

"Learn Something New Every Day"

"Even if something is left undone, everyone must take time to sit still and watch the leaves turn."

Elizabeth Lawrence

Houston Federation Of Garden Clubs

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October 2010

Dear Friends:

The September meeting was one for the record books!!! SO MANY PEOPLE!!!! SUCH A GREAT PROGRAM!!!! However, not to rest on our laurels, we have a program in October which you will not want to miss if you are into the unusual. **Dan Phillips** will present "You Won't Believe It: Recycling for Home Exteriors and Interiors." Not ordinary recycling however. Come and see what interesting things he can do with the unusual. And speaking of the unusual, **Nancy Ayers' workshop** will involve recycling also – **designing with plastic drink can rings!!** We are truly "Learning Something New Every Day."

We have a "Falling into Winter...A Holiday Show" coming up on **November 20** at the Garden Center. There are still spaces available in the Design Section of this Flower Show, especially the newest section called "Holiday Bling" which will feature artistic crafts. Check out the schedule in the Directory on page 14 and call Linda Kuper to reserve your spot in any of the classes in the Design Section (713-467-8281). Federation sponsors a Flower Show every two years and this year we are so happy to have Houstonia Garden Club members exhibit in our Flower Show. Instead of sponsoring their own Flower Show this year, they decided to join us. This is a really good idea for small clubs or clubs who want to take a year off from all the work of sponsoring a show.

You will find registration forms for **Flower Show School III (October 26-28)** and for the **District IV Convention (October 25)**. Designing Women are presenting the program for the convention which will feature designs using fruits and vegetables. These will not be your usual NGC-type fruits and vegetables designs. Rather they will be in the manner of the 16th-century portraitist named **Guiseppe Arcimboldo who painted portraits using fruits and vegetables for the facial features!!!!** Talk about learning something new!!!

Want to join me for lunch? Sign up for the day trip to view the **Painted Churches** and meet me at my farm in Dubina for lunch on October 13. You will find Deana Robert's contact information for this fun trip elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Remember the beautiful **poinsettias** Sara Chumley ordered at Christmas to be delivered to hospitals and nursing homes? Well she will once again organize the same project. In

addition, if you want to order one for your personal enjoyment you can do that also. Call her or sign up in October to both deliver the plants and order one for yourself. Donations for this very worthy project are always welcome.

We will begin to sell **Christmas luncheon tickets** in October - \$25 for a great lunch, a beautiful design program, and many things to tempt you and your pocketbook! Beth Campbell will be selling tickets at the Projects and Activities table, so get in line, don't be late!!

See you in October.

Betty



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 8	HFGC Regular Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
September 13-14	Landscape Design Course TAMU
October 11-12	Gardening Study School, Course IV TAMU
October 13	Pilgrimage to Painted Churches
October 15	Newsletter Deadline
October 17-19	TGC Fall Convention, Tyler
October 25	District IV Fall Convention, Houston
October 26-28	Flower Show School – Course III, Houston
November 1	Deadline for District & State Award Applications

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Horticulture and Daffodils

October, 2010

By Jonni Almoney

713-524-4285

At the August 30 Federation Board meeting, I mentioned that I am always on the lookout for column fodder. Irene Pawlowski, the Monthly Plant Sales co-chair, requested an article on daffodils, specifically those varieties which will naturalize here in our growing region. Initially I demurred, for two reasons. First is that I am trying to encourage the use of native plants in our gardens, and second, I don't really know very much about bulbs. Then it occurred to me: in the earliest days of my writing this column, back when Meda Wogan was Federation President, I wrote an article titled "Peaceful Coexistence", in which I advocated the judicious use of non-invasive exotic species to make your garden more interesting. Also, historically, lack of knowledge has never slowed me down before – with a little Internet research, I have written about all manner of subjects on which I have no expertise. So, all that being said, Irene, this is for you.

All daffodils are in the family *Narcissus*, and just to confuse the issue, some are sometimes referred to as Jonquils. Don't quiz me on the difference, but the website www.plantanswers.com had this to say: "Botanically speaking, they're all different species of the genus *Narcissus*. True jonquils have dark green, round leaves and cluster of small, fragrant, early, yellow blossoms...The common name narcissus usually refers to the early blooming, white, powerfully fragrant, cluster flowered varieties...we commonly call paperwhites...The name daffodil is reserved for the large, normally yellow, single trumpet flowers."

Fans of daffodils swear that they are super easy to plant and maintain in Houston. The first of the basic guidelines is to plant fat, firm bulbs around Thanksgiving time, before the weather turns cool, so that strong root systems can be established. Knowledgeable gardeners say that refrigeration prior to planting is not necessary. Daffodils like sun but don't require full exposure – a good trick is to plant bulbs under deciduous trees so that they get full sun all winter. Then they will be blooming as the trees leaf out. Well-drained soil is preferable for most bulbs; if it rains too much, a tight soil will rot summering –over dormant bulbs. Once the flowers have bloomed out and the foliage is fading, leave it until it is completely dead. That ugly, drooping, yellowing foliage is replenishing the food reserves in the bulb so that it can come back strong next spring. Also, early blooming varieties are generally better for our area: the late bloomers aren't suitable because the weather turns too warm too soon, and you will get great foliage but small or no flowers. Expect the early bloomers to start producing flowers as early as the latter part of December or early January, and the mid-bloomers to come on starting in late February.

The Houston Chronicle website archives coughed up a list of "ten great daffodils for the Houston area" when I coaxed it a little. There were three categories: paperwhites, yellow daffodils that naturalize, and bicolor naturalizers. Of the three listed paperwhite varieties, two were called good naturalizers. 'Ziva' is white with a bit of gold in the center, and it is cited as the best for forcing and for naturalizing in the garden. 'Galilee' has a pure white bloom and also can be forced, but is a little slower than 'Ziva', which is touted as ready in two weeks when forced.

Three varieties of naturalizing yellow daffodils were listed: 'Carlton', a mid-season bloomer with soft yellow petals, a deeper yellow cup, and a fragrance like vanilla; 'Dutch Master', which is yellow with a yellow center and no mention of fragrance; and 'Trevithian', also a mid-season bloomer, with fragrant primrose yellow flowers that grow two or three to a stem.

The list included four varieties of bicolor daffodils. 'Fortune' has yellow petals and an orange-yellow cup. 'Ice Follies' is white with a bright yellow cup, and is said to force easily. Both of these varieties have been growing in our garden since before we converted to native plants, and they come back reliably with no encouragement whatsoever.

'Barrett Browning' is small with a fiery orange cup and white petals, and it is has long-lasting blooms that appear in mid-spring. The last daffodil on the list was 'Monal', which has strong yellow petals and a large deep orange, straight cup.

Most *Narcissus* species originated in southern France and Spain, but the American South has claimed them as her own harbinger of spring for generations. If you can successfully establish a drift of paperwhites or daffodils in your garden, they will be a very rewarding addition. They bloom early, go dormant and require little or no water all summer, they bloom every year – and they will live forever.

[Information for this article came from www.plantanswers.com and www.chron.com.]



BULB AND PLANT MART SALE

The 68th Annual Bulb and Plant Mart of **The Garden Club of Houston** will be held October 7-9, at Westminster United Methodist Church, 5801 San Felipe at Bering, just west of the Galleria. The Mart will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Saturday. On Thursday, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m., Heidi Sheesley of Treeseach Farms will be a featured speaker. Ms. Sheesley has dedicated her business life to providing organically grown plants and trees to the Houston area. On Friday, Randy Lemmon of KTRH Radio's GardenLine, will offer his expertise to visitors without a "Green Thumb" from 8:30-9:30 a.m.

The Bulb and Plant Mart offers the widest selection of top-quality bulbs and plants for sale and an expanded collection of hard-to-find and unusual plants, perennials, trees, shrubs and vines. Visitors to the Mart will receive at no charge a new and improved horticultural guide for Houston, prepared by the Club. Enjoy sales tax free days on Thursday and Saturday. Admission is free. For pictures of bulbs and plants that will be offered this year and for additional information, please check our website: www.gchouston.org

HOSTESS REMINDER**October 8, HFGC Meeting**

Bonnie Steidley - Chairman
 Zone 5 Counselor
 281-491-5999
 Bouquettes Garden Club
 Cabildo Garden Club
 Crestwood Garden Club
 Lazy Daisy Garden Club
 New Century Garden Club
 Sugar Creek Garden Club
 Bromeliad Society of Houston
 Greater Houston Amaryllis Club
 Harris County Master Gardeners
 Houston Amaryllis Society


**A Fall Trip to the Countryside
 to Visit Painted Churches**


Date: Wednesday, October 13, 2010
 Departure: 7:45 a.m. from the Houston
 Garden Center. Return: Around 5 p.m.

We will see the four Painted Churches in the
 LaGrange/Schulenburg area.
 Cost: \$85 based on a maximum of 30 persons
 (includes a \$20 tax-deductible donation to
 Federation per person). Included is a picnic
 lunch at Betty Schooler's farmhouse in
 Dubina, all tips to driver and docent/guide.
 So tell your friends to join us for a great day.

German and Czech immigrants who settled
 this part of Texas came here to better their
 circumstances, some for economic reasons
 and others to escape religious oppression.
 For whatever reason, they settled here and
 wanted to practice their religion and follow
 their Catholic customs. These hardworking
 settlers did not have much extra money to
 embellish their much-loved churches so
 expensive adornments were out of the
 question. What they could do, however, was
 hire painters to beautify the inside of each
 church and create a serene, peaceful and
 inspiring atmosphere. The Painted Churches
 are listed on the National Registry of Historic
 Places. We will visit the four churches in
 Praha, High Hill, Dubina and Ammansville.

For Reservations contact:

Deana Roberts, (713) 666-3838x5201
droberts@intropa.com

**District IV Fall Convention
 Monday, October 25, 2010**

Houston Garden Center
 1500 Herman Drive
 The Co-Chairmen are:
 Bunnye Baldwin and
 Kaye Corey
 Hosted by Heritage Gardeners
 A registration form is included in this
 Newsletter.

**OUR APOLOGIZIES TO...
 HOUSTON HERMEROCALLIS
 SOCIETY**

We apologize that your name and
 information inadvertently was dropped from
 the HFGC Yearbook.

Club meets fourth Thursday, 7:30 – Houston
 Garden Center
 (Sept., Oct., Jan-Apr.) Zone 4

President: Hershel D. Theilen

504 Oak Shadow Dr.,
 Houston 77091-4529

(713) 681-2644, Fax same but call first
 email: hteilen@flash.net

Treasurer: James Bailey

5803 Jim Street, Houston 77092-6227
 (713) 688-4425

W A F A**W A F A 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 W A F A
 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 W A F A
 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****mepriem@sbcglobal.net,**

or

Deana Roberts, 713 666-3838x5201
droberts@intropa.com. Space is limited, don't
let this slip past you. \$100.00 - tax-deductible
donation is included in the price.

**LAST CALL FOR HOUSTON
 FLOWER SHOW
 SCHOOL - COURSE III
 October 26-28, 2010**

The Flower Show School is sponsored by Houston
 Area Flower Show Judges and will be held at the
 Houston Civic Garden Center.

A registration Form is included in this Newsletter.

**Flower Show Schedule Correction
 In Section B:**

Class 4, omit "with minor abstraction"
 Class 5, change "A Creative Design" to
 "An Abstract Creative Design" omit
 "with moderate – dominant abstraction."

**Royal Oaks Garden Club
 Plant Sale**
Oct. 22 & 23, 2010**Friday & Saturday - 9am-5pm****Where: 10158 Haddington**

Various native & specialty plants (plus some fall
 vegetables) will be for sale that are grown,
 cultivated and donated by the Royal Oaks Garden
 Club members. For further information, please call
 Teresa @ 713-376-0843

COOK BOOKS

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

We are so excited to bring you a show that has
 something for everyone. We have a whole section
 using dried materials. This is where you can let
 your imagination run wild. The designs may **not**
have any fresh plant material. 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 October 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 20th 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
 and click
 on Flower Show Schedule right from the home
 page. There will be a limited number of printed
 copies at the October meeting.
 Corrie Ten-Have (713) 787-5149 (home) or Cell #
 (713) 817-7650

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

October 8, 2010

Houston Federation Meeting

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

Program: "You Won't Believe It: Recycling for Home Exteriors and Interiors"

Speaker: Dan Phillips

Mr. Phillips is proprietor of Phoenix Commotion and restorer of "The Bone House". He builds houses in the Huntsville area from salvaged items such as frames, license plates, broken tiles and sometimes crystal platters for windows. He turns trash into timeless treasures.

In 2003, the Institute for Social Invention of London named his houses "Most Innovative Housing in the World".

To see pictures of some of his projects such as the Bone House, his gazebo at Discovery Green and to learn more about this amazing man take a few minutes to visit www/phoenixcommotion.com.

At the October 8 Meeting

Ways & Means

- Plant Sale - Bring a plant or two for sale
- Things & Such Table
- Monthly Drawing Table

Horticulture Exhibits – Bring a prized bloom or specimen from your garden to "show and tell".

Workshop – Nancy Ayers - "Learn How to Recycle Plastic Rings Into Decorative Articles" Ms. Ayers will teach attendees to make articles from plastic six-pack rings. Cost is \$2.00. Contact Pat Spiller @ (281) 581-2904 for sign-up.

Drawing Items Needed – Every Month

Do you have an item that you would like to donate for the monthly drawings each month? Kay Veech would appreciate getting it. Please bring it to the next meeting!

It's Not Too Soon

It isn't too soon to start picking up new toys for the Star of Hope toy drive that Houston Federation of Garden Clubs will participate in again this year.

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.

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