

ET spring garden conference Saturday

The 14th East Texas Spring Landscape and Garden Conference will be Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Tyler Rose Garden Center. This popular all-day program provides both green and brown thumbs with practical and interesting gardening information specific for East Texas conditions.

Registration is from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The program starts at 8:30 a.m. and the conference concludes at 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$15 which includes lunch.

Topics and speakers will be:
 - "Attracting Birds and Butterflies," Mary Wilhite, 8:45 a.m.
 - "Rainwater Harvesting,"

Billy Kniffen, 9:40 a.m.

- "Growing Azaleas in East Texas," Steve Brainard, 10:50 a.m.

- "Protecting Trees from Stress and Injury," Jim Bohlmann, 12:40 p.m.

- "Herbs from the Landscape to the Kitchen," Patsy Besch, 2 p.m.

Plants not only bring beauty to our surroundings, but they are both food and home to some of the most beautiful creatures — butterflies and birds. Wilhite, co-owner of Blue Moon Gardens in Edom, will share some of the best plants for attracting and keeping these visitors to

their home landscapes.

Tall, abundant and beautiful trees are an essential part of the East Texas environment, and one of the most discouraging things is to have a prominent landscape tree die or become severely disfigured. Bohlmann, certified arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture, will share tips for keeping trees healthy by avoiding stresses that affect the health of valued trees.

East Texas is blessed with a climate and soils that support the cultivation of one of the most beautiful blooming landscape plants — azaleas. The re-

cent drought presents challenges to growing azaleas, and Brainard, former president of the Azalea Society of America and current Parks Development superintendent for McKinney, will speak on how to successfully grow azaleas in various landscape conditions.

Besch, Smith County Master Gardener, has a passion for herbs and enjoys sharing both how to grow herbs and use them in the kitchen. Her talk will focus on herbs which make both great landscape plants and essential culinary staples.

The drought of 2005-06 also made East Texans aware of

their dependence on water to maintain yards and gardens. County Extension agent Kniffen, a statewide expert on rainwater harvesting systems, will provide basic information on how to capture rainwater for use in your landscape.

During breaks, commercial exhibitors will display lawn and garden plants, products and equipment.

The conference is sponsored by Texas Cooperative Extension — Smith County, the Smith County Environmental Horticultural Committee and the Tyler Parks and Recreation Department.

Moore hosting Edward Jones broadcast Feb. 13

Edward Jones investment representative Mary Moore of Whitehouse will host a free satellite broadcast titled "How Far Away is Your Retirement?" 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 601 Hwy. 110 N., Suite Q.

Whether one's retirement is just around the corner or years away, this program will explore the important, yet sometimes overlooked, questions that should be asked in order to prepare for retirement.

The program features Mike Rose, retirement planning expert and author of "The Retirement Decision."

This interactive event is presented at select Edward Jones branch offices nationwide via the firm's private video network.

To reserve a seat or for more information about the program, call Moore at 903-839-7333. For those unable to attend, additional viewing opportunities are available.

Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom.

The firm's 10,000-plus investment representatives work directly with more than seven million clients to understand their personal goals — from college savings to retirement — and create long-term strategies for their investments that emphasize a well-balanced portfolio and a buy-and-hold strategy.

Today's Girl Pageant Feb. 24

Whitehouse will host a preliminary Today's Girl Pageant on Saturday, Feb. 24 in the high school auditorium. Registration is at 4 p.m., with the pageant scheduled to begin at 6 p.m.

The deadline to enter is Friday, Feb. 16. Age divisions for the contest are: Today's Baby, 0-3; Today's Doll, 4-6; Today's Miss, 7-9; Today's Junior, 10-12; Today's Teen 13-15; and Today's Girl, 16-18.

Crowns and monogrammed banners will be given for overall queen, princess, talent queen, beauty queen, darling baby and darling doll. Trophies will be given in optional events such as photogenic, portfolio, best casual wear, best party dress and for alternate winners.

"The Today's Girl Youth Organization is a program dedicated to inspiring and motivating its participants. The program is designed to provide young ladies with early training in grooming, social graces, talent presentation and educational values," according to local director Lisa Haynie. "Our system requires that participants give back to their community by volunteering in some capacity throughout the year."

Entry forms are available online at www.todaysgirl.com. For more information, visit the online site or contact Haynie at 903-894-3253 or by email at lisacatlover@hotmail.com.

Zoo welcomes baby flamingoes

Caldwell Zoo is proud to announce the addition of seven baby Chilean flamingos, bringing their total to 59 flamingos.

The chicks started hatching Oct. 31 with the last one hatching on Dec. 6. Generally the flamingos lay eggs and raise their young during the summer, but due to lack of rainfall, the breeding process was delayed until October.

Due to the cold snap right after Thanksgiving, the chicks had to be pulled and hand-raised by the bird staff. The chicks were too small to be run into the barn with the remaining flock, and too large for the parents to protect them from the icy cold weather.

The staff had to wait 12 days

and then chose to return two of the older chicks to their parents, keeping the younger ones to hand raise.

After the long separation, the staff was pleased to see the two chicks immediately return to their parents. Within one hour, the parents began to feed their chicks with "crop milk", a secretion they produce from their upper digestive track by dripping it into the chick's bill.

The chicks that were too young to be returned to their parents were moved to the brooder house for staff to hand feed every two hours from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. To imitate the "crop milk" process, the bird staff fed the chicks a high protein, liquid egg diet.



Caldwell Zoo's flamingo population has grown by seven, as a crop of babies were born this winter. Due to the cold weather, the chicks had to be removed from the flock and hand-fed. After the chicks adapted to this feeding process, they were able to be taken outside for daily walks, which became a favorite part of the bird keepers' day.



Prince of Peace bake sale slated Saturday from 8-2

The Prince of Peace Altar Society will be having their 11th annual bake sale on Saturday, Feb. 10 at Up-A-Creek Coffee Shop, located at Hwy. 110 in Whitehouse.

The bake sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This is a great opportunity to pick up home-baked items for Valentines Day, according to bake sale sponsors, who encourage people to come early for best selection based on the turnout at past sales.

Troup library offers Valentine special

If you are looking for the perfect gift for that special Valentine, the Friends of the Troup Library can solve your problem.

The beautiful solution is a unique gift basket filled with a lovely antique bowl, various teas, and taste treats. A garland of ceramic hearts and an old-fashioned Valentine card complete the picture.

Even if you have to be your own Valentine, you will find this basket of goodies irresistible.

The basket is a contribution from Aunt Lillie's Antiques and Gifts.

Its centerpiece is an antique, footed, milk glass bowl, featuring the raised design "Indiana Harvest Grapes," made by the Indiana Glass Company. It would retail for about \$50 if offered by sale at the store.

This lovely Valentine gift is on display now at the Library. It will go home with the lucky person whose ticket is pulled at

the Troup Municipal Library at 4 p.m. on Valentine's Day, Wednesday, Feb. 14.

Those who want to try for this prize can donate \$1 for each ticket or \$5 for six tickets to put into the Valentine box.

Ticket holders do not have to be present to win. A library volunteer will call the winner as soon as the identity is known. All of the money will go to support the services and programs of the Troup Library.

This Valentine offering is part of the Troup Library's celebration of February as Love Your Library Month.

"Please come by and see our Love Your Library displays and add your reasons for loving your library to the mix," said Bonnie Hinkle, library director.

Among other events the library will offer during February are Senior Day and Love Your Library Kid's Day later in the month.

Full details are available in the Troup Library.

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