

The Green Thumb

May 2004

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May meeting – Bob Dunfield; Gourd Artist

May's meeting will be held Thursday, May 27 at the Bob Duncan Community Center. Our speaker will be Bob Dunfield, Frisco resident and experts on all things "gourd."



Bob has been growing gourds on his farm in Frisco since his youth, and eventually the gourds took over. One year when he grew more than 600 of them he decided that \$3-4 for a plain gourd wasn't much, so he started turning them into art. Among his wares are masks, animals, pitchers, bird houses, American Indian ceremonial dolls, and more – some of his pieces have sold for

up to \$750!

Doors open at 7 p.m. for refreshments and social time, and the meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Please join us as we learn all about growing and using gourds!

Photo credit: Texas Gourd Society Cowtown Gourd Patch website. <http://www.angelfire.com/tx5/cowtowngourdpatch/brags.html>

Sam Perez's Open House and Plant Sale – June 5

Sam Perez of the Ft. Worth Organic Garden Club will be holding his annual open house and plant sale on Saturday, June 5 (weekend after Memorial Day). Sam lives off of I-20 and McCart in Ft. Worth. He can be reached at 817-924-2825. Directions will be available at the May meeting, or email board@aogc.org for the address.

Sam is well-known among organic gardeners in the DFW area for his great tomatoes and his beautiful African blue basil plants.



AOGC members bloom at flower show

The Arlington Organic Garden Club was represented at the Fielder Blooms Again Flower Show on May 1. Congratulations go out to the following club members who won awards for their submissions:

Debbie Simek

Horticulture exhibits:

- Scarlet sage; 1st place
- Rock rose; 2nd place
- Yellow columbine; 2nd place
- Oxalis crassipes; 2nd place
- Dwarf sunflower; 3rd place



Robbie Pritchard

Horticulture exhibit:

- Herb – Dill; 1st place

Design Competition:

- Education award; 1st place for “Gourds and Music” (in the display case)
- Flower arrangement; 2nd place for chop stick arrangement
- Newcomers design award for best design by a newcomer

Esther Chambliss

Horticulture exhibits:

- Herb – Nigella Damascus (Love in a Mist); 1st place
- Wax Leaf Ligustrum; 1st place

Design Competition:

- 5 by 5 by 5 miniature; 2nd place for “Bells of Ireland”

Congratulations to all of our club members that participated: if we missed you, please drop us a line and let us know. Great work AOGC!!

Have You Seen Our Signup Sheet?

We passed around a signup sheet for the hospitality room for the Natural Urban Living Garden Show at the April meeting. The sheet never made it back to the board. Members, please look through any notes or paperwork you might have had last month, and check to see if you have the signup sheet.

Another signup sheet will go around during the May meeting. . . if we haven't located the original by then, those of you who have already signed up, please do so again. Thanks!!



Natural Urban Living Garden Show – June 19, 9-5

The Natural Urban Living Garden Show will be held on Saturday, June 19 at the Bob Duncan Community Center. This show will replace our June meeting.

The mission of the Arlington Organic Garden Club is to *promote the practice of organic gardening and to educate members and non-members alike as to the benefits and methods of organic gardening and other environmentally sound practices.* To this end, you will find our members involved in numerous activities: we give presentations on organic gardening for other organizations, we tend the Children's Garden at Fielder House, we tend a large planting box at the Arlington Life Shelter, we have spoken at an assisted living center and helped them to plant a garden, we publish a newsletter ten times per year, and we write articles and post them on our website (www.aogc.org). But by far, the largest project we are currently involved with is our annual garden show.

The Natural Urban Living Garden Show started out as a small seminar with one or two vendors. After a few years, it bloomed into a full-blown home and garden show. Although it is not nearly as large as a commercial home & garden show, we are proud of what it has become. Last year an estimated 600 attendees stopped by to listen to our speakers, chat with local environmentally-friendly non-profit groups, and talk to vendors about organic, natural, and environmentally friendly products for their yards, their houses, and their bodies. We charge no admission, and parking is free.

Many people are surprised to learn that we have no production company to organize the show: it is 100% organized and run by AOGC members! Our plant sale that accompanies the show is first class: people line up before we even open, so that they can have first pick of the hard-to-find, but well-adapted plants, mostly in gallon containers or larger (it's tough to coax anything smaller to live through the rest of the Texas summer!). We debuted our Kids' & Family room last year, with hands-on activities and displays for the young ones, to encourage family participation. Because the show's location is somewhat isolated, we opened a hospitality room where our vendors, non-profit exhibitors, and volunteers could find some nutritious food, kick back and take a break.

We are grateful to our club members who help make this endeavor successful year after year, and also to the vendors who have been very generous with their support, advice, and friendship. We are also grateful for our speakers who are so informative and generous with their time, and for other friends of the club who help get the word out about the show. We truly have a core of people who "get" what this show is about: sharing environmentally friendly practices with other members of our community so we may all benefit from a higher quality of life!




**RABBIT HILL
FARM**

**ORGANIC
FERTILIZERS AND SOIL AMENDMENTS**

Mother Nature Knows Best!

Arlington Organic Garden Club

OAK RAIN BARRELS



These wonderful Oak Rain Barrels add old world charm to your garden and catch 50 gallons of rain water. Our Rain Barrels come with a faucet that a 2 gallon watering can or bucket will slide under and a hose attachment that a soaker hose can be attached to. The top of each barrel has been drilled and fitted with a 10" catch that is lined with screen for mosquito control.

Your plants will love the nitrogen filled rain water that you collect. Food crops especially benefit from rain water.

Our rain barrels are \$140.00
Delivery is free in the following areas:
(Arlington, Ft. Worth, Grand Prairie and others)
Check with Lucy

**To order contact Lucy at 817-572-0148
or e-mail: lucygeorge5208@sbcglobal.net**

Barrels may also be purchased at GREEN MAMA'S
817-514-7336

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Join . . .

the Dirt Doctor's Ground Crew and receive 12 issues of the Dirt Doctor's Dirt as well as a membership card that can be used for discounts at organic suppliers.

Sign up on www.dirtdoctor.com
or call 866.444.DIRT.

AOGC Shirts are Coming!!



We are now taking orders for shirts embroidered with the AOGC logo.

The off-the-shelf short-sleeved denim shirts come in ladies' sizes S-2XL and men's sizes S-3XL. Price for the shirt with logo is \$18.50 each.

We found a shop in Dallas that sells *100% organic unbleached cotton* T-shirts, so we will offer those shirts with the logo as well. Two styles are available. One is an off-white color (the shirt is a bit on the thin side, but looks OK otherwise). The other shirt started out light rust in color, but after being laundered we were shocked to find that it turned a pretty sage-green. I looked up the brand name and found its website

(<http://kurant.arn.net/sos/Search.bok?category=Green+Genes>) -- the shirt is made from a cotton that grows green naturally, and the color is *supposed* to deepen with washing. It is a bit heavier than the other shirt, and seems to be of good quality.

Or, you can bring in your own shirt to be embroidered for just \$5.00 each -- a great option if you already have a favorite style of shirt or are on a budget! Guidelines for bringing your own shirt are as follows:

- It should be of a medium-heavy material like denim, canvas, or good-quality golf or T- shirts.
- Launder your item if it's brand new, in case there's any shrinkage (I will go ahead and launder the organic cotton shirts before sending them to the embroiderers). Iron the logo area if it's very wrinkled.
- Logo will be sewn above the left pocket (if there is one). Do not choose a shirt with a seam above the pocket; many Western-type shirts have a seam here.
- Attach a paper or cloth label with your name and phone number to the shirt's label so we know to whom it belongs.
- Be creative and get something you'll wear often! Show your support of AOGC!!

Name: _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

Size (indicate quantities desired in table):

	Price each	S	M	L	1X	2X	3X
Ladies' Denim	\$18.50						
Men's Denim	\$18.50						
Off-white cotton	\$15.00						
Green cotton	\$17.50						



___ Qty. of shirts you are providing for embroidery (\$5.00 each).

Total amount due: \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to "Arlington Organic Garden Club."
Bring your order form and money (and/or your shirts) to the May meeting -- or call Angie or Doug at 817-795-3300 to make arrangements.
 We hope to be able to deliver the shirts before the June show.



The Ladybug's Calendar (May 2004)

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May
FWBG: Flowercade; 1-5		OGCFW: Sonny Hines, Wild Birds in your Backyard; 7 PM	TDG: The Underexplored World of Backyard Insects 7 PM	 AOGC Meeting Patsy Rosen, Irises 7 PM		FWBG: Bonsai Show and Sale; 10-5 Wildscape: Plant Sale 9-3 Fielder Blooms Again; 10-4 (AOGC to man a booth)
2-May	3-May	4-May	5-May	6-May	7-May	8-May
FWBG: Bonsai Show and Sale; 1-5			TDG: Butterfly Gardening Workshops 9-12 BRIT: James Blackburn, Jr. Texas Coastal Wetlands and the Houston Wilderness; 7 PM, Austin	BRIT: James Blackburn, Jr. Texas Coastal Wetlands and the Houston Wilderness; 7 PM, Fort Worth		DOGC: Garden Tour TDG: Butterfly Gardening Workshops; 9-12 TDG: International Migratory Bird Day Celebration 10 AM FWBG: Fort Worth Rose Society Show and Sale; 12-4
9-May	10-May	11-May	12-May	13-May	14-May	15-May
						FWBG: Ft. Worth Herb Society Herb Festival; 10-4
16-May	17-May	18-May	19-May	20-May	21-May	22-May
23-May	24-May	25-May	26-May	27-May	28-May	29-May
		OGCFW: Jo Anne Boudreau, Can Weeds Be Useful?		 AOGC Meeting Bob Dunfield, Gourds 7 PM DOGC: Ruth Kinler 6:30		
30-May	31-May	1-Jun	2-Jun	3-Jun	4-Jun	5-Jun

AOGC: Arlington Organic Garden Club meets at 7 PM at the Bob Duncan Community Center, 2800 S. Center St., Arlington, TX. <http://www.aogc.org>
 BRIT: Botanical Research Institute of Texas meets at 7 PM in the Ft Worth Botanic Gardens, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Ft. Worth, TX. <http://www.brit.org>
 DA: Dallas Arboretum is located at 8617 Garland Road, Dallas, TX. <http://www.dallasarboretum.org>
 DOGC: Dallas Organic Garden Club meets at 6:30 PM (lecture starts at 7) in the King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 LBJ Hwy, Dallas, TX. <http://www.dogc.org>
 DOS: Denton Organic Society meets at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of the month at the UNT Environmental Sciences Building, West Hickory and Avenue D, Denton, TX.
 FWBG: Ft. Worth Botanic Garden is located at 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard, Fort Worth, TX.
 NPSTX: Native Plant Society of Texas meets at 7 PM on the first Thursday of every month at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens. <http://txnativeplants.org>
 OGCFW: Organic Garden Club of Ft. Worth meets at 7 PM at the Ft. Worth Botanic Gardens, 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Ft. Worth, TX. <http://www.organicgardenclubfw.org>
 TDG: Texas Discovery Gardens at Fair Park is located at 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas TX. <http://www.texasdiscoverygardens.com>

address correction requested



Next meeting. . .

Thursday, April 29, 2004

7:00 pm refreshments, meeting starts at 7:30

Speaker: Bob Dunfield – Gourds

Club Information

Membership dues: \$20/year (individual or family) – membership year begins in January.

Join/renew at any meeting, or send check to return address above.

Meetings are last Thursday of the month (January – October, except June garden show on third Saturday)

- Doors open at 7 pm for refreshments, meeting begins at 7:30 pm
- Open to the public unless meeting is designated “members only”
- Awesome prizes are raffled off at each meeting!
- Meeting Location: The Garden Room, Bob Duncan Community Center, 2800 South Center Street (Vandergriff Park)

If you would like to serve on the AOGC board, please contact any of the current board members, or send email to board@aogc.org

Newsletter deadline: Third Thursday of each month

Please send newsletter submissions to Angie Brown, angie@aogc.org (include “Newsletter Submission” in the subject line, please), (817) 795-3300.

Want the newsletter but live too far away to go to meetings? Subscribe to the newsletter for \$10/year (to cover printing and postage). Send a note to us (see return address) along with payment and the newsletters will keep coming.

When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world.

- John Muir, Naturalist -