

Forest West Garden Club Newsletter

November 2005

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, November 8

Pam Dougherty's Home
6227 Rena, Houston, TX 77092
713-683-1720

Refreshments: Suzanne & Phyllis H.

Program: Making Awards for
Christmas Lighting Contest

Don't forget...
Fall Flower Sale
Orders due by
Wed., NOV. 9th



Fall
Flower Sale
Sat., Nov. 12
9 AM - Noon

Find past newsletters, the latest calendar, the photo gallery and other fun information at our web-home,

<http://www.cybertoad.us/FWGC>

October Meeting Recap

We welcomed new member, Pam Dougherty. She is Elva's daughter. Just goes to show you how your enthusiasm for gardening effects the next generation.

Elaine showcased her FWGC web site which is spectacular! You can access it for meeting information, garden tips, and our monthly newsletters (website found on front page of this newsletter). In addition, she will have our monthly meeting programs if they are submitted and any items that might go into the scrapbook such as the September tour with shots of our members. What a great way for all of us to share the pictures!

Please note November and December meeting changes: November's meeting location has been changed to new member Pam's home (address on front page of newsletter). The December Christmas meeting has been moved up a week to December 7th and will start a little earlier at 7 PM.



Note: Be sure to call in your plant orders as soon as you get them to Lindsey or Sue. Let's make it a club success with 100% participation! Know that proceeds help fund our community projects and all club meetings. (Membership dues are only a fraction of our activities.)

October Meeting Recap, cont...

It was noted that folks like having the minutes in the newsletter so we can read them and easily remember important information.

If you haven't already done so, please bring your bulbine to the November meeting. It was raining and a few people forgot. This is a great way to support the Beautification Committee's efforts.

Native plants and attracting wildlife was a focus of our meeting. In addition to the plants, we discussed the importance of a water feature for your yard. Some of you might wish to go to the Houston Garden Center where their birdbaths are on sale or trek up to Hempstead and visit the expanded Frazier's at the corner of US 290 and Hwy. 6. It has a huge selection! Or, of course, one of our favorite places, Brookwood. Perhaps this can be placed on your Christmas list which is just a few weeks away!

We missed several of our members. Sue, Charlotte, and Elva were on a trip to the Hudson valley to see fall foliage. Robbie and Kathy went to a Neil Diamond concert to celebrate Kathy's birthday. Kathy Hyatt was with her husband at another meeting. Katy was busy with school. We didn't see Grace, Jean, or Joyce, either. Hope to see you all in November. We truly miss our friends!

Suzanne

Forest West Garden Club
October 11th, 2005 Minutes

The Forest West Garden Club met in the home of member Lindsey Stowe on October 11th, 2005. There were eleven members present. Refreshments were provided by Evelyn Miley & Elaine Mesker-Garcia.

New member Pam Dougherty was welcomed to the club.

Photographs of last months backyard tour were shown by President Suzanne Milstead. Historian Elaine Mesker-Garcia also gave a short presentation of the web site she has created for the club.

A change in venue for the November meeting was made. It will now be held at the home of new member Pam Dougherty.

President Suzanne Milstead recommended members attend the Federation meeting if possible as the speaker Dr. David Creech is very good.

Treasurer Elizabeth Evans, reported a balance of \$1,167.73.

The Executive Committee met earlier in the month to put together a budget, which was presented to members. After discussion a motion was made (Lindsey), seconded (Elizabeth) and carried that, contingent upon income from plant sales, we adhere to it.

October 11 ,2005 Minutes, cont...

Lindsey noted that we have changed suppliers for the plant sale & are now able to offer a larger variety of plants for sale, along with hanging baskets. Forms were handed out & all members were encouraged to participate & sell as much as possible, hopefully a minimum of five flats each. It was decided that incentives weren't needed to try & increase sales as members felt we should try & do well for our club regardless.

Lindsey said she was hoping to put together small amounts of fertilizer to go with the plants sold. She also mentioned that other clubs she had been in touch with regarding plant sales let her know that they have had success with nut sales! She passed out information she had acquired for us to review, to be discussed at a later date.

It was decided not to advertise in the Leader.

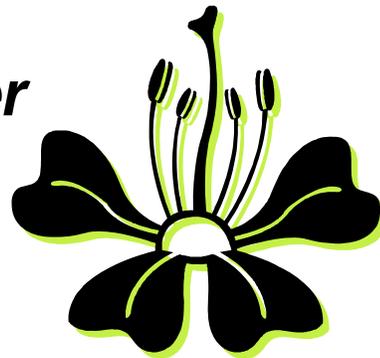
No members had any bulbine at this time for the esplanades.

President Suzanne Milstead presented the program for the evening on native plants. Accompanied by handouts, Suzanne had prepared a customized presentation gleaned from information requested by members at the previous meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Regional Reminders - October

**Coastal and Tropical South
By Nellie Neal, Baton Rouge, LA
Nat'l Gardening Assoc. Website**



Sow Poppies

If you want to grow Shirley poppies or Iceland poppies, now is the time to plant the seeds. Jiffy 7's (the flat peat discs that puff up when watered) work very well for these seeds. Plant the entire Jiffy pots once the seedlings are 4 inches tall.

Pot Up Tulips

Fill a 6-inch clay pot half full of potting mix. Set six tulips in the pot with the flat sides toward the outside rim. Fill with more mix, then water once. Put the pot in the refrigerator and water weekly for about 12 weeks. Move to a sunny window when bulbs sprout.

Shorten Vines

Take the time to shorten wayward vines now and prune out any dead growth underneath, too. Ivy, wisteria, and coral honeysuckle grow nearly all year long but can get downright rampant in late summer. Clip off the most out-of-control sprouts and neaten up the vines.

“God made rainy days so gardeners could get the housework done.” ~Author Unknown

**“Half the interest of a garden
is the constant exercise of the imagination.”**
~Mrs. C.W. Earle, *Pot-Pourri from a Surrey Garden*, 1897

Texas Natives Hardy Ageratum

By: Tina Dombrowski

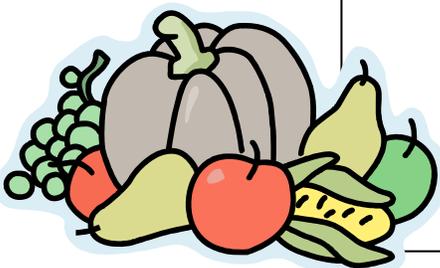
Along with fall asters and salvias, hardy ageratum (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) is a native perennial that blooms forth into a profusion of sky-blue flowers from September through November. Hardy ageratum grows best in moist, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. Plants grow from 1 to 3 feet tall, sometimes requiring staking or pruning back in summer to keep plants bushy. Many butterflies, particularly migrating Monarch butterflies, are attracted to the flowers. As an extra garden lure for Monarch butterflies, plant hardy ageratum with Mexican bush sage (*Salvia leucantha*) and the Monarch host plant Mexican milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*).

*Article found at Neil Sperry's GARDENS Magazine website,
<http://www.neilsperry.com>*

Handy Garden Tip from You Grow Girl!

www.yougrowgirl.com

Chamomile tea is an excellent cure
against damping off and fungal diseases.
Make a tea and use it to water your plants
or spray infected foliage.



Elaine Mesker-Garcia
7002 Brook Run Ln.
Houston, TX 77040

To Garden Club Member: