

# Nottingham Country Garden Club

*Newsletter  
December, 2012*



## NCGC Christmas Luncheon

Thursday December 6, 2012  
12:00 pm Carmelo's Restaurant  
14795 Memorial Dr. Houston

Our annual Christmas luncheon will be held at Carmelo's Restaurant. If you wish to carpool, please meet at the MUD building #81, 805 Hidden Canyon, Katy **no later than** 11:15 am. We will leave promptly at 11:30. If you are driving directly to Carmelo's please arrive by 12:00. Take I-10 East to Eldridge, south on Eldridge to Memorial Drive, turn left. Carmelo's will be on the right.

If you wish to donate to Houston Federation of Garden Clubs' annual collection for the Star of Hope Mission (see the Houston Federation box on page 2 and page 3 for gift guidelines) you may bring your donation to the luncheon.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

JOYCE MERRETT - 1

ALICE BROWN - 3

LISA HOLOEN - 5

SHIRLEY PARMA - 6

PAT PLESKO - 7

JEWEL CULLINS - 20



***Please note that there will be no extra activity for December.***



Looking Ahead



## A Word From Our President

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! And I hope a snowflake falls in Katy this season!**

Sue



Nottingham Country Garden Club's January meeting will be Thursday, January 3, 2013 back at the MUD building. Our speakers will be Sam Guardiola and Mike Frismanis who will speak on Composting and Worms.

# Events and Workshops

## Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Monthly Program

There is no monthly program scheduled for December.

### Plan Ahead:

The January 17, 2013 program will be "Fruit and Citrus Trees" presented by Tom LeRoy, Montgomery County Horticulture Agent. This will be a good preparation for the FBCMG Annual Fruit Tree Sale.

## A Reminder from Texas Garden Clubs

Texas Garden Clubs invites you to read and enjoy the *Lone Star Gardener* online. Click on [www.texasgardenclubs.org](http://www.texasgardenclubs.org) to go to the TGC home page. Click the white flower in the box on the right side of the home page to read the LSG online.

## Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Friday, December 14, 2012  
Houston Civic Garden Center  
1500 Hermann Dr., Houston

**Program:** "Texas Tidings: Creations in the Here and Now"  
**Speaker:** J. Scott of J. Scott A Florist

HFGC will be collecting toys for the Star of Hope Mission at this month's meeting. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for guidelines for toy selection. You may bring your donation to the NCGC Christmas Luncheon or contact Donna Luther.

For more information or for carpooling call Donna Luther @ (281) 492-1512

### Plan Ahead:

Friday January 11, 2013  
Program: Tree Planting at the 9/11 Memorial Plaza"  
Speaker: Paul Cox, Tree Mover and Regional Vice-President of Environmental Design, Inc. Mr. Cox provided and nurtured the trees at the Memorial Plaza in New York City and in Shanksville, P.A.



*Candy Cane Christmas Cactus*

## Fundraising Announcements

- our Fundraising Committee, under the capable and creative direction of Janet Blowers and Lori Fay, will continue with the monthly book and magazine sales this year. Bring in your old, "gently read" issues of magazines or garden-related books. Magazines can be on any subject (gardening, cooking/food, health/wellness, family/parenting, decorating/home, travel/leisure etc.) Magazines and books will be available for purchase at each meeting.
- our annual Plant Sale is tentatively set for Saturday, March 23, 2013. This is a great time to propagate plants in your garden and get them started over the winter for the plant sale.

•Please note we will not have the magazine sales at the Christmas Luncheon•

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## On Christmas Day

Star of Hope Mission will be Home to nearly 2000 Homeless men and Women and children

### Teenagers

(A1way5 a Special need)

- + Watches. alarm Clock.s, clock radios
- Boxed Costume jewelry, jewek'y boxes
- Board games, electronic games with batteries
- (• 100+ jigsaw puzzles
- ∴ FoolbaHs, basketballs (regulation size)
- ∴ Flashlights with batteries
- > 25.00 Gift Cards (Wai-Mart or Target)

### Infants & Toddlers

- > Learning toys with batteries included
- > Building blocks
- ∴ Adlvtly tables, big picture books
- > Crib mobiles. crib activny centers

Shoppilg hints: Take advantage Of the "after Thanksglviilg "sales to help you dollars stretch even further.

### Children

- +> Leeming toys with batteries ilcluded
- Electronic games with batteries Included
- Large cars and trucks
- Y Footballs, Basketballs, Nerf balls
- Y Puzzles for allages, blocks, LEGO sets
- <• Radios with batteries included
- Y Radios with batteries Included
- ∴ Radios with batteries included



Merry Christmas

### Gift Giving Guidelines

- \*-> Gifts must be donated unwrapped
- :- Only new items please Because Of reeeot recals, Please take care that items are not on the U.S. Consumer Produd Safety Commission's Toy Hazard Recall I st.
- o We cannot accept. bicycles, skateboards, roller-skates, toys with frightening appearance, Play-Dough, Small die cast cars toy, guns or knives. Perishable goods, candles Harry Potter, Pokemon Digmon, vah-gk>h, Bratz Dolls, or gambling item such as World Poker Tour.

### Gift Bags

Gift bags of all sizes and tissue paper are needed to help with wrapping gifts

GIFTS ARE NEEDED BY DECEMBER 14TH TO ALLOW VOLUNTEER ' S nME TO CHOOSE AND WRAP GIFTS FOR EACH FAMILY .

Gifts that remain after everyone has received gift for Christmas will be used for birthdays and special events throughout the ye. . . We may also share remaining gifts w'lth other organizations wortling with homeless and low-income families.



## DECEMBER IN THE GARDEN

Sources: [Texas Garden Almanac](#) Dr. Doug Welsh, Professor & Horticulturist Texas A&M University  
"Texas Gardener" Magazine, Chris S. Corby, Editor, Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc.  
([www.fgmg.com](http://www.fgmg.com))



### GARDEN TASKS

- Cool-season annuals planted recently are still expanding their root systems. Water at least once this month in the absence of rain. Pansies, violas, ornamental kale and cabbage can still be planted. Be prepared to cover flowering annuals whenever a hard freeze threatens.
- Spring-flowering bulbs are ready to be planted this month. Don't plant too deep. our soil does not freeze, so deep planting is not necessary.
- Water and fertilize the actively growing vegetable garden. Succession plantings of crops such as lettuce and spinach will keep the harvest coming. Any areas of the garden not planted can be left fallow. This allows the soil to rest. To prevent weeds from popping up and to build up the soil, lay a blanket of leaves, hay or pine needles over the soil and mix some shredded leaves, manure or other organic material into the soil with a spade.
- Keep those small winter weeds pulled and the soil mulched to cut down on weeds in the spring.
- Bare-root and container-grown roses will begin to show up at nurseries this month.
- Seed catalogs will begin appearing in your mailbox. Take a little time during the hectic holidays to relax and plan your spring gardens.

### CHRISTMAS PLANTS

- Amaryllis: Plant the bulb in a small pot with good potting soil and have the top (pointy end) of the bulb sticking up out of the soil about 1 inch. Place in an area with bright indoor light and water only when surface soil is dry to the touch. The foliage and bloom spike emerge together in about 14 days.
- Christmas Cactus: A favorite holiday plant, it produces a profusion of blooms ranging from hot pink to apricot, red, purple, and white. Buy plants that have many flower buds that are just beginning to open. This is not the type of cactus we think of that lives in the desert. This plant lives in tropical jungles in the trees. Take care when watering. Its soil should be moist but neither completely dry nor saturated. When the top 1 inch of the soil is dry to the touch, water lightly. The preferred temperature for bloom formation is 58 to 65 degrees and plants require 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness each day. Here are Doug Welch's options for growing and reblooming a Christmas Cactus:
  - Grow the plant indoors on a windowsill in a room that gets natural darkness all night (no room lights turning on and off!) in the fall and winter; the microclimate created by the cold window meets the lower temperature requirements.
  - Grow the plant outdoors, and let it experience cool nights and naturally longer nights before bringing it indoors at the first prediction of frost. If natural darkness of 12 hours is not possible outdoors,(ie: porch lights are on or street lights shine on it) place a box over the plant to eliminate all light each night (and remove it during daylight hours). Buds should already be visible by the time you bring the plant indoors; then warmer temperatures and intermittent light cannot stop blooming at this point.
- Poinsettias: Choose one that has small, tightly closed flower buds, dark green leaves, and brilliantly colored bracts. Choose one that hasn't shed its pollen (check the bracts for yellow pollen stains). Select a plant that is about as wide as it is tall. Place it in an area with bright light, temperatures in the 60s and some humidity to slow flowering. To speed up flowering, move to a sunny spot where the temperature is in the 80s.



#### 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 on our website ([www.nottinghamgardenclub.org](http://www.nottinghamgardenclub.org)) with as much information as possible.