

April 2024

As the members of the Lakewood Forest garden club gathered, more and more plants appeared outside the Scout House for the plant swap. Cuttings of cherished plants, vegetables and herbs grown from seeds were just some of the offerings.

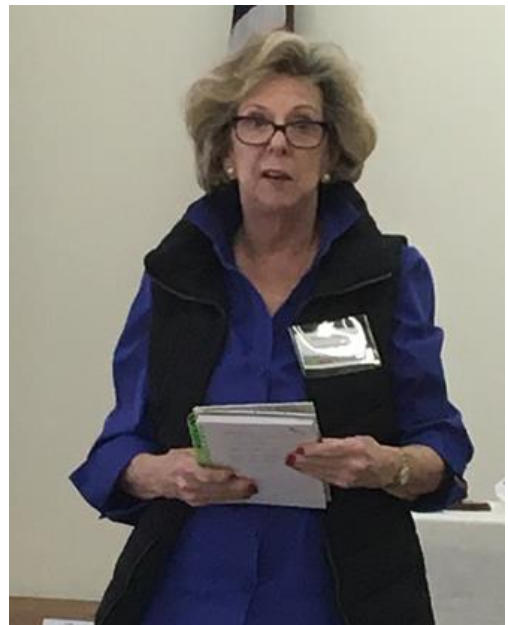


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Susan Hanson proactively asked members to sign up for hosting duties next year. A group of 5-6 members will volunteer to host the monthly meetings, provide refreshments and set a seasonal buffet table.





Ladies from the Norchester Garden club were invited to sell plant vouchers for 'Plants for all Season' and hand-crafted garden knick-knacks to our members. This is their annual fundraiser. We will be fundraising at their club in the Fall.

The social hour was very lively, as always. New members and guest were introduced, old friends were embraced and refreshments were enjoyed.



Hospitality

The ladies of the hospitality committee set a colorful table and provided a variety of delicious food items.



Susan Busler, Jean Robinson, Cathy Rogers, Carolyn Calvert and Pat Gauger used their creativity and culinary skills to bring us nourishment for the eyes and the tummy.



Jean created these artistic fruit trays.

The centerpiece was artfully assembled.



Meditation

Good and gracious God,

*There is real wisdom in the adage of
'It is always Springtime in the heart of those that love You'!*

*Winter with its cold and dark short days has passed.
As we greet the renewal signs of spring in nature around us:
Once again the bursting of our gardens into colorful bloom,
Melodious songs of returning birds as they ready their nests,
Overtumed fields ready to grow crops to nourish our bodies.
We give you praise for the rebirth of Spring.*

*We give you praise for the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ.
We thank you for the continued rebirth and restoration
that refreshes our soul.
Spring time gives us a season of hope and optimism.*

*Allow us to grow in strength and beauty
just as You grow the flowers, vegetables and fruits in our gardens.*

*May we be beautiful blossoms that reflect
the love and blessings that You shower on us each day*

AMEN



Program



Barbara Crum introduced our speaker, Susan Gilbert, past president of the Houston Rose Society and expert Rosarian. Her Power Point presentation was titled: 'Right Rose Right Place'. The topic included:

- The benefits of growing roses
- How to grow healthy roses
- Choosing the right rose
- Using correct tools.

Many roses bloom year around and provide continuous color and fragrance in the garden. Roses come in many shapes and sizes and have different characteristics.

Knowing the eventual size of a rose bush will determine where it should be planted. Shrub roses

grow in bushes whereas a climbing rose will need a trellis or a fence for support, drift roses are petit and floribunda roses have many flowers.

Some roses are very fragrant such as *'Mr. Lincoln'*, *'Fragrant Cloud'*, or *'Double Delight'*. The size of the bloom also differs with the variety. A single pedal rose will attract more pollinators than a multiple petaled blossom.



Many roses have historical significance. The *peace rose* was selected to commemorate the end of the WWII. The *Peggy Martin* rose survived Hurricane Katrina, other roses are named after famous people. The 1986 the rose became the official flower of the U.S.A.

Plant your rose in an area where it will get 6 hours of sunlight and good air circulation. It will do well in raised beds, with quality soil, good drainage and a pH of 6.0 – 6.5.

Quality Soil for new beds:

- 1/3 rose soil
- 1/3 compost
- 1/3 expanded shale

In spring, a newly planted rose has increased water requirements and may need to be water twice daily. Cover the bed with mulch and it will decrease water evaporation.

To amend soil around established roses, Ms. Gilbert recommend to work compost, alfalfa pellets and expanded shale into the existing soil. Alfalfa will stimulate root system growth.



Expanded shale will retain water and help to aerate the soil. Maintain the health of your roses through regular feeding with a good organic fertilizer.

The right rose will be a rose that you can grow successfully, is disease resistant, easy to care for and looks and smells great. One of the easiest roses to grow are the floribunda and shrub roses. Floribunda are shrubs with a spray of blooms at the end of their canes, such as *'Hot cocoa'* and *'Plum perfect'*. Some shrub roses Ms. Gilbert recommended are *'Sally Holmes'*, *'Belinda's Dream'* and the *'Knock out'* roses.

Drift roses are perfect for small areas and will bloom throughout the season.



The hybrid tea roses steal the show but are fussy plants not always easy to grow and to maintain. Each cane will have one blossom. Some showy examples are *'Savannah'*, *'South Africa'*, and *'Julie Andrews'*.

Before selecting a rose, make sure it will thrive in your

growing zone. Consult the Houston Rose Society or the American Rose Society for more information.

<http://houstonrose.org/> or <https://www.rose.org/>



Several universities in different growing zones conduct rose trails to find perfect roses for a specific area. One research site is at the Rose Garden in Tyler, Tx. Roses in the two-year trail are grown for sustainability; with minimum care, without fertilizers or pesticides. If they survive extreme heat and cold of the local climate, they will be labeled 'Master Rose'.

<https://www.americangardenroseselections.com/>



Celestial night

Examples of Master roses.



Sweet spirit



Tequilla gold

Horticulture

Susan Hull presented us with a list of plants to grow in the vegetable bed that will help to repel harmful insects.

SUNFLOWERS: Plant nearby to attract Shield Bugs, Leaf Footed Bugs and Stink Bugs away from your garden. The mature heads, when they start to droop and produce seeds, are most attractive to these bugs, while the young heads attract bees. Sow sunflower seeds every few weeks, to have flowers in various stages of growth to attract insects away and keep the bees happy.



BORAGE: Plant borage among tomatoes to repel tomato hornworm and cabbage moth. It's a notorious self-seeder. Pull the plants before they seed, and have some new plants to replace them. Borage also pairs well with tomatoes; the flowers attract pollinating bees.



NASTURTIUM: Repels cucumber beetle and squash bugs. Plant them among squash and cucumber plants and they do a pretty good job of keeping the squash bugs away. Wrap the stems of the plants, next to the ground, in aluminum foil to stop the squash vine borer moths from laying their eggs on the plants.



PYRETHIUM DAISY: This is the same plant from which pyrethrum, a powerful insecticide, is extracted. The plants themselves are not harmful to pollinators and beneficial insects. They will repel a host of garden pests, such as nematodes, leaf hoppers, ticks, harlequin bugs and spider mites.

BASIL: interplant basil with tomatoes to repel thrips, while tomatoes provide shade for basil.

DILL: attracts ladybugs, which eat small garden pests such as aphids and spider mites.

GARLIC: and garlic spray has a strong scent that deters many insects.

MINT: deters aphids, ants, and flea beetles.

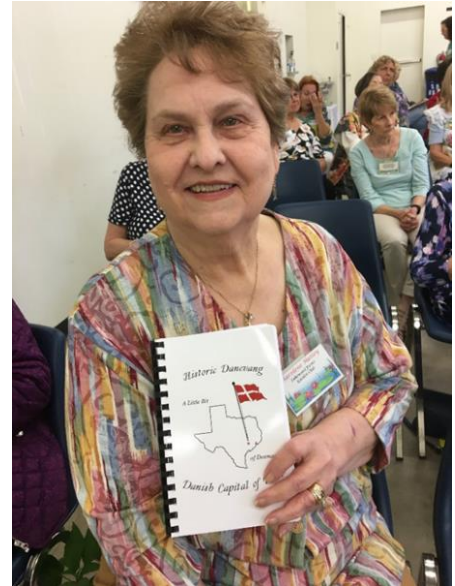
Susan further demonstrated how a slinky wrapped around a pole of a bird feeder will prevent squirrels from climbing into the feeding station.



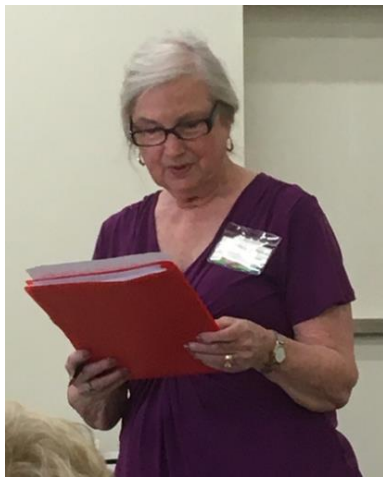
The business meeting continued with committee reports.

Susan Busler reported on the final expenses for the 50th Anniversary Tea Party. No losses were sustained and the Raffle of a plant and gift certificates from PFAS netted us around \$300.00.

Harolene Hatley acknowledged all committee members involved in preparing the anniversary event. She also let us know that she purchased a Danish cook book on our last trip to the Danish Heritage Museum and will loan it out to anyone.



Jean reported on correspondents received and sent from the club to various members in need of healing and/or uplifting thoughts.



Harriette shared highlights from the TGC annual convention and listed the awards our club received. Check out the [Convention report](#) on our website for more information.

This year, club members elected Gabriele Klopp as their Garden Angel. Last year's Garden Angel, Margo Probst, officially passed the angel statue on to Gabriele and pinned the Angel pin to her blouse.

Gabriele reported that the angel already found a cozy spot in her garden.



Terri Cole donated a large Hydrangea plant to be offered as a door prize. Barbara Durr was the Lucky winner.

Pam Randall had collected a few arrangements that were left over from the TGC convention. At our meeting they became door prizes as well. MaryEtta was one of the winners.



Besides honey, Margo sold bird houses made by the residents at REACH. Lynn bought the future home for a lucky blue bird couple, perhaps?

A beautiful and colorful bouquet for the president's table was created by Marilyn Bullen from flowers and greenery growing in her own garden.

This was the end of another productive and enjoyable LF garden club meeting.

