

WATER DROPS

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Municipal Utility
District 132
Board of Directors**

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Who Says Beauty Has to Be Hard Work? Drought-Resistant Perennials Make Spring Yardwork (and Maintenance) a Breeze

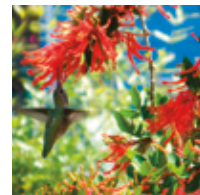
Busy lives – we all have them. That doesn't mean, however, that we can't stop and appreciate the beauty around us. The love of color and the abundant choices nature provides - it's why many of us spend hours out in the yard each spring, creating what we hope will be a gorgeous landscape. But let's be honest. Few of us have endless amounts of time to tend to difficult, labor intensive plant varieties. The great news is, there are plenty of gorgeous, low maintenance and drought-resistant perennials to choose from...an abundance of plants and flowers that will not only look great, but will – for the most part – take care of themselves. Beautiful and easy, breezy. Sign me up!

When planting this year, take into consideration the following perennials.* They are just a sampling of the many varieties that thrive in our sometimes unforgiving summers and survive to please us again year after year. For more information on easy to maintain plants and flowers, contact the expert at your local garden store or nursery.



Yarrow: With its fern-leaved foliage and choice of red, pink or white blooms, Yarrow is a stunning addition to any landscape. Blooming May through July, and sometimes into the fall, this drought tolerant perennial is great for groundcover and supplies excellent cut or dried flowers. Yarrow grows best in full sun to partial shade.

Firebush: The Firebush has unique and beautiful, red-orange tubular flowers. It is a long-blooming, easy care tropical bedding plant and is a favorite of hummingbirds. Also drought and heat-tolerant, the Firebush needs occasional shearing and grows hardy in sun to partial shade.



New Gold Lantana: Golden yellow and long-blooming (throughout the spring, summer and fall), the New Gold Lantana perennial blooms its heart out in the heat and misery of a Houston summer. Just to show off, this golden beauty also attracts the flitting hummingbird and a host of colorful butterflies. Very little maintenance is required for this hardy stunner – just an occasional shearing and periodic watering during extreme drought.

Continued on Page 4

Do you have a water or sewer-related **EMERGENCY**? Call MUD 132's new dedicated **EMERGENCY** line at 281-398-8211. For other service-related questions, view our full list of contact numbers on the District website at: **www.hcmud132.com/contact**.

MUD 132 Operator Spotlight: Larry Jones



MUD 132's District Operator – Severn Trent Services (STS) – has been serving us well for almost 20 years. Leroy Mensik of STS was the District's primary contact for many of those years, but he was recently promoted to Senior Area Manager

and in February of last year, Larry Jones was promoted to Area Manager responsible for MUD 132. The transition went without a hitch, which was no surprise to the District board. Larry has been a valued employee at STS since August of 1999, and has been attending meetings with Leroy and working with the District for quite some time.

When asked how he will use his experience to help facilitate the District's goals, Jones replied, "Leroy did a fantastic job and I just plan on keeping things moving in the same positive direction. I have been working with MUD 132 – in some form or another – for over fourteen years and I believe that helps me to understand how best to prioritize needs and how to get problems resolved."

So what does a District operator do on a daily basis? First and foremost, STS operates all MUD 132 plant sites – seven days a week, 24 hours per day. They are also responsible for the preventative maintenance of all District equipment and infrastructure (including water and sewer lines) and respond to any leaks or other repair work. From an administrative standpoint, STS reads meters once a month, invoices customers and collects payments. Their staff also handles the opening and closing of customer accounts, the inspection of new commercial customer installations and they respond to customer inquiries or any issues that may arise. STS is the communication point between service users and the District.

"We work hard to make sure that the District's new and older equipment stays in top running condition," Jones explained. "We do so, in part, by rotating the equipment used and by running standby equipment from time to time to ensure they are ready to go online if needed. We are also consistently working with the Board and District engineer to monitor and take care of any manufacturer recommended preventative maintenance on equipment."

With the continued challenges of an aging infrastructure, Larry's knowledge and experience are a valued asset. Although many of the plant facilities have been upgraded over the past several years, continued improvements are ongoing and all are handled with the least amount of impact to our customers.

"We are always looking for more efficient and ef-

Rainfall Statistics: January 2011 – March 2013 (Total Inches/Month)

For the latest rainfall statistics (by month), visit our website anytime at www.hcmud132.com and click on the "Rainfall Statistics" link.

Month	2011	2012	2013
Jan	5.50	4.65	6.25
Feb	1.05	9.20	3.90
March	1.55	6.95	0.55
April	0.00	2.75	
May	0.40	1.25	
June	2.30	1.60	
July	3.10	5.70	
Aug	0.40	2.95	
Sept	0.75	4.40	
Oct	4.35	1.15	
Nov	3.15	0.25	
Dec	6.70	3.90	

Total In./Yr **29.25** **44.75** **10.70**
(to date)

*Source: Severn Trent Services (STS) Rain Gauge at Sewer Plant #109

Simplify Your Bill Payment Process by Signing up for the MUD 132 Direct Payment Plan

Interested in simplifying your payment process, saving time and cutting down on paper and postage costs? **Sign up for MUD 132's Direct Payment Plan.** It's a convenient, simple and free service brought to you by your MUD 132 board of directors. To get started, fill out the form included in your monthly bill or on our website (www.hcmud132.com) under the "Direct Payment Plan" link. Mail or fax the form to our billing department with a cancelled check (address and fax number provided on form) and within a couple of billing cycles, your automatic bank draft will be in place. If you have any questions, feel free to call our District office at 281-579-4500. We're here to help!

fective ways to do our job,” said Jones. “This not only results in savings for the District but also allows us to approach our job from a very proactive position.”

The MUD 132 Board of Directors, STS, and District engineer, Brown & Gay, did just that in the recent water plant expansion projects.

“The water plant expansions – which added ground storage tanks at both water plants – allow us to take pressure off of existing wells during extended periods of dry weather,” said Jones. “This not only helps us to meet increased demand, but also extends the life of equipment.”

At MUD 132, we value the experience that Larry and the rest of the STS team so expertly provide. They know this District’s infrastructure, equipment and customer needs inside and out. We are confident in their abilities and we appreciate their years of service.

“STS shares the values of this District, and we have always had a professional relationship with open and honest communication,” said MUD 132 Board president, Tim Stine. “The Board relies heavily on STS recommendations. The installation of the second ground storage tank at the West Lake Houston Parkway Water Plant resulted primarily from an STS recommendation to reduce the loads on pumps and related equipment.

MUD 132 Residents Receive a Tax Reduction of Over 28%

In October of 2012, the MUD 132 board of directors voted to lower your District tax rate. The reduction, a result of declining debt service expenses as outstanding bonds gradually retire, lowered the rate from \$0.22/\$100 of value to \$0.155/\$100 of value. As you might have noticed, this change affected your 2012 tax bill that was due in January of 2013. The 28.34% tax reduction resulted in an average homeowner savings of \$86.10.

Likewise, Larry and STS responded with changes to their emergency phone system when calls related to an early Saturday morning service interruption overloaded STS phone lines.”

Larry and his wife, Misty met when they were freshmen in high school. They have two beautiful young daughters and enjoy hunting, fishing and spending time with their family. The MUD 132 Board would like to thank STS for their stellar service and we look forward to working with Larry and his team for many years to come.

New Coating Extends Life of MUD 132 Ground Storage Tank

As part of MUD 132’s recent water plant expansion, a second ground storage tank was constructed at the District’s Water Plant #2 on West Lake Houston Parkway. With the new tank in service (in conjunction with a second tank added in the expansion at Water Plant #1 on Rebawood), Water Plant #2’s original ground storage tank was able to be drained for its 3-year inspection. The tank – which is 24 feet tall, 55 feet in diameter and has a capacity of 420,000 gallons – has a typical life span of roughly 15-20 years. The inspection was no small job and revealed that since the last inspection, approximately two feet of granular mineral deposits had settled on the bottom of the tank. Other locations inside the tank also showed signs of natural decomposition and corrosion due to aging.

The tank was cleaned and most issues were addressed, including a leak – caused by corroded metal – that was fixed at the bottom of the tank. The source of the leak had been there for some time but

the two feet of granular mineral deposits had actually provided enough pressure on the area to keep the water from leaking through (similar to a nail in a car tire).

To remedy the remaining issues found during inspection, the engineer for the district recommended coating the inner surface of the tank with an environmentally friendly epoxy resin to stop any existing and future corrosion inside the tank. At a cost of \$50,000, the coating would extend the life of the tank by approximately ten years. The board voted to proceed with the engineer’s recommendation. Upon completion of the project, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)



Original Ground Storage Tank at Water Plant #2

conducted a final inspection of the recoating. They found no deficiencies and issued a certificate of completion, allowing the tank to be brought back into service. If you have any questions regarding this project, or any other MUD-related service, feel free to call us at 281-209-2100.

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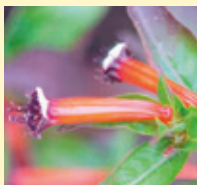


Dwarf Indian Blanket: Blooming repeatedly in the summer and fall, this enduring yellow and red perennial thrives in full sun, hot (and cold) temperatures and should survive a fairly lengthy drought. The Dwarf Indian Blanket also attracts birds and butterflies and requires little maintenance.



Coreopsis: Prized for its dependable nature and bright yellow, daisy-like flower, the long-blooming Coreopsis is easy to grow and essentially trouble-free. It is an excellent landscape plant, with taller, back of the border varieties and a shorter, more delicate mounding option good for edging. Best planted in

the spring and spaced 2-3 feet apart, this lovely perennial is great for cut flowers.



Cigar Plant: Named for its obvious resemblance to the cigar, this gorgeous and unique plant blooms year-round and produces orange, red and yellow, cigar-shaped flowers. This is another hummingbird favorite and is also heat-loving and drought-tolerant. Best in full sun, the Cigar Plant readily adapts to a number of

environments and can grow to be two feet tall.



Rain Lily: This trumpet-shaped flower with white and yellow blooms is actually a bulb, but because of its Texas native quality and easy care attributes (they rebound the best from our sometimes extreme weather) it lives in the perennial category.

The Rain Lily thrives in our endless summers and blooms from July through August.



Blue Plumbago: With lovely blue clusters of flowers that bloom non-stop from summer until the first frost, this tender perennial is a reasonably drought-tolerant plant that loves the heat and doesn't mind long, humid summers. The Blue Plumbago does do best in full sun, but it can take considerable shade and still have an

abundance of blooms. This fast-growing variety will keep your yard full of butterflies all summer and should be cut to the ground every fall or winter.

*Source: Website of Randy Lemmon – host of the GardenLine radio program on Newsradio 740 KTRH.

Who to Call...

Water, sewer and drainage questions:

Harris County MUD 132
Customer Service Office
283 Lockhaven, Suite 208
Houston, TX 77073

Billing Questions:
281.579.4500

Service Calls:
281-209-2100

Emergencies:
281-398-8211

NOTE: If you have water or sewer related problems, PLEASE CALL US BEFORE YOU CALL THE PLUMBER! We will investigate the problem at no cost to you. If it is found to be a water district-related problem, we will arrange to correct it. If it is not a water district issue, we will provide our advice. Remember, we are here to help!

HCMUD 132 Tax Questions

Bob Leared Interests
713.932.9011
(Ask for the HCMUD 132 representative)

Garbage Service

Waste Management
713.686.6666

HCMUD 132 Board Meetings

The Harris County MUD 132 Board generally meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For meeting location, please check the District website.

Visit us online:
www.hcmud132.com