

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter
April, 2012



NCGC Meeting /April 5, 2012
9:30 MUD Bldg. #81

Program: "Cooking With Herbs"
followed by a question and answer
session.

Presenter: Jennie Dunnihoo



April Extra Activity

Date: Tuesday, April 17th
Time: 10:00 am.

Activity: We'll be visiting the beautiful gardens of our own NCGC member Mary Lou Proctor where she will speak to us on companion plants for a border.

Extra activities are for members and their guests only.



A Word From Our President

Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

I can't wait for the interesting and passionate speaker, "Jenny", to share with us a bit of her immense knowledge on herbs at our April meeting.

If you have a favorite herb recipe or food, I hope you will share it with us at this meeting. Using the fruit of our garden labors, "It's a good thing!". Sharing - even better! Oh, I am so excited...see you soon!

Sue

Looking Ahead

The May NCGC meeting will be our end-of-the-year luncheon to be held at Brookwood Community which will include a tour of Brookwood and of course, shopping!

Reservations and payment of \$22.00 are required by April 19th, so bring your money or checkbook to our April meeting. A menu choice sign-up sheet will be available at the April meeting also. If you are unable to attend the April meeting, please contact Marilyn Frueh before the 19th.

Events and Workshops

Monarch Report

Brenda Beuce Smith, aka "The Lazy Gardener" received a post to her blog from a reader who noted an unusually high number of monarch caterpillars in her yard this year. The reader and Brenda Beuce Smith would like to know if any other gardeners out there have noticed this as well. You can post your observations to <http://blog.chron.com/lazygardener>.



Monarch Caterpillar



Monarch Butterfly

Planning Ahead

*Houston Federation of Garden Clubs' May 11th meeting will be "Similar but not the Same. Expect a Surprise!"

*Fort Bend Master Gardeners' May 17th program will be "Venomous Snakes in Our Area" presented by David Lobpries of the Texas Parks & Wildlife

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Friday, April 13, 2012

**Houston Civic Garden Center
1500 Hermann Dr., Houston**

Time: 9:30 am. - Program at 10:30 am.

Presenter: Vicki McMillan - Professional wildlife artist, teacher and conservationist

Program: "Art and the Environment: An Inspiring Approach"

Ms. McMillan will share her vast experience as an artist concerned with the environment and how those talents further both art, horticulture, and design concepts.

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Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly Program

Thursday, April 19, 2012

6:30 Social Time

7:00-8:00 Program

Bud O'Shieles Community Center

1330 Band Road

Rosenberg, TX

Program: "Bamboo Varieties and How to Grow Them in Our Area"

Presenter: Mike Frismanis, FBMG & Bamboo Grower

Membership Dues

It's time to renew your membership in Nottingham Country Garden Club for the 2012-2013 year. You won't want to miss the great speakers, field trips, extra activities and fun. Dues are \$2.00 and can be paid at the April or May meeting but no later than May 1st. Please see Mary Lou Proctor at the membership table.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



DISHING OUT THE THANKS!

***A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO WORKED, CONTRIBUTED TO, AND SUPPORTED OUR ANNUAL PLANT AND BAKE SALE. WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU AND YOUR EFFORTS ARE MUCH APPRECIATED!**

***WARM THANKS TO CINDY AT MYCORNEROFKATY.COM FOR DONATING VARIOUS PLANTS TO THE PLANT AND BAKE SALE, HARRIS COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS FOR DONATING SOME LOVELY TOMATO PLANTS AND ANDREA NELSON FOR HER GENEROUS DONATION OF ALOE VERA PLANTS.**

***A ROUND OF APPLAUSE PLEASE FOR CORNELIUS NURSERY LOCATED AT 1200 NORTH DAIRY ASHFORD (SOUTH OF I-10) FOR DONATING THE 'ROYAL QUEEN PURPLE' LOCHROMA PLANT WHICH WAS RAFFLED OFF AT OUR MARCH MEETING.**

***A BIG SHOUT OUT TO FRANK'S NURSERY, 302 FM 359, RICHMOND FOR DONATING THE PLANT FOR THIS MONTH'S RAFFLE.**

Magazine Donations

Just a reminder to bring in your old, "gently read" issues of magazines. Magazines can be on any subject (gardening, cooking/food, health/wellness, family/parenting, decorating/home, travel/leisure etc.) Magazines will be available for purchase at each meeting.

***NOTTINGHAM COUNTRY GARDEN CLUB WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION AND THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING THIS YEAR'S PLANT AND BAKE SALE.**

PLEASE GIVE THEM YOUR BUSINESS AND YOUR THANKS!

***SAM'S DELI DINER: SAM'SDELIDINER.COM**

***CICI'S PIZZA: WWW.CICISPIZZAKATY.COM**

***DENTIST USA: WWW.DENTISTUSA.COM**

***SHELTON'S FAMILY CLEANERS:**

WWWLSHELTONFAMILYCLEANERS.COM

***DEPILEX HAIR SALON:**

***KUMON: WWW.KUMON.COM**

***GROCERY SERVICES INC.**

***ANYTIME FITNESS:**

WWW.ANYTIMEFITNESS.COM

***NEW STAR NAILS & SPA:**

WWW.STARNAILSANDSPA.COM

***SWEET THINGS ICE CREAM SHOPPE:**

WWW.SWEETTHINGSNORE.COM

***POSTAL EXPERTS:**

WWW.POSTALWEBPLUS.COM

Monthly Gardening Tasks - April



Sources: Fort Bend Master Gardeners;

Dr. Doug Welsh, professor and horticulturist, Texas A&M University, Texts Garden A/tntnoc
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc. website (v.ww.fbmng.com), "Texas Gardener
Magazine", Chris S. Corby Editor.

*Perennials & Annuals

Time to start removing dead blossoms from annual, perennials, and roses to keep them blooming. Plants will have fewer blooms if the blossoms are allowed to develop seeds. Begin a monthly fertilization program using nitrogen fertilizer for all annuals and perennials. For summer color, plant ageratum, angelonia, begonias, black-eyed Susans, cleome, coleus, coneflowers, cosmos, croton, geraniums, hibiscus, impatiens, lantana, marigolds, melampodium, melochia, pentas, periwinkles, Persian shield, pincushion flower (scabiosa), sunflowers, verbena, and zinnias. Plant caladiums in late April to early May when soil temperatures warm to 10 degrees F. This is a good month to plant agapanthus, amaryllis, calla lilies, cannas, crinums, daylilies, African and butterfly irises, gingers, and rainlilies. Allow narcissus foliage to die back naturally. Get a good layer (at least 3 inches) of mulch down in flower beds before the summer heat sets in. This will conserve water, and help prevent weeds.

*Vegetables & Herbs:

Before planting spring vegetables, prepare your beds with organic matter. The following vegetables can be planted in April from seed: beans (bush and pole, plant in early April and again in mid-April for continuous harvest), cantaloupe, cucumber, corn, summer squash, okra, Southern peas, pumpkins, and watermelons. Plant eggplant and peppers from transplants. Warm-season herbs such as basil, mint, chives, lemon grass, lemon verbena, Mexican mint, oregano, rosemary, and thyme can be planted now. Fertilize with a complete fertilizer, such as 15-5-10. Make this fertilizer application prior to each garden season, spring and fall. Mulch the vegetable garden to preserve soil moisture from spring rains and to reduce disease-causing fungi splashing from the soil to the plants.

*Trees and Shrubs:

Prune spring-blooming trees and shrubs after blooming and only if needed. Fertilize azaleas and camellias after blooming.

*Roses

Roses prefer at least six hours of sun a day. Hybrid teas require application of fungicide each week to prevent black spot. (Note: Earth Kind roses are more resistant to mildew and black spot than the hybrid tea roses). Encourage lady beetles in all their larval stages and also adults as aphid predators. Fertilize existing rose bushes but not newly planted ones. Apply 2-3" of mulch.



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A Reminder from Horticulture

Do you have some lovely flowers blooming in your yard, or an unusual plant? Bring in a sample or cutting and share it with the club. Do you have something growing in your yard and have no idea what it is? Bring a sample in and we'll try to solve the mystery. Please remember to complete the horticulture form found in the October newsletter