

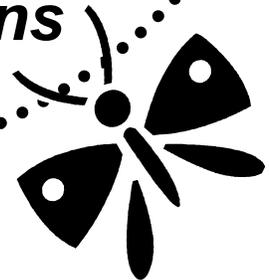
# *Forest West Garden Club Newsletter*

October 2006

Next Meeting:  
Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM \*

*at Louise's home,  
6038 Autumn Forest, 77092  
Mary & Evelyn are to bring refreshments.*

***Program: Butterfly Gardens***



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

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

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

# *Meeting Minutes*

## *September 12th 2006*

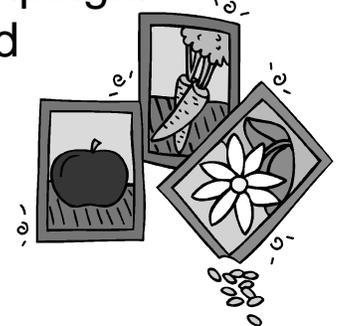
The Forest West Garden Club met in the home of Elizabeth Evans on September 12th 2006. There were sixteen members and one guest present. Refreshments were provided by Phyllis B. & Robbie. Following tours of Mary, Evelyn & Elizabeth's backyards, members caught up with each other after the summer break.

Joyce gave everyone a chuckle, sharing a joke with the club. Mary announced her upcoming retirement next month. Katy has finished her Masters in Geoscience. Kathy H. recounted her adventurous "maiden voyage". Elaine is beginning a new business venture in photography & will have a booth at the Heights 1st Saturdays.

President Suzanne welcomed everyone back & thanked Mary & Elizabeth for again crafting our yearbooks & Elaine for our newsletters.

Charlotte brought information from Federation on the Fall Pilgrimage, the 65th anniversary of the Garden Center, the Christmas luncheon & the Seeds for Life campaign.

Suzanne says that if members will bring seed packets to meetings, she'll drop them off at Federation in January.



Dues were collected.

***September Meeting Minutes, cont'd...***

Charlotte & Stacy went over the programs for the year ahead. Phyllis Bennett moved that we begin our meetings at 7pm, 30 minutes earlier than usual. Robbie seconded & after a short discussion, the motion carried.

Lindsey showed photos of her trip to a ginger farm. Treasurer Elizabeth reported a balance of \$1,360.96. This after having paid for the pool area to be cleaned & mulched. Evelyn reported that fifteen bags of mulch were used at the pool. Robbie's late husband James was honored during a tree planting.

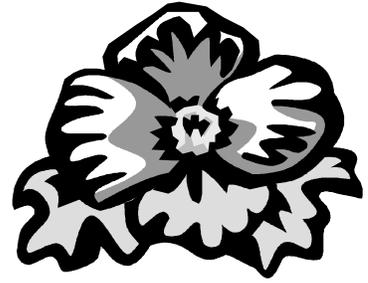
As this is our major fundraiser, members were strongly encouraged to excel themselves selling flats for our fall plant sale. Lindsey will have the list of available plants along with an order form included with the newsletter. We are to charge \$14/flat. The nut sale was also discussed with several members wishing to order again.

A reminder of the Master Gardener sale was given. A field trip to the Southern Living Idea House in College Station was arranged for Thursday, October 12th. Door prizes were won by Phyllis B. & Stacy.

As Suzanne's land line isn't in use yet, if you need to reach her, please use her cell phone. 832-746-2875

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

B. fischeri Schrank  
A Plant for All Seasons



After visiting the Begonia booth at the Mercer Plant Faire, I was flipping through the pages of my complimentary copy of The Begonian. There were lots of fancy begonias, none of which I recognized until I turned to the page with a photograph of B. fischeri Schrank. And there it was, a begonia that most of us know and love as the “Come Back Begonia”. At least that is what Elizabeth called it when she brought cuttings to one of our meetings.

I gained a new appreciation for the shrub-like begonia that does come back or remain in the garden all year. It enjoys our humidity and heat. It will survive temperatures in the 20 degree range. B. fischeri is everblooming, slowing down only in the hottest or coolest weather. It blooms light pink in sun and more white in the shade. That’s right-sun or shade. To keep it bushy and full, it needs to be trimmed back regularly and severely. These stem cuttings root easily and make a nice gift or sale plant. And last but not least, the Come Back Begonia is disease resistant even in Houston.

Thanks, Elizabeth, for a great plant!

by Freda Holley (rewritten by Lindsey Stowe)  
The Begonian, July/August 2000

It is utterly forbidden to be half-hearted about gardening. You have got to love your garden whether you like it or not.

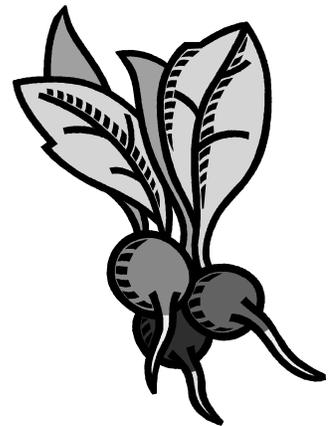
~W.C. Sellar & R.J. Yeatman,  
*Garden Rubbish*, 1936



**Roses Love Bananas:** Since roses love potassium, plant an old banana near the rose bush and see how it thanks you!

***Roasted Fresh Radishes:***

Clean as many radishes as needed, pour on Italian dressing, and marinate for 1/2 hr. Next, make 'foil' dish, put radishes in and fold well, and cook on hot coals for about 30 minutes. These are very good, believe it or not, almost like a roasted brussel sprout, but not as bitter.



# Herb & Veggie Fried Rice

## Ingredients:

- 1 cup of rice
- ¼ yellow pepper
- 2 tbsp of onion
- 1 tbsp of sunflower oil
- 3 large mushrooms
- One sprig of fresh rosemary
- One sprig of fresh thai basil
- 6-7 leaves of fresh sage



1. Pick your favorite kind of rice and prepare.
2. Once the rice is cooked, take out a fry pan and coat with the sunflower oil. Place rice in the pan and start to cook over low-medium heat.
3. Chop onions, pepper, mushrooms, rosemary, sage and basil and add to rice. Cook until rice is slightly browned and flavors have infused. Peppers, onions and mushrooms should be tender.
4. This can be used as a meal or as a side dish. Makes 3-4 servings.

## Reinvigorate Rosemary

Summer heat can take its toll on rosemary, so rejuvenate it now. Leave any new shoots alone, but thin the older, woodier ones. Cut out one third of them, and cut the rest back by half. Harvest whatever leaves you can, strip the rest and soak the stems for grilling.

# Accent the Fall Landscape with Container Vegetables and Herbs

by Tom LeRoy, County Extension Agent - Horticulture

Now is an excellent time to evaluate the home landscape and begin making preparations for fall plantings. Vegetables and herbs can be used in imaginative ways to add beauty, interest, and utility to our landscapes. Midsummer and early fall offer us a good 'second season' for growing these plants if gardeners can motivate themselves to provide a little extra care during the long, hot days of late summer.

Hanging containers of mint, thyme and rosemary can all be started now. These plants may be available at local nurseries, but with a little extra effort they can be grown from seed. Each has a drooping growth habit which makes it especially appropriate for hanging-containers.

An even larger variety of herbs and vegetables may be grown in the more 'down-to-earth' containers, such as clay pots and wooden tubs. Beans, squash, peppers, lettuce, eggplants, carrots, and radishes are just a few of the many available. Even small porches and decks of apartments can be made more attractive and interesting with groupings of containers filled with herbs and vegetables.

Two important points to consider in growing container plants are the media and the container selection. Most vegetables require excellent drainage, so select a container with a hole in the bottom. Plain clay pottery is attractive and versatile, as are many of the cedar and redwood tubs.

Small containers dry out very quickly, and sometimes require daily or twice-daily irrigation. A minimum size for containers is 10 to 12 inches, with 16 or 18 inches or even larger being more appropriate for large plants such as tomatoes or eggplants. The media must also drain well for most

plants to thrive and yet still hold an adequate amount of water.

Some gardeners prefer soil-less mixes, such as half peat moss and half perlite. Others like the added support of micro-nutrients found in mixes such as one-third garden loam, one-third peat moss, and one-third sharp sand. Many different media can be used successfully. The most important factor is for the gardener to learn how to manage the

media selected, since water and fertilizer requirements vary considerably.

Many vegetables and herbs can create a beautiful effect in the home landscape. Selecting varieties with colored leaves or interesting fruit just add to the interest. Consider enhancing your Fall landscape with a few pots of ornamental vegetables and herbs adding beauty to the garden and tasty treats for the table.

Don't forget to send your garden questions to Plant Answers at 9020 FM 1484, Conroe TX 77303 or e-mail me at [t-leroy@tamu.edu](mailto:t-leroy@tamu.edu).

Educational programs of Texas Cooperative Extension are open to all cit-

izens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, age or national origin.



The 2005 All America Selection Winning Eggplant "Fairy Tale" is a beautiful plant that loads up with attractive miniature fruit held in a large cluster. It's small plant size makes it ideal for container gardens.

*This is an excerpt from a Conroe area newsletter forwarded to me by Louise. Thanks for sharing!*



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

To Forest West Garden Club Member: