

# Nottingham Country Garden Club

*Newsletter*  
*March, 2011*



*Nottingham Country Garden Club*  
*Welcomes You*

**Join us on**  
**Thursday, March 3, 2011**  
**9:30 a.m.**

**MUD Building #81**

**805 Hidden Canyon Dr., Katy TX**

**Speaker: Carol Brouwer, Ph.D.,**  
**Harris County Extension Agent**  
**Texas Superstars -**  
**Great Plants for Houston**

**NCGC Plant and Bake Sale**  
**Saturday, March 26th, 2011**

**Walmart on Grand Parkway**  
**(south of Westpark Tollway)**

**9:00 a.m.: Drop off plants and baked goods**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.: Sale**

**2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Clean-up**

**Donations of plants and baked goods from our**  
**members are needed to make this fundraiser a**  
**success.**

## ***Notice:***

We are sorry to announce that the 2011 NCGC Garden Tour has been cancelled. We did not have enough homes to be reasonably sure of a successful tour, so we felt it was best to cancel. Thank you for your understanding.

Pat Chislett and Janet Blowers, Fundraising

*Next meeting:*

*Field Trip and Lunch*

*April 7, 2011*

*Indian Grass Preserve*

*Katy Prairie Conservancy*

*We will visit the native seed nursery and the*  
*viewing platform*

# Monthly Garden Tasks - March

Sources: Fort Bend Master Gardeners;

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

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

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

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

**Planting:** Decide whether you wish to plant flowers that will last only until hot weather arrives, or if you want to plant heat tolerant plants that will endure the summer. For example, petunias planted now will look pretty for several months, but most varieties do not take the heat beyond about the middle of June. (To extend growing season, plant Laura Bush or Wave series petunias and deadhead frequently). Snapdragons, violas, and pansies should not be purchased now, unless you realize they will be temporary. Established plantings of cool season annuals will go on through the spring, facing you with the decision of when to pull them up and plant warm season annuals. Dr. William Welch recommends for planting in March transplants of: ageratums, cockscombs, coreopsis, cosmos, cleomes, marigolds, nasturtiums, petunias, salvias, sweet allysums, sunflowers, and zinnias.

Caladiums - order now, but plant in late April to early May when soil temperatures warm to 70 degrees F (or they will rot in the ground).

**Perennials:** Cut back dead foliage. Divide existing clumps of **fall-blooming** perennials, such as chrysanthemums, autumn asters, Mexican marigold mint, and physostegia (obedient plant). Separate the clumps into individual plants and set them 8-10" apart in groupings of 5 or more. Prepare bed well by spading in 3-5" of organic matter into the top 8-10" of soil.

**Ornamental grasses:** Cut back dead leaves after seeing new green shoots growing from the base.

**Herbs:** Plant basil, bee balm, salad burnet, chives, lemon balm, lemon grass, lemon verbena, Mexican mint marigold, mint, oregano, pineapple sage, rosemary and thyme.

**Vegetables:** Add organic matter as you plant. According to Kathy Huber of the Houston Chronicle the following vegetables can be planted in March: Bush beans (from seed), corn (from seed), cucumber (seed), lettuce (seed), peppers from mid-March (plants), radishes (from seed), summer squash from mid-March (from seed), tomatoes (plants), and watermelon from mid-March (either from seed or plant).

**Roses:** Plant new bushes. Roses prefer at least six hours of sun a day. By now you should have finished pruning. If not, do it right away. 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). Don't spray for insects unless you can identify the specific insect, then only spray infected plants. 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.

**Shrubs and Trees:** Plant new shrubs and trees, either grown in containers or balled-and-burlaped (it's too late to plant bare root ones). 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). Prune azaleas after blooming. Fertilize azaleas and camellias after blooming.

**TXDOT'S WILDFLOWER HOT LINE:** [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov) or 1-800-452-9292 to find out what is blooming and where. **Washington County wildflowers** [www.brenhamtexas.com](http://www.brenhamtexas.com) (A map of Washington County wildflower trails is available on this website).





*Upcoming Events  
and  
Learning Opportunities*



Houston Federation of Garden Clubs  
(our club is a member)

Houston Civic Garden Center 1500 Hermann Dr.  
Meetings - 2nd Friday of the month 9:30 a.m.  
For carpool information contact Donna Luther.

Friday, March 11, 2011 - "Art and Flowers: A Well-known Combination". Designers interpret local artists' paintings.

Tuesday, March 1 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series Program: Plant Sale Preview by Doug McCleod, Master Gardener  
Noon  
Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr.  
Houston, Texas

Friday, March 4, Saturday March 5 and Sunday March 6

River Oaks Garden Club **Azalea Trail** 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (for more information go to [www.riveroaksgardenclub.org](http://www.riveroaksgardenclub.org))



**Harris County Master Gardeners  
Plant Sale - Fruit trees, nut trees, and  
vegetables**

**Saturday, March 5, 2011**

Sale Preview: 8:00 a.m.

Sale: 9:00 a.m.

Educational workshops begin: 10 a.m.

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

**Fort Bend Master Gardeners  
Annual Perennial Sale**

**Saturday, March 12, 2011**

Lecture: 8:00 a.m.

Sale: 9:00 a.m.

Fort Bend County Fairgrounds  
Building D

Thursday, March 17 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly Program: "Organic Gardening" by Dr. Bob Randall  
6:30 social hour

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

**NCGC Plant and Bake Sale Instructions (Saturday, March 26th)**

- All items must be dropped off near the "staging area" by 9:00 am. If you have a lot of plants please bring someone with you to help unload them.
- All plants must be labeled with a plant identification sticker. Stickers will be available at the next meeting. We will have a few at the bake sale if you run out.
- Small plants (4" size) need to be combined with 2 or more into a larger pot
- Baked goods need to be labeled with the name of the item, and any important information such as whether it contains nuts or is sugar-free.
- Baked goods must be wrapped (wrapping in "spring fashion" helps!). Package all baked goods as you wish them to be sold; cookies by the dozen or half-dozen, brownies individually etc. Workers will not have the time or supplies to re-package baked goods.
- No sales will be allowed to club members before 10:00. Items will not be held for members. You must shop and pay immediately.
- If you are not signed up to work, please do not "visit" with the workers.

REMINDER: Please bring any extra plastic nursery pots to the March meeting for those that may need them.



## *Crinum - Enduring and Beautiful Bulbs*

A genus in the amaryllis family, crinums evolved into over 130 species in the warm, tropical areas of the world, especially Asia and Africa. Although not hardy in cool climates, they grow well in southern U.S. Often they live on around old homes, cemeteries, and even in ditches. Crinum (pronounced CRY-num) lilies produce multiple fragrant flowers on each stalk. Their size alone would make them prominent in the garden, but crinums continue to bloom from spring to fall, sending up new stalks with buds opening in sequence on each stalk. Plant the bulbs in fall or spring, covering with soil up to their necks. For best results, crinum grower Marcelle Sheppard recommends the following tips for crinum culture:

- \* Fertilize with composted manure in the fall and commercial fertilizer 13-13-13 or 10-20-10 in the spring.
- \* Keep them well-watered.
- \* Keep the pH close to 6.0
- \* Provide at least 6 hours of sunlight per day
- \* Mulch them well with bark mulch, pine needles, or any other mulch available in your area
- \* Lift, divide, and rework beds when they get crowded.

*Pictured below are some of the more common, and thus more readily available types.*



C. Americanum  
swamp lily



C. Ellen Bosanquet



C. Stars and Stripes



C. x herbertii - milk and wine lilies



C. x powellii -  
pink type

### Sources of crinum bulbs:

Southern Bulb Company  
[www.southernbulbcompany.com](http://www.southernbulbcompany.com)

Marcelle's Crinums  
[www.marcellescrinums.com](http://www.marcellescrinums.com)

Garden Club of Houston Plant and Bulb Mart Fall 2011  
[www.gchouston.org](http://www.gchouston.org)



### **Insect Pest of the Month** **Tomato Hornworm**

These caterpillars emerge from eggs laid in the spring by female hawkmoths on the undersides of the tomato plant leaves. Check you tomato plants often, because these caterpillars can devastate a plant in a short period of time. Just the veins of the leaves will be left, if the hornworm continues eating. Eggplant, pepper, and potato plants may also be attacked.



Adult moth



**March Birthdays**  
Happy Birthday to:

Lori Fay - March 19

Frankie Green - March 31

