

Forest West Garden Club Newsletter

November 2006

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, Nov. 7th, 7 PM *

*at Elaine's home,
7002 Brook Run Ln., 77040*

*Program:
Crafts by Stacy*



* PLEASE NOTE NEW MEETING TIME.
ALL MEETINGS WILL NOW START AT 7 PM!

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

<http://www.fwgc.wordpress.com>

Meeting Minutes

October 10th, 2006

The Forest West Garden Club met in the home of Louise Lane on October 10th 2006. There were seventeen members present. Refreshments were provided by Evelyn & Mary.

President Suzanne welcomed everyone, including newest member, last months guest, Carol McWilliams.

There was no news from Federation.

Treasurer Elizabeth reported a balance of \$1,402.61.

The field trip to the Southern Living house had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather.

There was some discussion whether to have a nut sale as a fund raiser along with the plant sale or to purchase for ourselves and at what price. Elaine moved that members purchase nuts for themselves at cost price, Katy seconded & the motion carried. Orders are to be placed with Lindsey by **October 18th** in time for Thanksgiving delivery.

Members were again strongly encouraged to excel themselves selling flats for our fall plant sale. Order forms were handed out & a flyer will be included with the newsletter. Orders called in first will be filled first. The latest date for placing orders is **November 4th**.

October Meeting Minutes, cont'd...

Yard of the Month was awarded to Julie Hendricks, 6131 Autumn Forest.

Charlotte brought a beautiful Bird of Paradise bloom, noting it was one of many she's been enjoying all summer, along with some Torina. She also read from an interesting article on the benefits of green spaces & landscaping on the environment. Many members requested copies.

Lindsey mentioned to look out for the Bromeliad Society at Bulbmart.

Suzanne provided handouts to members, as did Elaine, to accompany her presentation on butterfly gardens, including spectacular photographs, of which all but one she had taken herself in her own back yard.

Elaine also noted the new address for the website. It is: www.fwgc.wordpress.com

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



The best fertilizer is the
gardener's shadow.

~Author Unknown

Pumpkin Cheesecake

- 1 ½ Cups crushed graham cracker crumbs (6 oz. package)**
- 1 Cup granulated sugar, divided**
- 6 Tablespoons butter, melted**
- 3 8 ounce packages cream cheese, softened**
- ¾ Cup firmly packed light brown sugar**
- 5 Eggs**
- 1 Can (16 ounces) pumpkin**
- 1 ½ teaspoons pumpkin pie spice**
- ¼ Cup heavy cream**



Blend crumbs, ¼ cup of the sugar & the butter in a bowl. Press firmly over bottom & up side of a lightly buttered 9 inch Springform pan. Chill.

Preheat oven to slow (325 degrees). Beat cream cheese with an electric mixer at medium speed until smooth.

Gradually add remaining ¾ cup granulated sugar & brown sugar, beating until well mixed. Beat in eggs, one at a time, until mixture is light & fluffy. Beat in pumpkin, pie spice & heavy cream at low speed. Pour into prepared pan.

Bake for 1 hour & 45 minutes.

Cool then chill.

Recipe thanks to Louise.

Attract birds to your yard this winter...



Birds will be attracted to your garden if it provides food, water and shelter. There may be enough naturally in your garden to feed them in the summer and autumn months, although there is unlikely to be in winter and spring. Setting out a bird feeder will encourage birds to become regular visitors to your garden, especially during winter when food is scarce.

Here are some tips...

- ★ If you put out bird food, it is important to put it out all year round, possibly stopping when young birds are being fed - they can easily choke on peanuts and dried bread.
- ★ Never put out any food in mesh bags. These may trap birds feet and may even cause broken or damaged feet and legs. Birds also appreciate a shallow bowl of water that they can drink and bathe in.
- ★ Be sure to hang the feeder in a position where the birds can eat safely without being attacked by cats!

Tips taken from BBC Gardening website article.

Now is the perfect time to plant a tree. Even a small tree can bring shade, shelter and wildlife to your garden, and after the recent rains, the earth is now easier to dig!





Making Leaf-Mould

Leaf-mould is made of leaves that have rotted down over time, and makes a fantastic free garden conditioner. So, when you're sweeping up all those autumn leaves, don't look on it as a chore, but as a real benefit for your garden.

Step by step

🌿 If you have space, create a wire mesh container 90cm x 90cm (3ft x3ft) using a length of chicken wire attached to four sturdy posts, leaving it open at the top and bottom. Site this on the ground and fix posts firmly, using a heavyweight mallet. If you have limited space, simply take several bin liners and make a few holes in the bottom of the bags.

🌿 Collect leaves after a shower of rain and either add them to your wire container or pack them into the bin liners. Ensure the leaves are tightly packed.

🌿 If you have a lawn, add some grass cuttings - up to 25 per cent of the total bulk. Or to make the process even quicker, leave the leaves on the lawn and let the mower shred them so you have a ready mix of grass cuttings and shredded leaves.

🌿 Leave either your leaf-mould heap or your bin liners for a year, undisturbed. After this time, the leaves will have rotted down sufficiently to be added to the soil or spread as a mulch.

🌿 After two years of rotting, you will have a very fine leaf-mould that can be used as a potting compost.

Continued on next page...

Making leaf-mould, cont...



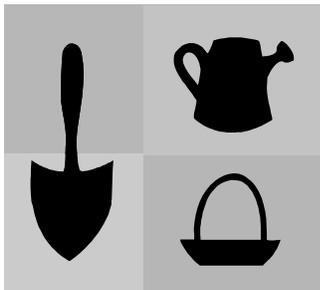
Which leaves should I use?

- ✚ Best examples are oak or beech. Leaves from trees such as sycamores are tougher and take longer to rot down unless shredded prior to being added to your heap.
- ✚ Conifer and evergreen leaves tend to take longer to rot down - between two to three years - and are best shredded.
- ✚ Pine needles take a long time but the resulting acidic mould can be used for acid-loving plants.

Article from BBC Gardening website.

Make a Moss Basket

Got an old wire basket sitting around going rusty? Soak a bale of sphagnum peat moss in a bucket while you



clean the basket with a wire brush and spray paint it. Begin wringing out fistfuls of moss into 1-inch-thick coils. Start at the bottom and press wet coils into the wire. Let dry, then fill and plant.



Elaine Mesker-Garcia
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To Forest West Garden Club Member: