

Nottingham Country Garden Club

*Newsletter
May, 2012*



NCGC Meeting /May 3, 2012 9:15 am Brookwood Community

We will be meeting at the Brookwood Community's Worship Center at 9:15 am. for a tour followed by lunch at 11:30 in the cafe. (Reservations were required by April 19th. Directions to Brookwood were emailed in April.) Of course, there will be time for shopping also!

We will be collecting canned food to donate to KCM, so grab a few cans and bring them along.

Membership Dues *It's*

time to renew your membership in Nottingham Country Garden Club for the 2012-2013 year. You won't want to miss the great speakers, field trips, extra activities and fun Dues are \$25.00 and can be paid in May at Brookwood or mailed to Mary Lou Proctor @ 2042 Lake Fountain Dr., Katy 77494. Please complete a membership form, which can be found on our website, and return to Mary Lou also. Dues need to be to Mary Lou no later than May 31st.

A Word From Our President

Hi Ladies!

I am so excited about our May tour and lunch at Brookwood. It is such a treat to go there. I hope to see all of you on May 3rd. I can't believe that I have been your garden club president for a whole year already. It has been my pleasure. My, hasn't this year gone fast? We have enjoyed such great speakers, workshops, and, with friends, had great wine, food, and, oh yes, learned some gardening tips along the way! I give a sincere thank you to all of our members for making this club the enjoyable, friendly, and active club that we enjoy. This makes me look forward to next September with anticipation. I hope each of you enjoys a fantastic, safe and healthy summer. Thank you for all of your support. See you soon.

Sue



MARCH JUNE JULY BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY To:

MAY:

CASSANDRA FARRINGTON - 10

JOSEPHINE MCGILL - 11

SUSAN MORGAN - 12

LEONTINE GENTRY- 14

CHERYL FAWVOR- 23

GAYLE GRANGER- 24

ANDREE KIES-24

HELEN POOLE-25

JUNE

SUSAN STRAUB- 7

MARIE StvITH- 8

MADDY GARDNER- 13

PAT MORF- 23

MARILYN FRUEH- 24

JULY

LINDA MCCORMICK- 21

ANA BARRETT- 23

GAYLE SPENCE- 23

SANDRA WOLF-30

Events and Workshops

Weeds or Native Plants

Brenda Beust Smith, aka "The Lazy Gardener" is curious about your weeds, or more specifically, your attitude towards your weeds. Some of the folks who follow her blog mentioned that what they once considered invasive weeds they now embrace as part of their landscaping. If you have found yourself doing that as well, with this year's bumper crop of weeds, share how you've incorporated them into your garden by going to Ms. Smith's blog at <http://blog.chron.com/lazygardener> and click on "Happy Weed Appreciation Day". Your ideas just may help another gardener.

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Friday, May 11 , 2012

Houston Civic Garden Center

1500 Hermann Dr., Houston

Time: 9:30 am. - Program at 10:30 am.

Program: "Similar but not the Same. Expect a Surprise!"

These six designers will use the same Cubist Sculpture to create a stupendous design!!!

Joanne Storm

Virginia Woods

Margaret Sinclair

Heather White

Suzanne Milstead

Idalia Aguilar

AND some of the containers will be up for auction afterwards. You will not want to miss the last program of the year - it will be unusual.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

A big shout out goes to Kim Patrick for volunteering to serve as Historian for the 2012-2013 year and to Doris Netto for volunteering to serve on the Hospitality Committee for next year. Thanks, ladies, for stepping up and helping out!



Planning Ahead

Fort Bend Master Gardeners

Thursday, June 21, 2012

Program: "Birds in the City (Audubon Society)

Presenter: Mary Anne Weber

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Program: "Orchids"

Presenter: John Stubbings, owner of Clown Alley Orchids, and past president of Houston Orchid Society.

Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly Program

Thursday , May 17, 2012

6:30 Social Time

7:00-8:00 Program

Bud O'Shieles Community Center

1330 Band Road

Rosenberg, TX

Program: "Venomous Snakes in Our Area"

Presenter: David Lobpries of the Texas Parks & Wildlife



Portulaca, *Verdolaga*

Monthly Gardening Tasks - May/June

Sources: Fort Bend County Master Gardeners

Dr. Doug Welsh, professor and horticulturist, Texas A&M University, Texas Garden *Atmsnac*
Fort Bend County Master Gardeners, Inc. website (www.fbmng.com), "Texas Gardener
Magazine", Chris S. Corby Editor.

*Perennials & Annuals

Time to replace unproductive cool-season annuals. The following plants are recommended for heat tolerance: marigold, penta, periwinkle, portulaca, purslane, salvia, angelonia, blanketflower (gallardia), begonia, bulbine, cleome, coleus, coneflower, croton, cuphea, guara, gomphrena, helenium, impatiens, lantana, melochia, plumbago, rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan), russelia (firecracker plant), shrimp plant, society garlic, summer phlox, torenia, and zinnia. Be sure to remove spent flowers (dead-head) to encourage continuous bloom. Apply a nitrogen fertilizer monthly. Be sure to mulch to help retain moisture and check the soil often now. Drip-irrigation may need to begin this month if rains taper off.

*Vegetables & Herbs:

The following vegetables and herbs can be successfully started from seed in May and June: basil, lima beans (early May), cucumbers, and okra (early May). The insect population explodes in late spring, so visit the garden daily and keep a close watch. It's much easier to rid your plants of harmful insects when the population is still small. Remember to begin with the least toxic method of control first (ie: strong water spray for aphids, brushing leaf-footed bugs into a jar of soapy water). Watch for early blight on your tomato leaves. This fungal disease is characterized by dead and dying leaves at the bottom of the plant. Pick off the dead leaves, but use of a fungicide may be needed if the disease is wide-spread. Mulch heavily around the plants to prevent water from splashing on the foliage, which will help prevent blight.

*Trees and Shrubs:

Crepe myrtles are blooming. Remember to prune off the dead bloom spikes to keep the plant blooming. Water fruit trees heavily now. Established bearing trees will need 2-6 cups (depending on the size of the tree) of 21-0-0 fertilizer (such as ammonia sulphate). Camellias and azaleas are setting flowers for next season, so keep well mulched and watered.

*Roses

Prune climbing roses as they complete their bloom season. 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). Encourage lady beetles in all their larval stages and also adults as aphid predators. Continue fertilizing every 4-6 weeks and apply 2-3" of mulch.

*Daylilies

Daylilies reach their peak of bloom in May-June. Watch the Houston Chronicle for daylily sales and events. Go to www.paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com for information and directions to Paynes in the Grass Daylily Farm in Peerland and www.ltyroscope.net/~neshlme for Shimek's Gardens in AIVIn.

A Reminder from Horticulture

Do you have some lovely flowers blooming in our 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