

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter
February, 2012



NCGC Meeting /February 2, 2012 Field Trip to Katy Christian Ministries and Nelson's Water Gardens

Please note the new time and meeting place

We will meet at 9:15 at the Katy Christian Ministries facilities located at the corner of Katy-Fort Bend Rd. and 5th Ave. in Katy. After our tour of the gardens and food pantry we will car pool down the road to Nelson's around 11:00.

Lunch will be on your own as some people may wish to stay longer at Nelson's to shop.

Field trips are for members only



February Extra Activity

Painted Flower Pots

Date: Wed. Feb. 15th

Time: 10:00-12:00 or 1:00-3:00

Cost for supplies: \$10.00

Location: Frankie Green's Home

This will be a hands-on activity taught by Frankie. Each participant will make one painted flower pot to take home, and prepare one more for Frankie to complete and bring to the Plant and Bake Sale.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting.

A Word From Our President

Hi, and Happy Valentines Day,

Winter is moving along fast and it will soon be time for spring vegetable planting. So soon! Can you believe it? So, if you want to practice, and can't wait, groom your plants/cuttings for our plant sale (March 31st) and get your favorite recipes ready for baking. I am so excited about our field trip on Thursday, Feb. 2nd. It is wonderful to learn about our own community agencies and shops. See you all Thursday!

Sue



Looking Ahead

The March 1st NCGC meeting will be on Propagation presented by Marilyn Almon, Fort Bend Master Gardener.

Events and Workshops

More Fun and Informative Gardening Events

*Wed. Feb. 1st noon- Harris Co. Master Gardener Lecture Series: "Introduction to Permaculture" presented by Dave Whiting, Founder of Dave's Garden Website. Located at Extension office, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston

*Sat. Feb. 4th 9:00am-10:30am Fort Bend County Master Gardener Rose Pruning Clinic. Meet in front of the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1300 Band Rd., Rosenberg
*FBCMG Pre-Sale Talk: Sat. Feb. 4th 10:30am - 1pm at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1300 Band Rd., Rosenberg. This is a free and informative Pre-Sale Talk highlighting plants for the upcoming tree sale. Plant selection and planting information will be presented.

*FBCMG Annual Fruit, Nut and Citrus Tree Sale. Sat. Feb 11th, 9:00am-1:00pm at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, Barn H (new location this year).

Planning Ahead

*Houston Federation of Garden Clubs' March 9th meeting will be "An Eye on the Garden - From Ancient Times to the Future". The presenter will be Dr. Stewart Zuckerbrod.

*Fort Bend Master Gardeners' March 15th program will be "Soils, Compost and Mulch" presented by John Ferguson, Owner of Nature's Way Resources.

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Friday, February 10, 2012

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

Program: "Painting With Paper: An Ancient Technique Made New"

Presenter: Barbara Harmer

You will not want to miss this artist who uses the Japanese technique of "Chigirie" to create "paintings" using pieces of Japanese paper. It really is "Painting with Paper."

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



Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly Program

Thursday February 16, 2012

6:30 Social Time

7:00-8:00 Program

Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Road
Rosenberg, TX

Program: "Lessons from a Rose Rustler"
Presenter: Mike Shoup

NCGC Plant and Bake Sale

Please note new location

Date: Sat. March 31st

Time: 10:00-2:00 (set-up at 9:00)

Location: Parking Lot on southeast corner of Pin Oak Blvd. and Kingsland

Please help make the sale a success by contributing plants grown from cuttings, seeds, or divisions ready for the sale, as well as baked goods. We would also like to ask members to bring in empty nursery pots, any size, to the February and March meetings for those who may need them for plantings.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To.

PHYLLIS HOCUE - 1

DEBBY HAMM - 12

GWEN HECK - 12

MARY LOU PROCTOR - 21

NORMA BEUSTRING - 22

SUSAN TERRY - 28



Last Chance to Help Our Fundraising Committee!!

The Fundraising Committee has some exciting raffles planned this year to raise much needed funds for our guest speakers, but they need our help! Look over the following list of items they need donated and bring in one or two (or even more!).

In order to allow time to arrange the baskets **please bring your contributions to the December, January, or February meetings** or contact Janet Blowers (janetblowers@hotmail.com) or Lori Fay (luvgingerpug@yahoo.com) to come pick them up.

Sweet Treats: Any baking item or sweet item (can be sugar free) Suggestions: baking mixes, chocolates, mints or hard candies, oven mitts, rolling pin, cupcake wrappers, decorations for cookies or cakes, sprinkles

Herbs: Any item related to herbs or herb gardening. Suggestions: Any herb seeds, pots, gloves, plant labels, gardening tools, spice jars

Your contributions are greatly appreciated! Thanks to everyone for your continued support.

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.

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 with as much information as possible.



Monthly Gardening Tasks - February

Sources: Fort Bend Master Gardeners;

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

*Perennials & Annuals

If you are preparing new beds for warm-season annuals, be sure to add plenty of organic matter.

Don't forget those perennials and annuals you planted in containers. They may benefit from a light fertilization now.

Continue feeding annual color beds every 4-6 weeks with a fertilizer high in nitrogen. A standard lawn fertilizer can be used. Dried blood meal is another excellent source of nitrogen and other nutrients. Our part of the state can begin setting out warm season transplants in late February. Be prepared to cover them in case of a late frost.

*Vegetables & Herbs:

Summer is just around the corner here in Texas, so February is the last call for cool-season crops and root vegetables such as beets, carrots, turnips and radishes. Greens that prefer cool weather, such as spinach, lettuce, mesclun greens and mustard, should be planted early in February. Feed your vegetable transplants with fish emulsion and seaweed or a soluble fertilizer solution. The goal is to get them growing fast and keep them growing to build strong plants as soon as possible. Keep an eye out for garden pests such as aphids and looper caterpillars on your new transplants and seedlings. To safely screen out pests and provide a little extra warmth for your plants, try covering the bed with row cover.

*Trees and Shrubs:

February is rose month! This is the time to plant both container grown and bare root roses. Be sure to keep the roots moist throughout the planting process. It's a good idea to soak the roots in a pail of water for 30 minutes or so before planting. Complete your rose pruning this month. Remove any weak shoots and any that are dead or dying. For hybrid teas remove all but four to eight healthy canes and cut the tops back by about one half. Shrub roses can be simply sheared back by one half and then remove some of the weak lower and interior growth. Shear back hedges prior to the onset of spring growth. This will result in more density. Keep the top of the hedge row narrower than the base to prevent the lower sections from being shaded out and losing foliage.

Deciduous shrubs that bloom in the spring are not pruned until after they bloom. Non-blooming deciduous shrubs and summer blooming shrubs can be pruned in February. Some examples of these are althea (rose of Sharon), butterfly bush, crepe myrtle, glossy abelia and vitex (chaste tree).

February is the last month for purchasing those new fruit trees. See page 2 of this newsletter for information on the Fort Bend County Master Gardener Fruit Tree Sale. Be sure to check your existing fruit trees for signs of scale insects. Treat the branches with a dormant oil spray before new growth appears.