



Proud member of National Garden Clubs,  
Texas Garden Clubs, and District V  
*The nation plants, designs,  
and works to help the  
environment - together!!!*

Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, September –  
May  
9:30 – 11:30 at College Station WW Facility  
2200 North Forest Parkway College Station, TX  
77845

**NEWSLETTER : FEB. 2017**

### CALENDAR FEB/MAR

Feb 3: AMGC Board Meeting 1-3 CSWWF  
Feb 10: Regular monthly meeting-Program by  
Sharon Wells, Earth Gallery Farms “Integrating  
Fish into your Grden” – all about aquaponics.  
Feb 11-12: BCS Home and Garden Show  
Feb 25: BCMG Rainwater Harvesting Seminar  
**Feb 27-28: Landscape Design School**  
Mar 3: AMGC Joint Board Meeting 13 CSWWF  
Mar 9: District V Meeting, Kempner, TX  
Mar 10: Regular monthly meeting-Program By  
Dr. Thomas Lacher on Beneficial Bats.  
Mar 29 AMGC 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday tea



NGC: [www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
TGC: [www.texasgardenclubs.org](http://www.texasgardenclubs.org)

### 2016-2017 OFFICERS

#### Texas Garden Club of the Year (Bronze) 2013, 2014, 2015

President  
Helen Quinn

VP Programs:  
Michelle Ramotowski

VP Yearbook  
Sherry McKenzie

VP Community Events  
Sherry Ellison

VP Hospitality  
Greta Merritt

Recording Secretary  
Pat Pierson

Corresponding Secretary  
Joyce Wilkinson

Treasurer  
Debbie Puetz

Historian  
Jane Cohen

Reporter  
Janice Swarz

Parliamentarian  
Michele Wehrheim

Member at Large  
Mary Aasterud

Immediate Past President  
Helen Quinn

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**HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS TO :**  
Carolyn P-5<sup>th</sup>, Greta M-15<sup>th</sup>, Kay H-15<sup>th</sup>, Norma  
R-15, Shirley B-17<sup>th</sup>



### JANUARY IN REVIEW

Members enjoyed a great program on flower arrangements for spring by Tricia Barksdale. Lucky members received door prizes of the finished arrangements.



Idalia and Suzanne were both presented with certificates recognizing their 20 year membership in Garden Clubs, although both have more than 20 years.



Members were offered "grab bags" of Iris rhizomes which had been graciously donated to the club. We'll expect to see lots of pictures when flowering season comes around!

### FEBRUARY IN THE GARDEN

**PLAN:** Start a garden diary with places for botanical names, dates for planting, fertilizing and blooming. Decide what to plant for constant color in the garden.

**PRUNE:** If plants were injured by freezing, wait until all danger of further frost has passed before pruning. Otherwise, roses, grape vines, summer-blooming shrubs.

**PLANT:** Dahlia, Dutch iris, cornflower, cosmos, daisy, larkspur, nasturtium, petunia, phlox, pinks, scabiosa, water lily seeds, cuttings of hardwoods, chrysanthemums, ivy and climbing fig. Perennials may be divided and set in their new positions if not done in the fall.

**FERTILIZE AND MULCH:** Gardenias, blooming bulbs, nandina and other shrubs and trees.

**SPRAY AND DUST:** Any plants showing scale that were not sprayed in January should be sprayed with dormant oil.

**WEATHER PROTECTION :** Keep plants in good condition by watering, but not enough to activate growth. Remember – the last average freeze date is March 2, so don't be in a hurry!!

**BLOOMING:** Flowering Quince (Chaenomoles Japonica), pansies, pinks, snapdragon, sweet peas.

**VEGETABLES:** Sow outside: redishes, spinach, lettuce, chard, mustard, turnips, beets, carrots, and sweet corn. Transplant onion, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower. Move tomatoe, eggplant and pepper plants to a cold frame. Start "chitting" potatoes to plant in March.

### POTATO CHITTING – HOW AND WHY!

**Chitting** is a method of preparing potatoes or other tubers for planting. The seed potatoes are placed in a tray (often in egg cartons) in a light and cool place and given a little water. All but three or four of the "eyes" (sprouting parts) of the potato are removed, leaving the strongest growths only. After the sprouts are about 1 inch

(2.5 cm) long, the seed potatoes are planted in the ground.

Chitting is basically “pre-sprouting”, and was always done by the old-timers in order to promote earlier growth and, therefore, earlier harvest. Some modern-day gardeners question the usefulness of this practice, but it is always fun to watch the potatoes’ progress on the windowsill!



### **80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Tea**

At our January meeting (and until all the seats are gone) we will have sheets available for signup if you plan to attend this tea at Martha’s Bloomers on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Please be sure to bring your checkbooks – we need your money to accept your reservation! \$18 per person (club will pay the tip.) Since seating is limited to 42 max, reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, and will be for members only.

At our final meeting of the Garden Club Year in May 2017 we will have a Pot Luck lunch and a Birthday Cake provided by the club, as well as Installation of Officers for 2017-2018, and “surprises.”

### **Valentine Card-making workshop**

Members gathered on January 27 at Judy’s house to make cards to be delivered with Meals-on-Wheels to residents of Crestview Home for Valentine’s Day.



### **Landscape Design School**

**February 27-28**

Sign-up sheets will be available at our January and February meetings. Newer members of the club are invited to come to help with this – it is always a lot of fun, and it is an opportunity to meet members of other Garden Clubs, Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists – all those who are interested in plants, landscapes and wildlife.

### **OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER:**

February 17-18 – Environmental Studies School, Old Fort Parker, Groesbeck

February 19-20 – Environmental Studies School, Old Fort Parker, Groesbeck

**March 9 - District V Spring Meeting, Kempner**

March 25 – The Big Event, Richard Carter Park, College Station

**April 18-21- TGC Spring Convention, Odessa**

April 28-29 – SCR Convention, Albuquerque NM

May 16-17-NGC Spring Convention Richmond va

## FLOWER SHOW UPDATES

### 2017 Flower Show Chairs

On Monday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m. there will be a meeting for all 14 Flower Show Chairs. Please meet at our AMGC regular monthly meeting place - The College Station Waste Water Treatment Facility in the big meeting room. We will plan, ask questions, and set up a schedule of work thru May 5.

### NGC Flower Show Horticulture Policies:

- A. All plant material entered in the Horticulture Division of a Standard Flower Show must be fresh and have been grown by the exhibitor.
- B. Exhibits must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for no fewer than **90 days**. Exception: plants grown from seed, seedling or immature (young) transplants. Combination plantings must have been grown together for no fewer than **6 weeks**.
- C. Plant material entered in a Standard Flower Show may not be altered by the application (treatment) of oil, commercial "shine" products, etc. that may artificially change the natural color and texture.

90 days = February 3  
6 weeks = February 24

## WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM IN BRYAN

Who: Brazos County Master Gardeners  
What: "Blue is the New Gold" – a water conservation program  
When: February 25, 2017, 9:30am – 2:30pm  
Where: Brazos Center – 3232 Briarcrest Drive, Bryan, TX 77802  
Cost: \$45 per person - [See brazosmg.com](http://brazosmg.com) for registration form and additional information

## ROUND TOP HERBAL FORUM/PLANT SALE



Field trip details TBA  
March 17. Car pool!

## **MONARCH MOMENT**

Members met at Richard Carter Park on Jan.26 to plan the next planting of native plants and milkweeds for the Monarchs. Photos by Jane C.



Members picked up milkweed seeds to sow, so we'll be ready to welcome the Monarchs on their return!

Butterflies in the Brazos is planning the next community butterfly meeting, probably late March, early April. Stay tuned for more info!!

## **THE LAST WORD**

I do hope some of you will consider coming to the District Spring Meeting in Kempner, TX on March 9, and to the Texas State Convention in Odessa, TX April 18-21. We will be car pooling so no one needs worry about "how to get there"! These events are a great way to meet fellow garden clubbers from across the state, and you know, we always have fun! More later!

Helen