



# Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter

December, 2016



## NCGC Meeting Information

**Date:** Thursday, December 1, 2016; 11:00am - 2:00 pm  
**Where:** Pappadeaux's (10499 I-10)  
[Take Exit 755 to Wilcrest. Stay on access road until you reach Pappadeaux's entrance.]

[Note: We will not have the Plant Shoppe, or gift exchange this month.]

Nan: Bring cash for the 50/50 raffle.



Kim: What's that?



Lori: If your ticket is drawn, you get 50% of the "jar" and NCGC gets 50%.

## Calendar of Events

Dec. 9th - HFGC\* General Meeting; 9:30am social; see HFGC Newsletter.

Jan. 5th - Meeting; Speaker is Louis Bennett; Wabash Feed and Garden, on "Soil and Fertilizers."

Jan. 19th - Car trip to Mercer Botanical Gardens. (See page 2.)

Feb. 17th - Bus trip to Cockrell Butterfly Center.

\*Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

## December Birthdays

- 12/3 Alice Brown
- 12/5 Lisa Holden
- 12/6 Shirley Parma
- 12/7 Pat Palesko and Margaret St. Clair
- 12/11 Chris Rogers
- 12/20 Jewel Cullin



## Highlight — Claudine Illg, 2nd Vice-President of Programs

### Favorite Plant

Q: What is your favorite plant and why?

CI: *My favorite plant is the gardenia bush for two reasons. First, I love scented plants and flowers and gardenia flowers have a strong, beautiful fragrance. The second reason is that this was my grandmother's favorite; so it triggers many happy memories for me.*

### Favorite Resource

Q: What's your favorite "go to" resource?

CI: *I like Cornelius Nursery. I've always found the employees to be very knowledgeable and friendly. I've often gone there just to ask questions and get information; and I've never felt pressured to buy things that I didn't need or anything at all. After visiting Wabash, I may have a new favorite!! They are primarily an organic shop and they also have puppies (and bunnies and chickens and all kinds of animals).*

### Advice

Q: What one suggestion would you give a new gardener?

CI: *One piece of advice that I would offer new gardeners is to know what growing zone you are in before buying anything to plant outside. We are in zone 8b, which is wonderful because we can grow so many tropical plants here. But even with the great variety of options we have, many chain nurseries will sell things that are not suited to our conditions. For a new gardener this can lead to a lot of frustration and expense!*



Welcome our  
newest member -  
Karen Beham

## Fundraising



**\*Door Prizes** - There will be several door prizes at the meeting.

**\*Caladium Bulbs** - The fundraising project for 2016-17 is to sell caladium bulbs from **January 5—March 2, 2017**. We will sell #1 fancy leaf bulbs (bulbs are 1.5—2.5 " in size) . The Fancy Leaf Caladium leaves tend to be heart shaped, taller, and have a more upright habit.

The bulbs selected are Red Flash, White Christmas, and Carolyn Wharton. The bulbs will sell in bundles of 10 (one color) for \$10, 25 (one color) for \$25 or a case of 200 (one color) for \$175. Order forms will be distributed at the January 5th meeting.

*~Lori and Nan*



Thanks to our hostesses  
for the delicious treats.



Red Flash

White Christmas



Carolyn Wharton

## Mercer Botanical Gardens



**January 19, 2017** We will tour Mercer Botanical Gardens. Sign-up for the car trip at the Christmas Luncheon or the January 5, 2017 meeting. Wear your walking shoes for the tour.

**About Mercer Botanical Gardens:** In the late 1940s, Thelma and Charles Mercer purchased a beautiful 14.5 acre tract of natural land along Cypress Creek. Thelma was an avid horticulturist, and she and Charles did much of the initial selective clearing to make space for some of her favorite native trees that included dogwoods, rusty black-haw viburnum, several species of hawthorns, plus many others. Thelma planted large camellias that are still seen throughout the central gardens today. She also introduced many other plant species such as camphor, Ginkgo, Bauhinia, Philadelphus and tung oil that naturalized and are still growing beautifully.

In 1974, Harris County purchased the original 14.5 acre tract with the stipulation that it would grow and be maintained as an educational and horticultural facility for the public's enjoyment. Since 1984, through donations and land purchases made by Harris County Precinct 4, Mercer park has grown to 325 acres. The botanical gardens are over 20 acres of beautifully maintained gardens which feature bamboo, color displays, daylilies, endangered species, ferns, gingers, herbs and tropicals to name a few. There is an extensive walking trail system, a Remembrance Walk for memorials and honorariums, ponds, a visitors' center, courtyard plaza, plus much more.

