
70th Year Horticultural Celebration

The A&M Garden Club hosted a Horticultural Celebration for their 70th Year Birthday on April 11 at the Brazos Center. The event included foliage and flowering potted plants for judging, displays and educational tables by other gardening groups, photo contest, exhibits from commercial garden related businesses, door prizes, recognition of all past and current A&M Garden Club Presidents, a birthday cake, songs, and refreshments.

Idalia Aguilar was Chairman of the Horticulture Celebration. Table set up was done by Idalia Aguilar, Norma Jean Stokes, Angelika Hoepfl, Jane Cohen, Judith Schafer and Delma Cassaro. Emcee was Jane Cohen. Jo Ann Cermin did invitations. Horticulture Chair was Judith Schafer. Design Chair was Delma Cassaro.

About 150 attended the show of design arrangements and potted plants, displayed and judged in two classes, flowers and foliage. Many plants were displayed, including: Foliage - many varieties of ferns, including the Staghorn Fern, Fig, Cactus and other succulents, Cardboard Tree, Swedish Ivy, Sansevieria; Flowers - Crown of Thorns, Orchids, African Violets, blooming Rice Cactus.

National Garden Club Flower Show judges were Margaret Jones, Ann Nette Pierce, and Mary Lou Hankenson from Houston Federation of Accredited Judges. Invitational exhibits judged were Judy Schafer, Delma Cassaro, Idalia Aguilar, Jane Cohen. Clerks were Angelika Hoepfl, Geneva Eubanks, and TAMU Student Assistant Laura Adair.

Design Arrangements won blue ribbons by Delma Cassaro - "Through the Years We Keep Designing - 70 Years"; Norma Jean Stokes - "Spring Fling", Idalia Aguilar - "Consider the Future - Hydroponics" and Judith Schafer - "Reflecting on the Past and Spinning into the Future".

Community Garden Groups showcased their horticultural plants, educational exhibits, plants and garden art, including the TAMU Women's Social Club Gardening Interest Group, Brazos Valley Orchid Society, Grimes County Master Gardeners, Brazos County Master Gardener Elmer Krehbiel, Living Water Pottery, Purple Gate Herb Farm, Spring Orchid Company, Heartworks, Producer's Cooperative Association, Martha's Bloomers, Close Quarters-America's Country Store, Heirloom Gardens, and B-CS Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Margaret Ann White and Delma Cassaro introduced A&M Garden Club Presidents - Margaret Lambert Ravey, Arlene Wood, Pat Haberstroh, Margaret Ann White, Judith Schafer, Sally Koestler, Jo Ann Cermin, and Idalia Aguilar.

An exhibit of 70 years of memorabilia from the A&M Garden Club was prepared by Mary Staffel, Garden Week Chair. The refreshment committee was Suzanne Milstead with birthday cake and table decorations and Delma Cassaro with beverage.

TAMU Students of Dr. Joe Novak and Horticulture Club President Monica Robinson served as Student Assistants: Laura Adair, Tristian Adams, Ali Baucom, Sylvia M. Bernal, Chris Carroll, Brett Contreras, Sean Delval, Jenna McBroom, Isaiah Montemayor, and Heather Ploss.

Rosette Ribbon Awards were won by Purple Gate Herb Farm for Best Vendor, Brazos Valley Orchid Society for Most Flowers, Elmer Krehibel and Grimes County Master Gardeners for Best Educational Exhibit (tie), and Heartworks for Best Use of Theme.

Winners of door prizes were: 1) Judith Schafer - pottery bird house, Living Water Pottery by Cindy Gomez; 2) Lucy Cash - herb dish garden, Purple Gate Herb Farm by Mary & Bud Miles, 3) Eugenia Williams - orchid, Brazos Valley Orchid Society, 4) Margaret Lambert Ravey - flag, Heartworks, 5) Dan Chadbourne - rose bush, Producer's Cooperative Association, 6) Ron Billings - gift card, Martha's Bloomers, 7) Nikki Carson - petunia hanging basket, Close Quarters-America's Country Store, 8) Bob Cohen - gift card, Heirloom Gardens. and Spring Orchid Company orchids - 9) Robert Koestler, 10) Martha Wilhoit, 11) Sally Koestler, 12) Betty Hoke, and 13) Angelika Hoepfl.

Top winners in the Photo Contest were: Horticultural Theme - Tracy S. Gillett with a photo of "Juniper Sky"; Inclusion of Wildlife - Flower was a tie by Jennifer Opiela-Miksch with "Lantana Lullaby" and Ronald F. Billings with "Luna Moth on Azalea"; Inclusion of Fruit/Vegetable - Sandra Williams with "Fennel Feeders". Photo Contest Judges were Mary Vinnage, The Eagle; Heather Reece, B-CS Convention and Visitor's Bureau; and Cynthia Mueller, TAMU Master Gardener.

The Photo Contest had 58 entries. Jane Cohen and Judy Schafer assisted judges. Blue ribbon winners were:

Flower:

Youth - John Mayo, Macro-Cosm; Liz Opiela, A Flower's Perspective.

Adult - Ronald F. Billings, Luna Moth on Azalea; Jennifer Opiela-Miksch, Lantana Lullaby; George B. Stokes, Double Purple Angel's Trumpet; Robert Cohen, Purple Petals; Suzanne Wich, Pretty in Pink.

Garden Club - Suzanne Milstead, Taking a Sip; Sandra Williams, Belinda's Dream.

Plant/Foliage:

Adult - Jennifer Opiela-Miksch, Fasciata Firework. Garden Club - Sandra Williams, Poinsettias.