebo and a cute little purple building that is to become "The Garden Shed." It will soon be filled with everything a gardener could desire... tools, gloves, baskets, birdhouses and feeders and lots of fun stuff. We are looking forward to a fun Spring and hope to seeing our old friends!

New Greenhouses

Be sure to check out our new retail greenhouses at both Enchanted Gardens and Enchanted Forest. They are soon to be filled with a variety of orchids, bromeliads, succulents, cactus and a few surprises. Visit these beauties, gathered especially for your enjoyment.

Margarita Shrimp

Marinade:

1/4 cup tequila
1 Tbsp finely chopped parsley
2 Tbsp lime juice
2 Tbsp oil
1 Tbsp honey
1 tsp grated orange peel
1/2 tsp hot pepper sauce

Kabobs:

24 (1 1/2 lbs) large, fresh shrimp, shelled, tails left on, deveined
2 medium limes

In large (non-metal) bowl or plastic bag, combine all marinade ingredients; blend well. Add shrimp; turn to coat. Cover dish or seal bag; refrigerate 1 to 3 hours.

Heat grill. Let shrimp stand at room temperature 30 minutes. Cut limes into 1/2 inch slices and cut slices into fourths to make 18 pieces. When ready to barbecue, drain shrimp, reserving marinade. On each of six metal skewers alternate shrimp and lime pieces. Oil grill rack. Cook 6 to 10 minutes or until shrimp turn pink, turning once and brushing frequently with marinade. 6 servings

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves."

- Mahatma Gandhi

Two Enchanted Spring Events & You're Invited!



Mardi Gras in the Garden

When: Saturday March 24, 2007 10:30 - 3:00

Where: Enchanted Gardens 6720 FM 359 Richmond 281-371-1206

What: A fun-filled day with family and friends! Come celebrate a belated Mardi Gras in the gardens - live Zydeco music by Big Red, petting zoo, crafts, refreshments and interesting speakers.

10:30 Texas Snake Man 11:30 Favorite New Finds with Betty 12:30 Plant Stand Demo

Fiesta at the Forest

When: Saturday April 21, 2007 10:30 - 3:00

Where: Enchanted Forest 10611 FM 2759 Richmond 281-937-9449

What: Spring is here and we are ready for another Fiesta! Come join in the festivities - Live Latin Music by Ramon Torres, petting zoo, crafts, refreshments and entertaining speakers.

10:30 Texas Snake Man 11:30 Easy Going Roses 12:30 Container Herb Gardens

OUR FAVORITE BLOOMING TREES

We are often asked about different types of blooming trees. The Crepe Myrtle always comes to mind, but there are lots of other possibilities that might have your neighbor saying "Wow!!"

Mexican Plum - Grows up to 25' tall; beautiful trunk and bark with maturity; full to part sun; white, fragrant blooms cover the tree like snow in early Spring; deciduous.

Desert Willow - May reach 25' tall; airy foliage (similar to that of a willow but not a true willow); full sun; drought tolerant; beautiful lavender/pink bell-shaped flowers late Spring to frost; deciduous.

Orchid Tree - Up to 25' tall; large papery leaves; full to part sun; Orchid-like blooms in purple or white (may occasionally find other colors) are stunning in Spring and sometimes Fall; deciduous.

Redbud Tree - Up to 25' tall; lovely heart-shaped leaves; full to part sun (good as an understory tree); beautiful pink blooms cover this tree in Spring; deciduous.

Fireman's Helmet or Coral Tree - Grows up to 20' tall; interesting trunk texture and structure; full sun; Large crimson colored spikes of flowers from spring to Fall are stunning and very attractive to humming birds; deciduous.

Texas Olive - May reach 15' tall; grayish foliage and small fruit that is attractive to birds; full sun; drought tolerant; white tubular shaped flowers which attract butterflies and humming birds; semi-evergreen.

Vitex (Texas Lilac) - Up to 20' tall; grayish foliage; full sun; drought tolerant and disease resistant; large 8 to 10" flower spikes of purple, blue, white or pink are attractive to butterflies; deciduous.

Almond Verbena - May reach 12' tall; grayish foliage with extremely FRAGRANT spikes of white blooms which are attractive to butterflies; full to part sun; drought tolerant; deciduous.

Golden Rain Tree - Fast grower that may reach 30'; Yellow blooms in the Summer with the highlight being the salmon-colored seed pods produced in the Fall; full to part sun; deciduous.

Bottle Brush - Up to 15' tall; upright or weeping varieties have grayish foliage; red "bottle-brush" type flowers Spring and Fall which are very attractive to humming birds; full sun; evergreen.

These are just some of the possibilities. Let us help you find your perfect tree!.

NEW AT THE GARDENS

The staff at Enchanted Gardens has really been "gettin'r done." You may have noticed the wonderful new pottery barn and lawn area. The barn will be filled with a large selection of pottery and will be a welcome respite from the Summer heat! They have also added on to the "little blue gift shop" and it is brimming with fabulous treasures! This is going to be a wonderful Spring...and if you see Joey make sure and ask him if he has been "gettin'r done?"

What are Buck Roses?

Griffith Buck was a professor of horticulture at Iowa State University. Back in 1949 he began a quest to create what he considered to be the "perfect" rose....one that bloomed repeatedly, was cold hardy, a "manageable" size bush, and one that did not require the use of pesticides and fungicides. Fragrance, well that would be a real bonus!

Many of his approximately 100 varieties were named after friends or for some of the rural pleasures of the 1940's and 1950's. Texas A & M University is currently testing some of Buck's collection. Here are a few that we currently carry at the nurseries and have heard rave reviews about.

Amiga Mia, April Moon, Aunt Honey, Barn Dance, Care-free Beauty (Katy Road Pink), Country Dancer, Country Man, Distant Drums, Earth Song, Herminia, Prairie Clogger, Prairie Harvest, Quietness and Serendipity.

If you enjoy roses and are looking for an easier alternative these may be just right for you!



Buck Rose - Serendipity

"A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in."

-Greek Proverb

TOMATOES AND PEPPERS... FRESH SALSA!!

Tomatoes and peppers are a must in the Spring garden. Many varieties are suitable for containers and very easy for the novice or children. Lots of sunshine is a must! Some of our favorite varieties include:

TOMATOES

Beefy Boy- 12 to 16 oz. meaty fruit with great flavor; good disease resistance.

Big Beef- 9 to 16 oz. fruit; wonderful flavor and excellent disease resistance.

Brandywine Heirloom- 1885 Amish variety with large 1 lb. pink-red fruit.

Bush Celebrity- 7 to 8 oz. fruit; outstanding performer with excellent quality and disease resistance.

Early Goliath- Very early producer with 8 oz. sweet fruits; very disease resistant with continuous production.

Grape- elongated cherry tomatoes in long clusters; heat tolerant and disease resistant.

Matt's Wild Cherry- Wild variety; 1/2" fruit; rarely bothered by disease; prolific, very sweet?

Sun Gold- Orange cherry tomatoes; VERY sweet; long clusters on vigorous plants.

Sweet Million- 1" cherry tomatoes that grow in long chains; good disease resistance; wonderful flavor; good in containers.

Yellow Pear- Miniature pear-shaped tomatoes; mild and sweet; bear later but heavily.

PEPPERS

Big Bertha- giant sweet bell pepper; matures 7" long; deep green to red.

Black Pearl- Award winner; black fruit matures to dark red; very hot; good in containers.

Carmen- Italian sweet pepper taste; early and extremely productive; as mature from green to red they become even sweeter; excellent for salads or cooked dishes.

Habanero Orange- Orange 1" fruit; blistering hot taste; fruits only in warm weather.

Hidalgo Serrano- Very hot 3" long; chiles mature turning green to red; use fresh or dried.

Jalapeno Mucho Nacho- Larger and earlier than most typical Jalapenos.

Mariachi- Award winner; perfect when you want a blast of color and just a touch of heat; compact 24" plants are good for containers; change from creamy yellow to red.

Randy Lemmon at Enchanted Forest

KTRH 740 radio host Randy Lemmon will be making an appearance at Enchanted Forest on Saturday March 10, 2007 from 11:00 to 1:00 to answer your gardening questions. There will be some give-aways and chances to win some door prizes.

GARDENING FOR WELL BEING

Gardeners may be harvesting more than we know! All of us, gardeners or not, have an affinity for nature because we are a part of it. As part of the natural world we are connected to and restored by it. Gardening is a satisfying hobby that is good not only for our plants but for our mind, body and soul.

Did you know that just walking through a garden can reduce your blood pressure? If you pick up a shovel or hoe you gain even more! Doing your gardening with some enthusiasm you can get benefits similar to walking or an aerobics class. Studies show that people who garden once a week have higher bone density than those who jog, swim, walk or do aerobics. In addition, people have been found to heal quicker with a plant in their room or even just the view of a garden through their window.

The value of gardening to our mental well-being is obvious to all of us at the nurseries. We regularly have customers tell us that just being at the nursery makes them feel better or that it fills their soul. We would like to take the credit that it is our winning personalities that make them happy but research tells us otherwise. Gardening and connecting with nature reduces stress and creates a sense of peace and serenity through our connection to the living earth. Gardening encourages social connections and sharing... of harvest, knowledge, pass-along plants and joy. Gardening creates positive emotions by stimulating all of our senses while participating in a rewarding activity.

Gardening is America's favorite hobby. Surely a worthy pastime - beauty produce by that which nourishes body and soul.



"A strange and solemn feeling came over me as I stood there with no sound but the rustle of the pines. It seemed as if I felt God as I never did before, and I prayed in my heart that I might keep that happy sense of nearness all my life."

Louisa May Alcott 12 years old

Upcoming Events - Mark Your Calendar

Saturday March 10*Randy Lemmon at the Forest*
 KTRH 740 Radio Host Randy Lemmon will be at Enchanted Forest to answer your gardening questions today. There will be give-aways and we will be grilling up hot dogs! Join us for a fun day!
Enchanted Forest 11:00 - 1:00

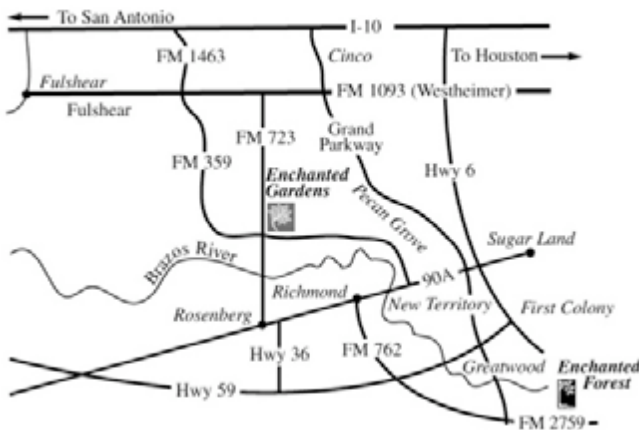
Saturday March 24*Mardi Gras in the Gardens*
 A fun-filled day for family and friends. Live Zydeco band, petting zoo, crafts, refreshments, interesting speakers and more!
 See invitation inside for details. **Enchanted Gardens 10:30 - 3:00**

Saturday April 7*Easter Egg Hunts*
 Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be prizes for our junior gardeners and their parents. Refreshments will be served and the Easter Bunny will be visiting.
Enchanted Gardens 10:00 - 11:00
Enchanted Forest 2:00 - 3:00

Saturday April 21.....*Fiesta at the Forest*
 A garden style fiesta featuring live latin music, petting zoo, crafts, refreshments and entertaining speakers. Bring your family and friends. See enclosed invitation. **Enchanted Forest 10:30 - 3:00**

Saturday May 5.....*Edible Flowers with Trixie Bond*
 This will be a really fun morning! Trixie will give you lots of good ideas for using your flowers in the kitchen and yummy samples too! Champagne will be served! Limited seats, so please call 281-937-9449 to reserve a spot.
Enchanted Forest 10:30 - 11:30

Saturday May 12.....*Mother's Day Kids Club*
 Bring in the kids to make a special craft for Mom. Meanwhile, Mom will enjoy the live music and refreshments in the gardens.
Enchanted Gardens and Enchanted Forest 11:00 - 2:00



Spring Coupon
10% Off
 purchase of \$20 or more
 Expires April 30, 2007
 Not valid with any other sales or specials.

Spring Hours
 Mon - Sat 8:30 - 5:30 ♦ Sundays 10:00 - 4:00
 Closed Easter Sunday

Enchanted Forest 10611 FM 2759 Richmond, TX 77469	Enchanted Gardens 6420 FM 359 Richmond, TX 77469
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If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletter via U.S. Mail just sign up at Enchanted Forest or Enchanted Gardens.