

M. Bloomers

A Garden Journal

*"Laughter is the sun that drives winter
from the human face"..... Victor Hugo.*

Compost... Stewart Thompson

It is time again for the holidays and Martha's Bloomers' official kick-off of the holiday season. In the past, you have honored us with your presence at our "Holiday in the Garden" celebration. This year will be our best gala yet!

This is the "Year of the Café". The delicious food for our gala will be prepared and served by our Café manager, Pamela Hays, and her staff. You are in for a treat! Sumptuous hors d'oeuvres will be served on the patio with drinks and spirits at your beck and call. There will be a selection of our new gift baskets on display, as well as new items for the holiday season.

The lovely and talented Carolyn Braswell of College Station will put us in a festive mood for the night with her fine piano melodies. You can also look forward to continuous drawings throughout the night from the many Junior Master Gardener goody baskets and gifts items.

You may not be aware that we host a Cooking Class one night each month. It is so popular that openings fill up almost immedi-

ately when we begin accepting reservations. Next year we may increase the frequency and even host mid-week, mid-day classes. You tell us!

Many of you have already visited Café M. Bloomers. For the others, you are in for a wonderful dining experience. We have created an exquisite garden atmosphere for you, your friends and family to escape everyday stress and enter the peaceful world of nature.

Last but not least, we now have our newsletters posted on our website in HTML format (just as it appears in print). Go to www.MarthasBloomers.com and click on "Newsletter" in the middle of the screen, then select the issue of your choice. For many of you that depend on your computer extensively, you can request that we remove you from the snail mail list and just receive the newsletter monthly via email.

Just notify me at

Stewart@MarthasBloomers.com.



"In the depths of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer"...Albert Camus



From the Hot House... David Albrecht, Horticulturist

Fall and Winter Pond Information. Recently we've had several questions on how to prepare water gardens for the winter. First of all, as the days grow shorter and cooler you will notice fewer and smaller leaves and fewer flowers on your hardy water lilies. This is normal for the fall. Just be sure to keep the dead leaves removed, and do not fertilize your plants after October.

As for the tropical lilies, the subtle fall weather change will not affect them until we begin to approach freezing temperatures. Tropical lilies will continue to flower and grow up to this point until they suddenly go dormant. Not fertilizing them after mid-October also helps them go dormant sooner and helps them over-winter. They will need the routine

maintenance of having their dead leaves removed.

The bog plants will also go dormant by the first freeze. At this point just simply prune them back as you would a terrestrial perennial plant. Most will come back in the spring.

Fall is also a good time to clean your pond of leaves, sticks, and other large debris that may have settled to the bottom over the summer months. You only need to remove the large debris that you can get with your hand or a net. This does not mean to drain your pond and scrub every rock. Also do not forget to clean the pump filter at this time.

Fish should be fed until the water temperature reaches 45- 50°F.



*Live Christmas Trees, Wreaths
and
Holiday Greenery*

**Carolina Fraser Fir Christmas Trees
& Wreaths**

Beautiful Poinsettias Fresh Garlands Christmas Cactus

The Season's Best Plant... Gay Houston, Staff

The Pansy Alternative... Winter flowerbeds can be fairly dismal. We crave color and green growing things--thus a mass of pansies are often stuck in open spots. We all love this colorful family--pansies, violas, or Johnny-Jump ups. Wonderful colors have been developed in these varieties. They still have their place; however, there are other great plants to use.

Calendulas can survive some really cold temperatures, so they make excellent winter bedding plants. Madeline Hill says that a true herb-grower will call them pot marigolds as the new foliage is a potherb. The flowers can be used in salads to give dishes a saffron color. Calendulas do resemble marigolds in shape and color.

Bright orange or glowing yellow two inch flowers will do wonders for a bed.

Several herbs can be mixed in with winter favorites like snap-dragons, dianthus, allysum, and lobelia. Try planting some curly parsley, salad burnett, or cilantro along borders to give islands of bright green. They love the cold weather and can be harvested all winter.

Another important cold season plant is the cyclamen. These very bold flowers are available in red, white, and many shades of pink. The butterfly shaped blossoms stand boldly above the stunning foliage and they should be placed in a really conspicuous place for full enjoyment all winter.



"Splitting dry kindling on a damp November day -- wind-chimes tinkling"...Michael P. Garofalo



Decorating Tips... Tricia Barksdale, Petals 'n Bloomers

Centerpiece Chandelier... If dining table space is limited for your holiday entertaining, use your chandelier as a centerpiece. Try one of the following ideas:

- Small vases, with some kind of a lip around the top, can be tied securely with ribbon to the chandelier. Fill vases with fresh flowers and greenery, but just enough water to keep the stems hydrated. (Too much water in the vase will add too much weight to the chandelier.)
- Run ribbons, berries, garland, or a string of white lights (battery operated) loosely through the arms of the light fixture.
- Clip nandina, holly, or yaupon berries

and tuck through chandelier. Ribbon can add a softening element, as well as a method of anchoring the berries.

- For a casual, yet sophisticated look, use jute rope that is spray painted gold. Run this cording, along with a silk greenery garland, through out the light fixture. Tassels are made by knotting the rope ends and unraveling the strands. These ideas and other holiday decorating tips will be demonstrated at a free seminar November 8, at 11:00 am. Call (936) 825-8577 for reservations. *Send a Smile Any Day!*

Petals n Bloomers Florist
(936) 825-8577



Christmas at the Café... Pamela Hays, Staff

Christmas Gifts from the Kitchen... The holiday season is filled with Christmas parties, decorating, baking, and of course holiday shopping. Between our holiday happenings, most of us are scrambling to find the perfect gifts for our friends and family. This year, make it easy on yourself and give Christmas gifts from our kitchen.

Café M. Bloomers has a variety of holiday goodies that will make excellent Christmas gifts. Our "Cookies in a Jar" contain all the dry ingredients necessary for making cookies. The jars come wrapped in holiday paper and make the perfect holiday gift. All you have to do is add butter, eggs, and mix and you have a delicious batch of homemade cookies. Cookie flavors include chocolate chip, orange dreamsicle, cranberry hooty cakes, trail mix, and white chocolate almond.

Our chocolate flavored coffee spoons also make excellent gifts. The spoons are dipped in flavors such as amaretto, vanilla, hazelnut, Irish cream, raspberry and mocha. Use the spoon to stir your coffee and the chocolate melts adding your favorite flavor to your morning cup.

Our homemade spiced tea mix and signature sweet breads are also available and are the perfect addition to any gift basket.

Whether you are shopping for a little something or a larger present, let Café. M. Bloomers make holiday gift giving a little easier. Choose one of our gift baskets or we will help you design a personalized basket.

The baked goods on the menu at Café M. Bloomers are also available for sale. We can bake a fresh cobbler, a pie, or fudge nut brownies for your office party. Meat and cheese trays, hors' d oeuvres trays, and dessert platters are also available. Stop by and fill out an order form and your holiday order will be ready for pick up on the date you specify.

As the bustle of the holiday season begins, let Café M. Bloomers provide the perfect gift or holiday treat. The order deadline for Thanksgiving is November 21, for pickup on November 26. The Christmas order deadline is December 16, for pickup on December 23. We look forward to seeing you this holiday season!!

For Same Day Call-Ahead Reservations or Arbor Room Reservations for groups of 13 or more, call

Café M. Bloomers
(936) 870-3277.



"The gardening season officially begins on January 1st and ends on December 31st." ...Marie Huston



New For the Holidays



Shop Late.....Starting November 28, through Christmas, Martha's Bloomers will have extended shopping hours. We will be open until 8:00 pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Skin Care.....For some our fabulous skin care products will be a new item. Our main line of Body Lotion, Body Powder and oil-free Body Mist has expanded to include Sea Salt Scrub, Foot Cream, Foaming Mineral Salts and Bath Crystals.

Home Care.....Our extraordinary Skin Care line has been broadened to include the home. We have a wonderful Fresh Linen scent in our Room Spray, Ironing Spray and Counter Top Cleaner.

Gourmet Kitchen Tools....Our new line of cooking utensils will be here in time for the next cooking class. Great Christmas gifts!

Gift Baskets....We now offer a tempting array of Gift Baskets. Gardening, Lone Star, Coffee or flavored Tea, Baked Goods, Silk and Fresh Flowers, Skin Care, and Home Care are a few of our great baskets. Each comes in a unique container. Our baskets make the perfect office gift. Let us create personalized baskets for your gift giving.

Hosting Holiday Parties....As always, *Café M' Bloomers* is an elegant choice for holiday gatherings. Our Arbor Room or Tea Room is the perfect place to host your office or private party.

Texas Room ...From drawer pulls to cow hide pillows, everything Lone Star is offered in our unique Texas room.

Antique Warehouse....Every month there are new antiques. Prowl among vintage cook stoves, doors, trunks, tables, cupboards and smaller collectables.

Master Gardener Class....We will offer Master Gardener classes every Monday from 8:30 am-12:30pm, starting February 2, through April 26. The cost will be \$100.00.



Visit Martha's Bloomers Dressed for the Holidays



Beginning with this issue, Martha's Bloomers' newsletter will be available on our web site.

www.MarthasBloomers.com

"I heard a bird sing in the dark of December. A magical thing and sweet to remember"... Oliver Herford



Ask Martha & Bloomer....

Dear Martha:

I water my Christmas Cactus but it is losing its blooms. What am I doing wrong?,

Martha here...Be stingy with water on Christmas Cactus and the buds won't fall off.

Dear Bloomer:

I have several cracked clay pots and I hate to throw them away. Any suggestions?

Bloomer here....Yes...cracked and broken clay pots can be smashed into small shards and used for drainage in the bottom of other pots...save them for your spring plantings!!!!



Plan your Festive Holiday Gala at *Café M. Bloomers*

Special Menus, Wine and Beer.

We offer various menus for the holiday season.

Contact Pamela Hays

(936) 870-3277



Something's Cooking...at Martha's Bloomers!

The holiday season is a time for entertaining, and that includes planning those fabulous Christmas parties. With the holiday season quickly approaching, it is time to start planning your holiday events. Surrounded by a lush garden landscape, Café M. Bloomers provides the perfect atmosphere for an intimate gathering or a corporate function. We offer everything from a wine and hors d'oeuvres party to an elegant sit down dinner. For cozy dining at home, gourmet party trays and ready to take home casseroles and desserts are a great convenience. Make your selection from Café M. Bloomers' extensive menu.

“Reduce the stress of the holiday hustle and bustle...”

The Café' also offers a tempting array of gourmet food baskets, perfect for a special office gift.

Entertain your holiday visitors and reduce the stress of the holiday hustle and bustle by letting Café M. Bloomers take care of all your culinary needs while you relax and enjoy the season.

Our calendar still has good openings available.

Call soon!

Bring your holiday visitors to visit

Café M. Bloomers

Pam Hayes

(936) 870-3277



From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens—the garden outdoors, the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and the garden of the mind's eye. "...Katherine S. White"



Calendar of Events.....

Christmas Decorations Seminar — Saturday, November 8, at 11 am presented by Tricia Barksdale, Designer, Petals 'n Bloomers Florist.

Composting to Keep Texas Beautiful Seminar— Saturday, November 15, at 11am Presented by Cindy Armatys in conjunction with Texas Recycles Day. (Check the website www.texasrecyclesday.org)

Holiday in the Garden— Friday, November 21, at 6:30pm. Enjoy our Christmas Garden Gala with hors d'oeuvres, holiday spirits, and enchanting live music.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday — Thursday, November 27,—closed. In 1863, Abraham Lincoln, declared the last Thursday in November as the National Day of Thanksgiving.

Scratch & Dent Sale—Saturday, December 6. Shop from a special selection of merchandise and plants..

Orchids for the Holidays—Saturday, December 13 at 11 am presented by Dr. Rainer Fink.

Christmas Day Holiday—Thursday, December 25—closed.

New Year's Day— Thursday, January 1—closed



For more information on our seminars, visit us at www.MarthasBloomers.com.

Saturday Seminars are Free.

To Register: Call (936) 870-4044 or email us at: registration@Marthasbloomers.com.

We welcome your suggestions for future seminars.

Please email to: suggestions@MarthasBloomers.com

Scratch 'n Dent Sale

Saturday, December 6 - 9 am to 6 pm

Antique Home Décor Pottery Apparel



Return Service Requested

If you have an email address and would like to receive reminders and special offers, please email us at emailupdates@MarthasBloomers.com to register.

"Naturally," our newsletter is printed on recycled paper which meets or exceeds federal EPA guidelines for recycled paper!

**8101 Hwy. 6 Bypass
Navasota, TX 77868**



**Mon-Sat 9-6 Sun 11-5
(936) 870-4111**