



Greenleaf

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Get out your umbrellas because it's going to be raining roses here! At our January general meeting, rosarian Donald Ray Burger, past president of the Houston Rose Society, will talk to us about the "Best Roses in Houston". He has a fantastic website at www.burger.com/garden.htm. It not only covers roses, but all types of Houston gardening as well.

A favorite rose of SLGC members is the Peggy Martin. Mine is growing over a trellis I bought at GAPS 2009. It has a major bloom in spring that lasts about 3 weeks and a minor flowering in fall. I will never forget how hard we worked a few years ago when my garden was going to be on our May garden tour to keep this rose in bloom for weeks past its normal bloom time. My secret? Diligently deadheading every single little bloom each day for weeks. It worked! The things we gardeners do for our flowers. Luckily the entire family helped. You can see the results in the photo below, which was taken the day before the tour.



You have heard of armchair quarterbacks, right? Well, how about an armchair field trip? Join us on Tuesday, January 24, at the [Greatwood Golf Club](#) to hear garden traveler Joan Pritchard take us to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania. Be sure to sign up at the January general meeting.

Also, I hope you will sign up for my workshop on Herbal Bath Salts on Tuesday, February 7. Each attendee will make three types of basic bath salts recipes. Then she can choose from a wide variety of organic mix-ins: essential oils, herbs, botanicals, and colorants. I will lead this workshop in Philippine style! I will never forget a fascinating gardening workshop I attended in the Philippines where I learned how to make a 'living' lava fountain from a gardening master. It was part ceremony, part Zen and part Kumbaya. You will get a kick out of it.

Happy gardening!
Terri

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

By Leslie Niemand



Our Arbor Day celebration will be held on **Tuesday, January 17 at 1:00 p.m.**, after our regular monthly meeting. We will dedicate the Arbor Day trees we have donated to the City of Sugar Land at this brief ceremony. Please meet at the [Pawm Springs Dog Park](#) in Sugar Land Memorial Park, 15300 University Blvd. The park is easy to find. Take the University Blvd. exit off Hwy 59 and go east (if coming from center of Sugar Land, turn left on University Blvd.), past the University of Houston, Sugar Land campus. After 1.7 miles, at the stop light where you cannot continue forward, turn right into the park. Go around the circle to the left and proceed to the parking lot in front of the dog park. (Note: search of Google Maps for 15300 University Blvd. gave the wrong location.)

It is important that we, as club members, take this opportunity to show our support for the City of Sugar Land. Sugar Land Parks and Recreation officials will be attending. Grab a friend from the club, have lunch, and come to the dedication.

PLANT SWAP

Now that winter is here, it may be too cold for you to prepare plants to share at the plant swap. If so, you are invited to bring any garden related items. This includes seeds, pots, stakes, garden ornaments, etc. and of course plants. Remember to gather your treasures after the plant swap if they do not find a new home.



Instead of throwing away the black plastic pots and trays that you may have been accumulating, bring them to the meeting for Lan Shen who will take them to the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center for recycling.

2011-2012 Club Officers

President	Terri Hurley
1 st vice president <i>Programs</i>	Kathy Hradecky
2 nd vice president <i>Membership</i>	Elisabeth Jones Carrie Sample Emilie Wilson
Recording Secretary	Sherrie Strickland
Treasurer	Deborah Birge
Parliamentarian	Mary Ellen Twiss



Dues for SLGC are payable each spring, \$30 for the following year. New members joining June 1 - December 31 shall pay \$30 for the current year. New members joining January 1 - March 31 shall pay \$20 for the current year. For new members joining in April, dues are \$30 and apply to the following garden club year. Each member receives a monthly newsletter and copy of the club yearbook.



The Sugar Land Garden Club of Sugar Land, Texas, publishes the Greenleaf Newsletter monthly except June, July, & December.

Editors
Lan Shen
Jennifer Washam

DEADLINE IS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF PUBLICATION MONTH

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Shen.gcmn@gmail.com or 713-771-1415



DONALD BURGER - JANUARY SPEAKER

By Kathy Hradecky

**Roses Are Red..... Yellow, Pink,
Green, Orange, Purple and More!**

Don't miss **Donald Burger**, our featured speaker, at the **January 17, 2012** general meeting of the Sugar Land Garden Club. Donald is an immediate past president of the Houston Rose Society, a Houston attorney, and a rose gardener extraordinaire. He will get us ready for rose month with his talk, "**Best Roses for Houston.**" Donald authors the famous website, "burger.com" in which he showcases his legal practice as well as his many interests including gardening, roses, model railroading, Cherokees, books, wine, fireflies, food, opinions, history, turtles and more! Please join us for his fantastic and informative presentation, and don't forget to drop by his website! www.burger.com



Logo from the rose page of Burger's website.

FIELD TRIP

By Mary Bates



Come join us for a journey through the 1050 acre horticultural showcase known as Longwood Gardens, southwest of Philadelphia. Joan Pritchard will be sharing some of her slides of 11,000 plants and twenty indoor showrooms. Joan has visited this horticultural haven three times, each during a different season of the year. Come for first a brief visit in the foyer of Greatwood Golf Club beginning at **9:30 a.m.** followed by the slide presentation at 10:00 a.m. Stay and join us in a light lunch of salad or sandwich. Greatwood Golf Club is located at 6767 Greatwood Pkwy, Sugar Land, TX 77479. For more information concerning lunch price and menu or any other questions, please call Mary Bates at 281-565-0201 or 979-255-0350 (cell). See you **Tuesday, January 24.**



HORTICULTURE

By Paula Goodwin

Vermiculture is a recent interest and passion that I learned from our garden club. On one of my first garden club fieldtrips, I heard a talk about keeping a worm bin in the kitchen. I was intrigued. I did some research and looked at prices of worm castings for sale at garden centers. I also consulted with Jennifer Heffner (a former garden club president and ardent worm gardener), Mary Beth McCaughey (another former president), Linda Rippert (a walking encyclopedia about butterflies), and Keep Sugar Land Beautiful's education series. Finally, I decided to buy a worm "Chalet" from a garden catalog. It is basically a stand with four removable layers underlined with mesh material and has a tilted chalet-like top. So Swiss. The idea is to grow worms in the bottom layer and as the castings in that layer fills up, you fill the next layer with bedding and food so the worms will migrate up through the mesh to the second level and so on. Then you can take the first level of castings and composted bedding to use as an organic fertilizer for your container plants and garden beds. Then the worm caregiver can re-load the bottom layer back onto the top level. I would occasionally fish out worms that had dropped down through the mesh to the tea below to rescue them back to their previous home, but then after a while I hardened my heart and did not even try to look for stragglers.

Jennifer gave me my first starter worms in a 5-gallon bucket with these directions, "Add water to coir to create the bedding and then feed". But worms need some tending (not as much as cats and they do not leave fur upon your furniture). I took the "Chalet" to my office in the Municipal Court, when I worked for the City of Sugar Land and tucked it into an obscure corner. My worms had the best of all worlds--the security of our police force, air-conditioning, all the coffee grounds they could eat, the remains and leftovers of all the lunches cleaned out of the refrigerator monthly, and stale birthday cakes galore. Co-workers would leave banana skins on my desk for the worms, although most people did not want to see how these were consumed.

The chalet had a collection basin and faucet on the bottom to drain off the "worm tea", which was excess moisture from the worm bin. I would take this tea and mix it with water to use upon all the co-workers' many desk plants. I would also apply the castings as organic mulch.

The teenagers I worked with then were so clueless. I would pour packaged worm castings into their cupped hands and ask them what they were holding. Dirt was always the answer, and yes it was. Castings? Another big question they could not answer. When I told them it was worm "poo", their reactions were always the same. "Eeeugh" and then they would fling and wipe off any "castings" that might still be on their palms.

These worms are not the kind you find digging in your garden. They are red wigglers. I bought the book "Worms Eat My Garbage", which is a very simple, easy to understand book about their care and feeding.

Continued on column 2.

WORKSHOP

By Brenda Webb

Come join us as Terri Hurley shows how to combine herbs, fragrances, and botanicals for your very own custom made herbal bath salts. Each participant will take home two attractive containers of bath salts, labels, a Korean bath salt bag, and more. Plan on joining us **February 7, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., at the Eldridge Park Community Center Meeting Room, 2511 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land.**



Samples of herbal bath salts that will be made at the February 7 workshop.

Please remember, we are still collecting wine corks at SLGC meetings for a future craft project.



BUTTERFLY GARDEN

By Evelyn Coe

The Sugar Land Garden Club planted and maintains the butterfly garden at the Sugar Land Branch Library at 550 Eldridge Road. Please consider joining the fun one or two times this year. The weeding, pruning, and planting take about one hour once a month. **The next butterfly garden workday is Thursday, January 26** at 8:00 a.m. For more information, contact Evelyn Coe at evelyncoe@earthlink.net or 281-565-9813.

Continued from column 1:

Alas, when I had to bring the "Chalet" back home after my job ended, I really did not have a good place to put them. We shuffled the chalet back and forth from the patio to our kitchen, and when we were gone several weeks in a row, I am afraid most died from malnutrition. Who do you call to come to your house to feed your worms while you are away? Thus the feeding cycle was interrupted by our absence. Temperatures varied too much for us to keep up with the hauling of the chalet, inside to outside and vice versa. So now I am just left with their remains, "castings", and their very dusty home.

All of the bedding I used came from several file boxes of past New York Times Book Reviews that I had stockpiled in a closet. These volumes were yellowed, aged, and crumbly, even before I ran them through a shredder. The consequent shreds turned out to be excellent bedding material (earthworms love newspaper). So—as you can already guess—I had "Book Worms".

GARDEN CLUB PERSONALITY

By Leslie Niemand



Hi, my name is Leslie Niemand. I have been a member of the garden club since 2000. I grew up in California and much of my career was spent with IBM. After I took early retirement from IBM, I had a consulting practice in California for several years. My husband and I moved from the San Francisco Bay Area to Sugar Land in 1997.

I have always been interested in gardening. But until I moved here, I never had significant time to devote to it. My first year here was spent building our home. Then, with a new yard to care for, I quickly learned that Texas was very different and that my gardening knowledge and experience from California were not enough. In 2000, I became a Master Gardener. Master Gardener classmates invited me to attend a SLGC meeting. When I finally did, as they say, the rest is history.

My garden is currently in a rebuilding stage. The frosts of the last two winters, followed by the heat and drought this past year, have taken a toll. Windstorms have toppled several trees, and there is sunshine where there used to be shade. All this requires changes and presents new opportunities. I prefer gardening with perennials, and prefer plants that stay in their place - not the kind that take over the world.

In the garden club, I have held a number of positions, which have given me the opportunity to work closely with other members and to get to know them better. I have been horticultural chair, membership co-chair, hospitality co-chair, served on the field trip committee and been field trip chair. I have served on the Garden Tour committee and as treasurer for the GAPS committee. I am currently the Arbor Day chair and the Fort Bend Master Gardener representative to the club.

Besides gardening, my other interests include photography, travel, cooking, reading, and needlework.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Razia Anwar
Sally Berlocher
Sue Blodgett

HOSPITALITY

By Jean Waleke

We want to thank **Emilie Wilson** for volunteering to be Host Chair this month. She is responsible for arranging for our refreshments and meeting setup. We also want to thank all the members who signed up to co-host this month.

FORT BEND MASTER GARDENER

By Leslie Niemand

The Fort Bend Master Gardener meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 19**. Social time is at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. This month's speaker is [John Panzarella](#), a citrus and fruit expert and hybridizer. His talk titled *Citrus and Fruit for This Area* is expected to last until 8:30 p.m. The meeting location is the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Rd., Rosenberg.



Saturday, February 11 is the FBMG Annual Fruit Tree sale held at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds in Rosenberg from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. There will not be a Pre-Sale talk on the day of the sale. A list of plants to be sold will be available shortly on the FB Master Gardener website, fbmg.com. The Pre-Sale talk will be held on **Saturday, February 4** from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1300 Band Rd., Rosenberg. The Pre-Sale talk will highlight plants from the upcoming sale, plant selection and planting information.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

SLCG at Brookwood Community



We had a wonderful day working at Brookwood Community during this beautiful holiday season. We enjoyed working with the residents and then did some holiday shopping in the spectacular gift shop. The weather cooperated so we enjoyed our box lunch from the Brookwood Cafe in the lovely outdoor garden.

Thank you all for participating!



Diana Miller, Brookwood Volunteer Coordinator
Sugar Land Garden Club
713-724-3113

Next Volunteer Date: March 1, 2012

If you enjoyed this opportunity, please tell other members. Our next date will be just in time for Spring!



Tricia Thompson's photos of our 2011 Christmas Party has been posted at <https://picasaweb.google.com/mySLGCphotos/ChristmasParty2011#>. See her many beautiful photos of the people, the food, the entertainment, the table decorations, and our game!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Lighthouse for the Blind - Fort Bend Women's Center - East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry

by Debe Fannin

SLGC raised \$748 as our Christmas donation to the **Fort Bend Women's Center**. The director thanked us for the donation which will be used to purchase nonperishable foods for the mothers and children.

Please stop by the Community Service table where Debe Fannin and Beth Phelps have free handouts about our service to **The Lighthouse for the Blind**. The handouts list which products have labels that you can save to raise money for the Lighthouse. If you normally buy these products, it is an easy way to help the visually impaired in our community.

In March and April, SLGC will take part in the **Feinstein Challenge**, which aids hunger fighting agencies in the U.S. For thirteen years, Allan Feinstein has donated one million dollars each year to food pantries. The more money we raise, the more money **East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry** will receive. SLGC will match our members' donations up to \$750.

The East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry receives funds from the **Tri-City Resale Shop**, which is next door. The resale shop is located at 425 Stafford Run, Stafford, TX 77477. Please consider donating items to the resale shop. All proceeds from the sale of donated items are given to EFBHNM. The resale shop is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Free pick up is available for large items such as furniture. Call 281-499-8833.

SUGAR LAND EVENTS



FARMERS MARKET AT IMPERIAL. The market has been such a success, it has been made year-round! Presented by the Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce, it will run every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., rain or shine, at 198 Kempner St. (just north of Highway 90 and Brooks Street).

Visitors can purchase local cheeses, fresh baked goods, jam, honey, fresh-cut flowers and more. Enchanted Gardens nursery design professionals will be on hand to answer landscaping questions and offer whimsical holiday gifts for the gardener in the family. Live music, cooking demonstrations by area chefs, children's activities and appearances by the Sugar Land Skeeters mascot are planned, turning this traditional Farmers Market into a festival of food and fun.

SUGAR LAND HERITAGE HIKE. Wouldn't it be nice to spend a leisurely Saturday on a walk through a leafy historic neighborhood, while learning a little bit about Sugar Land history? Join the **Sugar Land Heritage Foundation** as they present a monthly **Heritage Hike** each **second Saturday of the month**. The walk is about 1-1/2 miles and takes one and one-half hours. The next tour is February 11. Costs are \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens, and free for children under 12. The Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and all proceeds go to the Heritage Foundation. For tour reservations, contact Eleanor Barton at 281-494-0261. For information on special group tours, which may be scheduled during the week, contact Marsha Smith at 281-491-1621 or msmith@halpc.org.



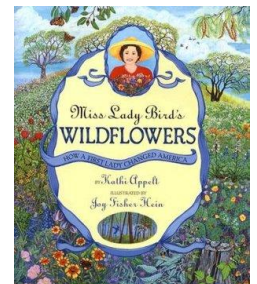
URBAN HARVEST FARMERS' MARKET at Sugar Land Town Square. **Thursdays, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at 2711 Town Center Boulevard North.

LIBRARY DONATIONS

By Kathy Hradecky

Sugar Land Garden Club purchases and donates gardening, birding, and nature books for the Fort Bend County Library System, to be shelved at the Sugar Land Branch Library. This year we are going to **emphasize** children's books. If you have any titles (adult or children) to suggest, please send them to Kathy Hradecky (kathy-fh@comcast.net) or Lan Shen (shen.gcmn@gmail.com). **We would like to make our purchases by March of 2012, so please get your suggestions in as soon as possible.**

One book suggestion is "Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers" by Kathi Appelt.





Don's Bug Corner

Sugar Land Garden Club member Don Johnson, an occasional contributor to the Greenleaf writing on garden insects, is a member of the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners' Entomology Group and gives talks on insects. He is also a member of the local Coastal Prairie Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists.

WHERE DO INSECTS GO IN WINTER?

By Don Johnson

When the weather gets cold in winter we bundle up with sweaters and coats and turn up the thermostat at home. But, what do the insects do in the cold winter?

Depending on the species, there are various actions taken by insects to cope with the seasonal changes. The most familiar is the migration of the monarch butterflies. They leave the northern part of the country and head to Mexico. Other butterflies migrate, but nothing like the 2000 miles covered by monarchs.

Praying Mantids have a different way of surviving the winter. In the fall, the female will lay an egg case that will overwinter until the spring when fifty to one hundred little mantids will emerge. You might see an egg case on a fence or attached to a trellis.

The dragonfly will lay eggs in water and the nymph will stay in the water or under the ice for months or years. In fact, the dragonfly spends most of its life under water. When it is time to transition to an adult it will climb up a weed and emerge.

Some insects are able to produce a chemical called glycerol, which protects their body cells from freeze damage and enables them to withstand temperatures below freezing. When temperatures warm, the production of glycerol lessens.

In the winter, honeybees become semi-active. They live on the stored honey. When temperatures go below 50 degrees they gather into a ball using their collective body heat to surround and protect the queen. When the temperatures get even colder the bees get closer together to keep the center of the ball warm.

Some insects will just go deeper into the soil to gain protection from the cold. Others will enter a state of diapause, somewhat like hibernation, which will reduce their metabolic rate and temporarily stop growth, just enough to keep them alive. Still others will try to move in with people or into the siding of the house.

With our erratic daily temperatures insects must be confused as to what to do next.



Praying mantis egg cases



dragonfly larvae

Photos by Don Johnson

Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise stated, all events are open to the public.

SLGC General Meeting

Tuesday, January 17
Social 9:30 a.m.; program 10:00 a.m.
Best Roses for Houston by Donald Burger, immediate past president of the Houston Rose Society
Knights of Columbus Hall, 702 Burney Road 77498

SLGC Arbor Day Celebration

Tuesday, January 17, 1:00 p.m.
Dedication of our Arbor trees, gifted to City of Sugar Land
Pawm Springs Dog Park in Sugar Land Memorial Park
See page 1 for more information

Fort Bend Master Gardeners

Thursday, January 19, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., program
Citrus and Fruit for This Area by John Panzarella, a citrus and fruit expert and hybridizer
Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Road, Rosenberg 77471

Native Plant Society of Texas - Houston

Thursday, January 19, 7:15 p.m.,
MOTHS (Why we need them and how to garden and create habitats for them using native plants) by Katy Emde
Free and open to the public.
Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
4501 Woodway in Memorial Park 77024

SLGC Fieldtrip

Tuesday, January 24,
Social 9:30 a.m.; program 10:00 a.m.
Trip via Joan Pritchard's slides to Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania.

Greatwood Golf Club, 6767 Greatwood Pkwy, Sugar Land, TX 77479.

Staying for light lunch of salad or sandwich is optional.
Contact Mary Bates for price and menu.

SLGC Butterfly Garden Workday

Thursday, January 26, 8:00 a.m.
Sugar Land Branch Library, 550 Eldridge 77478
For more information, contact Evelyn Coe

Fort Bend Master Gardeners

Saturday, February 4, 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Pre-Sale Talk for Fruit, Nut, & Citrus Tree Sale
Free and informative presentation highlighting plants for the upcoming sale (on 2/11), plant selection, and planting information
Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Road, Rosenberg 77471

SLGC Workshop

Tuesday, February 7, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Herbal Bath Salts by Terri Hurley
Eldridge Park Community Center, Meeting Room
2511 Eldridge Road, Sugar Land, TX 77478

Houston Federation of Garden Clubs

Friday, February 10, 9:30 a.m.,
Painting with Paper: An Ancient Technique Made New, by Barbara Harmer
Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr. 77004

Fort Bend Master Gardeners

Fruit, Nut, & Citrus Tree Sale
Saturday, February 11, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Fort Bend County Fairgrounds
4310 Highway 36, Rosenberg

Sugar Land Heritage Hike (See p. 5)

Saturday, February 11
Meet at 198 Kempner St., Sugar Land 77498

Fort Bend Master Gardeners

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., program
Lessons from a Rose Rustler by Mike Shoup, rose expert and owner of the Antique Rose Emporium
Bud O'Shieles Community Center
1330 Band Road, Rosenberg 77471

SLGC General Meeting

Tuesday, February 21,
Social 9:30 a.m.; program 10:00 a.m.
Small and Ornamental Trees for the Houston Area by Linda Gay, former director and horticulturist of Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.
Knights of Columbus Hall, 702 Burney Road 77498

Farmers Market At Imperial (See p. 5)

Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
198 Kempner St., Sugar Land 77498



PHOTO CREDITS

- p. 1: [clay pots, garden ornament](#)
- p. 2: Photo of Donald Burger from his website
- p. 4: citrus: [left](#), [right](#)
- p. 7: (above) Photo of November meeting by Terri Hurley. More photos are posted in [Current Month's Greenleaf Photos](#) at <https://picasaweb.google.com/mySLGCphotos>