



# *Hello Residents It's SPRING !!*

**MAYBE !**

### **From the Desk of the President. . . .**

As the new President of your CCPOA Board of Directors, I would like to say thank you to our outgoing board for working continuously for the welfare of the community. While the community often does not see what is happening, over time there are always quiet mechanisms keeping the community functioning. We recognize your work and thank you.

As in all periods of a board, things were finished, some were works in progress and new programs have been started. So there has been a certain quiet moving ahead. Now, we are delighted to welcome Sandra and Paul Watson, Joyce LaPée and Bruce Byers to the board and we hope you will get to know each of them.

One thing you will hear me say throughout this year is to please become involved with your community. As you may know, since we did not have a quorum for our Annual Meeting, four of the five board members were appointed instead of being elected. Several people went out of their way to turn in proxies so we could have a quorum. But not enough lot owners bothered to vote.

Which means the new board will serve for only one year. Next February, there will be no remaining voted-in Directors to move ahead.

Are there provisions for this in our by-laws? Yes, but next year, let's all make an effort to come to the Annual meeting and vote or, at the very least, turn in our proxies!

We have several ways you can help besides volunteering to be on the Board. You can be on Yard of the Month or on the Hospitality Committee. If you are interested, you can contact the board by email or contact Rich Ruhman or Lynn McCormick.

Pat

<u>Cimarron Country</u> <u>2011 Board</u>	
<b>President</b>	<b>Pat Byers</b>
<b>Vice Pres.</b>	<b>Joyce LaPee</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Sandy Watson</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Bruce Byers</b>
<b>Director/Large</b>	<b>Paul Watson</b>



## Cimarron Country Emergency Response Team

by Cindy Burks

Following hurricanes Rita and Ike, it became apparent that emergency responders were not able to handle events of this magnitude. As a result, the East 1488 Community Association (E1488ca) held a public forum to address this issue.

After talking with county officials, E1488ca realized that it was necessary to find a way to help East 1488 residents become better prepared to care for themselves and their neighbors until emergency responders are available to help. As a result, E1488ca sponsored an emergency preparedness training program known as CERT.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following

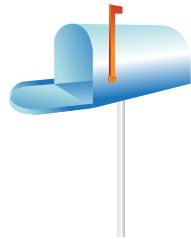
an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help.

Last spring, several Cimarron Country residents participated in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The six individuals who completed the course and now are CERT certified are Sam Barager, Cindy Burks, Mike Burks, Sherry Crawford, Ronnie Liska and Karl Schroeder.

Efforts are underway to organize our Cimarron Country CERT and help residents become better prepared for future emergencies and/or disasters. At the annual homeowners meeting, CERT members displayed emergency preparedness items; distributed information on how to become prepared; and asked residents to complete a survey which asked about the following: their willingness to help during emergencies; special skills they have that would be helpful during an emergency; special needs they have for which they would need assistance; and any supplies and/or equipment they have that they would be willing to put into community service during an emergency. Details were also given about where to get information during an emergency and how to locate the emergency "incident command post" once our CERT is activated.

Additional emergency preparedness information will be distributed soon - please watch for it. If you would like to become CERT trained and/or would like to become a member of our CERT group, contact Cindy Burks at [cynthiaborks@peoplepc.com](mailto:cynthiaborks@peoplepc.com) or [cert@e1488ca.org](mailto:cert@e1488ca.org).

**A Letter to my neighbors....**



Cimarron Country has had its share of scammers over the years. I need to mention that not all solicitors are scammers. But how are we to distinguish? During the past week, one such scamming group entered our subdivision selling reading material. There may be one or more girls or one or more boys, usually in their early 20s. They claim to be students and to live in Cimarron Country. They usually know your name (solicited from one of your neighbors) and also have a name or two of your neighbors who they tell you bought something from them (usually not true).

I have heard of several residents who have purchased from this group in the last couple of years, who never received anything they purchased, some spending way over \$100. Please do not put yourself in a bad situation. **Do not let these people into your home, for any reason!** These folks will ask to enter your home for various reasons, such as to use the rest room, have more light to discuss your order or perhaps need a hard writing surface. Do not tell them your parents or spouse are not home to come back. Any information you give them may be used against you.

**Be proactive** and do not let these folks feel welcome. It is "OK" to ask them to leave without opening the door. Watch you're surroundings if they contact you while you are doing chores outside. Communicate with your neighbors. We live in different times from times past, and that is a shame. No one wants to see their neighbor in the news, in a crime article or worse.

Stay safe and be prepared. Keep your vehicle doors locked at all times and lock your house doors. If you have a security system, USE it.

Your concerned neighbor,  
Jerry England



**Sunday, May 8, 2011 - Mother's Day**

**Mother's Day in the United States is annually held on the second Sunday of May. It celebrates motherhood and it is a time to appreciate mothers and mother figures.**



***Deed Restriction Violations.....***  
**Are you GUILTY?**

One of the major duties of the CC Board of Directors is to observe violations of our Deed Restrictions and contact homeowners to correct the situation. As this is a MAJOR (and time consuming) duty, going over some of the more frequent violations may help to minimize the violations. Are you aware of these restrictions:

1. Garbage Disposal: All incinerators or other equipment for storage or disposal of such materials shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition and NOT VISIBLE FROM ANY ROAD OR RIGHT-OF-WAY. (Multiple violations of garbage cans in sight)
2. Signs: No signs of any kind shall be displayed to the public view...(Multiple violations of contractors signs posted on properties) Only exception is For Sale signs.
3. All types of fences must be kept in a neat and presentable appearance at all times.
4. No boats or trailers shall be permitted to be placed in front of any residential building.
5. A nuisance shall include but not be limited to: any motor vehicle not properly licensed by the State of Texas, junk or wrecking yards, automobiles, trucks or other vehicles for parts.



# GET the LATEST DIRT!

by Sandy Watson

Now don't get too excited neighbors! No this is NOT a gossip column! But it is about dirt, plants, shrubs and gardening/landscaping tips. I hope to write the column for each quarterly edition of the Cimarron Country Newsletter.

If you like it, let me know. I'm always in my yard at 9410 Deer Lodge. If you don't like it, you have three options:

- Be part of the silent majority
- Write a better column
- Let me know - we'll talk!

As we are having "somewhat" of a drought ( and we had one last year too) it seems appropriate to give you a few DROUGHT TOLERANT flowers, herbs and shrubs that have been pre-tested right here in our own Cimarron Country (by me!).



## 'Hot Chocolate' Rudbeckia

Perennial

Height: 15 inches  
 Width: 12 inches  
 Flower Color: Burgundy/Gold  
 Light Requirements: Full Sun\*  
 Soil: Tolerates most well-draining soils  
 Bloom Season: Summer - midFall  
 Ideal Planting Time: April-May  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

**Notes:**  
 Flowers center is dark brown with a deep red middle. Inner petals are mahogany red with golden yellow tips. The vigorous blooming flowers are 3 inches across. Very drought tolerant. This short-lived perennial is self-seeding so you will have years of breath-taking flowers.

**\*Remember that in Texas, full sun means only 6 hours of sun per day. Our sun in summer is HOT. Like I need to tell you about it!**



## Angelina 'Sedum'

Ground Cover, Perennial

Height: 6 to 8 inches  
 Light Requirements: Full Sun  
 Soil: Well-drained  
 Bloom Season: Early Summer  
 Ideal Planting Time: Spring, Summer  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

**Notes:**  
 Semi-evergreen. Soft needle-like foliage emerges chartreuse, then turns golden-yellow in the sun. In the fall they turn to rich shades of orange and red. A cluster of starry yellow flowers form on the tips of the stems in early summer. Great for cascading from hanging baskets or creeping as a ground cover. Also great in rock gardens or sunny areas with poor, dry soil.

~~~~~



## 'Toto Gold' Rudbeckia

Perennial Flower

Height: 10 inches  
 Width: 10 inches  
 Flower Color: Gold/yellow  
 Light Requirements: Sun, Part Shade  
 Soil: Tolerates most well-draining soils  
 Bloom season: Summer to Early Fall  
 Ideal Planting Time: April to May  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**  
 Attracts Butterflies

~~~~~



**Goldenrod**  
*Perennial Flower*

Height: 3 Feet  
 Width: 3 Feet  
 Flower Color: Gold/Yellow  
 Light Requirements: Full Sun to Partial Shade  
 Bloom Season: August to November  
 Ideal Planting Time: Spring to Fall  
 Cold Tolerance: Cold hardy to 0 degrees  
 Hard to Kill: Yes  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**, disease resistant, attracts butterflies

Note: Many think that this plant causes allergy problems - it does NOT. The cause of problems is a similar plant called "Ragweed".



**Rose 'Lady Banks'**  
**(yellow)**  
Rose Climber

Height: 12 to 20 feet  
 Flower Color: Yellow  
 Soil: Organic w/good drainage  
 Bloom Season: Spring  
 Ideal Planting Time: Fall or mid/Feb-Mar  
 Cold Tolerance: Hardy and survives Houston winter w/o lasting damage  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

Note: Plant on trellis or fence. Thorn-less climber covered in double-yellow blooms in Spring. Introduced in 1824!

~~~~~

~~~~~



**Evergreen Wisteria**  
Perennial Vine

Height: to 20 feet or more  
 Light requirements: Sun  
 Soil: Rich With loam, rich humus  
 Bloom Season: July to September  
 Ideal Planting Time: Fall to Spring  
 Cold Tolerance: Root hardy, regrows in Spr.  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

Note: Needs support (fence or trellis)

~~~~~



**Texas Sage**  
Shrub -Evergreen

Height: 4-6 feet  
 Width: 3 feet  
 Growth rate: Moderate  
 Flower color: Purple  
 Light Requirement: Sun  
 Soil: Organic, good drainage  
 Bloom Season: June to September  
 Ideal Planting Time: Fall and Spring  
 Cold: Hardy, will survive Houston winter w/o lasting damage  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**, Native

Note: Blooms after rain. Green or silver foliage

~~~~~



**Hibiscus,  
'Flare'**

Flower, shrub -Perennial

Height: 4 feet  
 Width: 4 feet  
 Flower color: Fuschia  
 Light Requirements: Sun  
 Soil: Organic,well drained  
 Bloom season: Late Spring to Frost  
 Ideal Planting Time: Fall  
 Cold Tolerance: Root hardy, will return in Spring if top damaged  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

Note: Texas Superstar, compact mallow with 8 to 10" Blooms. Maple-like foliage.



**Kerria**

Shrub -Deciduous

Height: 6 feet  
 Width: 4 feet  
 Flower Color: Yellow  
 Light Requirements: Part Sun  
 Soil: Good Drainage  
 Bloom Season: March to September  
 Ideal Planting Time: Fall and Spring  
 Cold Tolerance: Root Hardy- will survive Houston winter without serious damage

Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**, disease resistant

Note: Green zig-zagging stems create open mound. Prune dead wood.



**Fountain  
plant  
(firecracker  
fern)**

Shrub Evergreen

Height: 4 feet  
 Width: 4 feet  
 Flower Color: Red  
 Light Requirements: Sun  
 Soil: Good Drainage  
 Bloom Season: April to Frost  
 Ideal Planting Time: Fall and Spring  
 Cold Tolerance: Root Hardy, regrow in Spring  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**, Disease Resistant

Note: Good Coastal Plant. Low maintenance. Cascading, rushlike bright green stems with tubular red-orange blooms.



**Sage, garden**

Herb, Perennial

Height: 3 feet  
 Flower color: Blue, pink, violet, red, white  
 Light Requirement: Sun  
 Soil: Sandy with good drainage  
 Bloom Season: Spring to Summer  
 Ideal Planting Time: Spring and Fall  
 Cold Tolerance: Root Hardy,regrows in Spring  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

Note:Leaves flavor cheese, herb breads and meats.

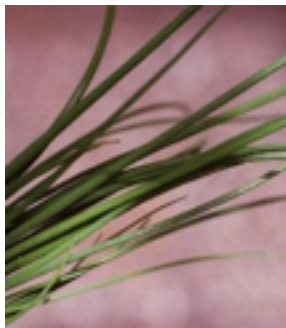


**Rosemary, BBQ**  
Herb Perennial

Height: 2 to 4 feet  
 Width: 1 to 2 feet  
 Flower Color: Azure  
 Light Requirement: Full Sun  
 Soil: well-drained  
 Bloom Season: May through November  
 Ideal Planting Time: Spring through Fall  
 Cold Tolerance: Cold Hardy to 15 degrees  
 Hard to Kill: Yes  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

Note: "Gorizia" Rosemary is known as the Barbeque Rosemary for its sturdy upright stems which can be used as skewers for roasting meat. Prune plants after bloom to encourage denser growth.

~~~~~



**Chives, Onion**  
Herb -Perennial

Height: 1-2 feet  
 Flower Color: Purple  
 Light Requirement: Part shade  
 Soil: good drainage  
 Bloom Season: Spring  
 Ideal Planting Time: Spring and Fall  
 Cold Tolerance: Root Hardy, will regrow in Spring  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

Note; Clover-like rosy-purple blooms on slender stems. Round, hollow, grasslike foliage can be used to border beds. Use light onion-flavored leaves in salads, sour cream and cooked dishes.

~~~~~



**Fennel, Bronze**  
Herb Annual

Height: 2-3 feet  
 Width: 2-4 feet  
 Flower Color: Yellow  
 Light Requirement: Full Sun  
 Bloom Season: May-June  
 Ideal Planting Time: October to January  
 Cold Tolerance: Down to 27 degrees\*\*  
 Special Attributes: **Drought Tolerant**

\*\*I have found it can take down to 15 degrees in my garden if it is somewhat sheltered.

Note: Bronze Fennel is worthy of wider use in the landscape; not only is it a handsome foliage plant but it adds fragrance and attracts butterflies to the garden. The ferny, licorice-scented leaves are a food source for the larvae of Swallowtail Butterflies. If you allow the intense yellow/gold blooms to go to seed, more plants should appear the following year. **DO NOT OVER-WATER!!!**

~~~~~

I hope that this article will help you to have a yard full of healthy, beautiful shrubs, flowers and herbs. Yes I did say herbs. Not only are they wonderful texture in your landscape but guess what? **THE DEER DO NOT EAT THEM!!** They all put out a scent that our munching deer population do not like. And the final plus - they handle freezing weather. Now how could you go wrong with that many pluses?



Finally, a little contest for the readers.....

The plant pictured on the front page of this newsletter is the "Mystery Plant of the Quarter". If you know what it is, all you have to do is email me at [antique9410@gmail.com](mailto:antique9410@gmail.com) or call me at (281) 259-4227

The first one to correctly identify this spectacular specimen will win the prize. Oh, I forgot to mention the "prize" is also a mystery. Good Luck!

**Hurricane Season Begins June 1**  
*Are You Ready?*

**East 1488 Emergency Preparedness Fair**

**Saturday, May 21st**  
**9 a.m. until 4 p.m.**  
**Home Depot Parking Lot**

**Learn About**

What to do NOW to be prepared  
Where to tune for local emergency information  
Evacuation vs Sheltering in place  
Generators  
Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training  
East 1488 CERT  
And much, much more

**Presentations and Demonstrations by**

Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management  
Magnolia Volunteer Fire Department  
Montgomery County Search and Rescue  
Quality Generators  
Home Depot  
And more...

**Children's Workshop**

**Hot Dogs (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)**  
**Entertainment**  
**Drawing for Prizes**

*Sponsored by East 1488 Community Association of Montgomery County*  
[cert@e1488ca.org](mailto:cert@e1488ca.org)      [\(281\) 356-6887](tel:(281)356-6887)