

November 2022



There was a flurry of activity at the November LF garden club meeting, the last general meeting of the year. People were greeted by **Tammy** and as they moved along the line, **Dawn** collected the last vouchers of the Plant Sale and **Lois** accepted checks for the Christmas luncheon.

Judy, in charge of community outreach, collected food donation for local food pantries. Members generously contributed items and



soon a mountain of cans and other non-perishable items crowded the reception area.



Jay White, editor of the **'Texas Gardener'** magazine and our presenter at last month's meeting, sent us free samples of his magazines.

Harolene made sure everyone was getting a copy.



Donna Stephens welcomed our guest, **Beth Elington**.

Hospitality



Refreshments were provided by hostesses, **Annette Andrew, Marilyn Bullen, Terri Cole, Becky Bailey** and **Tammy Delforge**. As usual, the ladies arranged an artfull Fall harverst table with colorful leaves, cornicopias, turkeys and of course delicious snacks.



Meditation

Autumn Months

*O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of
the seasons.*

*As we welcome the autumn months,
may the earlier setting of the sun
remind us to take time to rest.*



*May the brilliant colors of the leaves
remind us of the wonder of your creation.*

*May the steam of our breath in the cool air
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.*

*May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been
given and bounty we are to share with others.*

*May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is
temporary and life is eternal.*

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

- Author Unknown



Program



Carol, our parliamentarian had to ring the bell several times to get our attention for the program to begin.

Today **Wally Wilkins** and **Kara Humphrey**, both on staff at '**The John Fairey Garden**' in Hempstead, Texas, came to visit with us and tell us about the gardens



created by **John Fairey**, an artist, design professor and plant explorer.



John started his private garden in 1971 on seven acres of land. He envisioned a landscape different from the traditional southern gardens planted with azaleas, camelias and yaupons.

In 1998, his garden was named a 'Preservation



Garden of the Garden Conservancy', whose mission is to preserve, share, and celebrate America's gardens and diverse gardening traditions for the education and inspiration of the public.

A foundation was formed to operate the garden for the public. The gradual acquisition of more land expanded the garden to about 40 acres and features rare, drought-tolerant plants native to the southern United States and the remote mountains of Mexico as well as regions in Asia.

The variety of these plants, also well-suited to the climate of central Texas and the Texas gulf coast, include agaves, palms, cactus, ferns, shrubs, magnolias, oaks, and many other species collected by John and his colleagues during their numerous plant expeditions to Mexico.





On his many trips to Mexico, John learned to appreciate the native culture and incorporated much of Mexican folk art in his gardens.

After his death in 2020, the ownership and management of the gardens went to 'The John Fairey Garden Conservation Foundation'. The continued mission of the foundation is to preserve, share, and

advance the horticultural and artistic legacy of John Fairey, ensuring the garden will remain as John intended.

As we learned, from Wally and Kara, of the 40 acres only about 17 acres are developed. New plants are constantly added to the garden, many of them grown from seeds that John collected on his journeys.



The nursery is a vital part of *The John Fairey Garden*. Offering these exotic plants to individual gardeners promotes John's commitment to preserve rare, threatened, and unusual plants, relevant to our area of central and southeast Texas. Plants that thrive in our soil and climate have been carefully selected from around the world and sensitively woven into the Garden.

The public is invited to visit the gardens and purchase these rare plants at the nursery. Special events to promote the gardens are held throughout the year. The best time to visit is Fall and Winter. Tours are available and volunteers are needed and appreciated. An annual membership offers perks within the gardens as well as with nurseries around the area. More information can be found on their website:

<https://jfgarden.org/>



Wally brought with him several plant specimens he discussed during the presentation. Members that answered some of his questions correctly received these plants.



Pam Randall was one lucky winner receiving a variety of Salvia.

A Mexican oak sapling was given to **Eleese**. We learned of several interesting oak varieties native to Mexico that also grow well in our area.



Everyone greatly enjoyed the presentation and plans are in the works to visit the gardens in the following year.

The meeting continued with **Tammy Delforge** reporting that 38 members were present today.

Margo announced that a fig tree will be purchased by the club and donated to REACH unlimited for Arbor Day celebration.

She also informed us that REACH residents are harvesting and selling honey extracted from their beehives.

Terri Cole reminded us of volunteer opportunities at Brookwood to help with sleeving poinsettias for holiday sale.





With the holidays coming up, several charities are in need of donations. Pat Gauger encouraged members to again donate to 'Wreaths Across America'. The wreaths purchased by groups and individuals will be placed on the graves of soldiers buried at the National Cemeteries in early December.

Horticulture



Bette Gerhold asked members to bring samples of flowers blooming at their garden. The collection displayed included: Turk's cap, Salvia, Confederate rose, and other unidentified



specimens. One specimen admired by all was a tall cactus covered in its own veil.



Bette demonstrated the preparation of Plumerias for the winter. As the plant is not cold hardy growing plumerias in our climate special care must be taken to ensure its survival. The falling leaves indicate it is ready to enter dormancy. At that point the plant can be left in the soil in its pot, or be uprooted and stored in a dry, cool place, like a garage. No more watering is required until spring. However, if the stem looks shriveled, a light misting may be applied. As the leaves start to sprout again, watering is required and the plant can be replanted in rich potting soil.

Cathy Rogers showed the group her many crafty ideas for recycling some antiques one may find around the house. A green glass jar served as an attractive flower pot for a plant. She melted wax into an orange jar, added a wick and created an inexpensive candle. Both items will surely decorate any holiday table.

