

A&M GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

CLUB MEETINGS

Sept-May: 2ND Fridays 9:30-11:30am (we are holding virtual meetings via Zoom until further notice)

CLUB EVENTS

Oct 2, 9:30 am - Board meeting (virtual) via Zoom

Oct 9, 9:30 am General Member meeting (virtual) via Zoom

Oct 9 3:45-5:30 pm Plant Giveaway at Peace Lutheran.

Oct 30 11:00 am Coffee & Brunch Get together at The Kyle House in Bryan

October's Pilgrimage (date TBD) to John Fairey Garden in Hempstead.



Upcoming Club Activities

October Meeting & Program (via Zoom):

Friday, October 9, 2020: Meeting of the A&M Garden Club at 9:30 am

Meeting might be followed by the "**Designs from your Garden**," program presented by Lisa Whittlesey, JMG Program Coordinator at AgriLife Extension (pending confirmation)

Zoom **login** details will be sent to members 1 week prior to the meeting.

We promote the love of gardening, floral design & horticulture through garden-related projects and educational programs



SOCIAL MEDIA

- WEB: www.amgardenclub.com
- FACEBOOK: [@AMGardenClub](https://www.facebook.com/AMGardenClub)

[A&M Garden Club Group: Horticulture, Design, Landscape & More](#)

Members of National Garden Club; South Central Region; Texas Garden Clubs & District V. Gold Club (TGC Designation)

Co-presidents October Patch

Sherry Ellison and Michele Wehrheim - Co-presidents

From Sherry:

During these times when many of us are sheltering in place and limiting social contact, it makes me happy to see that we can be creative and conduct some activities in a safe way.

Lisa Rives of Peace Lutheran Church emailed to say that their fellowship hall will still be under construction in October. We will be having the AMGC October 9 general meeting on Zoom. We are truly glad to have Zoom to stay in touch!

Johanna and her friend prepared 30 pots of small aloe plants to give to Meals on Wheels this past week. The staff was very glad that we called and brought the plants. Their meal recipients had already asked them if we would bring more! Shall we plan to do this again? They like plants!

We would also like to take plants to the Peace Lutheran Church on Friday, October 9th in coordination with their distribution of food from the Brazos Valley Food Bank. We will begin taking plants to give away after 3:30 p.m. that day at the church.

All of my garden plants are thrilled by the rain. I have many 4 o'clocks blooming now! I am about to plant small turnip plants, which should be ready to pull to cook in 36 days. What plants do you pick now?

From Michele:

The cooler weather has helped to renew my enthusiasm for gardening, and I was happy to see in my front yard flower beds that my rose-pink gaura plants have begun to rebloom for the first time since early spring.

On September 17th, as "gardeners on the go", we had the lavender fields all to ourselves at the Chappell Hill Lavender Farm. Debbie McDowell and her staff supplied us with baskets and shears and invited us to roam freely and cut as many blooms as we wished.

Our tour of the John Fairey Garden (formerly Peckerwood) in Hempstead, will be in mid-October; information about the date, time and carpool will be forthcoming in the next few days.

Don't forget to pluck and press your flower petals and leaves to use in botanical art creations for our Specialty Show in March. Hope to see you all at the Zoom meeting on October 9th and praying that we can all meet face to face in November!





RECENT CLUB ACTIVITIES

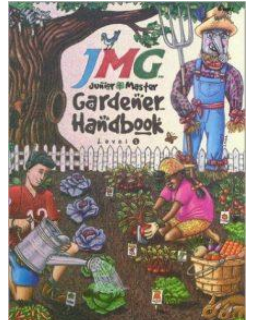
Plant Giveaway - We held another successful and fun Plant Giveaway at Peace Lutheran Church on 9/11 to share houseplants, vegetable transplants, flowers and seeds with BV Food Bank beneficiaries. Members brought a selection of over 100 plants and both adults & kids stopped by our table to adopt plants to take home.



Pilgrimage - Five club members had a lovely day at the Chappell Hill Lavender Farm on 9/17. They picked lavender, learned about its cultural requirements, shopped at the store, and ended the field trip with a delicious lunch at Bevers Kitchen in Chappell Hill.



Sharing the love - Helen Quinn won a large set of Junior Master Gardener books at a training event. She donated several to a friend who helps coordinate **gardening activities for kids** in Waller County. Johanna Roman worked with a couple of her neighbors to divide & plant Aloe vera "pups." Sherry Ellison delivered them to the local **Meals on Wheels** center in Bryan along with a note on how to care for them. Johanna thanked her neighbors by leaving Fall herb bouquets in their front doors.





FROM THE BOARD

The AMGC Board meets every other month. Upcoming meeting dates are Oct 2nd, Dec 4th, Feb 5th, March 5th, and May 7th. Committee Chairs or members wishing to present updates can ask to join our Board Meetings. Let Johanna know if you need the Zoom login information. We welcome Suzanne Milstead as a new Board Member.

Board Members: **Co-presidents** Michele Wehrheim & Sherry Ellison **VP - Programs** Lyndie Lyndie; **VP - Community Events** Suzanne Milstead; **VP - Yearbook** Ann Gundy; **VP - Hospitality** Martha Green; **Treasurer** Susie Ohendalski; **Reporter** Johanna Roman; **Recording Secretary** Helen Quinn; **Corresponding Secretary** Linda Kenyon; **Parliamentarian** Susan Williams.

Monthly Gardening Tasks for the Brazos Valley



PLAN: To order bulbs not bought last month. Pot up plants to add color indoors during the winter.

PRUNE: Cuttings of shrimp plant may be taken now for winter house plants. Root-prune wisteria that failed to bloom. Apply superphosphate, fill cuts with soil or peat and water thoroughly.

PLANT: Madonna, calla, Easter and regal lilies, amaryllis, anemone, ranunculus, and strawberry plants. Divide Shasta daisy, ajuga, forget-me-nots. Plant all hardy annuals, sweet pea and pansy. Transplant seedlings that are large enough. Day lilies and amaryllis may be divided and replanted.

FERTILIZE AND MULCH: Mums with liquid manure. Lawns and roses. Add superphosphate to day lilies, wisteria. Add compost to beds.

INSECT AND DISEASE PROBLEMS: Continue to watch for scale, stink bugs, leaf-footed bugs, squash bugs and others.

BLOOMING: Cosmos, mums, dahlia, plumbago, roses, alliums, pyracantha, Michaelmas daisy.

VEGETABLES: Sow spinach, turnips, collards, mustard, lettuce, beets, kale, onions and radishes.



REMINDERS & IMPORTANT DATES - *Dates listed may change due to COVID-19 regulations

Oct 16, 2020 – Youth Contest entries are due. Chair: Jane Cohen

Oct 18-20, 2020 – TGC Fall Convention in Kerrville, TX

Oct 26, 2020 – District V Meeting. San Gabriel Park Facility in Georgetown, TX.

Oct 30, 2020 – Coffee & Brunch – come & go from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Chair: Heather White – Join club members for coffee at The Kyle House in Bryan, TX - www.downtownbryan.com/the-kyle-house.

District V Workshop – Change of date. Now on 6/16/21, still at Peace Lutheran Church.

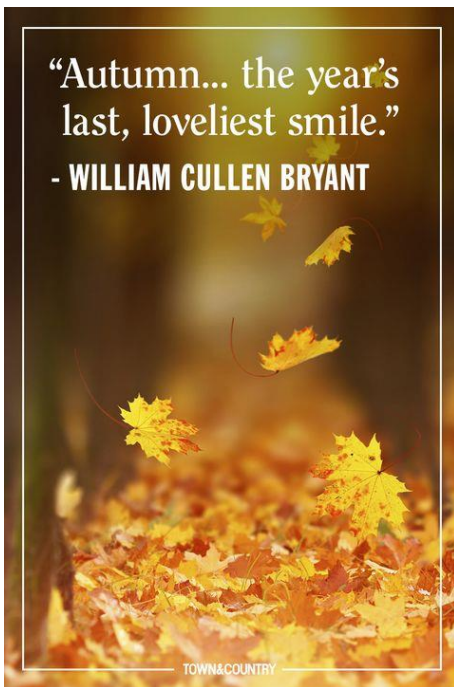
Pilgrimage

VISIT THE SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST

By Heather White

John Fairey Garden in Hempstead. <https://jfgarden.org/>

Established by John Fairey in 1971, The John Fairey Garden (formerly Peckerwood Garden) is an extraordinary preservation garden on 39 acres near Hempstead, Texas. The garden is widely acclaimed for the originality of its design, its education and conservation programs, and comprises an exceptional collection of over 3,000 plants, including many endangered and rare plants from Mexico, North America, and Asia.



Visit <https://jfgarden.org/>

Michele W will send an email to members with more details.

The **Sam Houston National Forest** is one of four National Forests in Texas – the others are Angelina NF, Davy Crockett NF, and Sabine NF, plus the Caddo National Grassland and LBJ National Grassland. They are administered through a central office in Lufkin, TX. Sam Houston NF was established October 13, 1936 (it's birthday is coming up!). The forest contains 163,037 acres between Huntsville, Conroe, Cleveland and Richards, Texas. It is intermingled with privately owned farms and land. The Ranger's Office is located three miles west of New Waverly on FM 1375. Humans have occupied this area at least 12,000 years. More recently, Native American tribes who were primarily hunters and gatherers with some degree of agricultural activity, lived here. Unfortunately, due to disease and the encroaching pressure of European settlers, the native population was gone by the early 1800's. The Sam Houston NF is managed with multiple-use concept where recreation, fish and wildlife, timber, grazing, soil and water, and minerals are balanced to maintain benefits and provide for the public needs. There are extensive hiking trails, there are campgrounds with RV hookups, and access to Lake Conroe. Canoes and paddleboats can be rented at Double Lake. Fishing, hunting and boating are all allowed in some areas of this National Forest. There are areas that are pet friendly and many walk their dogs (on a leash of course) when they hike. Of note the Gulf Coast Trades Center/Raven School, a charter school operated by the nonprofit GCTS Inc.), is a center for adjudicated children, who can learn construction trades at this facility. It serves as a contract facility for the state juvenile prison system. The Ranger's Office has very interesting wood carvings of an eagle and forest firefighter, as well as information and pamphlets. The drive from College Station takes about an hour and there are several routes including Hwy 30, Hwy 6 to 105 through Navasota.



The National Forests are supported by the NGC Penny Pines program. This program allows individuals or organizations to donate in \$68 increments to reforest the NF of the United States. The program plants native species at the direction of the Forest Supervisor. You may specify a NF or a State that you want funds to go to, and you can do the donation in honor of one person or an organization. See www.gardenclub.org, tool bar to Programs, then Penny Pines.

Additional Sources: USDA US Forest Service, Sam Houston National Forest, and Trip Advisor Websites.

Remember to contact Helen Quinn if you need the password to access the password-protected pages on our website