

# " *"Learn Something New Every Day"* "

" Winter is an etching, Spring a watercolor, Summer an oil painting and Autumn a mosaic of them all."

Stanley Horowitz

## *Houston Federation Of Garden Clubs*

Volume 64, No. 4

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

November 2010

Friends:

The calendar says it is Fall and FINALLY the thermometer agrees. We are having beautiful, balmy autumnal weather – especially in the country.

November already!!! How has this happened! Time marches on and so will we. Please plan to join us for the meeting on November 12 when Laura Huffman, Texas' Director of The Nature Conservancy, will tell us about the "Cradle of Texas", the Nash Prairie in Brazoria. We will also have Mono-Botanic Design Exhibits and a workshop to learn about Miniature Designs. Plus all the other good things that happen at our meetings: plants for sale, plants to admire, drawings, and this month a cook book to buy.

**IMPORTANT:** There will be a board meeting on November 8 at which time we will make last minute plans for the Christmas luncheon. All committee members are urged to attend and offer a helping hand to our various chairmen in charge of that event.

Speaking of the luncheon, who would be without chairmen Bonnie Steidley and Ruth Heikkila and the Sugar Creek Garden Club when it comes time to decorate the auditorium for our annual Christmas fund raising event!!!! Their generosity, long-term planning, and endless hours of preparation are amazing and much appreciated. The black table cloths they introduced last year will become a new tradition for holiday excellence in decorating.

Deana Roberts would very much like to hear from you about what items you will be donating to the drawing and the silent auction. If she has an idea of what you will be bringing, she will be able to plan for their display better. Give her a call: 713-777-7103.

Luncheon tickets are still available (\$25) and can be purchased at the November meeting from Beth Campbell (281-324-2479).

However, before the luncheon in December, we have a "Really Big Show" coming up on November 20th: "Falling into Winter...A Holiday Show." Our Standard Flower Show is chaired by Corrie Ten-Have who encourages all to enter an exhibit in one of the two sections of the show: Horticulture and/or Design. Check out the schedule on our website: [www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org). Or come

to the November meeting a pick up a printed copy. There are some really interesting design classes/categories that will be interesting for the exhibitor to create and the viewer to observe.

Remember: November 1 is the deadline for submitting most awards to District chairmen. If you need help deciding how to go about it, call me.

Finally – thanks to Deana Roberts for arranging for the day-trippers who came to my farm house in Dubina for lunch and a visit to the painted churches in the area. The day was sunny and bright and all was well with the world that day!

### *Betty*



#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>November 8</b>	HFGC Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.
<b>November 12</b>	HFGC Regular Meeting
<b>November 15</b>	Newsletter Deadline
<b>November 20</b>	Federation Flower Show at Garden Center

#### EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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#### **HFGC Holiday Luncheon**

**December 10, 2010**

Tickets to the club's holiday luncheon go quickly. Better get them ASAP or you'll be left out. Tickets are \$25.00.

### Horticulture and Latin Nomenclature

November, 2010

By Jonni Almonev

713-524-4285

Last week, my next-door neighbor and I had a confusing conversation about rain lilies. Neither of us was making sense to the other until we realized that I had assumed *Lycoris* while Donna Kay was speaking of *Zephyranthes*. It is an understandable problem – besides rain lily, *Lycoris* is variously known as **hurricane lily**, **naked ladies**, or **spider lily**. The “hurricane” designation comes from its seeming to pop up from nowhere after the heavy rains of a fall hurricane, and “naked ladies” refers to the habit of bare stems poking up and blooming seemingly independent of any foliage, while “spider” is from the appearance of its long stamens and narrow petals. It would be a shame to dismiss such colorful descriptions from your vocabulary altogether, and I really don’t think you should. Common names are an easy, handy way of remembering a plant, but you need to keep in mind the Latin name, too. It is a clear way to specify exactly which plant you mean, and if you know the Latin name when you go to a nursery looking for a particular plant, you are more likely to come home with what you went after.

When you enter a plant specimen in a standard flower show, the entry card demands the Latin botanical name. In fact, judges will deduct points if the proper nomenclature isn’t used, and your plant, no matter how special, can’t win a top prize without the Latin. When you do fill out an entry card, follow these simple rules: write the **Genus** first, with a capital letter, and underline it. Follow with the **species**, but write that in lower case. Underline it as well. If you have a **cultivar** name, use it and set it off with single quotation marks. So, let’s pretend you have developed a hibiscus cultivar from the red native Texas hibiscus and named it for our own Federation President. Your plant has produced a particularly nice bloom in time for the show; enter it this way: Hibiscus coccineus ‘Betty Schoolar’. If you are typing your entry card, you can dispense with the underlining and use Italics for the genus and species instead.

Plants have been given Latin names since the mid-sixteen hundreds, and in the mid-seventeen hundreds, the Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus designed the system, still in use today, for classifying and naming plants. His system was based on the genus and species of each plant and described its structural features and growing habits or possibly place of origin. Although Linnaeus was a Swede, he developed his system in Latin because that was the language of the educated, and the one in which scientists from different countries communicated.

Actually, a little knowledge of Latin will give you a better idea of who your plant really is. Years ago, I was given a book called *Gardener’s Latin, a Lexicon*. It was written by Bill Neal, a chef and cookbook author who was also an avid gardener. From this little book, I have been able to obtain clues about what the names of different plants mean. For example, a plant whose species name is *patens* will likely be one that spreads out extensively, which explains why my late, lamented *Hamelia patens* insisted on growing into places where she wasn’t invited. A plant labeled *columnaris* or *erectus* will have an upright growth habit, and *compactus* will probably stay relatively small, while you can guess what *giganteus* might mean. Words ending in *-folius* describe leaves and *-florus* will be talking about the flowers. So, if you know that *Quercus* is the oak tree, a plant with the name *quercifolius* will have leaves resembling oak leaves, for example *Hydrangea quercifolius*, the oakleaf hydrangea. Sometimes you get lucky and the Latin is the same as the common name, like “hydrangea”. Also, there are many plant genres whose Latin word is easily recognizable – a few would be *Rosa* for Rose, *Prunus* (Prune) for Plum, Peach and Cherry, and *Viola* for Violet and Pansy.

The names are there to help distinguish one type from another – not to confuse you with unnecessary fussiness. Botanical nomenclature is actually a very practical system for plant identification that happens to use a highly specialized vocabulary. As you use it more often, you begin to recognize words, and as they become familiar, the words will help you understand your plants’ characteristics and growing habits better.

*Carpe rutila.*

*The Latin words used in this column and the gist of some of the discussion are taken from Gardener’s Latin, a Lexicon by Bill Neal, published by Algonquin Books, 1992.*

**HOSTESS REMINDER****November 12, HFGC Meeting**

Carmen Olivier - Chairman  
 Zone 1 Counselor  
 Conky51@aol.com  
 713-465-4649

Blue Triangle Garden Club  
 Bluebonnet Garden Club  
 Far Corners Study Club  
 Houstonia Garden Club  
 Magnum Manor Garden Club  
 Southampton Garden Club  
 Greater Houston Chrysanthemum Soc.  
 Houston Orchid Society  
 Houston Rose Society  
 Men's Garden Club of Houston  
 Plumeria Society

**FLORAL DESIGNS BY THE EXPERT**

Patricia Gomez, AIFD will be the featured designer at the next Society for Advancement of Floral Design, SAFF meeting on November 16, 7:00 p.m. at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center, in the Forum Center, 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX. Ms. Gomez is very active with the Tournament of Roses Parade and will be showing designs for the upcoming Christmas season. For more information visit [www.safdhouston.org](http://www.safdhouston.org).

**ANNUAL FRUIT TREE SALE****Saturday, January 15, 2011****9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.****(or until sold out)****Scott Street & Holman**

The fruit tree sale will be on the west side of Robertson Stadium. Check the Urban Harvest Website [urbanharvest.org](http://urbanharvest.org) for parking directions and information on sales talks that will be offered on Tuesday, January 4 and Saturday, January 8 before the big sale. Just click on "Events" to see some of the trees that will be offered.

**CORRECTION**

Treasurer for Houston Hermocallis Society is Karen Garrett  
 14310 Saras Walk  
 Cypress, TX 77429-3266

**COOK BOOKS**

Memorial Northwest Ladybugs Garden Club will have their cookbooks for sale at the HFGC November Meeting. These

cook books will make great gifts for Christmas or birthdays. Check them out. Price is just \$11.00 per book

HOUSTON FEDERATION OF  
 GARDEN CLUBS  
 FLOWER SHOW  
**"FALLING INTO  
 WINTER A  
 HOLIDAY SHOW"**

This is a show that has something for everyone. We have a section using dried materials and this is where you can let your imagination run wild. The designs may **not have any fresh** plant material. But, the nice thing about using dried material is that you can paint, cut, fold, bundle or manipulate the material any way you want. What fun!

For those who prefer to use at least some fresh plant material, then **Section B** is for you. This section is for abstract creative designs.

If you prefer something in crafts, there's something here for you as well. Using botanical material, you can make a brooch, or decorate a wooden box or picture frame. Just let your imagination run. We call this our **Botanical Bling** section. (A short workshop/information session will be held after the Federation meeting in November for those interested in signing up for this section. Topics covered will be raw materials, embellishment products, glues, techniques, etc.)

Our **Horticulture Section** will give you opportunities to show the results of loving care in your garden.

**Remember, no artificial plant material may be used anywhere in this show.**

Sign up with Linda Kuper @ 713-467-8281

Show Date - Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at Garden Center in Hermann Park  
 Show Time - Set-up: Friday afternoon 1-4 and Saturday 8 – 10 a. m.

Open to public - Saturday from 12:30- 4:00 p.m.

For a complete Show Schedule governing this show, go to our website: [www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org](http://www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org) and click on Flower Show Schedule right from the home page. There will be a limited number of printed copies at the November meeting. Corrie Ten-Have (713) 787-5149 (home) or Cell # (713) 817-7650

**NEW HFGC INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Virginia Schilling - 20422 Perry Oak, Humble 77346-1796  
 Betty Scott - 4107 Windy Woods Ct., Kingwood TX 77345-1288  
 Sandra Evans - 4530 Natural Bridge Dr. Kingwood TX 77345-1038  
 Cindy Heckaman - 4419 Greens Court Way, Kingwood 77339-5300  
 Jo Davis - 1815 Arbor Forest Trail, Kingwood 77345-1994

Cecily Ryan - 2818 N. Strathford Ln., Kingwood 77345-5413

**WAFA****WAFA June 14 - 18, 2011 - BOSTON, MA**

-This is the first time the World Association of Flower Arrangers will hold their convention in the USA. Don't miss it. It is stunning, awesome, amazing, gorgeous and more. I cannot think of enough wonderful things to say about this event. "DO NOT MISS IT!"

Since it is expensive to do it as part of the WAFA organization, Texas Garden Clubs has put together a tour originating in Texas, which is less expensive. It includes four nights hotel stay at the Intercontinental Hotel located in the city center; full breakfast daily; two tickets to the WAFA show; half-day sightseeing tour of Boston; transfers to and from the airport and local area Boston MBTA pass for your entire stay. The cost is \$1,526 including airfare from Houston and based on two persons sharing a room.

**Contacts:**

Guyneth Priem, 713 664-5831

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or

Deana Roberts, 713 666-3838x5201

[droberts@intropa.com](mailto:droberts@intropa.com). Space is limited, don't let this slip past you. \$100.00 - tax-deductible donation is included in the price.

**DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

Remember, there is one Newsletter for December and January. So, if you have anything that needs to be advertised between this November Newsletter, and January you will need to send it to me by November 15<sup>th</sup>. January 15<sup>th</sup> will be the deadline for the February Newsletter. Confusing? I know. [ettacg@msn.com](mailto:ettacg@msn.com)

**ROSE BED CONSTRUCTION****November 11, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.****Houston Garden Center****1500 Hermann Drive**

Rosarian, Baxter Williams will teach Houston Rose Society attendees how to construct raised beds to provide proper drainage and moisture retention. Mr. Williams has over 600 varieties of roses in his garden. Free Admission.

**A Good Time Was Had**

If you missed the trip to the Painted Churches on October 13 you missed a great treat. The weather was beautiful, the churches were beautiful and the camaraderie with fellow garden club members was a refreshing experience. Our tour guides and bus driver did a great job and added to the fun.

And our own President, Betty Schoolar, treated us royally with a delicious meal at her farmhouse in Dubina. Thank you Betty

Check out the Newsletter in December for information from Deana Roberts on a day trip to view important statues in Houston, hopefully in February.

# Houston Federation of Garden Clubs 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

**November 12, 2010**

## Houston Federation Meeting

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

**Program:** "I Didn't Know That I Knew That"

**Speaker:** Laura Huffman

Texas State Director of The Nature Conservancy and Jeff Weigel, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Learn about the "Cradle of Texas" the Nash Prairie in Brazoria, Texas. To learn more about Laura Huffman and the Texas State Conservancy go to: [www.texas.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas](http://www.texas.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/texas) Information on Laura Huffman is about halfway down the page under "Continental".

### 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.

## At the November 12 Meeting

### Ways & Means

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

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

**Floral Designs** - "Mono-Botanic Designs"

**Workshop** - **Annette Pearce** will do a workshop on "Miniatures: A Learning experience." Learn to create small and miniature designs. Container and flowers will be provided. You'll take home your design. Limited to 20 participants.

**Sign up with Pat Spiller - 281-581-2904 - Cost: \$5.00**

### It's Not Too Soon

Don't forget to start picking up toys for the little ones at Star of Hope. Someone from the Star of Hope Mission will be at the November meeting.

And don't forget to order your poinsettia. Just send a check to Houston Federation of Garden Clubs to Bunnye Baldwin (see address on Pg one). Designate for Christmas Poinsettias. \$10.00

**Also**, it is not too soon to volunteer to help Sara Chumley with the Poinsettias that she will purchase and deliver to area hospitals, hospices, shelters and nursing home. She will need lots of elves.

Sara's phone number is: 713-461-0573