



# Growing Gardeners

## Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Volume 62, Issue 8

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

April 2009

### Dear Gardeners,

If you care about the air we breathe and water we drink, enjoy the outdoors in its natural state or hope to see locally grown produce on our grocery shelves, then our March program was for you. The Katy Prairie Conservancy protects 17,500 acres of the Katy Prairie for you and all Texans to enjoy forever. This was an excellent educational program on the Katy Prairie and it was an eye opener to see how few acres are left, ever threatened by developers. I urge you to check out their website [www.KatyPrairie.org](http://www.KatyPrairie.org) and give them your support.

Our April program will focus on Japanese maple trees, showing us the different varieties and how to grow them in Houston. Perhaps you will find that perfect specimen for your yard and Mr. Caldwell can answer any questions you may have about growing it. The design workshop led by Betty Schoolar that was postponed in October will be held following this meeting. Attendees will be working on the multi-rhythmic design and receive instructions on the other new designs. So be sure to call Ann Gay to register for the workshop before she reaches the 25 class maximum.

Houston Federation dues and rosters are now due to the treasurer and roster chairman. Find all the instructions in the Federation Directory on page 5. Deadline is May 15. Speaking of deadlines—the National Convention registration deadline is April 15. Since this is a once in a decade opportunity to attend a NGC convention right on our doorstep, please make sure that your club members have the opportunity to experience it. They will not be disappointed.

Happy gardening,

### April Workshop

The April Workshop presented by Betty Schoolar will be Multi-Rhythmic Designs. The participants will need to bring a container, tools, line material (enough to share with others), and wire. Flowers will be furnished. We need your reservations by April 1. Cost is \$15.00. Bring a sack lunch. We will meet in the Azalea Room right after the meeting. **Contact Ann Gay at (281)333-4662**

### Renewal Notice: Individual Members Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

By **Conie TenHave, Membership Chairman**  
Renewal of your individual membership to the Houston Federation of Garden Clubs 2009-2010 year, is **now due**. The renewal fee is \$10.00

The renewal has been mailed or emailed. If any of your contact information has changed in the past year, please include the corrections. We strive to be as accurate as possible.

If you are unable to download the form, please call me @ 713-787-5149 (home) or 713-817-7650 (cell), so I can accommodate you in a different way.

If you have been elected to the position of President or Treasurer of your club, please let me know. You will receive the newsletter and directory as part of that official position. You will not need to renew as an individual member.

Please remind your outgoing President and Treasurer to become an individual member if they wish to continue to receive the newsletter and directory.

**Please Note:** The directories will be available, starting at the first meeting in September. Due to cost issues, we cannot mail them to you. You may have someone else pick it up for you if you cannot attend the meeting.



**Hostess Reminder**  
**April Meeting Zone 4**  
**Martha Fouzek, Chairman**  
**281-542-9731**

Forest Cove G C	Liberty Garden Club
Gardeners by the Bay	New Carry G C
Kingwood G C	Newport G C
Lake Houston G C	Petal Pushers G C
	Wooster Garden Club

### Free Publicity for Your Special Events

To announce your Special Event (not your regular monthly meeting), submit information to the newsletter editor by the second Friday of the month prior to the event. Please make sure your submission includes contact name and telephone number for the event. \*Newsletters are generally mailed the 3rd Friday of the month and take 5-10 days for delivery

**Thursday, April 2 11am-12pm**

**United Garden Club presents**

*"Neal's Strach and Wunderlich  
Memory Garden"*

Designed by Catherine L. B. Neal  
You are invited to stay, bring a sack  
lunch & picnic from noon to 1pm

Houston Garden Center  
1500 Hermann Drive

Free and open to the public  
Call Catherine Neal 281-444-7804  
by April 1, 2009 to reserve a place

**Saturday, April 4 9am-5pm**

**Bromeliad Society of Houston  
presents**

**Annual Spring Bromeliad Sale**

Houston Arboretum and Nature  
Center 4601 Woodway.

[bromeliadsocietyhouston.org](http://bromeliadsocietyhouston.org)  
Charlen Rose (713)-686-9969

**Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-3:30pm**

**Memorial NW Ladybugs  
presents**

**Annual Garage & Plant Sale**

Memorial Northwest Club House  
17440 Theismann Route, Spring  
Wonderful Treasures & Plants from  
Garden Club members

Cheryl Robinson -713-829-6291

**Fri & Sat, April 17 & 18**

**Forest Cove Garden Club  
presents**

*"A Garden Tour With  
Southern Hospitality"*

10 am - 3 pm

Tour will include: 4 home gardens,  
a quilt exhibit, Texas memorabilia  
display, water fountains, bird-house  
displays - and a raffle prize at each  
home. Tickets .... \$10.00  
[cksilverfox@aol.com](mailto:cksilverfox@aol.com)/281-358-6515

**Saturday, April 18 12pm-4 pm**

**Houston Rose Society presents**



**Spring  
Rose Show**

Free Admission  
Come see which roses  
grow best in Houston

Sharpstown Community Center  
6600 Harbor Town

For more information [www.houstonrose.org](http://www.houstonrose.org)

**Sunday, April 19 12 pm-6 pm**

**Houston Rose Society presents**

**Free Rose Garden Tours**

West Houston: 11038 Lark Brook Lane  
Inside 610 Loop: #2 West 11<sup>th</sup> Place  
Beldaire: 5913 Birdwood

Friendwood: 2403 Pine Drive

Pasadena: 2217 Huckleberry Lane

and the Harris County Precinct 2

1202 Genoa-Red Bluff Road

For more information and directions,

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

Elisabeth Duhon 713-855-8447

**Sat & Sun, April 25 & 26**

**Heritage Gardeners GG**

Friendwood presents

*"Through the Garden Gate"*

17<sup>th</sup> annual Garden Tour

Marie Workman Garden Center & Gardens  
is open both days 10 - 5 free of charge  
Flower Show, raffle, plant sale, garden art,  
bazaar, Jr. & Master Gardener's booths

Garden Tour: Sat 12 - 4 & Sun 1 - 5

\$7 advance purchase, \$10 at door

Call 281-482-7130 or 281-992-4438

**Wednesday, April 29**

**The Woodlands Garden Club**

presents

**"It's A Small, Small World"**

**A Small Standard Flower Show**

Free & Open to the public 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

The Forum 5055 West Panther Creek Dr.

The Woodlands, Texas

please call 281-381-3268 or

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

**Saturday, May 2 9 am - 5 pm**

**Sunday, May 3 1 pm - 5 pm**

**Petal Pushers Garden Club  
& Deer Park Art League**

present

*Annual Gardens & Art Tour*

Tickets: \$6.00 advance purchase  
\$8.00 day of tour

Plant Sale: Theater Courts Bldg.  
1302 Center Street, Deer Park

Iron Works Sale: Robert's Jug &  
Muffin, 13th and Center Street

call 281-479-4873.

**Thursday, May 6 1pm - 4 pm**

**Houston Area Daylily and**

**Houston Hemerocallis**

Societies present

*"Daily Devotion"*

**DAYLILY FLOWER SHOW AND SALE**

Houston Garden Center

1500 Hermann Drive

Free and open to the public

**Saturday, May 9 9am - 4 pm**

**Sugar Land Garden Club**

Presents their 10<sup>th</sup> annual

*Spring Garden Tour*

Eight gardens in the Sugar Land area.

Tickets: \$12 for the entire tour

\$3 each for a single garden

281-491-9609/[www.sugarlandgardenclub.org](http://www.sugarlandgardenclub.org)

**Saturday, May 30 5pm - 9 pm**

**Mercer Society will host**

*Mercer's Garden Party*

**Mercer Visitor Center Courtyard**

**22306 Aldine Westfield**

The evening begins with a silent  
auction followed by an elegant  
dinner and a grand finale live  
auction. Call 281-443-8731 for more  
information and support by  
donations or event sponsorship.

## Horticulture Report

### "Spring in all it's Splendor Arrives on Wunderlick Drive"

April 1, 2009

by Catherine L. B. Neal 281-444-7804

The musical brushes are played as the hummingbird places its long peak into the blue - purple wisteria. The wisteria fragrance fills the air and the mockingbird sits in the magnolia tree practicing its happy love-mating call. Spring is the renewal of all life that gives hope for a new year filled with the beautiful rainbow of colors. The blooms will grace our gardens as the yellow jasmine, red bud tree, azaleas, bridal wreath, dogwood, mock orange, honey suckle, and magnolia enter the parade of spring announcing to all the world that better days are coming. There is no place on earth I'd rather be in March than in the garden smelling the crushed mint along the path, hearing the birds sing, and watching the birds search for nesting material and food. I love listening to the bass of the frog with its mating ritual call.

Ah the smell of fresh turned soil filled with earth worms makes me remember the fishing days of my youth at the Strack Sawmill pond. While waiting for the fish to bite, the water fowl, cattie and other wild life would join me at the watering hole. It was a wonderful chance to study a water garden and it's visitors the natural way. Since all life depends on water, this memory has lasted a lifetime and I draw from it as I write of the wonders of spring. While I was catching fish, nature was catching me and binding it to my heart.

Take a child to see the wildflowers, four Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, and other area parks this spring, all of which will give children a lasting memory. A walk along Cypress Creek banks at Meyer Park off Cypresswood Drive will reap rewards. Until our next nature adventure have happy trails.



May 24 - 28  
**National Garden Clubs**  
**80<sup>th</sup> Spring Convention**  
**"Blooming Magic - Texas Style"**  
 2009

## Volunteers Needed

The price to volunteer: \$10.00 for each Texas Garden Club member (**that is a saving of \$30.00 in registration fees**), plus filling out a registration form and mailing it in.

Texas is expecting between 800 - 1000 guests at the convention, and the garden clubs must provide volunteers in the areas of:

1. ticket taking at 5 meals
2. hostesses at each table at the meals
3. greeters in the hotel lobby.

**Mary Lou Hakansson (713-729-0788)** needs 40 volunteers, 8 at each meal (she has 8 so far) to stand at the doors and take the meal tickets or assign table numbers as the guests enter the dining room. Please call and volunteer your time.

The hotel is booked, and the dining rooms are expected to be at full capacity. **Diane Whitaker (713-729-8716)** needs so many hostesses - one for each table at each meal. Please consider coming one day for both lunch and dinner. This job does not involve standing, just a friendly Texas Garden Club member!

Please refer to the registration form for dates, times, speakers and prices for the various meals when choosing the job you would like to do.

The forms (both agenda and registration) were included in the February newsletter, or can be downloaded from either our website [www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org) or National's [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org) or [www.texasgardenclubs.org](http://www.texasgardenclubs.org)

If you would rather greet guests in the hotel lobby, call **Sue Durrell at 281-376-3183/sleyrer\_90@aol.net**.

## HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS

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

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Please send all mailing address changes to Editor. Next newsletter deadline: April 10, 2009

# Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Newsletter

## "Growing Gardeners"

HFGC meets on the second Friday of each month (Sept to May)

Meeting 10:30 AM (fellowship and refreshments at 10 AM)

Houston Civic Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston TX

### April 10, 2009

Remember to be on time

The program will begin at 10:30 am, followed by a short business meeting



#### Program: "East Meets West in Your Backyard - Growing Japanese Maples in Houston"

William Caldwell, an environmental engineer and the owner of a whole-sale nursery in the Big Thicket, has been growing and propagating Japanese maples in the Houston Area for 35 years

**Horticulture Exhibit Table:** Share a flower or plant, remember to fill out the information card.

**Plant Sale Table:** Bring your extra plants, and shop for more.

**Workshop: Multi-Rhythmic Design** Betty Schoolar will conduct a class on one of the new Creative Design types found in the 2007 revised Handbook for Flower Shows.

### April Dates to Remember

- 1 ALL DUES DUE (Federation, District and State)
- \*10 HFGC Meeting 10:00 am Hostesses: Zone 4  
"East Meets West in Your Backyard - Growing Japanese Maples in Houston"  
by William Caldwell
- Workshop (rescheduled) "Catching up with the New Multi-Rhythmic Designs"
- 21-25 TGC Spring Convention Midland
- 23-24 Florescence Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
- 27 Flower Show School Judges Reading Exam

### May Dates to Reserve

- \*4 HFGC Board meeting 1:00 pm Azalea Rm
- \*8 HFGC Meeting 10:00 am Hostesses: Zone 5  
"Guess Who's Coming to...." Virginia Woods, and Margarette Jones, past HFGC Presidents, will present floral designs to whip up when last minute dinner guests are due at your door in hours (minutes).
- 13 - 18 NGC Spring Convention Houston
- 15 Federation Rosters due to HFGC Roster Chairman