

# "Learn Something New Every Day"

"Do not be afraid to go out on a limb...That's where the fruit is."

Anonymous

Houston Federation Of Garden Clubs

Volume 64, No. 2

www.houstonfederationgardenclubs.org

September 2010

Dear Friends:

We're back for another go 'round and you will not want to miss the beginning of a new year. Our September meeting will feature **Dr. Jim Johnson from Texas A&M** who will fill the auditorium and our senses with beauty and creativity when he presents his program, "**Designs That Say More.**" What a fun way to start the new club year. At that meeting you will also want to pick up your new **Directory** that Daphne Light has been working on this summer. And as a **club president**, please come so that we can thank you in person for all the wonderful work you do for your garden clubs.

As we did last year, we will have **drawings, workshops** to sign up for, **plants** to buy and an **October trip** you will not want to miss. And, oh-by-the-way, on that trip you will have lunch at my farmhouse in Dubina after you visit the Dubina **painted church!!** Deana Roberts has arranged this day trip and the details can be found elsewhere in this letter.

"**Falling into Winter...A Holiday Show**" is the title of our Flower Show to be held on Saturday, November 20 at the Garden Center. The schedule is on our website giving you the opportunity to choose your design spot and work on ideas this summer. There are some new things Corrie Ten-Have has written into this schedule – check it out.

Board members are asked to attend the **board meeting on Monday, August 30 at 1:00 pm** in the Azalea Room at the Garden Center. This is a very important meeting, so please try to attend and if you cannot, email me your plans for the year. The Executive Committee will meet at 11:30 prior to the general board meeting.

You will find useful information in this letter about upcoming events such as the Flower Show School and other study courses.

We are planning on another stimulating year where there will be something to learn every month. See you on September 10.

*Betty*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>August 30</b>	HFGC Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m. (Azalea Room at the Garden Center)
<b>September 10</b>	HFGC Regular Meeting – 10:30 a.m.
<b>September 13-14</b>	Landscape Design Course TAMU
<b>October 11-12</b>	Gardening Study School, Course IV TAMU
<b>October 15</b>	Newsletter Deadline (see info below)
<b>October 17-19</b>	TGC Fall Convention
<b>October 25</b>	District IV Fall Convention
<b>October 26-28</b>	Houston Flower Show School – Course III



## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Please email, mail or hand your information to me for each month's Newsletter by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. The sooner, the better. General Schedule: From the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> is crunch time, meaning I assemble everything during those days. The 19<sup>th</sup> is print and fold day and the 20<sup>th</sup> is when I take the Newsletter to the post office and see what new surprises are in store. There, I knew you'd want to know all of this. Thank you.

Etta Guillot 281-328-1330, email [ettacg@msn.com](mailto:ettacg@msn.com)

## EDITORIAL INFORMATION

**President** – Betty Schoolar – 713-523-6979  
1111 Hermann Dr., #17-E, Houston, TX 77004-6930  
[schoolar.betty@gmail.com](mailto:schoolar.betty@gmail.com)

**Treasurer** – Bunnye Baldwin – 281-482-7130  
503 S Shadowbend Ave., Friendswood, TX 77546-3846  
[bbunnye@aol.com](mailto:bbunnye@aol.com)

**Secretary/Yearbook** – Daphne Light – 832-321-5679  
19410 Kessington Lane, Houston, TX 77094-3443  
[dlight1215@aol.com](mailto:dlight1215@aol.com)

**Newsletter** – Etta Guillot – 281-328-1330  
1822 Penina Drive, Crosby, TX 77532-5428  
[ettacg@msn.com](mailto:ettacg@msn.com)

A complete list of HFGC elected officers is included in the 2010-2011 Yearbook, available Sept. 10, 2010.

**Horticulture and Vines**  
**September, 2010**  
**By Jonni Almone**  
**713-524-4285**

As I have mentioned before, our garden is a fairly small space, and we try to cram as many plants in as possible. A good trick for maximizing the growing space in a garden is to go vertical – by planting vines on fences and trellises. By latest count, six varieties of native vines are living in our garden.

Carolina jessamine, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, is a fragrant beauty that blooms in early spring, just at the right time to attract the hummingbirds migrating through on their way north. It is an almost evergreen vine, which means that in a severe winter it will drop some leaves but not get completely bare, except in extreme temperatures. The leaves are small elongated ovals that are a glossy dark green. Blooms are tubular, about an inch long, and yellow with a wonderful fragrance. Jessamine blooms best with full sun but can stand some shade. I have never found that it has trouble with our heavy clay soil or with poor drainage, so it is a natural for Houston gardens.

Coral honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, is a very mild mannered vine compared to its alien cousin, Japanese honeysuckle. It only grows about twenty feet long at most and doesn't sucker, so it won't spread all over your yard. Hummingbirds are particularly attracted to its flowers, which grow in clusters of long red tubes. The foliage is bluish green and grows almost circular around the stem. Another benefit of coral honeysuckle is that in the fall it produces red berries that cedar waxwings love if the mockingbirds will let them near them. This vine grows best in East Texas, where the soil is very sandy, so make sure you give it good drainage for best results.

One of my favorite vines is passionflower. The native one that we have around here is *Passiflora incarnata*. It has leaves with three lobes, where the species imported from Asia are distinguished by five-lobed leaves. The imported ones are much more robust, which is a kind way to say they will swallow up your fence and house and whole garden if you don't keep them beaten down. In a mild winter the native ones are evergreen, but this past winter ours disappeared completely to reemerge when the weather warmed up. Gulf Coast fritillary butterflies LOVE this vine and lay lots of eggs on it, so you wouldn't want to plant it on an arbor over a walkway, or you will have caterpillars down your collar constantly, which might be a small price to pay for the intricate beauty of the lavender flowers.

The vine that I have found the most satisfying to have in my garden is crossvine, *Bignonia capreolata*, a vigorous evergreen vine with long, narrow, dark green foliage and orange-yellow trumpets that are at least two inches long. When crossvine is in bloom in early spring and again to a lesser degree in the fall, it covers the fence with a cascade of beautiful blooms, a magnet to migrating hummingbirds.

It is important to note that crossvine should not be confused with the infamous trumpet vine or trumpet creeper, *Campsis radicans*, which is another native vine that suckers like crazy and will take over a garden. The flowers look very similar, but the foliage on the *Campsis* is deciduous, has notched edges, and is a less substantial leaf, whereas the crossvine leaves are smooth edged and very thick and sturdy. The only time you should consider using trumpet vine is if you have a large area you want to plant and forget, or a slope with an erosion problem. It suckers so prodigiously that it would be a great stabilizer in a situation like that.

We have two varieties of Dutchman's pipe vines, *Aristolochia fimbriata* and *Aristolochia tomentosa*. The first is actually a ground-cover rather than a climbing vine and is a perennial that comes back in the spring from its tuberous roots. The leaves are fairly small and heart-shaped, about two and a half inches across, and they are gray-green and heavily marked with silvery veins. The blooms are only about an inch long and are usually hidden under the leaves. They are exotic looking things, yellowish-green and maroon flowers that resemble clay pipes. Although it is a really cute little vine, the main reason we have it is for the butterflies. *A. fimbriata* is a larval host plant for the beautiful pipe vine swallowtail butterfly, a large iridescent blue-black beauty whose caterpillars regularly reduce our pipe vine to a gnawed nub. Never fear, it regrows rapidly, just in time for another butterfly to lay eggs on it and start the process again. This is a very well-behaved vine that doesn't seem to want to grow outside of where you plant it. Ours is under the Mexican buckeye tree, and it has only ever covered about two square feet of space, and it mounds up about six inches high.

The other pipe vine, *A. tomentosa*, is a climber that can grow to twenty or more feet long, or so I have read. Its leaves are also heart-shaped, but larger than the other variety, about six inches across, and the leaves are a light green color with a few random light spots on them. I planted this vine last spring and have never seen a bloom on it, but they are supposed to be yellow and purple and, again, look like Dutchman's pipes. Ours froze completely and I thought it was a goner, but in mid-June it sprouted out from the roots. Right now it is started up a trellis on the back fence and is about four feet long, but I can't say when and if it will bloom. It is meant to be an attractant for pipe vine swallowtails too. Stay tuned.

All of these vines like sun but can stand some shade; probably the ideal location would be one where there is shade on their roots and strong eastern sun at the top. If they are in direct sun all day long, be prepared to water a little more often to keep them happy. After they are established, vines can provide years of enjoyment in your garden



### HOSTESS REMINDER September 10, HFGC Meeting

Mary Vacek  
Zone 7 Counselor  
281-419-6216  
The Woodlands Garden Club  
Champion Forest Garden Club  
Cypress Creek Lakes Garden Club  
Forest West Garden Club  
Lakewood Forest Garden Club  
Memorial Northwest Ladybugs G. Club  
Mums and More Garden club  
Norchester Garden Club  
Pine Village Garden Club

### 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: \$95 based on a maximum of 30 persons (includes a \$20 tax-deductible donation to Federation per person). Included is a picnic lunch at Betty Schoolar'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.



### 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.

### Interesting Website for Gardeners

Longwood Gardens, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, has launched its Plant Explorer website. Plant Explorer allows you to look up any plant by name and provides unprecedented access to Longwood's plant records, plant images, garden information and interactive maps.

Try it. You can access Plant Explorer at  
<http://plantexplorer.longwoodgardens.org/>

### HFGC WORKSHOP

**October 8, 2010 – Azalea Room**

Sign up early for the October workshop. Reservations will be limited to 30. Cost is \$2.00.

Nancy Ayers will teach attendees how to make articles from plastic six-pack can rings. Nancy's plastic ring art was displayed at the April "Art In Nature" show. All you need to bring is yourself, a stapler with staples and scissors. Nancy will provide the plastic rings.

To sign up for the workshop contact  
Pat Spillar at (281) 581-2904



### THE SEARCH FOR STRIPED ROSES

There are 18 distinct color classifications for roses that include various shades of white, pink, red, orange, yellow, mauve and russet. However, a rose petal with stripes is a rare find. Deanna Krause, a Master Rosarian, will share her favorite varieties of striped roses on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Houston Garden Center. No cost for the program.

For more information call Mary Bahn at  
**713-623-0200**

### DESIGNER EXTRAORDINAIRE AVAILABLE

Fran Wittgartner, NGC Instructor, designer and author will be in Texas for the District X Spring Convention the week of March 10, 2011.

Ms. Wittgartner would be available for special design programs the first, and possibly the third week of March 2011. She may be contacted at [dfwittgartner@yahoo.com](mailto:dfwittgartner@yahoo.com) or 303-688-6723 for details.

### HOUSTON FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL

**COURSE III**

**October 26-28, 2010**

The flower show school is sponsored by Houston Area Flower Show Judges. It will be held at the Houston Civic Garden Center. A registration form with course particulars is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

### WILDSCAPES WORKSHOP & NATIVE PLANT SALE

**Saturday, September 11, 2010 8:45 am – 3:30 pm- Houston**

**Community College West Loop Campus  
5601 West Loop South at Pin Oak Park, 77081**

**Plant Sale open to public 12:30 to 3:30  
\$30 per person, \$25 NPSOT Members**

**For a registration form and more info go to:**

[www.npsot.org/houston](http://www.npsot.org/houston)

### FOOD SYSTEMS SUSTAINABILITY

There will be a panel discussion at the Multipurpose Room of the Oberholtzer Residence Hall – University of Houston, Central Campus. See link at [www.urbanharvest.org](http://www.urbanharvest.org) for more information.

**Tuesday, September 7, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 9: p.m.**

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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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### September 10, 2010

#### Houston Federation Meeting

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

**Program:** "Designs That Say More"

**Speaker:** Dr. Jim Johnson, Texas A & M

Dr. Johnson directs and teaches the Benz School of Floral Design and works with the Benz Floral Art Collection and Gallery. He is the author and co-author of numerous floral design books.

Dr. Jim Johnson is well known throughout the many garden clubs in Texas and has long been popular with HFGC members.

A comprehensive list of Dr. Johnson's many accomplishments can be found under the Department of Horticultural sciences at the Texas A & M website [hortsciences.tamu.edu/faculty/Johnson.html](http://hortsciences.tamu.edu/faculty/Johnson.html)

#### At the September 10 Meeting

- **New Directories** - Daphne Light will pass them out at this meeting.
- **Club Presidents** - Will be given a special "thank you".
- **Ways & Means** – Plant Sale & Drawing Items
- **Workshop** – Plastic Six-Pack Art – Nancy Ayers  
Sign up for Workshop -  
(see Pat Spiller )

#### 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!

HOUSTON FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL – COURSE III

OCTOBER 26-28, 2010

SPONSORED BY HOUSTON AREA FLOWER SHOW JUDGES

Houston Civic Garden Center
1500 Hermann Dr., Houston, TX 77004-7127
713-284-1989

Mary Kay Ellis, Chairman
Phone: 281-367-0209
E-mail: mkdesigns@sbcglobal.net

SCHEDULE

Table with 3 columns: Tuesday, October 26, 2010; Wednesday, October 27, 2010; Thursday, October 28, 2010. Rows list activities and times for each day.

INSTRUCTORS:

Flower Show Procedure: David Robson, Springfield, IL
Horticulture: David Robson, Springfield, IL
Horticulture topics: English Ivy, Coleus, Combination Plantings
Design: Shirley Tetreault, Albuquerque, NM
Design topics: Innovative Staging, Abstraction, Featured/Accessory Objects

REQUIRED READING LIST FOR COURSE III:

The National Gardener
Handbook for Flower Shows, 2007 Revised Edition, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14.
Designing by Types – Osborne
Essence of Creativity: A Legacy – Thomas, Chapters 2, 4, 5, 7, 8.
Table Settings for All Seasons – Wood and Smith, Chapter 7 and pages showing design types.
Hortulana, Revised – Heber

Those paragraphs pertaining to members of the Plant Group/s studied in this course.

The Houseplant Expert – Hessayon
Tree and Shrub Expert – Hessayon
The New Flower Expert – Hessayon
The Bulb Expert – Hessayon

These "Expert" books may be purchased as needed for the Plant Group/s and plants selected to be studied in each course.
Horticulture instructor is to advise Local FSS Chairman of books and pages of required reading for designated Plant Group/s and plants selected for this course.

Plants and Their Respective Families – download from www.gardenclub.org
Plant Families Frequently Used in Flower Shows – download from www.gardenclub.org

HOUSTON FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL, COURSE III

Please complete registration and mail to Jody Rogers by October 20, 2010 at 5910 Effingham Dr., Houston, TX 77035-4144.
(E-mail: roggjody@att.net Phone: (H) 713-723-6416 or (C) 723-562-0408)
Make checks payable to Houston Area Flower Show Judges.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Student/Student Judge, plus exam ..... \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch, Tuesday.....\$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Others, Tuesday ..... \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Lunch, Wednesday ..... \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Others, Wednesday..... \$20.00 \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Call to Convention  
District IV, Texas Garden Clubs, Inc.  
2010 Fall Convention**

**October 25, 2010**

**Houston Garden Center**

**Hosted by Heritage Gardeners**

# GARDENFEST

Chairman  
Kaye Corey  
281-996-8736  
Bcorey5706@aol.com

Co-Chairman  
Bunnye Baldwin  
281-482-7130  
bbunnye@aol.com

Registration Chairman  
Linda O'Brien  
103 Garden Dr.  
Friendswood, Tx 77546  
281-482-0527

8:30-10:30 Registration & Sales Tables  
9:00-10:30 Workshops: Propagation & Potted Crafts  
9:30-10:00 Executive Board meeting  
10:00-10:30 Board of Directors meeting  
10:30-11:30 General Assembly

12:00-1:00 Lunch  
1:00-1:45 Program "Giuseppe's Garden"  
1:45-2:30 General Assembly Reconvenes  
2:30 Door Prizes  
3:00 Adjournment

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### Registration Form

**Make check payable to: Heritage Gardeners Garden Club**  
Mail to: **Linda O'Brien, 103 Garden Drive, Friendswood, TX 77546**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Club \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Please check all of your classifications for credentials:

<input type="checkbox"/> National Board	<input type="checkbox"/> District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Consultant	Life Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> SC Region Rep/Chrm	<input type="checkbox"/> District Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> TGC Design Consultant	<input type="checkbox"/> District IV
<input type="checkbox"/> State Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> District Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Design Critic	<input type="checkbox"/> State
<input type="checkbox"/> State Chairman	<input type="checkbox"/> Area Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate President	<input type="checkbox"/> Region
<input type="checkbox"/> Former TGC President	<input type="checkbox"/> Former District Director	<input type="checkbox"/> Affiliate Member	<input type="checkbox"/> National

Flower Show Judge:  
 Master     Life     Accredited     Emeritus     Student     Instructor

Check one:  
 Club President     Council/Federation President     Club Delegate     Club Alternate     Club Member  
 Guest/Spouse     First Time Attendee at a District Convention

A non-refundable \$10.00 registration fee is required for attendance at any part of the convention including the business meetings or luncheon.

Registration fee..... \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Late registration fee(after Oct. 15)..... 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch ..... 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL Enclosed (no refunds after Oct. 15) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_