

# "Learn Something New Every Day"

"Freezing cold winds, biting chills, and Valentines day, oh how gay!  
Presidents' day is coming our way.  
February, sweet and small, greatest month of all"  
Eric Lies

## Houston Federation Of Garden Clubs

Volume 64, No. 6

[www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org)

February 2011

Dear Friends:

### Happy New Year! Where did 2010 go!!

We started the new year off very well, thank you!! We had a very good meeting at the Judson Robinson, Jr. Community Center where Jesse Cancelmo's program on the coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico was colorful and informative. He has a beautiful book on the reefs – check it out on his website: [www.CancelmoPhoto.com](http://www.CancelmoPhoto.com), or his email: [Jesse@CancelmoPhoto.com](mailto:Jesse@CancelmoPhoto.com).

Moving on, this month we will help you get your soil just right for spring planting. **John Ferguson of Nature's Way Resources in Conroe will tell you about "Something New: The Soil Food Web."** **Zone 2 will be our hostesses and we will have design exhibits of pot-et-fleurs plus all the other goodies we have on hand every month.** Hopefully we will be meeting back at the newly renovated Garden Center.

After the meeting we will go to the VA Hospital Fischer House to dedicate a tree for **Arbor Day**. We will have maps available for ease of driving and parking is not a problem once you get there. I urge you to attend this ceremony which Ann Gay has arranged with the participation of District IV, Far Corners Garden Study Club and a chapter of the DAR.

We elected a **new slate of officers** for the upcoming 2011-2013 term. You will find that list in this Newsletter. Deana Roberts, our president-elect, will need lots of volunteers to fill lots of positions. Give her a call if you would like to be part of her administration.

Also enclosed is a registration form for our May **"Tablescapes for a Luncheon: A Garden Club Challenge."** We would like to make the last meeting of this administration something special. Plus, we will be installing the new officers – in general, a great day for a special luncheon! We invite clubs and/or individuals to decorate a table for lunch. You will hear more about this in the next months – we just wanted to get you interested and to start thinking creatively!

Check out the two tours being offered: one on April 1 to visit the **outdoor sculpture** in the downtown area and lunch at the **Mockingbird Bistro**. The other is in the future: a **Kerrville Safari Trip** for the fall.

See you on February 11.

### Betty



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 11	HFGC Monthly Meeting
March 22-24	Houston Flower Show School
April 1	HFGC Day Excursion to Houston Monuments

#### EDITORIAL INFORMATION

**President** – Betty Schoolar – 713-523-6979  
1111 Hermann Dr., #17-E, Houston, TX 77004-6930  
[schoolar.betty@gmail.com](mailto:schoolar.betty@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Bunnye Baldwin – 281-482-7130  
503 S Shadowbend Ave., Friendswood, TX 77546-3846  
[bbunnye@aol.com](mailto:bbunnye@aol.com)

**Recording Secretary** – Daphne Light – 832-321-5679  
19410 Kessington Lane, Houston, TX 77094-3443  
[dlight1215@aol.com](mailto:dlight1215@aol.com)

**Corresponding Secretary/Newsletter Editor** – Etta Guillot  
1822 Penina Drive, Crosby, TX 77532-5428  
281-328-1330 [ettacg@msn.co](mailto:ettacg@msn.co)



**Horticulture and Rambunctious Natives**

February 2011

713-524-4285

Here's a peculiar coincidence: back in December, Skip was participating in a Christmas bird count with our friend Geoff, who happened upon a vine with red berries on it. He told Skip, "This is something Jonni would like", so they harvested a dozen berries and brought them home to me. Skip couldn't remember the name, but thought it was something like "shell vine". After a little research, I found it – **snailseed, *Cocculus carolinus***. Geoff told Skip it was a lovely little native vine, can handle shade, and only grows, at a maximum, fifteen feet long, and that many species of birds feed on its berries. Snailseed is so named because its dried seed, only about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, looks for all the world like a little coiled snail shell. This vine had never crossed my radar before, and I was quite taken with it, so I promptly filled starter pots with sterile potting soil and planted the whole bunch of them. Once they are up a decent size, I was planning to plant them along the fence on the east side of the house, which is sunlight-challenged a good part of the day.

Then I got my January/February issue of Neil Sperry's *Gardens* magazine. In his Q & A column, he answered a letter from a gardener in Paris, Texas, who needed to know how to get rid of the "very invasive vine that has taken over a couple of flower beds." Yikes, the vine in question was my new favorite, snailseed vine. I had never heard of it, and then I went from loving it to having reason to fear it in less than a month. Clearly more research was called for, quickly. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's website ([wildflower.org](http://wildflower.org)) says that snailseed is "a strong grower and should be used where its vigorous spreading nature would be appreciated...Once root established, it can be difficult to remove, so plant wisely."

Now I have a conundrum: spreading snailseed **will** be appreciated, by me at least, on the side of the house where nothing much will grow. I like the fact that it will be easy to grow and will feed the birds that we work so hard coaxing into our garden. But, what if the birdies spread the seeds up and down our street, and our neighbors are suddenly complaining of a troublesome vine that is filling up their carefully tended rose beds? You know, in my garden I would rather have a native plant that earns its keep by feeding the birds than a rosebush, but I have to respect that others don't feel the same way. The seeds haven't even sprouted yet, and already they had presented me an ethical dilemma.

My walk down to the post office yesterday answered the question, at least to my satisfaction. At the end of our block, I passed a fence that has held a trumpet vine for as long as I can remember. **Trumpet vine, *Campsis radicans***, is a notoriously pushy native vine. It spreads by seed, by suckering (new shoots sprouting from the roots), and by self-layering (node sections of the vine touching the soil developing roots), so one has to be really careful where she introduces a trumpet vine. Yet I have lived in the same block with this demon plant for nearly forty years and it has never offered to attack me, or my garden.

There are introduced species, the Chinese tallow tree for one, that have done damage to the environment by spreading to the point that they fill the biological niche of some native plant and crowd it out. More and more of our wild populations of native plants are being lost because they have been replaced by showier alien species which have escaped from cultivation and naturalized. Think about it: if an exotic seed lands in your garden, it could be taking a space that might be dedicated to growing some useful native plant, but when a native plant seedling sprouts up uninvited, it is a local product, almost certain to feed some bug, bird, or small mammal, and it might even be something you learn to love. In either case, whether a native or an exotic plant moving in, prompt removal of a seedling before it is established will usually take care of the problem. So, if my little snailseed should happen to take hold in some other garden around the museum district, at least it will be feeding birds. And if the gardener feels she wants to remove it, Neil Sperry can tell her how to eradicate it.

[The first quotation in paragraph two is from Neil Sperry's *Gardens, The Definitive Word in Texas Horticulture*. The second is from the [wildflower.org](http://wildflower.org) website.

**Have You Noticed?**

Our Horticulture Chairman, Jonni Almoney has written a wealth of information on native plants (and some critters) during the past year and a half. If you're still not satiated and would like more information on native plants go to [www.npsot.org](http://www.npsot.org) and follow the leads. This is the Native Plants Society of Texas Houston branch.

**HOSTESS REMINDER**  
**February 11, HFGC Meeting**

Vada deJongh - Chairman  
Zone 2 Counselor  
vdejongh@comcast.net  
281-331-4911  
Alvin Garden Club  
Creative Gardeners  
Frey Garden Club  
Heritage Garden Club  
League City Garden Club  
Meadowbrook Garden Club  
Nassau Bay Garden Club  
Texas City Garden Club  
Houston Area Daylily Society

**NEW HFGC OFFICERS**  
**For 2011-2013**

President – Deana Roberts  
First Vice President – Janie Vance  
Second Vice President – Betty Schoolar  
Third Vice President – Daphne Light  
Fourth Vice President – Corrie Ten-Have  
Fifth Vice President – Beth Campbell  
Treasurer – Marcia Faschingbauer  
Corresponding Secretary – Vada deJongh  
Recording Secretary – Linda Kuper

**New HFGC Individual Member:**

**Mary Stork**  
6111 Charlotte Street  
Houston, TX 77005  
713-344-0315  
[MaryStork@hotmail.com](mailto:MaryStork@hotmail.com)

**Flower Show School, Course IV**

Sponsored by  
Houston Area Flower Show Judges

March 22-24, 2011

Houston Civic Garden Center  
1500 Hermann Drive  
Houston, TX 77004-7127

Design Instructor – Betty Schoolar,  
Houston, TX  
Functional & Exhibition Tables

Flower Show Procedure & Horticulture  
Instructor

Dorothy Yard, Waterford, PA  
Collections & Displays, Begonias,  
Arboreal Cut Specimens

**Registration form is included in this  
Newsletter.**

**DISTRICT IV, TEXAS GARDEN  
CLUBS, INC.****2011 SPRING CONVENTION**

Hosted by  
Kingwood Garden Club  
March 15, 2011  
Kingwood Country Club  
Convention registration form, agenda  
and directions for location are included  
in this Newsletter.

**Sugar Creek Garden Club  
Presents****“Hearts & Flowers”****Annual Friendship Luncheon**  
*and***Silent Auction**

**Saturday**

**February 12, 2011**

**10:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

**at the**

**Sugar Creek  
Country Club**

Garden décor, children's items,  
Teapots, jewelry, and more!  
For more information, please contact  
Jenny Schultz or

[jlschultz17@comcast.net](mailto:jschultz17@comcast.net)

**HFGC EXCURSIONS**

Two excursions are already scheduled by  
Deana Roberts that you won't want to miss.

On April 1, 2011, for only \$68.00, attendees  
will be treated to a visit to many downtown  
Houston monuments. Lunch included. See  
complete details elsewhere in this  
Newsletter.

Looking ahead to October 6, 7, & 8, 2011, a  
Kerville Safari is scheduled for \$555.00.  
(Limited to 40 persons) Read all the details  
in a separate part of this Newsletter.  
Note: both tours will be limited so send in  
your reservation ASAP.

**TABLESCAPES**

**May 13, 2011**

**"Tablescapes for a Luncheon: A Garden  
Challenge"**

Entries may be by individual or by club.  
There is availability for 18 entries.  
Each entry must provide a title or theme,  
table coverings, glassware, dishes and  
flatware for six people. Set up will take  
place between 9:30-10:30 a.m. on May 13,  
2011.

Christine Morison will have application  
forms at the February HFGC meeting. She  
can also be reached by phone 281-589-  
0564 or email

[briochel11@hotmail.com](mailto:briochel11@hotmail.com)

**CALL TO ARMS**

From the new incoming Federation  
President, Deana Roberts.

First of all, let me thank all of you for  
voting for me as your new president of the  
Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. This is  
a huge task, not made any less daunting by  
the mere fact that I am following in Betty  
Schoolars' great big footsteps. She has had a  
great two years, wonderful speakers,  
accomplished many positive things and has  
ended up with a nice "overage" for our  
budget. Needless to say, this has not  
happened solely by Betty's efforts, but by  
the teamwork of many volunteer  
chairpersons.

NOW, it takes a village and I am  
relatively new to Garden Club (barely more  
than 10 years) and I do not know everyone  
from all the different clubs, nor do I know  
your strengths.....what am I asking  
for? I am asking for people to take a look at  
pages 6, 7, 8 and 9 in your yellow  
Federation Directory and think about a task  
you might commit to. I am hoping that this  
call for help will result in a resounding  
response from those who would like to  
volunteer for a specific job, before I call and  
ask you to take a job.

It takes a village to run Houston  
Federation and I will need your assistance. I  
look at volunteerism as the rent we pay for  
occupying this planet, this country, this state  
and this town. This coming year will be a  
momentous one; it will be our 75th year  
since being organized, our 73rd since  
becoming chartered and our 50th since we  
became Federated. We will be celebrating  
our past, our present and the fact that we  
will be here for always! Jump on board!  
Please email me at [robertsdeana@aol.com](mailto:robertsdeana@aol.com).

**Free Annual Pruning Demonstrations**

Thursday, February 10th at 7:30 pm at the  
Garden Center in Hermann Park, 1515  
Hermann Park Drive, Houston, Texas.  
Expert Rosarians, with the Houston Rose  
Society will demonstrate pruning techniques  
on actual bushes of all types of roses.  
Tables are placed so all can get a close-up  
view. Added bonus: all pruned bushes will  
be given away as door prizes; obtain free  
drawing ticket upon arrival to be eligible.  
Free Admission.

**By Special Request**

For those who asked for the Dalai Lama  
quote that Mickey Sanders used in her  
January "Thought for the Day", (and for  
those who missed it) here it is. **"People take  
different roads seeking fulfillment and  
happiness. Just because they're not on  
your road doesn't mean that they've gotten  
lost." The Dalai Lama**

HFGC meets on the second Friday of each month (Sept. – May).  
Program at 10:30 A.M. followed by a short business meeting. Refreshments from 9:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M.  
Houston Civic Garden Center; 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004

**February 11, 2011**

**Houston Federation Meeting**

The Program will begin at 10:30 followed by a short business meeting.

**Program:** "Something New: The Soil Food Web"

**Speaker:** John C. Ferguson M.S., P.G.  
Conroe, TX

Find out from this soil scientist why compost is called "The Real Black Gold". Visit the website: [natureswayresources.com](http://natureswayresources.com) for much more information about this subject.

**At the February 11 Meeting**

**Ways & Means**

- Plant Sale - Bring plants for the sales table
- Things & Such Sales Table
- Monthly Drawing Table

**Horticulture Exhibits** – Your chance to share a prized bloom or specimen from your garden to "show and tell".

**Floral Designs** – "Pot-et-fleur Designs"

**Arbor Day Celebration** - at the VA Hospital Fischer House, following the meeting.

**Drawing Items Needed – Every Month**

Kay Veech thanks everyone who contributed items for the monthly drawings. If you have something special to donate, please bring it to the next meeting and give to Kay Veech.

**DISTRICT IV, TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC.  
2011 SPRING CONVENTION**

**HOSTED BY KINGWOOD GARDEN CLUB**

**(Directions - Highway 59N exit Kingwood Drive - continue on Kingwood Drive for approximately 3.1/2 miles till Lake Kingwood Trails. Turn right - street deadends at Kingwood Country Club.)**

**FOREST FANTASY**

**3.15.11.**

**AGENDA**

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>8:30 - 10:30</b>  | <b>Registration &amp; Sales Table</b>   |
| <b>9:00 - 10:00</b>  | <b>Executive Board</b>  |
| <b>9:00 - 10:00</b>  | <b>Talk by Biruta Claunch</b>   |
| <b>10:00 - 11:00</b> | <b>Board of Directors</b>   |
| <b>11:00 - 12:00</b> | <b>General Assembly</b>   |
| <b>12:00 - 1:00</b>  | <b>Lunch - Speaker -<br/>Craig Stewart - Lavende Farm</b>   |
| <b>1:00 - 3:00</b>   | <b>General Assembly reconvenes.<br/>Order of Business<br/>Unfinished Business<br/>Life Membership - Mary Hall<br/>Garden Club Angels<br/>Recognition of first-time attendees<br/>Awards<br/>Raffle &amp; Auction items<br/>Election of Officers 2011- 2013<br/>Credentials - Diane Whitaker<br/>Courtesy Resolution - Nell Denman</b> |

**Call to Convention  
District IV, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.  
2011 Spring Convention**

*March 15, 2011*

*Kingwood Country Club*

*Hosted by Kingwood Garden Club*

**FOREST FANTASY**

**Chairman**  
Nancy Giffhorn  
6107 Hidden Lakes  
Kingwood TX 77345  
[rgiffhorn@aol.com](mailto:rgiffhorn@aol.com)

**Co-Chairman/Treasurer**  
Cindy Finley  
3011 N.Cotswold Manor  
Kingwood TX 77339  
[cef@cebridge.net](mailto:cef@cebridge.net)

**Registration Chairman**  
Diana Barker  
3107 Rushing Brook  
Kingwood TX 77345  
[padmarket@yahoo.com](mailto:padmarket@yahoo.com)  
281-361-4278

Overnight accommodation – Holiday Inn Express, 22675 Hwy 59N, Kingwood TX 77339 Tel: 281-359-2700  
Monday’s Welcome Party 6-8pm will be held at Jeanne Street’s home, 3003 Royal Circle, Kingwood 77339.

8:30 -10:30	Registration & Sales Table	12:00 – 1:00	Lunch with speaker – <i>Craig Stewart – Lavende Farm</i>
9:00- 10:00	Executive Board	1:00 – 3:00	General Assembly reconvenes
10:00-11:00	Board of Directors		
11:00-12:00	General Assembly		

Cut here and return bottom portion

**Registration Form**

Make check payable to: **Kingwood Garden Club**  
Mail to: **Diana Barker, 3107 Rushing Brook, Kingwood TX 77345**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Club \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

I will/will not be attending Monday ‘s Welcome Party at 6-8pm.

Please check all of your classifications for credentials

<input type="checkbox"/> National Board	<input type="checkbox"/> District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> SCRegion Rep/Chrm	<input type="checkbox"/> District Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> TGC Design Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> District IV
<input type="checkbox"/> State Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> District Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Critic	<input type="checkbox"/> State
<input type="checkbox"/> State Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/> Area Co-ordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate President	<input type="checkbox"/> Region
<input type="checkbox"/> Former TGC President	<input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Member	<input type="checkbox"/> National

**Flower Show Judge**

Master     Life     Accredited     Emeritus     Student     Instructor

**Check One:**

Club President     Council/Federation Pres.     Club Delegate     Club Alternate     Club Member  
 Guest/Spouse     First Time Attendee at a District Convention

A non-refundable \$10.00 registration fee is required for attendance at any part of the convention including the business meetings or luncheon.

Registration fee .....	\$10.00	_____
Late Registration fee (after March 5) .....	\$15.00	_____
Lunch .....	\$20.00	_____
TOTAL Enclosed (no refunds after March 5) ...	\$	_____

# KERRVILLE SAFARI

OCTOBER 6, 7, 8, 2011

\$555.00 per person, sharing a room

\$100.00 single room supplement

This is a special treat. We travel by deluxe coach to Kerrville and to the Edwards Plateau to visit and sightsee Kerrville. Among some of the sites and visits are the famed Texana artist SJ Derby, wildlife viewing at dusk via mules or golf carts to see white tails, blackbuck, Mouflon sheep, cattle, horses, hawks, grey foxes and tarantulas. Many of the animals are wild and imported from Africa and India. Many are rutting at this time of year. We will also visit the special gardens, nature centers, vineyards, Benini Sculpture Ranch, Johnson City and a farm or two.

We have a very special VIP invitation to the Kerr Art Center to attend the opening of the SJ Derby Art Show. Additionally, we will have the opportunity to dumpster dive for found treasures as well as dig around in SJ Derby's pile of weathered wood for great line material, container material and just plain "stuff" for you to bring home for future designs. We will also visit the San Antonio Botanical Gardens.

## INCLUDED IN THE TOTAL PRICE ABOVE IS:

- Deluxe motor coach for all 3 days
- 2 nights at the Inn of the Hills Hotel on the River, based on 2 to a room
- Breakfast both mornings at the hotel, plus 2 lunches and 2 dinners, including dinner at the famed Tuscan Grille in Kerrville.
- All entrance fees
- All tips and taxes and gratuities, including the coach driver

\$100.00 TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO  
HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

The Tour is limited to 40 persons on a first come, first serve basis

Please complete the attached reservation form with your deposit of \$150.00, payable to Houston Federation of Garden Clubs. A second payment of \$150.00 is due March 30, 2011 and a final payment is due September 15, 2011. NO REFUND will be given after September 15, 2011.

If you have any questions, or for additional information contact Deana Roberts at: 713-777-7103 or email [robertsdeana@aol.com](mailto:robertsdeana@aol.com).

Complete this form and return to Deana Roberts, 9306 Bonhomme Road, Houston, TX 77074. Do not forget to include your \$150.00 deposit made out to Houston Federation of Garden Clubs.

## RESERVATION FORM

### KERRVILLE SAFARI

October 6, 7, 8, 2011

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of \_\_\_\_\_ Garden Club

I am allergic to (foods and/or medication, ants, bug bites): \_\_\_\_\_

I will share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

I do not have a roommate and would like for you to secure one for me.

Any other health needs or information that you feel should be given at this time please include below: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_