

"Learn Something New Every Day"

"No great artist ever sees things as they are, if he did he would cease to be an artist."
Oscar Wilde

Houston Federation Of Garden Clubs

Volume 64, No.7

www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

March 2011

Dear Friends:

We had an **Arbor Day** tree dedication at the Fischer House on the grounds of the VA. This month we are going in the design direction for our program. Three artists and five (or maybe six) designers will interpret works of art created by three very different artists. Christine Morrison has a blurb in this Newsletter about our artists. It should be a good program – **“Arts and Flowers: A Well-Known Combination.** You will not want to miss it.

We had an **Arbor Day** tree dedication at the Fischer House on the grounds of the VA hospital last month. The day was bright and sunny and Ann Gay arranged a very moving dedication ceremony with participation by Far Corners Garden Study Club, District IV, and a chapter of the DAR. It was a good thing!

This month following the meeting we will have a **New Officer’s Workshop** geared toward those who will be taking office for the next year (or two). Call Pat Spiller if you would like to attend (281-581-2904). There will be handouts and a general discussion of some of our jobs: how to be president, program chairman, ways & means chairman, etc. Come with questions you may have and we’ll try to answer them.

March and April are busy months – many Flower Shows, Garden Tours, etc. Here are two events you will not want to miss: **Kingwood will be hosting District IV’s Spring Convention** and you know what a good job they do whenever they are in charge! Last I heard they were looking for saplings – yes, saplings for their March 15 meeting!

Also, **Flower Show School IV** will be held at the Garden Center on March 22-25. If we have enough room, the registration form is enclosed. If not, look in last months Newsletter for it and all sorts of forms – including the **April 1 city trip** to view and learn about our city’s outdoor sculptures (call Deana Roberts for reservations 713-777-7103).

Happy gardening!

Betty

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



March 7	HFGC Board Meeting
March 11	HFGC Monthly Meeting
March 15	District IV Spring Convention, Kingwood
March 22-25	Houston Flower Show School IV
April 1	HFGC Day Excursion to Houston Monument

EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues for Individual Membership of Houston Federation of Garden Clubs is due March 1st. Dues are \$10.00 each individual Member. The check should be written to Houston Federation of Garden Clubs and mailed to Mary Kay Ellis, HFGC Membership Chairman at: 26715 Maplewood Drive; Spring, TX 77386
Forms were in the Feb. Newsletter.

AZALEA TRAIL

The annual Azalea Trail tickets are now on sale. The tours are March 4, 5, and 6 from 11a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$20 for 7 admissions (\$15 if purchased before March 1.) Single admission is \$5.00, available at each location. To purchase tickets in advance contact The River Oaks Garden Club at (713) 523-2483, or mail a check to River Oaks Garden Club Forum of Civics at 2503 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77098. Make checks payable to River Oaks Garden Club. Tickets will be mailed. See website for more details.

Website: www.riveroaksgardenclub.org

Horticulture and Butterflies

March 2011

By Jonni Almoney

713-524-4285

Even though this winter has been a very cold one, in February when there was a little warming trend, a Monarch butterfly drifted through our back garden. There's something about a butterfly that just lifts my spirits, and this one set me thinking about spring and garden changes and ways to lure more butterflies into our garden.

Monarch butterflies are arguably the best-known species of butterfly in the United States, and their annual migration is one of the wonders of the natural world, but there are over seven hundred other butterfly species recorded in North America. Over four hundred species have been spotted in Texas, overwhelmingly more than anywhere else in the United States. Texas has almost as many types of butterflies as New Mexico and Arizona combined.

Within Texas, over three hundred species of butterflies have been recorded in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, about forty percent of all North American species, and around one hundred fifty of those appear nowhere else in the United States. The main reasons for this amazing abundance are mild winters and rich plant diversity. In fact, the North American Butterfly Association selected the Valley for the National Butterfly Center, near Bentsen State Park. It spreads over eighty-four acres in a three-county area of the LRGV; the visitor's center has just been completed, and the site should become the premier butterfly garden in the world.

All of which leads into my real subject: home butterfly gardening. Get in on the fun by finding ways to lure some of those hundreds of varieties of butterflies into your garden. There are several requirements for a good butterfly garden: sun, food, water, and shelter. At least a portion of the garden should be sunny – butterflies rely on the sun, as a source for their body heat and on cool mornings will bask in a sunny spot to get enough energy to fly. So having a large boulder, a patch of gravel or even bare soil in a spot that has early morning sun will encourage them to linger in your garden.

Once a butterfly wanders into your garden, she will want to eat. A garden that supplies a variety of nectar producing plants will naturally attract a wider variety of butterflies. Plants of different heights with a variety of flower shapes and colors, as well as plants that bloom at different times, will improve your odds of having more types of butterflies in your garden. Also, think about spreading your butterfly food plants around the garden to reduce the risk of losing eggs to predation. Don't force the butterfly to put all her eggs in one basket, or at least on one plant. There are long lists of native plants that are available online or at the library, but among them are purple coneflowers, mistflowers, salvias, mallows such as Turk's Cap, lots of things in the Vervain family, including lantanas, and for the Monarchs, *Asclepias* (milkweed).

Milkweed is also a larval food for butterflies, and any successful butterfly garden must have a selection of food for the caterpillars once they hatch. This includes but is by no means limited to parsleys, citrus, and pipe vines for different types of swallowtails; passion vine for fritillaries and zebras; and various sunflowers, asters, and legumes for sulphurs and other species. The milkweed family feeds more than Monarchs; the queen and soldier species depend on them, too. Don't forget about trees as a food source, too. Hackberry trees, *Celtis laevigata*, feed five species of butterfly larvae.

Let me repeat that NATIVE plants are the best for feeding our native butterflies. The plants and bugs evolved together, so the butterflies are best adapted to use the plant species that have been here forever. And here's a thought: **Don't use pesticides in your butterfly garden!** It's pretty inhospitable to welcome butterflies into your garden and then ambush them with chemicals.

I mentioned earlier that water is a necessary ingredient of a butterfly garden. I'm not talking about a pond or impressive water feature. All that is required is a little hint of wetness, maybe in a depression on an ornamental rock or a stepping stone. Or you could put some stones in a shallow dish and barely cover them with water, just enough for the little guys to get a bit of refreshment.

The last requirement for a successful butterfly habitat – shelter - is one of my personal favorites from a labor standpoint. If your garden is perfectly pruned and groomed with not a weed in sight, there may not be suitable places for butterflies to rest or lay their eggs. A slightly shaggy spot is very inviting to our winged friends for safety reasons, and some of the plants we tend to call weeds are native species that butterflies enjoy. One last suggestion: consider mulching around your plants. Using mulch in your garden is a good idea anyway for its water-saving capability, and it can provide necessary shelter for some types of caterpillars.

The North American Butterfly Association website has a wealth of information on types of butterflies and food for butterflies and their larvae. There is even a special category for Houston area butterflies.



HOSTESS REMINDER
March 11, HFGC Meeting

Jody Rogers – Chairman*
Zone 4 Counselor
rogjody@att.net
713-723-6416

Brightwater Garden Club
Flora Luncheon Study Club
Fondren Park Home & Garden Club
Founders Garden Club Brazosport
Houston Area Flower Show Judges*
Houston Area Hemerocallis Society
Sweeny Garden Club
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society
Quail Valley Garden Club
Texas Gulf Coast Fern Society

Bromeliad Sale

The Bromeliad Society/Houston, Inc. will hold their annual spring sale on Saturday, March 26, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Gethsemane United Methodist Church, 6856 Bellaire Blvd. (One mile east of intersection at SW Freeway. First traffic light across from fire station.) Website is: Bromeliadsocietyhouston.org
Allyn Pearlman (713) 858-3047

The Houston Orchid Society 2011 Show and Sale**Wonders of the Orchid World**

Location: Houston Museum of Natural Science Main Lobby
5555 Hermann Park Drive
Houston, TX 77030

Date: April 16-17, 2011
Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Judging is Friday, April 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Free Admission - Parking Available

**ORCHIDS**

Society for the Advance of Floral Design, SAFD, will present a special program featuring Orchids on March 15th, 7:00 p.m. at 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX. Kevin Perry, an avid orchid expert, will share his knowledge of growing and caring for orchids. He will also incorporate them into floral arrangements.

FORTUNIANA GRAFTED ROSES

James Mills of K & M Roses in Buckatunna, MS, will explain the benefits of growing roses grafted on Fortuniana rootstock, at the Houston Rose Society's Meeting, March 10, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at 1515 Hermann Park Dr. (Houston Garden Center)

"Through The Garden Gate"

Friendswood Heritage Gardeners'
Garden Tour & Bazaar
Sat., April 30 and Sunday, May 1
Garden Center is open to public 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. both days. (112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood, TX)
Plant sale, Flower Show, Drawings, Garden Accessories available. Garden Tour Tickets are \$10.00 – advance purchase \$7.00. Tour from 12 to 4 p.m. Sat and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. Tours are of Friendswood backyards. (Tour maps are on the tickets.)

GARDENING STUDY SCHOOL
Course I

March 17-18, 2011 at the Texas A&M University Horticulture Building, College Station. The course is taught by Dr. Joe Novak. Admittance is limited to 35 attendees. Registration fee is \$100. A registration form and particulars for the course may be downloaded from: www.gardenclub.org; www.texasgardenclubs.org or the A&M Garden Club webpage at www.amgardenclub.com/activities.htm

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
Please refer to the February Newsletter for a registration form, or go to the Federation website at:
www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

TABLESCAPES

May 13, 2011

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

May 13 is the last meeting for this club year. Let's make it super special with Tablescapes.

Entries may be by individual or by club. Each entrant 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. Space available for only 18 entrants (tables). Last date to register is May 3rd.

Just to get your creative juices flowing here are a few Tablescapes theme ideas: Royal Wedding; Prom Night; Space Scapes; Outside Dining; Easter Extravaganza, Mardi Gras and 4th of July Celebration. Keep in mind that these are only suggestions. You're bound to think of one that is just right for your particular talent.

Haven't secured your Tablescapes spot yet? Call Christine Morrison and she will get a form to you. 281-589-0564 or email her at briochell1@hotmail.com Let's make it super special by decorating a table for the luncheon that day.

HFGC EXCURSIONS

On April 1, 2011, for only \$68.00, attendees will be treated to a visit to many downtown Houston monuments. Lunch included.

Looking ahead to October 6, 7, & 8, 2011, a Kerrville Safari is scheduled for \$555.00. (Limited to 40 persons) Details for both tours are in the February Newsletter.

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

March 11, 2011

Houston Federation Meeting

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

Program: "Arts and Flowers: A Well-Known Combination"

Featuring: Federation top designers will design and interpret art by artists living in and around Houston. The artists are club member, Kelly Halbach, Linda MacDonald, originally from Scotland and local art student Dan Shanks.

Drawing Items and Items for Things and Such

Do you have any neat items that you would like to donate for drawing or for the sales table? If you bring them to the next meeting Kay Veech, or someone will help find them a nice new home.

At the March 11 Meeting

Ways & Means

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

Horticulture Exhibits – Share a prized bloom or specimen from your garden.

New Officers Workshop – "Learn about your new job". Workshop will provide newly elected officers a venue for understanding their responsibilities and positions.

You Won't Want to Forget

- The New Officers Workshop following the April Meeting.
- The art used in the program at the April meeting will be for sale.
- Tablescape sign-up (Think Christine Morrison)
- HFGC Excursion opportunities

HOUSTON FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL – COURSE IV

MARCH 22-24, 2011

SPONSORED BY HOUSTON AREA FLOWER SHOW JUDGES

Houston Civic Garden Center

1500 Hermann Dr., Houston, TX 77004-7127
713-284-1989

Mary Kay Ellis, Chairman
Phone: 281-367-0209
E-mail: mkdesigns@sbcglobal.net

SCHEDULE

Table with 3 columns: Tuesday, March 22, 2011; Wednesday, March 23, 2011; Thursday, March 24, 2011. Rows include times and activities like Registration, Flower Show Procedure, Break, Design, Lunch, Horticulture, Practice Point Scoring, and Written Point Scoring Exam.

INSTRUCTORS:

Flower Show Procedure: Dorothy Yard, Waterford, PA
Design: Betty Scholar, Houston, TX
Design Topics: Functional & Exhibition Tables
Horticulture: Dorothy Yard, Waterford, PA
Horticulture Topics: Collections & Displays, Begonias, Arboreal Cut Branches

REQUIRED READING LIST FOR COURSE IV:

- The National Gardener Handbook for Flower Shows, 2007 Revised Edition, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14.
Designing by Types – Osborne
Table Settings For All Seasons – Wood & Smith
Essence of Creativity: A Legacy – Thomas, Chapters 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.
Hortulana, Revised – Heber

Those paragraphs pertaining to members of the Plant Group/s studied in this course.

- The Houseplant Expert – Hessayon
Tree and Shrub Expert – Hessayon
The New Flower Expert – Hessayon
The Bulb Expert – Hessayon

These "Expert" books may be purchased as needed for the Plant Group/s and plants selected to be studied in each course. Horticulture instructor is to advise Local FSS Chairman of books and pages of required reading for designated Plant Group/s and plants selected for this course.

- Plants and Their Respective Families – download from www.gardenclub.org
Plant Families Frequently Used in Flower Shows – download from www.gardenclub.org

HOUSTON FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL, COURSE IV

Please complete registration by March 16, 2011, and mail to Jody Rogers, 5910 Effingham Dr., Houston, TX 77035-4144.
E-mail: rojody@att.net Phone: (H) 713-723-6416 or (C) 723-562-0408
Make checks payable to Houston Area Flower Show Judges.

Name _____ Club _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Table with 2 columns: Amount and Description. Rows include Student/Student Judge, Others, Lunch for Tuesday and Wednesday, and TOTAL ENCLOSED.

**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

Co-Chairman/Treasurer
Cindy Finley
3011 N.Cotswold Manor
Kingwood TX 77339
cef@cebridge.net

Registration Chairman
Diana Barker
3107 Rushing Brook
Kingwood TX 77345
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 –
9:00- 10:00	Executive Board		<i>Craig Stewart – Lavende Farm</i>
10:00-11:00	Board of Directors	1:00 – 3:00	General Assembly reconvenes
11:00-12:00	General Assembly		

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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) ...	\$	_____