



Growing Gardeners

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Volume 61, Issue 4

November 2007

Dear Gardeners,

Now you know how to make a Bug Sucker! Lisa Whittlesey entertained and educated us at the October meeting on the Junior Master Gardener (JMG) program. She shared how she came up with the idea and has watched it flourish throughout Texas, then all the states and even internationally. Garden Clubs and Master Gardeners working together for the benefit of our youth can work wonders. Nassau Bay and Heritage Gardeners brought their scrapbooks to show how they are teaching gardening and design to their youngsters. As Lisa pointed out, far too many children today never have a chance to "get their hands dirty" in a garden or learn to love and appreciate our natural environment. When they grow up what importance will they place on ecology? It's up to us to make sure they learn to be good stewards of our natural resources.

Thank you Nell Denman, Dory & Carl Orr and Ann Gay for the great workshop on "Garden in a Gutter." It was a lot of work preparing for this workshop and presenting it. Circumstances kept some people who had signed up from attending, but it was wonderful for those of us who took home our very own beautiful gutter garden.

As I write this message we are still eagerly and busily anticipating the TGC fall Convention this week. Sue Durrett, Pat Graber, and Mary Poythress are making sure everything goes as planned while Federation members are putting together floral designs and setting up. Don't forget the Dist IV Convention on Oct. 31 at the Houston Garden Center.

Tickets for our Christmas Extravaganza on Dec. 14 are still available, but going fast. Reservations are required and tickets are \$20. Call Mary Kay Ellis at 281-367-0209 to reserve your tickets. J. Keith White will be dazzling us with his extraordinary creative designs, normally presented at symposiums for professional floral designers. You don't want to miss this event!

Our November meeting will showcase Christina Rizzo showing us how to easily make floral designs for our holiday entertaining. She's sure to inspire you to try something new for your Thanksgiving or Christmas decorating this year. There will be plenty of plants for sale and horticultural exhibits to enjoy as well as loads of friendly gardeners to share the morning.

See you there.

Federation Board meeting is Monday, November 5 at 1 pm.
This includes all chairmen.

A New Home For Your Old Floral Design Books

Houston Federation and A&M Garden Club have shared a common interest in the **Seeds for Life** Program. Again, A&M Garden Club is inviting you to join us in another project! We are collecting old Design books to send as visual reference material for the Mayan women of Concepcion, Guatemala, who are learning about floral design!

Our Club made a Visual Design Handbook to help the Mayan women learn the basics of design. The Handbook has a teachers guide written in Spanish. However many of the students only speak Mayan dialect, so a six course Visual Guide was made with step by step photos of different styles of floral design. The first Course has been a success! The Mayan women are now selling arrangements instead of cut flowers and increasing their small family income!

Do you have old design books, with pictures? If you no longer need them, remember the Floral Design library at Concepcion, Guatemala!

Gracias,

Idalia Aguilar 979 -778- 5672

Hostess Reminder

November Meeting

Zone 6 Counselor

Bonnie Steidley281-491-5999

Bouquettes Garden Club
Cabildo Garden Club
Crestwood Garden Club
Lake Olympia Garden Club
Lazy Daisy Garden Club
New Century Garden Club
Petit Jardin Garden Club
Sugar Creek Garden Club
Sugar Land Garden Club

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Newsletter

Free Publicity for Your Special Events

To announce your event, 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

November 17 and 18

Friendswood Heritage Gardeners will host their 41st Annual Christmas Home Tour, November 17 and 18, 1 p.m.-5 p.m. daily. The tour begins at 112 West Spreading Oaks, in Friendswood. There will be a Tea Room that opens at noon both days. This year's Tea Room theme is "A Woodland Christmas". The Heritage Gardeners will also have their Famous Bake Sale, Crafts, and Raffle Drawings. Come and experience for yourself the beautifully decorated homes in all their Christmas wonder. Tickets are \$10 pre-tour or \$15 on the day of tour. For information call 281-992-4438.

December 1

Texas City Garden Club

36th Annual Holiday Gift Shop
Saturday, December 1st
9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Nessler Center in Texas City
Vendors contact:
Nancy Heard at 409-948-8497 or
409-771-5697

January 19

Urban Harvest

Green Houston with Fruit Trees Be A Participant

Urban Harvest will hold its 8th Annual Fruit Tree Sale Saturday, January 19, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Emerson Unitarian Church, 1900 Bering Drive. This annual sale brings together far more types and varieties of fruit trees than can be found anywhere else in metro Houston or likely in the mid South. Website: www.urbanharvest.org, for more information

HOUSTON FEDERATION PROJECTS

Toy Collection for Star of Hope Mission

Star of Hope Mission serves the homeless which includes many families. The children range in age from infants to 18 years old. In considering what you would give, please avoid any toys that reflect violence or are sexually suggestive. Needed toys are stuffed animals, dolls, selected action figures and toy trucks, different types of balls, picture books, reading level books, board games and craft sets. Teens are interested in watches, purses, jewelry, music and music players, electronic games, and personal items. Please, no riding toys such as bikes or tricycles.

Please do NOT wrap the gifts you donate. A truck will be at the Garden Center on Friday, December 14 to accept your donations for the Star of Hope Christmas. Thank you for your generosity. If you have any questions, call

**Hazel Potvin at 713-729-4568
or hazelnut856@yahoo.com.**

Poinsettia Project

This year Houston Federation will distribute white poinsettias to area hospital and nursing homes. Volunteers are still needed to help with these deliveries. Clubs and individuals are encouraged to make financial contributions through the Federation Treasurer for this project. (Note on check "Poinsettia Fund")

If you would like to purchase these gorgeous poinsettias for yourself (or to give as gifts) prepaid orders may still be placed at the November Federation meeting. Each plant is \$10.00 and must be picked up at the December Federation luncheon.

**Sara Chumley, Chairman
(713) 461-0573 or
don_sara@sprynet.com**

In Memoriam

Marian Lunson, former President of Houston Council has passed away. Federation members extend their sympathies to her family and friends.

Directory Changes/Additions

New e-mail

Frankie Green

frankiedgreen@comcast.net

Change of street address

Joan Stansfield5000 Luning Dr

Telephone corrections:

Recording Secretary
Pat Spiller 281-581-2904

Zone 3 Counselor

Sandy Sutton 281-538-4313

National Garden Clubs Goals and Studies

Betty Jean Collier 281-648-0398

New members:

Dr. Krishna Dronamraju 713-816-3681

P.O. Box 27701-0

Houston, TX 77227

KDRONAMRAJ@AOL.COM

Michelle Wambaugh 713-816-3681

P.O.Box 27701-0

Houston, TX 77227

Michelewambaugh@msn.com

Cecily M. Ryan 281-360-0077

2818 N. Strathford Ln.

Kingwood, TX 77345-5413

OREGANRYANI@YAHOO.COM

Kinawood Garden Club

Plant Sales

September Proceeds.....\$125.00

October Proceeds\$ 77.50

No Plant Sale in December

Thank you for your support

HOUSTON FEDERATION OF GARDEN CLUBS www.houstonfederationofgardenclubs.org

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 complete mailing information & check to HFGC Treasurer.

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Please send all mailing address changes to Editor

Next newsletter deadline: November 9

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs Newsletter

Horticulture Report

"Herbs in My Stir-Fry Garden"

October 1, 2007

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

In October and November I plant herbs like chives, parsley and dill.

Chives are planted in my "Fairy Pocket Garden." I use a fairy statue as a focal point. In November, Johnny-Jump Ups (*Viola*) are planted in the front of the Fairy. They supply color in this small garden until April and then Spanish Moss will replace them. Chives (*Allium schoenoprasum*) will grow to 18". Plant in full sun and richer soil than used for most herbs. Side dress with compost or manure. Divide plants every year. Dry chives in the oven and store in spice jars. Use fresh on baked potatoes, salads, soups and omelets. Combine cream cheese, finely chopped chives and dill leaves and spread on Jewish Rye bread for delicious tea sandwiches. Cut sandwiches in four pieces.

Parsley requires soil that has nitrogen added before planting. You may side dress with well rotted manure. Plant parsley in partial shade. Soak seed overnight to increase germination. One tablespoon of parsley supplies the adult daily requirement of vitamin A and C as reported in the Encyclopedia of Organic Gardening. Parsley is good chopped in soups, salads and vegetable dishes. Parsley makes a nice border plant around *impatiens* in partial shade.

Plant dill (*Anethum graveolens*) in full sun. A good garden loam is required. Sow 3 to 4 seeds at a space of 8" apart. It will grow to 3 feet tall.

Prepare herb beds two weeks ahead of planting. Use equal parts of lime, cottonseed meal, compost, rotted leaves, bark mulch, shredded newspaper and hay. Use 10 lbs of fertilizer mix over 100 sq. feet and allow soil to settle two weeks after watering.

Herbs planted in clay pots can be moved around the garden or can be double potted and used on the table for a centerpiece. Placing your potted herbs between vegetables in the garden will help to deter insects.

Fertilize each time you water with a weak fertilizer tea made as follows: soak composted sheep or steer manure in water. Use 1 cup of manure to 1 gallon of water. Strain out the manure, or tie it in a cloth while steeping it. In warm weather herbs in clay pots will need to be watered often. Herbs should be moist but not allowed to dry out. Well drained soil is a must. Six hours of morning sun is best for container grown herbs. Plant seeds of herbs or propagate herbs to increase stock for yourself or for gifts. Herbs make good plant sale items for your garden club.

In April I plant mint for tea and fruit salads. In May, I plant basil with the tomato plants for tomato soup. Christmas gifts of rosemary can be used on grilled chicken. Herbs like bay tree leaves can be dried and used to decorate a kitchen wreath.

National Poster Contest

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Grades 1 through 5

Deadline for entries is November 1, 2007

Mail to:
Ms. Catherine L. B. Neal
District IV Chairperson
4911 Strack @ 15200 Wunderlich
Houston, TX 77069-1611

A Horticulture and Design Show

Sponsored by

**The Greater Houston Chrysanthemum Society (Mums)
Mums & More (Mums and other plants will be shown)**

Saturday and Sunday

December 1st and December 2nd, 2007

Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens

22306 Aldine Westfield Rd

Humble, TX 281-443-8731

Free Admission from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm both days

Parents spend quality time with the family on Sunday

Parents bring the children grades K - 12

Show them the pleasures of gardening

A large children's educational exhibit will be featured

Mark your calendar for Thursday April 2, 2008

United Garden Club
(Since 1941)

A large Educational display

Free Admission & Open to the Public

The Houston Garden Center

1500 Hermann Drive

Houston, TX

10:30 am to 2:30 pm

"Youth Gardening with the Family and Schools"

Featured gardens including but not limited to pocket gardens, water gardens, container gardens, vegetable gardens, and fruit orchards. Observe indoor and outdoor gardening with fish, birds, bugs, butterflies and bees. A number of achievements will be exhibited on core board. Wildflowers will be included. The stage will be used for horticulture, floral designs and programs.

Notice

The next newsletter will be a 2 month edition featuring events and activities for December and January. Be sure to send information about your Dec and Jan club activities and events for publication. Deadline is Friday, November 9.

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

Mark your Calendars for November 9

Remember to be on time
 The program will begin at 10:30 am, followed
 by a short business meeting

Federation Meeting Program: Creative floral designer Christina Rizzo will combine her presentation of Holiday Tablescape with easy Holiday decorating ideas for new designers.

Horticulture Exhibit Table - Remember to accompany your exhibits with the new form and the proper information.

Plant Sale Table - bring your extra plants

On Sale - buy your Christmas luncheon tickets

Poinsettia Plant Project - receiving prepaid orders for White Brookwood poinsettias.

November Dates to Remember

- 1 **DEADLINE** for District & State Award Applications
- * 5 **HFGC Board meeting 1:00pm Azalea Rm**
- * 9 **HFGC Meeting 10:00 am Hostesses: Zone 6**
"It's so Easy - Creative and Fun Ideas for Holiday Decorating" by Christina Rizzo
- 22 Thanksgiving

December Dates to Reserve

- 1 **DEADLINE** District Chairmen submitting awards to State
- *14 **HFGC Christmas Meeting, Luncheon, and Fundraiser 10:00 am Hostesses: HFGC Board**
"Entertaining in Style" by J. Keith White
- 25 Christmas

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