

The Green Thumb

January 2003

Contents

Help Needed for January Organic
Gardening Show
1

Lady Bug Book Corner
1

Tree Giveaway
1

Thanks to our Garden Show
Volunteers!
2

Cards to Show We Care
2

AOGC Membership Information
3

Arlington Council of Garden
Clubs
4

Herb of the Month – Sweet Cicely
5

The Green Thumb is a
publication of the
Arlington Organic
Garden Club
www.aogc.org

AOGC Board:
Dave & Cheryn Barnett
Angie & Doug Brown
Esther Chambliss
Penny Coder
Susan Horn
Teresa Saldana



Randy Weston to Speak at January Meeting

Happy New Year! We hope your holidays were grand! As we get ready for another year of gardening, we would like to welcome Randy Weston, co-owner of Weston Gardens (www.westongardens.com) to our January 30 meeting. Weston Gardens is located at 8101 Anglin Drive in Ft. Worth, and specializes in trees, shrubs, and perennials adapted to our area. Their beautiful demonstration garden (“English Gardens – Texas Style”) covers over 4 acres, and is part of the restoration of an historic 1930’s estate.

Randy will kick off our gardening year by talking about perennials. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., with the meeting starting at 7:30.

Lady Bug Book Corner

Once again gardening friends it’s time to think about what to do next in our gardens. The club library has a wonderful selection of books on many garden topics from A-Z.



To refresh your memory and for those of you that are new to AOGC I’m enclosing the history of the library and the rules of how to check out those *two* wonderful selections you will find to help with all your garden questions.

A reference library for the Arlington Organic Garden Club was started in February of 2002. The library came to life when a guest speaker asked, “Don’t you have a book on this in your Library?” The wheels started turning and seventy-five or more books later the club had its Library. Books came in by donation from club members, local businesses, and proceeds from our annual garden show plus a lot of good foot work.

The process for checking out a book is simple: pick out the books you want and sign your name to the title card. Give the signed card to the club Librarian (Esther Chambliss).

Books are to be checked out for one month at a time to give all members access to the materials. If you can not make it to a meeting to return a book arrangements can be made.

Books will not be available to be checked out in May, June, October, November, or December due to club events or meeting schedules. All club books should be checked in at the October meeting.

-- Esther Chambliss

Tree Giveaway

The Arlington Men's Garden Club tree give away will be from 10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. on Saturday, February 8, 2003 at Westlake's Arlington Hardware on Park Row. Red Shumard Oak and Chinese Pistache are among the trees that will be given away. The Arlington Men's Garden Club has will have 1500 trees available.

Thanks to our Garden Show Volunteers

The AOGC Board would like to thank all of you who so generously volunteered your time to help us man our booth at the Arlington House & Organic Garden Show ("Howard's Show"). This year we had a booth inside the main exhibit hall, and we were pleased at the number of people who showed interest in our club. Overall, 275 people filled out postcards expressing interest in our own June 21 show!

Thanks to Dan Anderson, Judith Edwards, Bob Ressler, Terry Leo, Patty Royal, Diane Feldman, Bev Elbert, Robbie Pritchard, and board members Dave & Cheryn Barnett, Susan Horn, and Esther Chambliss (along with Wayne and David) for helping us tell Arlington what a great club we have! Special thanks go to Dave for setting up and tearing down the booth at the convention center, and to Susan who created our beautiful information board along with tri-fold brochures with club history & information. A lot of hard work went into the display, and if you did not get a chance to see it then you really missed out! Thanks also to my mother-in-law, Doris Brown for spending her Saturday afternoon helping to man the booth (Doug's parents were visiting from Kansas City) even though she's not even a member!

- Angie Brown

Cards to Show We Care

The AOGC would like to send out a card of encouragement or sympathy to anyone in our garden family who recently has had a loved one taken seriously ill, or passed away. Sometimes just a little note to let you know someone is thinking of you helps. To do this we, the Board, are asking you for your help. If anyone knows of a member who could use a word of encouragement please let us know by contacting our membership chair, Penny Coder at 817-640-3165 or e-mail donecoder@earthlink.net.



**REDENTIA'S
GARDEN**

ORGANIC GARDEN CENTERS

- Perennials
- Herbs
- Annuals
- Old Garden Roses
- Texas Native Shrubs and Trees
- Garden Accents and Gifts
- Organic Gardening Supplies
- Landscape Services
- Private Gardening

Arlington 5111 W. Arkansas Ln. 451-2149
Colleyville 6230 Colleyville Blvd. 488-3525
Dallas 2001 Skillman St. (214) 823-9421
Hours: Mon-Sat 9-6 Sun 10-5
www.redentas.com



Our new information board has sleeves for interchangeable photos and information sheets. We knew the board was beautiful and informative, but its impact really hit home when a colleague from another garden club exclaimed "It's sustainable, too!" Thanks, Susan, for helping us to practice what we preach!

More photos on page 5 and www.aogc.org/club/hgshow2003.html



**RABBIT HILL
FARM**

ORGANIC
FERTILIZERS AND SOIL AMENDMENTS

Mother Nature Knows Best!



**Westlake's
Arlington
Hardware**

ACE #5534
1705 W. Park Row
Arlington, TX 76013
(817) 461-5803
Fax (817) 548-8040

www.westlakes.com

ACE #5689
725 W. Lamar
Arlington, TX 76012
(817) 265-7706
Fax (817) 861-6540

..... You're Awesome!



Left to right: Dick Brown (back), Terry Leo, Patty Royal, Doris Brown (hiding behind Patty)



Esther Chambliss and Dick Brown (Doug's dad) fold more brochures at the show

Herb of the Month – Cicely (Myrrhis Odorata) **Common Names: Sweet Cicely, Sweet Chervil, Anise Fern**

This herb belongs to the umbelliferal family (carrot/parsley) and is a perennial. It likes the shade, but does not grow well in hot climates, as it will get leggy and sprawl. It must have long cold winters and moderate summers. It will grow 3 to 6 ft. in height and produce small white flowers about 3 inches wide in early summer.

Cicely's fern-like appearance compliments other shade tolerant herbs that also like rich moist soil around their roots. This plant will hold its foliage until mid-winter. It produces a licorice/anise fragrance with spicy green seeds. Always harvest in spring before flowering. Fall planting of seeds will produce seedlings in spring. Plants can be increased by root division and will spread to 12-18". Seed viability is extremely short.

Success of growing the plant increases the farther north in gardens. This herb requires freeze and thaw periods to propagate from seeds. Monks grew this umbelliferal in the shade and sowed the seeds in the fall. Books will mention digging up the root in Autumn and using fresh or dried roots for decoctions.

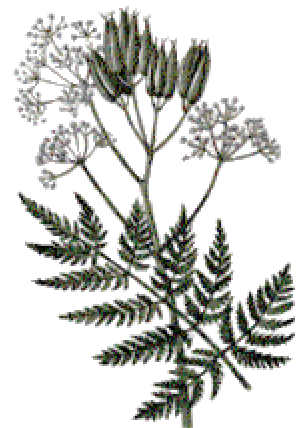
Culinary – used like parsley in salads, soups, wine cups, flavoring for stewed fruit, yogurt, and in whipping cream and butter. To reduce tartness in acid foods leaves can be added to recipes. The flowers are used in salads.

Medicinal – Can be used as a mild antiseptic; as a sugar substitute for diabetics; for coughs.

Crafts – seed heads are used in flower arrangements; use in potpourris; you can even use the seeds of this herb pounded up and rubbed into wood for polish!

-- Esther Chambliss

Editor's Note: Esther is writing a series of articles on herbs for our website. Go to www.aogc.org and click on "Plants," then look for her articles under "Herbs."



Ladies of the Garden ORGANIC Consultation and Design

Patricia Cowan
(817) 443-3612

Lucy Harrell
(817) 572-0148

548-8661

2529 W. Arkansas

Adam's Feed Store featuring Organic Garden Supplies

"Hard to find but worth the effort!"

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

-- W.H. Davies

Next meeting. . .

Thursday, January 30

Speaker: Randy Weston

Subject: Perennials