Garden Oaks



Gazette

April 2003

Volume 26, Number 4

www.GardenOaks.org

Membership Committee Report

Chris Lindsay

Thanks to everyone who sent in his or her annual Civic Club dues in such a timely manner. As of March 1, 305 households have paid membership dues, totaling approximately \$12,200. This is a very respectable start, but keep those checks coming because we are still short of the 350 household memberships that we achieved last year.

As promised, all who sent in their dues by March 1 were eligible for a special prize drawing. So, drum roll please, as I announce the winners. In the Crepe Myrtle Membership category, the winner is the Stender Family at 1414 Sue Barnett. They win a Cheshire Cat garden stepping stone donated by Joshua's Native Plants and Garden Antiques at 502 W. 18th Street in the Heights. The winners in the Magnolia Membership category are Susan and Guy Smallwood, Jr. at 822 W. 30th Street. They win a \$25 gift certificate from John + Simpson Flowers & Gifts at 373 W. 19th Street, also in the Heights. Thank you Garden Oaks resident Susan Simpson for

Civic Club Meeting

Tuesday April 1st

The next Civic Club Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 1st, at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Oaks Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room. Come meet your neighbors and share your ideas. Also, enter the drawing for the monthly door prize.

that donation. And, the winner in the Golden Oaks Membership category is Shirley Ross Winford at 428 W. 30th Street. She wins a \$35 gift certificate from the Frame Shop at 3444 Ella Blvd.

Remember, since we are not holding our major fundraising event this year, the Home and Garden Tour, your Civic Club dues are even more important. Without them, we cannot pay for our basic programs, such as Beautification, Citizens on Patrol, the *Gazette*, Membership Committee, and our website. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so. A membership form is on the back page of the *Gazette*.

The membership committee is considering printing a neighborhood telephone directory this year. I will elaborate more on that activity later, as we continue to explore and develop that option.

The monthly Civic Club meeting is held the first Tuesday of every month, at 7:00 p.m. at Garden Oaks Elementary School. If you are not one of the above winners, come to a meeting for a chance to win our monthly door prize. The door prize winner at the March meeting was Carl Waters, who won a Blockbuster gift certificate and a tub of popcorn. We also provide a baby-sitter at our monthly Civic Club meeting at a cost of just \$1 per child.

Again, thanks neighbor, for doing your part in helping the neighborhood. Check the membership roster--also printed in the *Gazette*--for names of your neighbors who have joined this year. (If they're not on the list, maybe you can remind them to join).

Nighttime Nostalgia

Rebecca Ferguson, Editor

Of course it would be midnight, but when it hits you, it hits you. Part of me is saying I should sleep—I know I don't do it enough—but I couldn't let this one go and hope I would still remember it in the morning. For the last couple of weeks, I have toyed with different ideas for this month's column, and have disliked them all. Searching for inspiration tonight (I'm well past the deadline, by the way), I found myself drawn toward the box of Gazettes under my desk, hoping that I might stumble upon something to help me around this writer's block. Certainly I got more than I bargained for.

I randomly chose one from the box—somewhere in the middle—and randomly opened it—to somewhere in the middle. Some incredibly vivid childhood memories came back to me with a force I was not prepared for, and I sat on the floor with this box for a few minutes, utterly amazed at what all but fell in my lap.

January, 1994, page 9. There was a photograph of an old man in front of a very familiar house. His name was Waldo Townley, and his house was on Alba, around the corner from mine and located in such a way that we shared a back fence. I read the article, still slightly stunned at the sequence of events. The article had information about him that I didn't remember, or had never really known. I was glad to learn more about his hobbies, jobs, and involvement with the Garden Oaks civic club. But these aren't the things I remember him for. I remember being a little kid, and standing out at the back fence talking to him for hours on end about this and that and everything in between. There exists a bond between alternate generations that does not exist through any other relationship. Simply, he called himself my adopted grandfather, unless it was around Christmas, and then he was "Santa Clause's brother." There's just something about a white beard, and about being eight years old. Whatever the season, he played the roles flawlessly.

He always called me "Blondie," and for those of you who have met me, it's pretty obvious why. He was also

the *only* person I ever let call me that, so don't get any ideas. Whenever I met him at the back fence, he would always say, "Hey Blondie, give me four and-a-half," rather than the more conventional "Give me five," as he was missing most of his left thumb. When it was time to go, he always said, "See ya later, alligator," and of course I answered with the corresponding reply.

In February of 2000, Waldo passed away. This was difficult, because he had lived in the house behind ours as far back as I could remember—he was actually the last original Garden Oaks resident. A few months ago, the house was torn down, and I still haven't gotten used to seeing the houses across Alba from my backyard. Prior to this demolition, on a day when I found myself missing him, I was amazingly reunited with a picture I colored for him when I was all of four years old. I keep it pressed flat in a book—a beautiful atlas he gave me one Christmas—between the pages of a geographic map of Scotland. I realized some weeks after I did this, that "Alba" is Gaelic for "Scotland," and smiled to myself. Things have a way of falling into place.

I have perhaps run long with this one, but believe me when I say that I could have written thousands of words about this. I'll probably photocopy the picture in that 1994 Gazette—it's the only one of him I have. But tonight, I will be content to revel in my memories of grassy evenings that smelled of spring, when the backyard was a vast playground for a child's imagination and an old man's stories. See ya later, alligator.

Download PDFs of recent Gazettes at http://www.GardenOaks.org/

Join the Garden Oaks List Serv. It's easy, it's fun, and best of all, it's free. Just go to

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Houston GO/join

Garden Club Work Day – April 12

Robert De Veau, Garden Club Vice President

On Saturday, April 12, Garden Club members and friends will be at Friendship Park performing our annual spring clean up. Located in Section 1 at Lawrence and W. 30th, this pocket park was long ago adopted by the Garden Oaks Garden Club. The park's landscape maintenance, hardscape and upkeep are paid for by the Garden Club as a way of giving something back to our neighborhood community and the Civic Club. Club members and friends will be out in full force on Saturday, April 12 at 9:00 am. If you would like to lend a hand, please stop by—if even for just 30 minutes of weeding.

St Michael's Community Fun Fair

St. Michael's and St. James Lutheran churches are teaming up to present a Fun Fair for the community. There will be craft booths, free games, a bouncing booth, and karaoke. There will also be hot dogs, sodas, and ice cream sandwiches available for 25 cents each; as well as several classic cars to admire and ogle.

When: May, 3 2003

11am - 3pm

Where: St. Michael's Episcopal Church

1613 W. 43rd st.

If anyone is interested in having a booth, please call St. Michael's Church office at 713-681-6422.

Montessori Car Wash Fundraiser

Brian Sherwood

Join us for the Friends of Montessori at Garden Oaks Elementary Mike and Joan Weltzien Car Wash and Balloon Raffle on Saturday, April 5th (April 12th - rain date), from 9 a.m. to noon.

This is a new friendraiser and fundraiser for the Friends of Montessori, just in time for spring cleaning! While your car gets washed, you and your family can enjoy refreshments, a moonwalk, and frisbee toss. Adults can take part in a game of chance for the opportunity to win various prizes, including golf games, dinners, massages, and portrait sittings. Balloons will be on sale at various prices.

For more information, to volunteer to was cars, or to donate a prize, contact Kirsten Joel at 713-613-5200 ext. 127 or kjoel@spauldingforchildren.org. See you there!

Civic Club Officers

President Kenneth Santos

713 686 6012 974 W. 42nd

President@GardenOaks.org Vice President Josh Hamilton

713 695 7347 858 Azalea

VicePresident@GardenOaks.org

Treasurer Margie Dalton

713 705 0499 1063 W. 42nd

Treasurer@GardenOaks.org Secretary Lori Kennedy

713 691 6833 750 Sue Barnett

Secretary@GardenOaks.org

Committee Chairs

Beautification Rick Grochoske

713 864 8164

Beautification@GardenOaks.org

Citizens on Patrol Carl Waters, Jr.

713 864 1992

GOCOP@GardenOaks.org

 ${\it Constable\ Program\ Terry\ Jeanes}$

713 812 9154

Constable@GardenOaks.org

Co-Chair **Susan Saranie** 713 861 7994

GardenOaks.org Joe Muscara

713 691 6833

Webmaster@GardenOaks.org

Co-Chair Josh Hamilton

713 695 7347

Membership Chris Lindsay 713 819 8412

Membership@GardenOaks.org

Gazette Contacts

Editor Rebecca Ferguson

713 686 5284 914 W. 43rd

Gazette@GardenOaks.org

Assistant Editor Hector Willars

713 446 7766

Advertising Director Holly Veech 713 861 8093

/13 801 8093

GazetteAds@GardenOaks.org

Billing Margie Dalton

713 705 0499

Delivery Amanda Carlin

713 263 1026 1010 LaMonte

GazetteDelivery@GardenOaks.org

The *Garden Oaks Gazette* is the official publication of the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is published on a monthly basis. Submission deadline is the 15th of each month for publication the next month unless otherwise noted. NO EXCEPTIONS. Publication of any article does not imply endorsement by the Garden Oaks Civic Club and is solely the opinion of the author.

Garden Club Officers

President

Ed de Alba 713 694-5934

Vice President

Robert De Veau 713 686-6012

Secretary

Chris Lindsay 713 819-8412

Treasurer

Janet Cones 713 956-7340 & Robert De Veau

Yard of the Month

Janet Cones

Sunshine

Susan Gunther

Phone Committee Barbara Ballance

GOMO Directors

Section One

Donna Archer—713-863-0532 Tim Gunther—713-861-1336

Section Two

Sam Stengler—281-773-3478 David Hoyer—713-699-8171

Section Three

Richard Stark—713-691-1067 Mike Dishberger—713-695-7916

We buy and sell houses to be moved! Houses on blocks or slab

Call us!

J. A. Drake Companies, Inc.

713 694-0301

Creating Celestial Habitats with Texas Natives

Robert De Veau, Garden Club Vice President

With the growing recognition that a wisely and sensitively planted garden has a lot to offer wildlife and the food web, more and more people are looking for ways to make their gardens environmentally friendly. However, gardeners have tended to assume that they need a lot of space to create habitats for wildlife and to evoke wild and natural places. Join the Garden Oaks Garden Club on Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. when J Kolenovsky refutes that presumption by showing us how to create a sustainable ecosystem in a small garden that looks great and, once established, largely looks after itself.

J converted his own lifeless Bellaire corner lot into its present status of a certified Texas Wildscape, a Texas Wildlife Demonstration site, and a Backyard Wildlife Habitat. He has since used his knowledge and experience to launch Celestial Habitats, a native plant resource for the Gulf Coast area. He is also active in the Native Plant Society of Texas. J will show us how the biggest influence on gardening recently has been the growing awareness of how home landscapes affect—and are affected by—larger ecosystems around them. "Thanks to the Native Plant Society of Texas," says J, "we can see evidence of our gardens' positive impact on wildlife, such as birds and butterflies."

While you may not envision your own garden becoming a certified Texas Wildscape, you will leave this meeting feeling inspired to introduce a few Houston native plants into your own landscaping. By establishing a more natural landscape, environmentally conscious gardeners are endorsing the use of plants native to the soils and climate of an area. These plants provide the best overall food sources for wildlife and require less fertilizer, water, and effort to control pests. Over time, this translates to a lower maintenance cost. Best of all, these landscapes demand less routine maintenance so people can spend more time enjoying and feeling connected to the wonders of nature. Simply stated, natural landscaping is designed to work with, rather than against, nature.

On March 13, members and guests were treated to an informative slide show about tropical hibiscus. Roz and Pat Merritt, hobbyists who happen to grow over 600 varieties of hibiscus, kept us all enthralled with photos that displayed the exquisite color, flower form, and texture that exists among tropical hibiscus. Pat shared her secrets for successful pot culture, beginning with the potting soil. She creates her own by combining 1 gallon of perlite and 1 gallon of vermiculate for every 2 cubic feet of rose bed mix.

Hibiscus love to be root-bound in a pot, so when transplanting, only go up to the next size pot. Otherwise, the plant will spend all its time developing roots before putting on its floral display. Pat fertilizes with an all-purpose 18-10-28, because hibiscus prefer low phosphorus (the middle number). Their recommendations for good garden varieties found in commercial trade include 'El Capitolio,' 'Anderson's Double Yellow Red,' 'Orange Key,' 'Lipstick," and 'Mrs. Jimmy Spangler.'

Garden Club meetings are open to all residents and friends of Garden Oaks. If you would like to become a member of the Garden Club, annual dues are only \$10. Our April 10 program will be hosted at 1010 La Monte. For more information, call me at (713) 686-6012. We hope to see you at 7:00 p.m. on April 10.

Garden Oaks Beautification Workday Schedule

Rick Grochoske

Want to get involved, have fun, and make new friends without a commitment? Want to make Garden Oaks look better or share an idea to improve our green spaces? Want to feel good about cleaning, and make your neighborhood look its best? Want free donuts and coffee? Please plan to come to the following Garden Oaks Beautification workdays. Bring your garden tools, wheel barrows, trimmers, and a good attitude. Mark your calendars now, and remember that all are welcome.

April 5th—Gazebo Park at Sue Barnett and 42nd **May 3**rd—Garden Oaks Blvd between Shepherd and Sue Barnett

Please pass this message to your Garden Oaks buds. Feel free to contact me at (713) 864-8164.

April Yard of the Month

Mark Hazelwood and James Janise at 1047 West 43rd Street

The staggered heights of plants and various shades of green in the landscape accent their house wonderfully.

Beautiful!



Since 1913 Houston's Finest Specialty Department Store "in the Heights"

Kaplan's·Ben Hur

Visit our website! www.kaplansbenhur.com

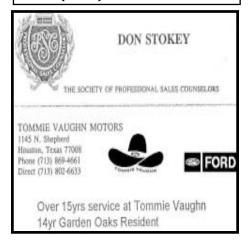
Mon - Sat 10:00 - 6:00 2125 Yale 713-861-2121

LauderPROPERTIES

Residential and Commercial Real Estate
Specializing in Inner Loop • Personalized Service
Broker Owned and Operated
SHARON LAUDER, BROKER
GARDEN OAKS RESIDENT FOR 18 YEARS

Garden Oaks • Heights • Montrose
Oak Forest • Timbergrove and More!

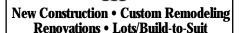
373 1/2 W. 19th St. (713) 862-3747





COURT REPORTING

Carlson Reporting



See Our Work At: 870 W. 42nd St. 729 W. 39th St. 975 Gardenia 705 W. 39th St. 701 Garden Oaks Blvd. 713 Garden Oaks Blvd. 718 W. 41st St. 721 W. 41st St. 1026 Althea 818 W. 41st St. 4232 Apollo 855 Azalea 858 W. 41st St. 970 W. 41st St. 839 Lamonte 862 W. 41st St. 1325 Sue Barnett 717 W. 42nd St. 1458 Sue Barnett 718 W. 42nd St. 1575 Sue Barnett 847 W. 42nd St. 1043 Gardenia

HARRY JAMES BUILDING & DESIGN (713) 695-7007

Visit us on the internet at www.harryjamesbuilder.com

GOCOP Patrollers of the Month:

Robert and Amanda Carlin

The Carlins have lived in Garden Oaks for five years and have patrolled for GOMO for three years. They are also involved with the Garden Club and with coordinating the *Gazette* delivery each month. Robert and Amanda both teach in the Cy-Fair school district: Robert is a band director and Amanda teaches Theatre Arts. They have a 19 year-old daughter (Lindsey) who attends the University of Texas, and a 4 year old son (Cameron) who attends St. Matthew's pre-school. They enjoy patrolling because they both believe in participating in the community. Plus, the long rides really help to put their son to sleep on Sunday nights!

Citizens on Patrol

Carl Waters, Jr.

It's spring time in the neighborhood, and it with it comes the return of "yard thieves." They don't take your whole yard, but unfortunately, as some of our neighbors have learned in the past, potted plants, patio furniture and even hoses and their reels can be targets for these criminals. Members of the neighborhood list serve may have read the story about a neighbor who lost his lawn furniture, only to recover it later from an area second hand store. That story, in addition to a call I received recently from another neighbor, prompted me to write this reminder. The moral of the story is this: mark your property and if it disappears from your yard, check local pawn shops and second hand stores.

Our patrollers of the month are Robert and Amanda Carlin. Robert and Amanda live in Section 5 with their son Cameron. Robert and Amanda are both employed by local school districts. In addition to their patrol duties, they are also currently serving as the distribution coordinators for the *Gazette*. They have been patrollers since July of 1999. Congratulations Robert and Amanda!

January Crime Statistics (7)

Burglary (2):

900 block of West 41st St. on Sunday January 5, at 5:00 p.m. (Other). 900 block of Sue Barnett on Wednesday January 8, at 11:30 a.m. (Elementary School).

Auto Theft (2):

800 block of W. 34th St. on Wednesday, January 1, at 12:15 a.m. (Drive-

way).

800 block of W. 31st St. on Thursday, January 30, at 8:00 a.m. (Driveway).

Driving While Intoxicated (3):

700 block of W. 34th St. on Sunday, January 5, at 12:30 a.m. (Street). 1000 block of W. 43rd St. on Wednesday January 8, at 7:45 p.m. (Street). 900 block of W. 43rd St. on Friday, January 17, at 5:42 p.m. (Street)

Please contact me via the Internet @ GOCOP77018@AOL.com, the Garden Oaks web site (www.gardenoaks.org), or by telephone at 713-864-1992 for details about joining our program.

Emergency Phone Numbers Call Them First--Then Call Me to Report Neighborhood Crimes

Crimes in progress, Fire or Ambulance
Houston Police Department (non-emergency)
Precinct One Constable Dispatch
All Other City Services

911
713-222-3131
713-755-7628
311

Garden Oaks Furniture Drive

Shana Tatum

This great neighborhood of Garden Oaks has long stood for service, whether it be by gentle neighbors taking care of one another, reaching our children by raising money for our neighborhood schools, or the recycling efforts benefiting the greater good of our environment. To further this mission of service, we are coordinating a furniture drive for the Furniture Bank of Houston. This worthy organization benefits the community by collecting and distributing home furnishings to people who are in need, or to people who are formerly homeless and have found housing through a social service agency. The Furniture Bank provides furniture to both clients of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority (MHMRA) of Harris County and partner social service agencies. Since 1991, this charity has expanded and attracted the commitment and participation of all of the major furniture companies in Houston. The Houston Apartment Association and the Greater Houston Hotel/Motel

THE FRAME SHOP

Experience the Personal Touch

- CUSTOM FRAMING All types, traditional, contemporary, show box, mirrors
- CONSERVATION FRAMING
- MATS All colors, plus fabric mats of all types
- GLASS Non glare, clear, UV filtering, Image Perfect, oval convex glass
- STOCK FRAMES Hundreds to choose from
- RESTORATION OF OIL PAINTINGS
- MOUNTING Maps, exhibits, cloth, lamination, boards of all types
- MIRRORS

3444 Ella Blvd. • Houston, TX 77018 713-682-4578









SHANNON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Sharron L. Nelson, ASID Registered Interior Designer #2026

> starib 713-802-9301 fax 713-802-0071 ranger 713-285-4287

Residential & Connectal Interior Design

208 W. 34TH STREET HOUSTON, TEXAS 77018





Diana Tarley-James

713-869-0456 Off.

713-539-0569 Mob

www.DianaTarley.com



Association are also supporters.

On Saturday April 26th, the Furniture Bank will be in Garden Oaks to pick up donations. We are working to coordinate the collection of household items. Please donate items you are tired of, because they may suit a family starting over. Items needed include beds, dressers, mattresses, sofas, and tables, as well as dishes, place mats, blankets, lamps and pictures—pretty much anything needed to make a house a home.

If you are interested in donating and getting a jump start on that Spring cleaning, we would love to come by and pick up your items. We are planning pickup times on April 26th between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. Please email me at shana.s.tatum@flooring.dupont.com or call me at 713-699-4166 to let me know where you live and what you would like to donate. The Furniture Bank also accepts monetary donations. All gifts are tax deductible, and the Furniture Bank will provide a receipt at time of pickup. We appreciate your consideration. You can find more information about the Furniture Bank at www.thefurniturebank.org.

Let's help turn an empty house into a home.

Minutes of the March 4, 2003 Civic Club Meeting

Lori Kennedy, Secretary

Vice President Josh Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Officer Reports

Treasurer – Robert De Veau reported that all bills are paid and the books are in good shape.

Standing Committee Reports

Beautification – Chair Rick Grochoske reported a good turnout for the work project held on Sunday, 2/16/03. The next work day is scheduled for 3/15/03 at the Art Park (43rd & Sue Barnett). The last of the paperwork has been submitted to the City for transfer of the water bills; the Civic Club will not be paying for any more water use except for the community garden. Matt Rasher and Craig Kraemer will help the Beautfication Committee develop a plan for landscaping the new "park" at Durham, 30th and Randal. They hope to design the plan in the next couple of weeks and to plant in phases. Plants are expected to cost about \$1500-2000. Neighborhood donations may be needed to help offset the costs. If \$500 in neighbor contributions is collected, Terry Jeanes has offered to match it. Rick will review this year's budget and check into matching funds from the City. Contact Rick Grochoske at 713-864-8164 for more information or to volunteer.

GOCOP – Chair Carl Waters reported the January crime statistics. More patrollers are always needed. Contact Carl at 713-864-1992 for more information or to volunteer.

GardenOaks.org – Co-chair Josh Hamilton reported that the mail server has been upgraded and all officers and chairs have GardenOaks.org e-mail accounts.

Gazette – Chair Rebecca Ferguson announced she had e-mail difficulties last month but it should be corrected now. A new ad director is still needed. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. Contact Rebecca at Gazette@GardenOaks.org for submissions.

Membership – Chair Chris Lindsay announced that there are at least 305 Civic Club memberships so far this year—195 at Crepe Myrtle level, 48 at Magnolia level and 62 at Golden Oak level. Membership is hoping to publish a list of Civic Club members in the April *Gazette*, and is considering guest speakers for Civic Club meetings. They will hold a prize drawing for each membership level for all memberships received by March 1. Carl Waters won the door prize.

Other Reports

Constable – Terry Jeanes reported that the form is on the website and they are creating a list of current commitments. They still need 225 total pledged supporters to restart the program.

Garden Club – Robert De Veau reported that the next meeting will be at 407 W. 33rd about tropical hibiscus. Contact Ed de Alba at 713-694-5934 for more information or to join.

GOMO – President Sam Stengler announced the special election of GOMO directors has been delayed to April 1, immediately after the Civic Club meeting. They will extend the nomination period for 30 days; directors are needed in all sections. The next regular GOMO meeting is 3/5/03 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kroger on 34th.

Old Business

Brenda de Alba is organizing the 4th of July bike parade. There will be treats and prizes for the kids and a good time will be had by all. Volunteers are needed—contact Brenda at 713-694-5964 to help. Anyone interested in the Garden Oaks cookbook should contact Chris Lindsay. There was no new information regarding the City's proposed storm drainage fee; City Council has not yet voted on the issue.

New Business

It was also mentioned that creating a Garden Oaks phone directory could be a good idea. It was moved, seconded, and passed to accept the February minutes as published.

Meeting refreshments were graciously provided by Terry Jeanes of Re/Max-METRO.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ANDREW V. SMITH Certified Public Accountant

- Individual Tax
- Corporate, Partnership, Estate and Trust Tax
- Accounting Services
- · Financial Statement Preparation

Member Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants and The Greater Heights Area Chamber of Commerce

> 1111 NORTH LOOP W., #715 (713) 695-5388 PHONE (713) 695-6808 FAX

For all of Your
Printing & Bookbinding
Needs



O.D.'s Printing

Neighbor helping neighbor

Oscar D. Ochoa

8924 Emmott Road 713-896-0052

MERLE NORMAN



DIANE MORISH

Native Garden Oaks-Heights
Family Owned Business
Since 1956
In Original Location
4216 Ella @ W. 43rd

(713) 686-5993

Beauty Is My Business



Full Service Lawn Maintenance and Landscape Design

> DAVID BARTULA 713-688-4244

Commercial

Residential







Delivery Volunteer Needed!

We need a *Gazette* delivery volunteer for the 1000 block of Althea.

For more information, please contact Amanda Carlin at 713-263-1026, or Gazette Delivery @Garden Oaks.org.

Critter Corner

Casey and Mau Mau Farris

April showers bring ...you guessed it, grass to mow. While you are outside enjoying the spring weather and watching your grass grow, you will probably notice your dogs and cats eating the grass. Do they eat grass to make them vomit? Or do they vomit because they eat the grass? This month we will talk about this great mystery of our pets. Mau Mau is known to have a "green tooth" now and then, and he has a couple of favorites to recommend. Our Pet of the Month is a real grass roots kind of girl. And, if you've had your doors open, you've probably had a few grasshoppers move in, so we will discuss what to feed them.

Critters 101: The Green, Green Grass of Home

Dogs are not known for being fussy eaters. Put it in your dog's path and he'll gobble it up, from table scraps to garbage...to grass. Although dogs like to eat meat, they can survive on a well-balanced vegetarian diet. Cats, on the other hand, could die without animal protein. No one is sure why your pup likes grass, although there have been many theories offered. Primarily, dogs are descended from wild canids (wolves), which ate the entire "kill" when they hunted for food. Since they ate many plant-eating animals they ended up eating a lot of plants and even berries found in the stomach and intestines. Interestingly, carnivores tend to go for the stomach and its contents first, so it's likely that dogs may like to eat grass because it was once part of their normal diet.

Most veterinarians believe that dogs eat grass simply because they like it. Vomiting naturally follows because the grass acts as an irritant when dogs eat it. However, they probably don't know to use grass as a medicine when they have an upset stomach. Some veterinarians believe that dogs eat grass because their prepared diets are lacking in greens. Often they seek out a particular variety of grass to nibble.

No matter what the reason, your dog's "grass" habit is normal behavior. Take care that your pet does not eat grass that has been treated with fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides. These could cause stomach upset or even worse problems for your dog.

Pet of the Month

"Ms. April" is a nine-year old Holland Lop rabbit. Her name is Xena (The Warrior Princess) for her not-so-sunny disposition. Xena was adopted from the Houston SPCA and lives with her mother, Priscilla, and her brother, Max (a Shih Tzu/Cocker Spaniel mix). Xena and Max have the same black/white coloring. Xena likes grass and fruit treats. She is litter-box trained and very tidy. Xena has never met the Easter Bunny, but hopes to someday.

April 2003 11

Backyard Report

Agrasshopper is an amazing insect that can leap 20 times the length of its own body. There are about 5,000 different kinds of grasshoppers living around the world. They live in marshes, deserts, rain forests, and fields. Most kinds are able to fly. Grasshoppers mate in late summer or early fall and the eggs hatch the next spring. As the baby grows, the hopper molts by splitting its skin and crawling out of it. The new skin hardens and the crumpled old skin is left behind. Most grasshoppers molt six times before they reach adult size and develop wings. That usually takes 40 to 60 days. Grasshoppers hear sounds with their eardrums, which look like small spots on the sides of their abdomens. Grasshoppers sing by scraping their back legs along their front wings as if they were fiddling. They eat grasses and other plants. Many creatures eat hoppers, including other insects, snakes, spiders, and lizards. In some countries, there are people who think that hoppers make delicious and crunchy snacks.

Pet News

The Schoenfields welcome a new baby Golden Retriever named Cameron. Sadie Gross (Yellow Lab Mix) recently celebrated her seventh birthday. The Points critters (Henry, George, and Summer) welcome a new human baby boy, Ethan, which is almost as exciting as the small snake that came into their yard. Beau Charlton (Jack Russell) is suffering with allergies like the rest of us while his sister Stella (Jack Russell) is suffering with squirrel hunting fever. Jesse Christ (Greyhound) and his mother have taken up running now that the weather is nicer. Condolences to the Kincaid family who recently lost Sandy (Australian Shepherd) at the age of 14. Molly Land (Australian Shepherd) has been under the weather and we wish her a speedy recovery. Fancy Keating (Grey Himalayan) just got central air conditioning and she is pretty happy about that. Zydeco and Sadie Kriek have recovered from Mardi Gras and can't wait until Lent is over.

Dear Mau Mau: How often do you eat grass? L. Hickman

I do crave a bit of greenery now and again, especially in the spring. We have Purple Fountain Grass at my house, which I really like. You can get "cat grass" seeds and plants, as well as catnip plants at the pet store but my mom waits until the grass grows about two inches before I can have it. She does quirky things sometimes. Mau Mau

Casey Farris is owner/operator of Bone Voyage Pet Sitting Services©, a Garden Oaks company offering many services and products dedicated to the welfare of our pets and the people who love them. Mau Mau Farris is owner/operater of Casey. Please forward your questions and pet news to Casey@goDOGusa.com or call 713-688-6363.



713-705-7644







She's got PIE! Professionalism. Integrity, Enthusiasm.

www.CherryWolfarth.com

Prudential

GARY GREENE, REALTORS*

Office: 713-686-5454 Pager: 281-625-371

U S TREE EXPERTS & LANDSCAPING CO.

- * TREE REMOVAL"Quality Year Round
- * TRIMMING
- * DEAD WOOD REMOVAL
- * SHAPING
- * PRUNING
- * TOPPING
- * LIABILITY INS.

Free ESTIMATES 713-681-4079

713-712-1720 (Pager)

Guillaume"GEM" Morvan (Shepherd Park Plaza Resident)

Useful Numbers

All City Services

(city information or services ranging from traffic court dates and sewer concerns to pothole problems and neighborhood complaints)

311

One Call Program

(*Heavy trash and more*) 713 956 6589

Recycling Hotline

713 837 9130

Deed Restriction Violations City of Houston Legal Department

713 247 2000

Bruce Tatro (District A)

713 247 2010

Dwayne Bohac

713 460 2800

John Whitmire

713 864 8701

April 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Civic Club Meeting Garden Oaks Elementary 7:00pm	GOMO Meeting Kroger at W. 43rd 7:00 pm	3	4	5 Montessori Car Wash Garden Oaks Elementary 9:00am- 12:00pm
Daylight Savings Time Begins	7	8	9	Garden Club Meeting 1010 LaMonte 7:00 pm	11	Handle Beautification Workday Friendship Park at Lawrence and W. 30th 9:00 am
13	14	15 Gazette Article Deadline	Passover Begins at Sunset	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	Garden Oaks Furniture Drive 9:00am- 12:00pm
27	28	29	30			

2003 Garden Oaks Civic Club Membership Form

Name(s):]	Phone:							
Address:]	Email:							
(A) Annual Dues									
[] \$25.00 Crepe Myrtle (Basic)	[] \$50.00 Magnolia (Intermediate)	[] \$75.00 Golden Oak (Patron)							
[]Senior Citizen \$5.00	[]Senior Citizen \$10.00	[]Senior Citizen \$15.00							
(B) Garden Oaks T-Shirts \$15.00 a	each OR \$10.00 Member Price								
Quantity/Size: Small Medium	_ Large XLarge XXLarge	\$TOTAL							
(C) Contribution to Garden Club	\$								
Are you anew orrenewing member	er? Do youown orrent your house?								
Amount Enclosed:(A) +	(B) + (C) = \$	Total If we publish a Neighborhood Directory, may we include your Name, Address, etc.? () Yes () No							

Make Checks payable to: Garden Oaks Civic Club

Mail form and Check to: PO Box 10273, Houston, TX 77206