

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Newsletter
May - June 2011



Next meeting
Thursday, May 5, 2010
End-of-Year Luncheon
10:00 a.m.

at MUD Building #81
806 Hidden Canyon Dr.

Bring a ready-to-serve dish to share and
a serving utensil.

Also,

Bring an item which you have created.

We will have display tables ready for
your exhibit. (fill out form - see page 5)

Gardening friends
Become a member of Nottingham
Country Garden Club for next year

It's time to join or to renew your membership
for next year.

Please bring your dues (\$25) and membership
form to the May luncheon or mail to: Mary Lou

Proctor

2042 Lake Fountain Dr.

Katy TX 77494

See our website

(www.nottinghamgardenclub.org) for
membership form

A Message From Your President:

I would like to thank everyone for all their support these last two years. I especially would like to thank all the members of the Board of the Nottingham Country Garden Club for all their hard work and their encouragement when I wanted to try new things. NCGC is made up of such a great combination of people and each of you have made my job such a delight. I have made a conscious effort to add new members to the board over the last two years, as well as adding workshops and day trips. New faces and new ideas brings new enthusiasm for all of us. A club should never become stagnant, it needs to keep evolving. I hope all of you will continue to step up and take on assignments to keep this garden club growing and meeting the needs of all its members.

Gwen Heck

Monthly Garden Tasks - May and June

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 Roseette*, Patsy Williams, editor



Angelonia

Seeds - Sow directly in soil: sunflower, zinnia, morning glory, portulaca (moss rose), marigold, cosmos, periwinkles, and gourds.

Annuals and perennials - Cool-season annuals are just about finished, so begin replacing them with new transplants. Put in plants that can stand the summer heat, and keep these transplants watered well until established.

The following plants are recommended for heat tolerance: angelonia, blanketflower (gallardia), begonia, bulbine, cleome, coleus, coneflower, croton, cuphea, gaura, gomphrena, helenium, impatiens, lantana, melochia, penta, periwinkle, plumbago, purslane, rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan), russelia (firecracker plant), salvia, shrimp plant, society garlic, summer phlox, torenia, and zinnia. Pinch back terminal growth for more compact plants and more flowers. Also, remove faded flowers before they set seed to encourage more growth and flowering.

Tropicals such as hibiscus and plumeria also take the heat.

Good plants for shade - caladiums, impatiens, coleus, begonias, and pentas. Pinch off flowers of caladiums and coleus to encourage leaves.

Bulbs and tubers - Plant achimenes, cannas, dahlias, gingers, daylilies, rain lilies, and other summer flowering bulbs and tubers. Allow foliage of spring flowering bulbs to mature and yellow before removing.

Roses - Prune climbing roses as they complete their bloom season. All roses - remove dead or weak wood. Control black spot. Continue to fertilize every 4-6 weeks.

Mulch - to conserve moisture and reduce weed growth

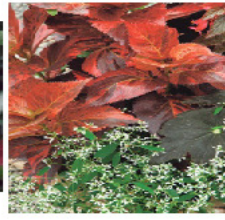
Camellias and azaleas are setting flowers for next season. Keep mulched and watered.

Daylilies reach their peak of bloom in May - June. Watch the Houston Chronicle for daylily sales and events. Example: Sunday, **May 15th** - Open gardens at Paynes in the Grass in Pearland (for more info and directions go to www.paynesinthegrassdaylilyfarm.com), and Shimek's Gardens in Alvin (for more info and directions go to www.cityscope.net/~neshimek)

June

Hibiscus - Move potted plants into more shade if they wilt, drop buds, or sunburn

Bulbs - Dig and divide any crowded spring bloomers (after the foliage has turned brown)



Heat tolerant plants (L to R)

Variegated tapioca leaves

Moy Grande Perennial Hibiscus
copper plant



Pride of Barbados with swallowtail



Upcoming Events and Learning Opportunities

**Houston Federation of Garden Clubs
meeting at the Judson Robinson Community Center
2020 Hermann Drive**

Friday, May 13, 2011 - "Tablescapes for a Luncheon" A Garden Club Challenge. Eleven tables will be decorated by clubs and/or individuals. These tablescapes will be on display until the covered dish luncheon is served. Installation of Federation officers for 2011-2013 will follow. For more information or if interested in attending, call Donna Luther at 281-492-1512.

Tuesday, May 3 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series
Program: "Hydroponics" by Carol Brouwer, Ph.D.
Noon
Texas AgriLife Extension Service 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston, TX

Tuesday, May 18 - Harris County Master Gardener Evening Lecture
"Herbs" by Jeanie Dunnihoo, Harris County Master Gardener
6:30 p.m. dessert 7:00 p.m. program
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston, TX

Tuesday, June 7 - Harris County Master Gardener Lecture Series -
"Bromeliads" by Gary Gallick, Past President Bromeliad Society.
Extension Office
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston, TX
Noon - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 21 - Harris County Master Gardener Evening Lecture
"Hibiscus" by Marti Graves
6:30 p.m. dessert 7:00 p.m. program
Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 3033 Bear Creek Dr., Houston, TX

Thursday, May 19

Fort Bend Master Gardeners, Sugar Land Garden Club and the Texas Rose Rustlers present a lecture on the book
The Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature and the Shaping of the American Nation by Andrea Wulf

This beautifully illustrated talk looks at the lives of the founding fathers and how their attitude towards plants, gardens, nature, and agriculture shaped the American nation. George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and James Madison regarded themselves foremost as farmers and plantmen, and for them gardening, agriculture, and botany were elemental passions, as deeply ingrained in their characters as their belief in liberty for the nation they were creating. In a unique retelling of the creation of America, award-winning historian Andrea Wulf will show how plants, politics, and personalities intertwined as never before.
(Source: Fort Bend Master Gardener website)

6:30 p.m. Program
7:30 p.m. Reception and Book Signing
Sugar Land Community Center
226 Matlage Way
Sugar Land TX 77478



Nottingham Country Garden Club Officers for 2011-2012

President - Susan Straub
Vice President - Marilyn Frueh
Secretary - Sandy Helsel
Treasurer - Gayle Granger



gaura or whirling butterflies

A Special Thank You to Edd Plesko, our webmaster, for maintaining our NCGC website and for promptly posting our newsletter each month. Thanks, Edd.



Hardy ice plant

Summer Heat is Not a Problem for These Plants



Profusion zinnia

Since we have already experienced some very warm days this spring, we are reminded of the heat that will descend upon us this summer. Plants that have tolerated the spring weather may give up entirely by the end of June. Plant breeders are trying to improve the heat tolerance of many plants, for example, petunias (Wave and Laura Bush varieties). Some plants, however, actually love the heat. Their heat tolerance usually stems from their adaptations long ago to a hot or tropical climate. As gardeners, why not take advantage of their heritage and let them put out their displays of flowers all summer without too much fuss (they just need a little water)? Here are a few examples of heat-loving plants:

Bedding plants and small shrubby plants -

- Gomphrena** - new Fireworks variety grows 2-3 feet. Gomphrena also comes in dwarf or tall types in white, magenta, or pink.
- Zinnias** - Narrowleaf zinnia (*angustifolia*) grows low and spreads. Orange, yellow or white single blooms do not need to be deadheaded. They are mildew resistant. Profusion zinnias in cherry, apricot, orange, fire, and white also provide steady color.
- Gaura** - This native perennial attracts attention and butterflies. Its nickname is whirling butterflies because of the flower laden stems that blow freely in the wind. Siskiyou Pink is a named variety, and gaura also comes in white.
- Angelonias (Summer Snapdragon)** - Hybridized from plants native to Mexico, the Serena series grows vigorously all summer. They bloom in white, pink, and purple on spikes with many individual flowers. Occasional trimming will encourage new growth and flowers.
- Periwinkles** - new Cora vincas are resistant to aerial *Phytophthora*, a plant disease that kills older varieties in our climate.
- Hardy Ice Plants (*Delosperma cooperi*)** - in spite of their name these plants love the heat. Narrow, succulent leaves result in drought resistance. Bright pink/magenta flowers bloom on trailing stems. Perennial if protected.
- Plumbago** - Clusters of cool blue flowers appear all summer on this bushy plant.
- Batface Cuphea** - is considered an annual or tender perennial. Flowers resemble the face and ears of a bat. Try the Flamenco series - Tango (bright pink with purple center) and Rumba (coral/red). These flowers need moderately moist soil and full sun to grow their best.
- Salvia - Indigo Spires and Mystic Spires (smaller variety)** Blue flowers bloom continually.
- Sunflowers** are easy to grow from seed. Short varieties "Teddy Bear" and "Sunspot" grow only three feet tall.
- Succulents** conserve water but appreciate a drink from time-to-time in order to grow and flower.
- Copper Plant** originally had just copper colored foliage. Now it comes in pink, yellow, red and cream and grows 1-3 feet tall.
- Alternanthera (Joseph's coat)** is another plant used for its bright foliage in several colors. It is an annual and requires sun to part shade.

Shrubs or taller plants

- Varigated tapioca** - Native to South America, its large yellow and green leaves with pink petioles decorate a garden. Texas SuperStar.
- Esperanza/Yellow bells (*Tecoma stans*)** - Yellow bell-shaped flowers bloom all summer. Look for Texas SuperStar cultivar "Gold Star", which has brightest flowers. This year many froze down to the roots but came back in spring.
- Red bird of paradise (*Pride of Barbados*)** - a 6-8 foot shrub native to the West Indies and another Texas SuperStar. It may die back in winter but comes back in the spring. Crinkly red and yellow flowers attract butterflies.
- Hummingbird Bush (*Hamelia Patens*)** - Hummingbirds depend on the nectar from the tubular flowers. This bush came back from roots after freezing down this past winter, so it will be a few weeks before it starts to flower again.
- Perennial Hibiscus** - another Texas SuperStar perennial plant tested by Texas A&M. Best cultivars are Flare, Lord Baltimore, and Moy Grande
- Butterfly Ginger** - for sun or part shade. Very fragrant (usually) white flowers resembling butterflies bloom in late summer, early fall.

Bug of the Month - Trichogramma Wasp

Less than 1/50th of an inch long, these tiny wasps inject their own eggs into moth eggs. After hatching, wasp larvae feed on the insides of the host egg. Trichogramma wasps parasitize the eggs of more than 200 species, including tomato hornworms, fruit worms, cutworms, and corn borers. Gardeners can encourage these wasps by not using pesticides and by growing plants with tiny flowers (such as Queen Anne's lace, fennel, and tansy) for nectar sources for the adults. Trichogramma wasps can also be ordered online from companies that sell biological controls.



May - June Birthdays



HAPPY BIRTHDAY to:

- Cassandra Farrington - May 10
- Leontine Gentry - May 14
- Gayle Granger and Andree Kies - May 24
- Helen Poole - May 25
- Susan Straub - June 7
- Marie Smith - June 8
- Maddy Gardner - June 15
- Marilyn Fruch - June 24

*Scroll down for form. Fold to make a
table tent to place beside your exhibit.*

Nottingham Country Garden Club

Art and Craft Show

May 5, 2011

Name _____

Type of Exhibit _____

Description of exhibit or personal note

