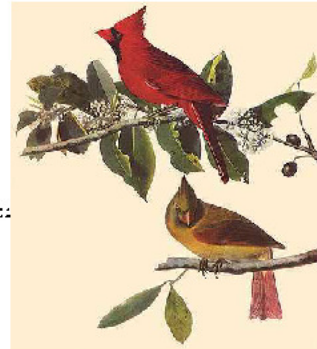


Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter - Winter Issue
January - February, 2011

It's a
New Year!



Join us

Thursday, January 6, 2011

9:30 a.m.

MUD Building #81

805 Hidden Canyon Drive

Speaker: Karen M. Breneman,
Harris County Master Gardener; Author of
Gardening with Nature in Texas
Topic: Gardening With and For
Butterflies

Extra Activity:

Friday, January 21, 2011

Butterfly Art Project (continued)

for the Holocaust Museum of Houston

Gwen Heck's home

1-5 p.m.

We will make butterflies for our club's contribution to the Butterfly Art Project. Please bring scissors, colors, paints, stickers, etc.



Thursday, February 4, 2010

9:30 a.m.

MUD Building #81

805 Hidden Canyon Drive

Speaker: Doug McLeod, Harris County
Master Gardener

Topics: Fruit Trees for the Houston Area;
Spring Vegetable Gardening

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Seed Planting Workshop

1-4 p.m.

Location to be announced

We will plant seeds to grow herbs and vegetables
for our annual plant sale.

Step Right Up and Join the Garden Tour

Our Spring 2011 Garden Tour is quickly approaching. We have three gardens so far, and we are in need of two or three more. Besides your own yard, don't forget to think about your neighbors' and family members' gardens in this area as possible yards for the tour. There are lots of beautiful gardens out there! We will have applications available at the January meeting, or e-mail Pat Chislett at

chislett5@yahoo.com

Thanks, everyone!

Janet Blowers and Pat Chislett



Mark Your Calendars for 2011



Thursday, March 2 - "Texas Superstars, Great Plants for Houston" (Carol Brouwer, PhD.)

Saturday, March 26 - NCGC Plant and Bake Sale

Thursday, April 7 - Field Trip to Indian Grass Preserve (Katy Prairie Conservancy)

Thursday, May 5 - Annual Luncheon

Saturday, May 14 - NCGC Garden Tour



Monthly Garden Tasks - January/February

Sources: Fort Bend Master Gardeners;

Dr. William Welch, Landscape Horticulturist, Texas A&M University;

Dr. Doug Welsh, professor and horticulturist, Texas A&M University, *Texas Garden Almanac*

Houston Rose Society *The Rosette*, Patsy Williams, editor



Prepare New Beds. Mulch existing flower and vegetable gardens, if not done recently.

Annuals: Previously planted annuals - water and fertilize lightly with a balanced fertilizer every 4-6 weeks.

Plant new **cool season annual** bedding plants in January. These flowers will last through the spring, but will need to be replaced in most cases by warm season annuals before the weather turns hot. Examples of cool season annuals: calendula, cyclamen, dianthus, ornamental kale and cabbage, pansies and violas, petunias, snapdragons, stock, and sweet alyssum. These flowers do better if planted in late fall to get established. Add organic material to the soil before planting.

Perennials: After freezes, hold off cutting back frozen foliage as long as possible. If you can't stand looking at the unsightly, dead leaves, trim back part of the way.

Vegetables: Set out onion transplants to give them a long growing season. Transplant (buy bedding size plants) asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, collard and turnip greens, Irish potatoes, kohlrabi, leaf lettuces and swiss chard. Sow seeds of beets, carrots, English peas, greens, leaf lettuces, radishes, sugar snap and snow peas, and turnips. Add organic matter as you plant.

Roses: Plant new bushes or transplant any that need to be moved to a better location. Roses prefer at least six hours of sun a day. Winter is a good time to root dormant rose cuttings. ***Prune roses in mid-February before new growth comes out (Valentine's Day is the traditional date for trimming roses in the Houston area).***

Shrubs and Trees: Transplant or plant new shrubs and trees while they are dormant. Examples of summer blooming shrubs that can be pruned in late winter are althea (rose of Sharon), butterfly bush, crepe myrtle, glossy abelia, and vitex (chaste tree). **Fruit trees:** Both Harris and Fort Bend County Master Gardeners are having sales of the best varieties of each type of tree for our climate. Master Gardeners offer instruction in selection and care as noted in the calendar of events on the next page.

Last spring freeze date - According to Doug Welsh, the average last freeze date is February 14th in Houston, and March 1st for Katy and Fort Bend County. Continue to cover tender plants if freezes are predicted.

Freeze-damaged plants - wait until February to prune vigorously because (1) dead leaves may provide some insulation for the rest of the plant and (2) plants may try to produce new growth which would be easily nipped by freezing weather.

Seeds: Try starting some indoors to get a jump on spring (both vegetable and flower), generally 6-8 weeks before planting outside. Recommendations: 1. Containers - pots, clean plastic food containers with drainage holes, styrofoam cups, or egg cartons. If re-using old pots, clean with 10% bleach solution. Place containers on tray to catch excess water and help keep soil moist by watering from the bottom. 2. Use sterile soil or seed-starting mix. 3. Water in seeds just enough to keep moist, and cover with plastic to increase humidity until seeds germinate. 4. When first leaves appear, remove plastic, and move containers to a bright, sunny window. (or use a fluorescent grow light). 5. Transplant seedlings to individual pots when about 2" tall. 6. Harden off seedlings before planting them outside, that is, put them outside a few hours a day in temps above 60 degrees. Gradually increase time outside to toughen up plants for their new environment.



Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities



Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

(our club is a member)

Temporary meeting place for January : Judson Robinson Jr.

Community Center

2020 Hermann Dr. Houston

Meetings - 2nd Friday of the month 9:30 a.m.

(Some of us carpool to these meetings. Contact Donna Luther if you plan on attending).

Friday, January 14th - "Texas Coral Reefs" by Jesse Cancelmo

Workshop: Deana Roberts - Learn to Grow Orchids

Semi-hydroponically

Friday, February 11th - "Something New: The Soil Food Web" by

John Ferguson

Tuesday, January 4 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series

"Palms" by Dr. Anthony Camerino, County Extension Agent -

Horticulture

Noon Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr.

Houston, Texas

Tuesday, January 18 - Texas AgriLife Extension Service Fort Bend

County Spring Master Gardener Training Class begins. (Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. and two Saturday mornings) for more info go to <http://fbmg.com>

Thursday, January 20 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly Program -

"Fruit Trees" by Tom LeRoy, Montgomery County Extension Agent

6:30 p.m. social time

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Bud O'Shieles Community Center 1330 Band Rd.

Rosenberg, TX.

Thursday, January 27 - Texas Master Gardener Training Class Begins -

contact Texas AgriLife Extension Service Harris County 3033 Bear

Creek Dr. Houston TX, for more information 281-855-5600

Saturday, January 29 (10 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) and Sunday, January 30 (11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.) Katy Home and Garden Show at the Merrell Center and Robinson Pavillion, Katy, TX Admission fees: adults \$8, Seniors \$6, Military \$4, Children 12 and under free

Tuesday, February 1 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series

"Introduction to Permaculture" by Dave Whiting, Founder of Dave's Garden website - Noon

Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Houston, Texas

Saturday, February 12 - Fort Bend Master Gardener Fruit, Nut, and Citrus Tree Sale.

8 a.m. Plant overview (check website to confirm and for more information)

9 a.m. - Sale opens

Fort Bend County Fair Grounds, Building D, Rosenberg, Texas

Tuesday, February 15 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series

"Tomato and Pepper Preview" by David Parish, Harris County Master Gardener 6:30 social time; 7:00 p.m. Program

Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Houston, Texas

Thursday, February 17 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly Program

"Spring Vegetable Gardening" by Peg Turrentine and Joe Vinson

6:30 p.m. social time

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Bud O'Shieles Community Center 1330 Band Rd.

Rosenberg, TX.

Tuesday, March 1 - Harris County Plant & Fruit Tree Sale Preview

by Doug McLeod, Harris County Master Gardener

Noon at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Houston

Saturday, March 5 - Harris County Master Gardener Plant & Fruit Tree Sale

8:00 a.m. preview 9:00 a.m. Sale opens 10:00 a.m. educational workshops

AgriLife Extension Office and Gardens 3033 Bear Creek Dr. Houston, TX

(Note: The tomato/pepper sale and the fruit tree sale are combined this year).

Do you know.....

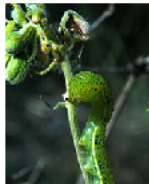
what butterflies do these caterpillars become?



1



2



3



4



5

See page 4 for answers

NCGC Plant and Bake Sale

Saturday, March 26

Location to be announced

Please help make the sale a success by contributing plants and baked goods. Plan ahead now to have plants grown from cuttings, seeds, or divisions ready for the sale.



Garden Folklore: Mulberry by Janet Blowers



The genus name: Morus is Latin for 'delay', referring to the formation of winter buds late in the season after the weather has turned cold.

The family name: Moraceae Folk Names: Tut, Morera, Gelso

There are three types of fruit, the black mulberry, white mulberry and red.

Mulberries are the deciduous trees native to the warm temperate and subtropical forests. They are found in abundance in several countries in Asia, Europe, Africa and America. Mulberry trees are virtually grown in every state of the United States, except for Nevada and Alaska. They are great shade trees with beautiful shape, but their berries can either be a messy disaster for their owners or a wonderful delight.

In China, the white mulberry has been cultivated for over 5,000 years for its leaves, the preferred food of the silkworm. The silkworm is thought to prefer mulberries over all other plants due to its unique fragrance and there are special organs in the caterpillar that respond to the taste of mulberry leaves. Silk proteins are derived only from mulberry leaves. In the 17th century, the Romans also used these leaves to treat various diseases

Folklore from Germany states that, the fruits of mulberry trees are associated with evil, as it was believed that the devil uses the roots of this tree to polish his boots.

In classical legend the red berries of the mulberry tree acquired their color only after two young, ill-fated Babylonian lovers, Pyramus and Thisbe, bled and died under a white mulberry tree. This legend is the source of the much-loved Shakespearean story of Romeo and Juliet.

Mulberry trees are said to protect the garden from lightning, and the wood is a powerful protector against evil. Wands were traditionally made of mulberry.

Traditional Chinese medicine uses the fruit to treat prematurely grey hair, to "tonify" the blood, and treat constipation and diabetes.

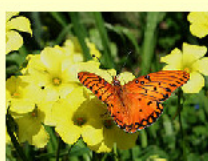
Today the bark of the mulberry is used to treat cough, wheezing, edema, and to promote urination. A mature mulberry plant contains significant amounts of resveratrol, particularly in stem bark, the fruit and leaves are sold in various forms as nutritional supplements. But raw fruit and green parts of the plant have a white sap that is intoxicating and mildly hallucinogenic. Mulberries are also used as natural food colorants. The fruit of a mulberry is edible and has been used in pies, tarts, and even wines or cordials.

Local forms of mulberry are: Texas Mulberry, Mountain Mulberry, Mexican Mulberry, Littleleaf Mulberry, Wild Mulberry, Dwarf Mulberry.

Texas mulberry grows along creeks and in canyons in the western two thirds of the state, usually occurring in dry, well-drained areas. It is common on the white rock escarpment of Dallas County, where it grows as a small shrub from 6 to 12 feet. It is a smaller tree than red mulberry, averaging around 25 feet high, and the leaves and fruit are likewise smaller.



1. Monarch



2. Gulf fritillary



3. Cloudless Sulphur



4. Black swallowtail



5. Pipevine swallowtail

January and February Birthdays



Happy Birthday to:

Cindy Johnson - Jan. 27

Gwen Heck - Feb. 12

Phyllis Hogue - Feb. 1

Mary Lou Proctor - Feb. 21

Pat Grigsby - Feb. 8

Norma Beustring - Feb. 22

Debby Hamm - Feb. 12

Susan Terry - Feb. 28