

FACES IN THE CROWD

# Club leader's passion was cultivated early

By Megan Mattingly-Arthur

Susan Straub has been gardening for as long as she can remember. Straub's father was a farmer and, when she was young, it was her responsibility to maintain the family's vegetable garden. Now, as president of the Nottingham Country Garden Club, Straub shares her gardening enthusiasm and know-how with others.

Straub first joined the Nottingham Country Garden Club in 2000, shortly after moving to Houston.

"I was looking for something to do, a group of women to join, a way to get involved ... and involved I did get," she said with a laugh.

As president of the Nottingham Country Garden Club, Straub works closely with the club's board mem-

## ABOUT SUSAN STRAUB

**OCCUPATION:** Retired registered nurse

**COMMUNITY CONNECTION:** Katy resident

**FAST FACT:** Took the Harris County master gardener class in 2009

bers to schedule speakers, arrange field trips and organize the annual plant sale, scheduled for March 23, 2013.

"We raise our own plants, propagate our own plants and sell them to people with the knowledge (of how to grow them)," she said.

Getting involved with the Nottingham Country Garden Club is as simple as filling out a short form, which is available for download from the club's website.

Membership dues are \$25 per year, payable in May.

"You can attend two meetings, just to come and try us out and see how friendly and fun we are," Straub said.

The Nottingham Country Garden Club meets 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of the month, September through May, at the Municipal Utility District (MUD) Building No. 81, located at 805 Hidden Canyon Drive.

"We just have a lot of fun," Straub said. "We do field trips and hands-on projects. Last year, we did a winery tour. This year, we're including trips up to Arbor Gate and out to a daylily farm."

Straub enjoys growing a variety of flowering plants and trees in her personal garden. Her favorites include poinsettias, which



Contributed photo

**Nottingham Country Garden Club President Susan Straub, fourth from left, helps organize the club's annual plant sale fundraiser.**

she says can grow up to 3 feet when planted in the ground, and an angel's trumpet tree.

When she's not gardening or fulfilling her duties as president of the Nottingham Country Garden Club, Straub enjoys baking,

crocheting and spending time with her two grandchildren, ages 3 and 18 months, who will be visiting from Chicago during the holidays.

For more information on the Nottingham Country Garden Club, or to obtain

a membership application, call Straub at 281-693-0016 or visit [www.nottingham-gardenclub.org](http://www.nottingham-gardenclub.org).

*Megan Mattingly-Arthur is a freelance writer. She can be reached at [neighborhoods@chron.com](mailto:neighborhoods@chron.com).*