

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter
September, 2011



Welcome Back!

Our first meeting will be held:
Thursday, September 1, 2011
9:30 a.m. MUD Bldg. #81

Speaker: Elizabeth Barrow

Program: "Fabulous Fall"

Elizabeth Barrow is the owner of Papershell: A Garden Gallery located at 4802 FM2218 in Richmond, TX. She will be presenting ideas for coping with the challenges of this year's drought and how to repair drought damage. Elizabeth will discuss use of soil amendments, lawn care, cool season flowers and vegetables and preparing for frosts (yes, the frost will come!). Don't miss the fun!

Katy Road Pink Rose (Carefree Beauty)

Our garden club now has its own official flower and logo. For a wonderful history of the Katy Road Pink Rose, see our April, 2011 newsletter on the website. Thank you to Helen Poole for designing our beautiful logo and for sharing your talent with us.

A Message From Our President

With excitement, I welcome all of you to a new year of interesting speakers, hands-on workshops, fun fieldtrips, and other educational journeys through "your" garden club. My goal is to make available that which "you", the members, want to learn about and do. So, come on, talk to me or e-mail me. (I love mail.) We will try to make it happen.

I thank the hard work of the board (this summer) for putting together a great calendar of events. I look forward to meeting new members, and catching up with those of you I have not seen since May. I can hardly wait. See you Sept. 1st.
Sue
straubs5@gmail.com



Looking Ahead

October Program: "The Ten Commandments of Lazy Gardening" presented by Brenda Buest Smith (The Lazy Gardener)

November: Fieldtrip to Peckerwood Gardens.



Red Nicotiana

California Poppies



2011-2012 Officers

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| President: | Susan Straub |
| Vice-President: | Marilyn Frueh |
| Secretary: | Sandy Helsel |
| Treasurer: | Gayle Granger |
| Membership: | Mary Lou Proctor |
| Fundraising: | Janet Blowers/ Lori Fay |
| Hospitality: | Susie Griffin/ Maddy Gardner |
| Federation Rep: | Donna Luther |
| Publicity: | Pat Plesko |
| Sunshine: | Ana Barrett |
| Horticulture: | Margaret Mason/ Jean Bays |
| Historian: | Alice Brown |
| Parliamentarian: | Frankie Green |
| Phone Comm.: | Ana Barrett/ Gayle Granger |
| Newsletter: | Pat Chislett |

Don't Forget to Join

If you haven't joined for 2011-2012, please bring your dues (\$25) and membership form to the September meeting or mail them to:

Mary Lou Proctor
2042 Lake Fountain Dr.
Katy, TX 77494

See our website for the membership form.

www.nottinghamgardenclub.org



Calendula Fiesta Gitana

Events and Workshops

Tuesday, Sept. 6 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series

Time: 12:00 - 1:00 Location: Extension Office
3033 Bear Creek Dr.,
Houston

Topic: "Ponds" by Dan Cook

Thursday, Sept. 15 - Harris County Master Gardener Green Thumb Lecture Series

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location: Trini Mendenhall Sosa
Community Center, 1414 Wirt Rd., Houston

Topic: "Soils and Composting" by Dr. Anthony
Camerino, Extension Agent - Horticulture

Thursday, Sept. 15 - Fort Bend Master Gardener Monthly Program

Time: 6:30-7:00 Social Time 7:00-8:00 Program
Location: Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Road, Rosenberg

Topic: "Lions, Tigers and Plants" by Joe Williams,
Houston Zoo horticulturist. Program will include
information about plants that are toxic to animals,
safe non-toxic alternatives and horticulture at the
Houston Zoo.

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

Friday, Sept. 9 - Houston Civic Garden Center
1500 Hermann Dr., Houston

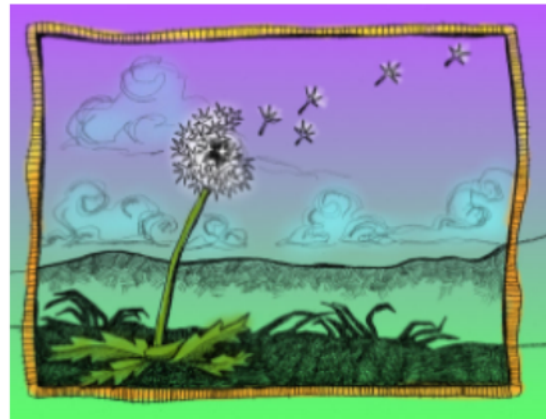
Time: 10:00 Refreshments

10:30 Program

Program: "Plant Today for an Abundant
Tomorrow"

Speaker: Pat Spiller, National Garden Club
Judge and Texas Design Consultant.

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



Fundraising Committee Needs Your Help!

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to:

Olga Johnson - 9/13

Ivy Fitch - 9/16

Susie Griffin - 9/16

Margaret Mason - 9/16

Gloria Redmon - 9/24

Jean Bays - 9/25

Sandy Helsel - 9/30

Welcome to another fun and informative year with the Nottingham Country Garden Club! The Fundraising Committee has some exciting raffles planned to raise much needed funds for our guest speakers, but we need your help! This year we plan to have three baskets to raffle. Each basket will have a different theme and we will be looking for donated items that pertain to each theme. The following list will give you some ideas.

Drinks with a Friend: Any beverage or beverage related item.

Suggestions: teas, tea cups, coffee, mugs, tea cookies, tea tray, wine or beverage glasses.

Sweet Treats: Any baking item or sweet item (can be sugar free).

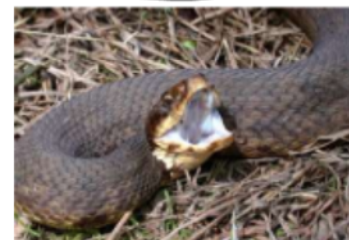
Suggestions: baking mixes, chocolates, mints or hard candies, oven mitts, rolling pin, cupcake wrappers, decorations for cookies or cakes, sprinkles.

Herbs: Any item related to herbs or herb gardening.

Suggestions: Any herb seeds, pots, gloves, plant labels, gardening tools, spice jars.

In order to allow time to arrange the baskets **please bring your contributions to the September, October or November meeting** or contact us to come pick them up. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks to everyone for your continued support. YOU are the reason Nottingham Country Garden Club is such a success!

Thank You,
Co-Chairs,
Janet Blowers janetblowers@hotmail.com
Lori Fay Luvgingerpug@yaho.com



Cottonmouth
(AKA: Water Moccasin)

Our thanks go out to Enchanted Gardens, 6420 FM 359 in Richmond, for generously donating the plant in this month's raffle.

Thank you!

Creepy Corner

Gardeners beware! According to Texas snake expert, Jerry Cates, September may see an explosion of snakes in back yards, as the critters start slithering out looking for something to eat. "They're very hungry right now. The hungrier they get, the more they start ranging the fields looking for food." So what should you do if you have a close encounter of the "snakey" kind? Cates says the first thing you should do is stare into its eyes. "If it's a large snake, and it has round eyes with big black pupils, it is almost certainly NOT a venomous snake," Cates says. He says snakes will almost always retreat when confronted by humans, and he says many people are startled by how fast snakes can travel. To prevent such encounters Cates suggests putting the flip-flops aside, and wear leather shoes or boots whenever you are walking in or around tall grass, brush or while you are doing gardening work or lawn mowing.

He warns that even if rains do come to the region, the snake infestation is inevitable. He says the snakes are ranging looking for their favorite prey, which is rodents, and a couple of rains won't suddenly produce a crop of rodents for the snakes to eat.



Note from the Editor:
Come join us for another exciting year with the Nottingham Country Garden Club. Check the newsletter for upcoming events and great workshops offered by local gardening groups. You won't want to miss a single meeting and a chance to meet new friends, gather new information about gardening, and take some fun fieldtrips. Let me know if there's a particular topic you would like to see covered in the newsletter. Also, contributions of articles from our members are always welcome.

See you at garden club!
Pat Chislett
Newsletter Editor



Monthly Garden Tasks - September

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](#).

Purple Coneflower
(*echinacea purpurea*)

Annuals - many plants for cooler weather may be started from seed in September, such as: alyssum, candytuft, cleome, daisies (African and English), delphiniums, larkspur, pansies, petunias, Drummond phlox, pinks, poppies, snapdragons, stock, sweet William, violas, and wallflowers.

Bedding plants provide a head start on the growing season. Plant when the weather gets cooler at the end of September or in October. (See Chart).

Cool Season Bedding Plants

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Alyssum - sun | Nicotiana - morning sun or part shade |
| Calendulas - part to full sun | Ornamental cabbage and kale - sun |
| Cyclamen - part shade/shade | Pansies and violas - sun |
| Delphiniums - at least 6 hrs. sun | Petunias - sun |
| Dianthus - sun | Phlox - part to full sun |
| English daisies - part sun/part shade | Poppies (California and true poppies) - part to full sun |
| Foxgloves - part sun/shade | Primroses - part shade/shade |
| Larkspur - sun | Snapdragons - sun |
| Lobelia - sun or part shade | Sweet Peas - sun |
| Mustard greens (Osaka is red) - sun | Swiss Chard - sun |
-

Perennials: spring-flowering perennials such as irises, Shasta daisies, gaillardias (blanket flowers), cannas, daylilies, violets, liriop, and ajuga. Reset divisions into soil prepared with lots of organic material worked into the top 8-10 inched. Fall is a good time to plant new perennials.

Roses: Water and feed. Continue preventative spraying program for blackspot. Remove spent blooms on hybrid tea roses. Groom bushes, removing weak, cross-over and dead canes. Some rosarians recommend cutting back plants in August, and others cut back plants in mid-September to encourage growth and to produce late October blooms. Replenish mulch around the bushes. Always wear gloves to prevent infection from any thorns that might stick your hands.

Shrubs: Cut seed heads off of crape myrtles. Azaleas are setting their blooms for spring now, so keep watered and do not prune. Replenish mulch.

Bulbs: Prepare beds now for spring-flowering bulbs by adding organic matter to the soil. Order bulbs now or go to the Garden Club of Houston Bulb and Plant Sale on October 14th & 15th at the new location: Holly Hall Retirement Community. (For more information go to www.gchouston.org.) Planting in Texas should not occur until November to January. If planted in warm soils (above 55 degrees F), the bulbs have a tendency to rot, not root. Store bulbs in a refrigerator until ready to plant.

Vegetables: Plant cool-season vegetables such as broccoli, bok choy, cabbage and cauliflower. Sow lettuce, mustard radish, spinach, and turnip seeds.

