

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter
April, 2011



*Nottingham Country Garden Club
Welcomes You*

Come join us!
Field Trip
Thursday, April 7, 2011

to

**Warren Lake (part of the Katy
Prairie Preserve)**

*We will carpool from the parking lot across
from MUD Building #81
(805 Hidden Canyon)
leaving at 9:00 a.m.
lecture and tour at 10:00 a.m.*

*We will have lunch at Salt and Pepper
Restaurant in old Katy now located
at the corner of Ave. D and 1st St., northwest
corner (one block north of Highway 90)
Lunch is \$15 plus tip*

**Questions - call Sue Straub or Marilyn
Frueh**

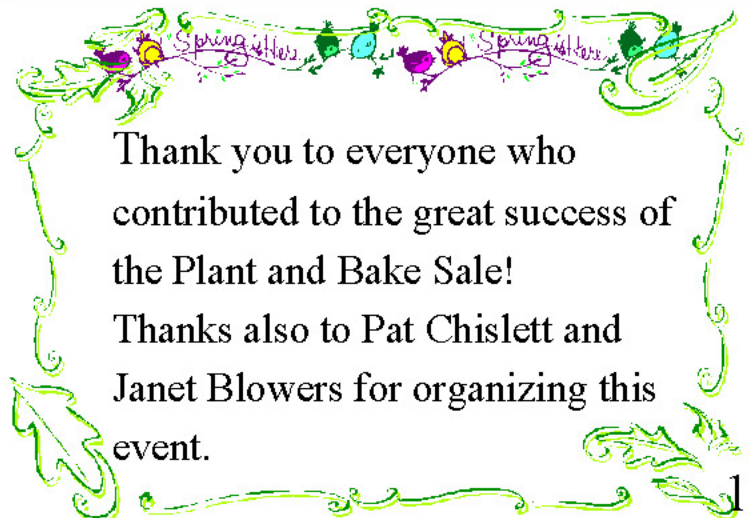
Next meeting

**Thursday, May 5, 2011
End-of-Year Luncheon**

MUD Building #81

Time: 10:00 a.m.

**Bring a ready-to-serve dish
and an art or craft item you have
created (see information on page 3)**



Thank you to everyone who
contributed to the great success of
the Plant and Bake Sale!
Thanks also to Pat Chislett and
Janet Blowers for organizing this
event.



Monthly Garden Tasks - April

Sources: Fort Bend Master Gardeners;

Dr. William Welch, Landscape Horticulturist, Texas A&M University;

Dr. Doug Welsh, professor and horticulturist, Texas A&M University, *Texas Garden Almanac*

Houston Rose Society *The Rosette*, Patsy Williams, editor



Annuals:

Caladiums- plant in late April to early May when soil temperatures warm to 70 degrees F (or they will rot in the ground). For summer color, plant ageratum, angelonia, begonias, black-eyed Susans, cleome, coleus, coneflowers, cosmos, croton, geraniums, hibiscus, impatiens, lantana, marigolds, melampodium, melochia, pentas, periwinkles, Persian shield, pincushion flower (scabiosa), plumbago, sweet potato vine, salvias, skullcap, succulents, shrimp plants, sunflowers, torenia, verbena, and zinnias. Deadhead cool season annuals for another flush of blooms before the heat sets in. Doug Welsh recommends planting periwinkles in May to avoid soil borne disease in spring.

Flowers that are easy to grow from seed sown directly in the garden: amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca and zinnia.

Perennials: Cut off freeze-damaged shoots. Some perennials that usually survive our winters froze back this year. Some may come back from the roots, so have patience and watch for green shoots before you give up on the plant. After perennials begin blooming, keep deadheading (remove old flowers) to cause the plant to continue blooming rather than setting seed.

Bulbs, tubers, and rhizomes Allow narcissus foliage to die back naturally. Plant agapanthus, amaryllis, calla lilies, cannas, crinums, daylilies, African and butterfly irises, gingers, and rainlilies.

Herbs: Plant basil, bee balm, salad burnet, chives, lemon balm, lemon grass, lemon verbena, Mexican mint marigold, mint, oregano, pineapple sage, rosemary, and thyme.

Vegetables: Plant bush or pole beans early in the month - seed; cucumber - seed; eggplant - transplants; cantaloupe - seed; corn - seed; okra - seed; peas - Southern from seed; peppers - plants; sweet potatoes; pumpkins - seed; summer squash early in month - seed; watermelon - seed

Roses: . Roses prefer at least six hours of sun a day. Hybrid teas require application of fungicide each week to prevent black spot. (Note: Earth Kind roses are more resistant to mildew and black spot than the hybrid tea roses). Encourage lady beetles in all their larval stages and also adults as aphid predators. Fertilize existing rose bushes but not newly planted ones. Apply 2-3" of mulch.

Shrubs: Prune azaleas and other spring blooming shrubs after blooming, if needed. Fertilize azaleas and camellias after blooming.

TxDOT'S WILDFLOWER HOT LINE: www.txdot.gov or 1-800-452-9292 to find out what is blooming and where.

Washington County wildflowers www.brenhamtexas.com (A map of Washington County wildflower trails is available on this website).

Thank you to everyone who participated in the
NCGC Plant and Bake Sale

Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities



Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

(our club is a member)

Houston Civic Garden Center 1500 Hermann Dr

Meetings - 2nd Friday of the month 9:30 a.m.

Friday, April 8, 2011 - "Garden Art Informed by

Architectural Elements" by Darrin Dulling

Design exhibits - "Tubular Designs"

(some of us carpool - contact Donna Luther for information)

Tuesday, April 5 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series

Program: "What's Blooming in the Lazy Gardener's Garden?" by

Brenda Buest Smith

Noon

Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston,

Texas

Tuesday, April 19 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture -

Buffalo Bayou Watershed by U.S. Corp of Engineers

6:30 p.m. dessert 7:00 p.m. program

Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston,

TX

Thursday, April 21 - Fort Bend Master Gardeners Monthly

Program: "Waste to Wow" by Loela Barry, artist and designer.

6:30 social hour

Program: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd. Rosenberg, TX.

Showtime in May

Instead of having a speaker at our NCGC May 5th meeting and luncheon, we will showcase our own members' creations. Please bring items you have made or plants grown yourself.

Exhibits could be from the following categories:

Artwork - painting, drawing, watercoloring, sculpture

Weaving

Pottery

Photography

Sewing - Stitchery, quilting, smocking, clothing

Knitting or Crocheting

Jewelry

Yard art

Gardening - container gardens, terrariums, bonzai, specimen plants (such as orchids), dish gardens

Flower arranging

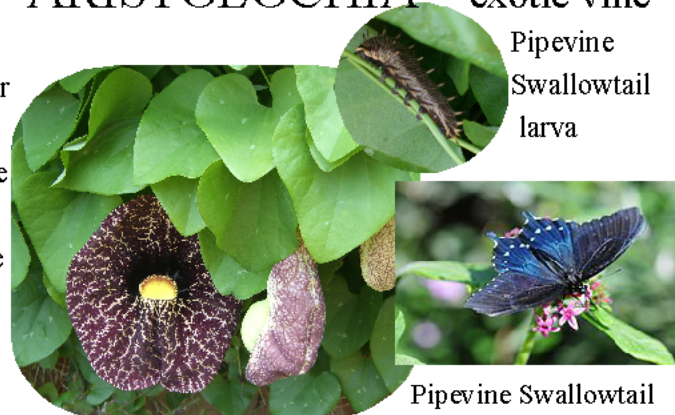
Scrapbooking, papercrafting

Other - any art or craft that can be easily displayed on a table - you name it

We have a wealth of talent in our club. It will be a lot of fun to share the results of our labors of love with friends. Be thinking about what you would like to exhibit. A form will be provided for you to put your name and a personal note about your project to place with your item. (see page 5)

The common names for this vine, Dutchman's pipe, pipevine, and calico flower, describe the appearance of the flowers. One of the more common Aristolochia species in the U.S., *A. elegans*, reaches heights of 10 to 15 feet. With its heart-shaped leaves, it grows densely enough to form a good screen or cover a fence (attaching with twining stems). The flowers produce a rather foul odor for the purpose of attracting insects, such as gnats, which land on the outer portion (calyx) and slide down to the interior of the flower. Here the insects feast on nectar and are dusted with pollen. Remarkably, the insects are then released to go pollinate a flower on another plant by falling into its trap. Pipevine swallowtail butterfly larvae feed on the toxic leaves, making the caterpillar unpalatable to predators.

ARISTOLOCHIA - exotic vine



Pipevine
Swallowtail
larva

Pipevine Swallowtail

A Rose by any other name would smell as sweet.- William Shakespeare

Katy Road Pink Rose (Carefree Beauty)

Texas Rose Rustlers, looking for old rose survivors, searched old homesteads, cemeteries, roadsides, and abandoned fields for rose bushes from which to make cuttings. One of these rose rustlers' discoveries was a rose found in the 1980's growing along Katy Road (Katy Freeway?).

At the time they could not identify the rose, so they gave this "found

rose" the field study name of Katy Road Pink.

Earlier, in 1977, Iowan rose hybridizer Dr Griffin Buck had introduced the rose Carefree Beauty to commerce.

At some point through the years, Buck's pink rose became less popular. Instead, hybrid teas with more spectacular blooms caught the gardeners' eyes. Trends changed again, though, to the public desiring more carefree roses, such as the antique roses, to minimize the need for spraying for insects and diseases. Mike Shoup founded the Antique Rose Emporium by propagating old and found varieties that had proved their hardiness. According to the Antique Rose Emporium website, a plant exchange with Conrad Pyle Nursery in 2001 revealed that Katy Road Pink was not an antique rose - it was identified as Dr. Buck's Carefree Beauty. Before his death in 1991, Dr. Griffin Buck had developed about 90 varieties of tough roses, including Carefree Beauty. Now available again in nurseries, Carefree Beauty performs well in our hot, humid climate and resists blackspot and other diseases. It blooms freely, and produces orange-red rose hips after flowering. Although this Earth-Kind rose will survive without a lot of care, it is more beautiful when fertilized, watered, and mulched. This worthy rose is incorporated in the design of the new Nottingham Country Garden Club logo.

Sources for Carefree Beauty and other hardy and Earth-Kind roses:

Arbor Gate Nursery 15635 FM 2920 Tomball, TX 77377

Enchanted Gardens Nursery 6420 FM 359 Richmond TX 77469

Enchanted Forest Nursery 10611 FM2759 Richmond TX 77469

www.myenchanted.com

Antique Rose Emporium 9300 Lueckemeyer Rd. Brenham TX www.wearerose.com

Chamblee's Rose Nursery 10926 US Hwy. 69 North Tyler, TX 75706

www.chambleerose.com



Bug of the Month: Pillbug



Not an insect, the pill bug one of a few species of crustacean that live on land. Their shells look like armor, like a miniature armadillo. The nickname "roly poly" comes from their ability to roll up in a tight ball when disturbed. Seeking damp places to live, sometimes they will invade homes, but they do not spread disease or contaminate food. Their diet consists mainly of rotting vegetation, and sometimes plants. Sow bugs have a similar appearance but cannot roll up into a ball.



April Birthdays



Happy Birthday to:

Janet Blowers - April 4

Donna Luther - April 13

Margaret Tillery - April 23

Note: Scroll down for a participation form
for the art and craft show. Please print one
for each exhibit.

(fold on line to make table tent)

Nottingham Country Garden Club
Art and Craft Show
May 5, 2011

Name _____

Type of exhibit _____

Description of exhibit or personal note _____

