

# "Learn Something New Every Day"

"In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt."

Margaret Atwood

## Houston Federation Of Garden Clubs

Volume 63, No. 7

www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

March 2010

### Dear Friends:

What a terrific, informative, inspiring, and challenging program we were privileged to hear in February. **Andrew Sansom's "Challenges to Land and Water Conservation in Texas"** was all of the above. He is no stranger to Texas Garden Clubs and expressed his appreciation to garden clubs for their commitment to conservation, etc. His book, "**Water in Texas**," was part of the drawing and several who did not win the book asked for the title to order it for themselves. Our Underwater Designs were interesting and appreciated, along with the horticulture that survived the big freeze.

Our **Arbor Day** ceremony took place at the VA Hospital where a cedar elm was planted.

The March meeting will be a designer's treat: "**The Lore of a Challenge**." We will feature six designers using the same container, each putting their own signature on their design, making it easy for you to identify!! When you come to the meeting you will receive a ballot to match up the design with the designer. Should be fun.

The March **workshop** will be specifically geared toward new garden club officers and chairmen who want to learn about what their responsibilities will be for the next year. Call Pat Spiller to sign up (281-581-2904). This is a freebie!!

We are still recruiting artists for the April show. **P L E A S E** sign up and exhibit. Otherwise it will not be much of a show!!!! If you have more than one talent, enter all of them. If we don't come up with exhibitors, Christine will have to quickly find a program and we don't want to do that to her, do we?

Many **conventions** coming up – plan to attend and "learn something new," meet new people, and see old friends.

**Flower Shows** and **Flower Show Schools** are on the horizon – join in the fun and again, "learn something new."

Spring is just around the corner, right? See you on **March 12** (wrong date in Directory!!!).

*Betty*

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 8	HFGC Board of Directors Meeting
March 12	HFGC Regular Meeting
March 16	Reception – District IV
March 17	Spring District IV Convention
March 23-25	Houston Flower Show School II

Houston Federation of Garden Club Newsletter is published monthly, September through May. **Complimentary** copies are sent to all **HFGC Garden Club and Affiliate Presidents and Treasurers, HFGC Board of Directors, former HFGC Presidents and Individual Members. Individual subscriptions** are available for \$10 per year. Send your complete mailing information to HFGC Treasurer.

### IN CASE YOU NEED US

**President** – Betty Schoolar  
(713) 523-6979

[betty.schoolar@yahoo.com](mailto:betty.schoolar@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer** – Bunnye Baldwin  
(281) 482-7130

[bbunnye@aol.com](mailto:bbunnye@aol.com)

**Newsletter** – Etta Guillot  
(281) 328-1330

[ettacg@msn.com](mailto:ettacg@msn.com)

### BRINGING NATURE HOME LECTURE

**Speaker: Dr. Douglas Tallamy**

**Free Admission**

**Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2010**

**Time: Social 6:30 PM, Lecture 7-8 PM, Panel Discussion 8-8:30 PM**

**Place: Hamman Hall, Rice University**

*(There is a \$5 parking charge (credit card only) for the lot next to Hamman Hall.)*

Douglas Tallamy, Chair of the University of Delaware's Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Department, presents what individuals can do to stem biodiversity loss. Dr. Tallamy's book, **Bringing Nature Home**, has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy local ecosystems and human well-being.

*This event is co-hosted by: Houston Audubon, Center for the Study of Environment and Society, Lynn R. Lowrey Arboretum of Rice University, Outdoor Nature Club, David and Linda Knowles, Native Plant Society of Texas-Houston, Don Verser, Nature Discovery Center, and Shell Center for Sustainability.*

## Horticulture and Gardener's Recipes

March, 2010

By Jonni Almonev

713- 524-4285

Last month I wrote about not using pesticides in the garden, and I continue to urge you to use a hard spray of water, repeated as often as you like, to remove pests from plants. But I admit that there are times when pesticides seem like the only answer to an infestation. If someone is chewing on the roses or there are thrips in the heart of every single gardenia blossom, here are some recipes for natural pesticides that are more earth-friendly.

### **GARLIC, PEPPERS & ONION SPRAY** (for thrips, aphids, grasshoppers and other chewing insects)

**2 hot peppers**

**1 large onion**

**1 whole bulb of garlic**

**¼ cup water**

Toss it all in a blender and process until a mash is made. Cover the mash with one gallon of hot water and let stand for 24 hours. Strain, then put liquid in a spray bottle. Spray on roses, azaleas and vegetables to kill bug infestations. The mash can go in the compost.

### **TOMATO LEAF SPRAY** (for grasshoppers and white flies)

Crush a **handful of leaves from a tomato plant** and soak in **water** for a couple of days. Strain then spray. **DON'T USE THIS ON FOOD PLANTS AND TAKE CARE WHEN HANDLING. TOMATO LEAVES ARE REPUTED TO BE POISONOUS.**

It's amazing what you can find on the internet. After I typed that warning, I got curious about tomato leaves' bad reputation, and according to several sources, it is indeed based on fact that tomato leaves are harmful. Tomatoes are in the nightshade family; the leaves contain an alkaloid substance that might not kill you, but it can cause severe gastrointestinal distress and make you wish you could die. Beware.

This last recipe is a general all-purpose spray for bugs on your plants and can be used rather than buying commercial insecticidal soap. I see no reason why it shouldn't be fully as effective, and soap is the most dangerous chemical in it. Use just ordinary liquid soap, not the products with antibacterial properties or additives that make your hands softer.

### **HORTICULTURAL OIL SPRAY**

**1 tablespoon vegetable oil**

**1 tsp liquid dish detergent or liquid hand soap**

**2 cups water**

Fill a spray bottle. Shake before using.

If you do use any of these recipes for removing bugs in your garden, there are some guidelines to be followed. First, spray tops and undersides of leaves, and try to avoid getting drips on you. If you do get wet, wash yourself thoroughly with soapy warm water. These concoctions won't kill you, but they might cause skin irritation. Use spray once and wait at least a week to spray again. Excessive spraying can harm the plant as well as kill beneficial garden creatures like earthworms, bees and ladybugs. To reduce leaf burn, spray in late afternoon instead of in the middle of a hot sunny day, and in case of rain, wait until the leaves are dry. Otherwise the treatment will be diluted and lose effectiveness.

Now, on a less bloodthirsty subject, do you know those little packets of bloom conditioner that you get with bunches of flowers when you buy them at the market? Were you ever arranging flowers from your garden and wished you had some? Never fear, here are three easy substitutes that you can make yourself:

### **THREE EASY BLOOM CONDITIONERS**

1. One gallon of water plus 4 tablespoons of Listerine (the original, brown one)
2. Three parts water to one part lemon-lime soda (don't use diet soda because you want the sugar, or at least the flowers do)
3. One gallon of water, one capful of bleach, one tablespoon of vinegar, and two tablespoons of sugar

*The insecticide recipes and usage tips were all taken from [tipnut.com/natural-pesticides](http://tipnut.com/natural-pesticides). There are more recipes online, but these above will be a good start.*

*The first two recipes for bloom conditioner came from garden club friends. The third one I got recently from a website somewhere, but now I can't find the source. It appeared when I went in search of "bloom conditioner for cut flowers" and I probably could find it again if I tried. Anyway, now you know how to look.*

**HOSTESS REMINDER**

March 12, 2010 HFGC Meeting

Jody Rogers

Zone 4 Counselor

713-723-6416



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

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**RENEWAL NOTICE FOR  
 Individual Members of Houston  
 Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Renewal of your Individual  
 Membership to the Houston  
 Federation of Garden Clubs 2010-  
 2011 year is Due Now!

**The renewal fee is \$10.00**

The renewal has been mailed or  
 emailed. If any of your contact  
 information has changed in this  
 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 @ 281-  
 367-0209 (home), 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.

**By Mary Kay Ellis,**  
 Membership Chairman

**Far Corners Garden Study Club  
 Presents**

**A Standard Flower Show  
 "Imagination + Exploration =  
 Visualization"**

Tuesday, April 12, 2010

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

AT

Houston Garden Center  
 1500 Hermann Drive

No Admission Charge

**NEW OFFICERS WORKSHOP**

Do you have a new job in your Garden  
 Club next year? Do you need help or  
 advice in your new position? Come to  
 the March **New Officers Workshop**  
 at the regular meeting. Presidents,  
 Program Chairmen, Treasurers and  
 other officers may questions and hear  
 brief presentations from Federation  
 officers. There is **NO CHARGE**.  
 Please sign up with Pat Spiller.

281-581-2904

**THE HOUSTON ORCHID  
 SOCIETY**

2010 SHOW & SALE

Houston Museum of Natural  
 Science Main lobby  
 One Hermann Circle Drive  
 Houston, Texas 77030

April 17 - 18, 2010

Saturday 9AM to 5PM

Sunday 10AM to 4PM

**THE WOODLANDS GARDEN  
 CLUB**

Presents

**"My Green Garden"**

**"Home to Favorite Plants  
 and Tiny Creatures"**

**A STANDARD FLOWER  
 SHOW**

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

at

**THE FORUM**

5055 West Panther Creek Dr.

The Woodlands, Texas

(Open to the public - Admission Free)

**GardenScapes**

*By Ann Korenek*

The Kingwood Garden Club's 2010  
 GardenScapes is scheduled for Friday,  
 April 23, Saturday, April 24 and  
 Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The hours are  
 10am to 4pm on Friday and Saturday  
 and Sunday 12 noon to 4 pm.

The Garden Tour will include four  
 inspiring gardens of Kingwood

**The ticket price is \$8.00 pre-tour  
 and \$10.00 at sites. For more  
 information contact**

**Ann Korenek 281-358-8386 or  
 www.kingwoodgardenclub.org**

**The 2010 GardenScapes Plant Sale**  
 will be held at **30 Shorelake**. A huge  
 variety of annuals, perennials, natives  
 and succulents from Garden Club  
 members and professionals will be  
 sold during the tour. Get there early  
 for the best **selection!**

The **Door Prize Ticket** sale will be  
 held at 5903 RiverChase Trail. Tickets  
 are: \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00.

**Newsletter Deadline** is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each  
 month for info to go in the next month's  
 Newsletter. [ettacg@msn.com](mailto:ettacg@msn.com) or  
 281-328-133


**Friendswood's Heritage  
 Gardeners  
 Annual Garden Tour**

*"Through The Garden Gate"*

April 24, 2010 – 10-4 p.m.

April 25, 2010 – 1-5 p.m.

**For tickets call  
 281-992-4438**

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**Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Newsletter**


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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

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**March 12, 2010**

**Houston Federation Meeting**

The Program will begin at 10:30 followed by a short business meeting. Please be on time.

**Program: "The Lore of a Challenge"**

**Mystery Designers** - Six very creative designers will create designs using identical containers and their own unique style.

**Challenge:** With the ballot that you will be given upon arrival, you will attempt to match up the designs with the correct designer.

**Horticulture Exhibit:** Bring what ever worthy specimen that you can from your garden or yard.

**A GARDEN PARTY**

**Has Been Planned For You!**

**District IV 2010**

**Spring Convention**

**Reception:**

**Tuesday March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 p.m. in the Gardens**



**Shangri La** | Botanical Gardens  
& Nature Center

**RSVP Gwen Poutra**

**honey@poutra.com**

**Convention Meeting, March 17, 8:00 a.m. at**

**First United Methodist Church**

Hosted by Ivy League and Leaf & Petal Garden Clubs

Orange, Texas

Overnight accommodations at The Hampton Inn

409-883-2500

Mention the Garden Club Spring Convention

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**CORRECTIONS:** The price of the lunch at the District IV 2010 Spring Convention is \$16.00, not \$10.00. Disregard the telephone # in the Garden Party, District IV Convention announcement that was in the **February Newsletter**.

# REGISTRATION

## District IV

### 2010 Spring Convention

First United Methodist Church Recreation Center  
502 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Orange, TX 77630

## A Garden Party

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Hosted by Area I

Ivy League Garden Club and Leaf & Petal Garden Club

**Make checks payable to: Ivy League Garden Club**

Mail form and check to Registration Chairman:

Kyle Hood, 4705 Burns Circle, Orange, TX 77630-2800 (409) 883-6012

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Please Print*

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

#### Credentials (check all your classifications):

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Board        | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director        | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President                | <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> S.C. Region Rep/Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> District Officer         | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Delegate                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Member    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer         | <input type="checkbox"/> District Chairman        | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Alternate                | <input type="checkbox"/> Council President   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Chairman        | <input type="checkbox"/> Area Coordinator         | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest/Spouse        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Former TGC President  | <input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> Time Attendee |  |

#### Please check all that apply:

- |                     |                                      |   |  |                                   |                                   |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Consultants:        | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental | <input type="checkbox"/> Design   |                                   |
| Flower Show Judges: | <input type="checkbox"/> Master      | <input type="checkbox"/> Life             | <input type="checkbox"/> Accredited    | <input type="checkbox"/> Student  | <input type="checkbox"/> Emeritus |
| Life Membership:    | <input type="checkbox"/> District IV | <input type="checkbox"/> State            | <input type="checkbox"/> S.C. Region   | <input type="checkbox"/> National |                                   |

#### SCHEDULE

8:00 – 10:00	Executive Board Meeting; Board of Directors' Meeting
8:00 – 10:00	Registration & Sales Tables Light Refreshments
8:00 – 10:00	Stark Museum of Art tours & Stark House tours - (last tour 9:30)
10:00 – 11:30	Opening Exercises & Business Session
11:30 – 12:30	Served lunch & Speaker- Mike Hoke of Shangri La Gardens
12:30 – 1:30	Recognition of Garden Club Angels; Awards & Raffle items; Adjournment
1:30	Board shuttles for transfer to Gardens
2:00 - 4:00	Shangri La Gardens - wear comfortable, close-toed shoes

#### DISTRICT IV SPRING 2010 CONVENTION

Registration ..... \$12.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Registration after February 26..... \$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_

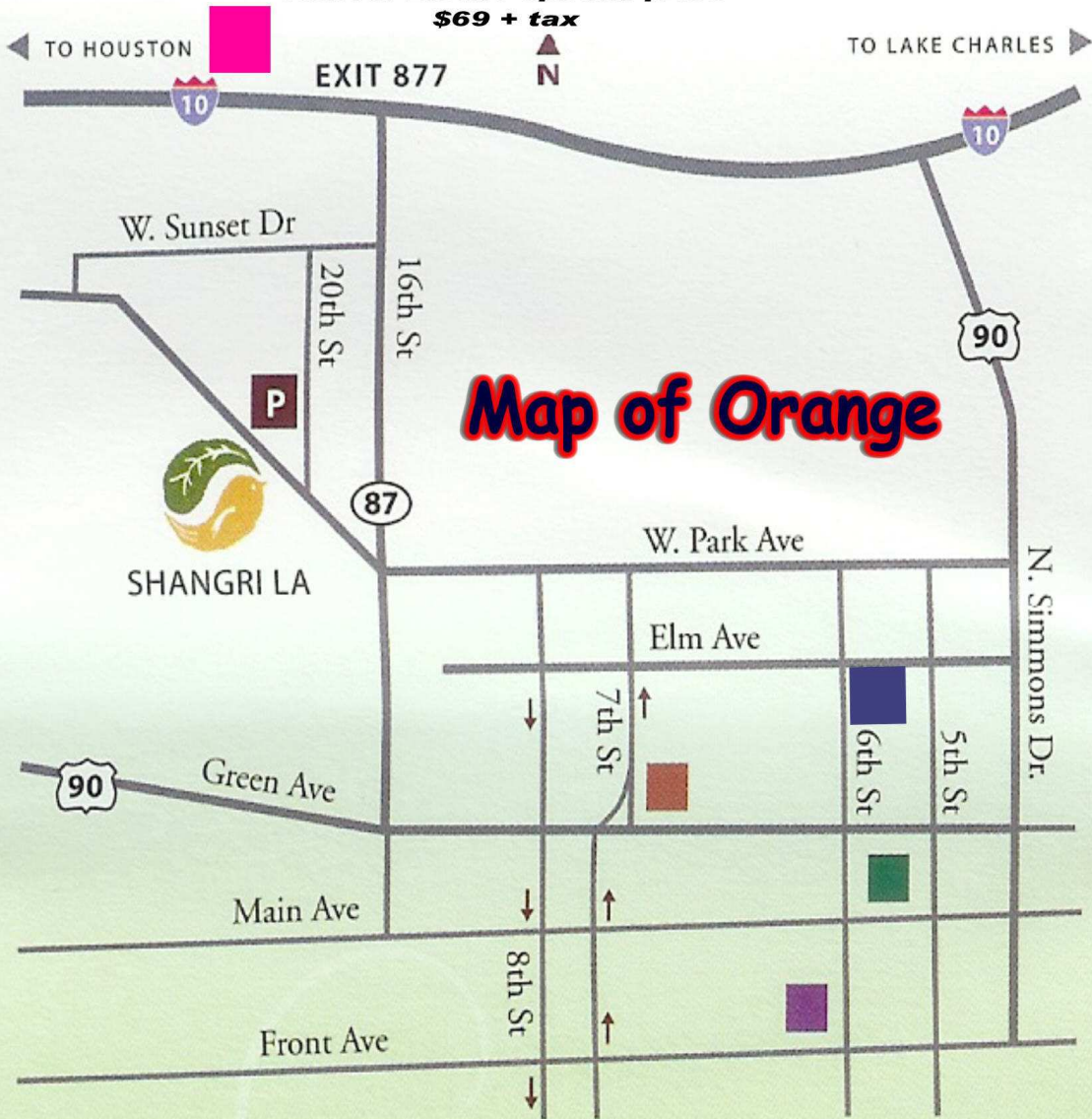
Lunch.....\$16.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Tour of Shangri La Gardens & Boat Tour.....\$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Tour of Stark House.....FREE Stark Museum..... FREE

Total Amount Enclosed.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**No refunds after February 28**

**Hampton Inn**  
**(409) 883-2500**  
**Ask for Dist.IV special price**  
**\$69 + tax**



# Map of Orange

■ Stark Museum of Art   ■ The W.H. Stark House   ■ Lutcher Theater

■ **First Methodist**



**“The Nature of Art: A Show”**  
**Federation April 9, 2010 Program**

We will be doing something quite different for our April Federation program: **AN ART SHOW**. It will be a one-of-its-kind extraordinary program featuring the creative and artistic talents of you, our members – making April our ART EXTRAVAGANZA month. We know Federation has talent. What we would like to do in April is for everyone to share this talent. For example, do you quilt? Take incredible photographs? Sew extraordinary visions of beauty? Paint like a Picasso or Matisse? Work with beads and such? Do you do needlepoint and/or cross stitch, bargello or embroidery? Make paper? Do you create etchings, lithographs, sculptures, metal work, jewelry, macramé (that’s a word from the past, right?), calligraphy, yard art, etc. You get the picture. If you have any of these talents or some I haven’t thought of, we want you to sign up for this “really big show” and fill the Garden Center auditorium with the beautiful or even the unusual.

The Show will be installed during the social hour so you need not come early. Each of you will have an assigned place with your name on a card. However, each exhibitor is encouraged to include a personal note with their exhibit. Some people might want to sell their exhibit and we will arrange somehow to do that, noting that 10% of all sales at the Garden Center go to the Garden Center. Those details can be worked out later. This note is just to get you thinking ART!!!!

We have created a registration form for your entries. Please tell us what your exhibit will be and how you would like to stage it. We will furnish tables covered in black cloths but ask you to furnish other staging necessary for the exhibit of your creations. We have a few floor easels and some pedestals that can be used.

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**REGISTRATION FORM**

Send to Christine Morrison  
11406 Meadowlake Dr., Houston, TX 77077-6834  
[281-589-0564-----brioche111@hotmail.com](mailto:281-589-0564-----brioche111@hotmail.com)

Exhibitors name:\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone and email:\_\_\_\_\_

Type of Exhibit:\_\_\_\_\_

Size of Exhibit:\_\_\_\_\_

Space & Staging requirements (table space, floor space, easel space, etc.)\_\_\_\_\_

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