

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter
March, 2013



NCGC March Meeting

Thursday March 7, 2013
9:30am
MUD Bldg. #81
805 Hidden Canyon Katy

Our March presentation will be "Daylilies" with guest speaker Nell Shimek of Shimek Gardens in Alvin. This is sure to be a wonderful and informative program and Nell will be bringing some of her beautiful daylilies to sell. They will range in price from \$5.00-\$12.00.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To:

LORI FAY - 19

FRANKIE GREEN - 31



Looking Ahead



Nottingham Country Garden Club's April meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2013. We'll be taking a field trip to Arbor Gate Nursery in Tomball. We'll be treated to a wonderful presentation by Rand C. Hopkins of Monrovia Growers on "New, Unique and Unusual Plants for Your Garden". Are you a plant fanatic? Are you a gardening guru? Do you like knowing about the newest, most unique and unusual plants around? If that's you, then you'll want to come hear Rand Hopkins speak. He comes with over 14 years of experience as an Independent Sales Consultant for Monrovia Growers and has a passion for the unique and unusual. He'll give us a sneak peak of what's new for our area and will also discuss what makes Monrovia plants stand out above the others. Join us and be the "first on your block" to try out these new plant varieties.

A sign-up sheet will be at the March meeting for those interested in going and for those who wish to order the box lunch at a cost of \$14.50. On the day of the field trip we will meet at the MUD building no later than 8:45 and we will leave promptly at 9:00. *Just a reminder that field trips are for members only.*

May End-of-the-Year Luncheon

Our annual end-of-the-year luncheon will be held on our last meeting day, Thursday, May 2, 2013. It will be held at the MUD building. More information will be given at the March meeting, but please note that a sign-up sheet will be at the next meeting for those who plan to attend. The cost will be \$10.00 and payment will need to be made at the March meeting as the April meeting is a field trip.



ACCORDING TO THE PLUMERIA SOCIETY, MARCH IS THE MONTH TO BRING OUR PLANTS OUT OF HIDING. GO TO WWW.THEPLUMERIASOCIETY.ORG, CLICK ON PLANT CARE, THEN PLUMERIA CARE BULLETIN FOR MARCH, 1991 FOR A GREAT CALENDAR AND CARE INSTRUCTIONS.

Events and Workshops

Fundraising Announcements

*NCGC Annual Plant Sale

Date: Saturday March 23, 2013
Time: 10:00-1:00 (set-up at 9:00, clean-up from 1:00-2:00)
Location: *Please note new location*
The "Courtyard at Villagio Center" 22764 Westheimer Parkway near the intersection of Westheimer Parkway and Peek Rd.



*Sign-up sheets for working the plant sale will be out at Thursday's meeting. Shifts are only 1 hour, so come out, have some fun and help the club.

*We will have a flyer advertising the plant sale available at the March meeting. Please take it and post it on your mailboxes or other neighborhood locations.

*Please help make the sale a success by donating plants grown from cuttings, seeds or divisions that are ready for the sale. Please do not wait until the day before or the morning of the sale to divide or dig up plants as we can not be sure they will survive. We would also like to ask members to bring in empty nursery pots, any size, to the March meeting for those who may need them for plantings. Please make sure the pots are washed out so we don't leave a mess on the MUD building's floors.

*Magazine Sales

March will be the last month for donating magazines and garden related books for our monthly magazine sale. Any items left after Thursday's meeting will be donated to a local hospital. Thank you to all who donated magazines and books and to those of you who purchased them as well!

Fort Bend County Master Gardeners
Monthly Program
Time: 6:30 social 7:00 program
Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg



*March 21: Monthly Program
"Bees, Good Neighbors...Bad Houseguests"
presented by Jeff McMullan, a member of Fort Bend County Beekeepers and a Coastal Prairie Master Naturalist.

*March 9th, 9:00-1:00 (or until sold out)
Spring Plant Sale
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Friday, March 8, 2013
Houston Civic Garden Center
1500 Hermann Dr., Houston



Program: "Seasons Gone Awry: Art, Natural Disaster, and the Nineteenth-century Romantics"
Speaker: Cynthia S. Williams, Ph.D
For more information or for carpooling call Donna Luther @ (281) 492-1512

Plan Ahead:

Friday April 12, 2013
"The Old Made New Again: Designing with Stuff"
Speaker: SJ Derby, the Hill Country collector of that "stuff" and designer extraordinaire.

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) with as much information as possible.

A Reminder from Texas Garden Clubs

Texas Garden Clubs invites you to read and enjoy the [Lone Star Gardener](http://www.texasgardenclubs.org) online. Click on 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.

MARCH 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)

GARDEN TASKS



- *Get out that fertilizer and give your annual and perennial flowers a good feeding. Don't fertilize azaleas or camellias until after blooming.
- *Now is the time to divide clumps or remove the old growth from perennials that are beginning to pop up. Take care not to damage new growth that is appearing.
- *If you plan to do lots of planting this month, plan to do lots of soil preparation with an addition of some good organic matter to your beds. Add mulch to your flower beds to conserve moisture and prevent pesky weeds from sprouting.
- *However, don't be too anxious to mulch your new *vegetable* plantings. Mulch keeps the sun from warming the soil which is important in promoting plant growth. However, newly planted vegetables do not like cold nights, so plan to cover your beds. Mulch can be put down by the end of the month when plants are well established.
- *Repeat after me, "Don't turn the sprinklers on. Don't turn the sprinklers on." Spring rains have built up soil moisture enough to hold off turning the irrigation system on until April. If you must water, turn your system on manually once or twice.

WHAT TO PLANT



- *You still have time to plant those fall-blooming bulbs. The same is true for summer-blooming bulbs and rhizomes.
- *Let the planting begin! Time for warm-season annuals and perennials. You should consider the planting area carefully and choose plants with suitable sun and soil requirements. Some good suggestions for annuals and perennials grown in our area are: petunias (especially the Laura Bush and Wave varieties), bacopa, calibrachoa, coreopsis, zinnias, nicotiana (flowering tobacco), sunflowers, bat-faced cuphea, begonias, tithonia, salvias, copper canyon daisy, bulbine, coneflower, rudbeckia, shrimp plant, Turk's cap, lantana, Mexican mint marigold and plumbago.
- *March is pretty much your last opportunity to plant any trees, shrubs and woody vines that didn't get planted in fall or winter. Some nice choices might be althea (rose of Sharon), butterfly bush, crepe myrtle, glossy abelia and vitex (chaste tree).
- *This is a busy month in the vegetable garden. Before planting, prepare your beds with organic matter.
- * If not already in, tomato transplants should be planted now. They may still need some protection on frosty nights. If you plan to use your tomatoes for daily eating (salads, sandwiches, cooking) choose an indeterminate variety that continues to produce fruit over a period of time. If you plan to use your tomatoes for making and preserving salsa, tomato sauce or diced tomatoes, choose a determinate variety that produces fruit all at one time.
- *The following vegetables can be planted from seed this month: beans (bush and pole from mid-march on), cantaloupe, corn, peppers (transplants), summer squash and watermelon.
- *Are you running out of space in your garden? Try some companion planting with your vegetables. A few that work well together are corn, summer squash and pole beans (known as the three sisters by the Native Americans), okra and eggplant or peas and carrots. A useful chart of companion plants can be found at www.howtogardenadvice.com/garden_info/companion_planting_chart. The chart also includes companion plantings for herbs and flowers.
- * Warm-season herbs that can be planted this month include basil, mint, chives, lemon grass, lemon verbena, oregano, rosemary, and thyme.

