

November 2024



Forty-eight garden club members and five guests filled the Scout House for the LF garden club meeting on this sunny Fall day. The sign-in table was busy as usual. Besides handing name tags to all, MaryEtta and Barbara also sold tickets for the upcoming Christmas luncheon. Judy Beckham continued the food and donation drive for CAM and Margo brought honey and suet cakes for sale to benefit REACH unlimited. A sign-up sheet for a trip to Schulenberg, organized by Cathy Rogers, garnered much interest because it will also



include a stop-over at a fabulous gifts store. Just in time for the holiday gift giving season.

Debbie Jones welcomed Shirley, a guest today but a previous member, back to the club.



The historian interrupted Adrienne and Barbara Crum in a discussion just to take a picture. She is so annoying!



Hospitality



A wonderfully delicious spread was provided by today's hostesses, Susan Busler, Maggie White, Sue Collins, Sue Hull, Donna Stephens, Eleese Lester-Baier and Barbara Kapustska.



The good food was enjoyed by all.





After much mingling and socializing, Judy Beckham introduced Martha Burnes to the group.



Ms. Burnes is the Executive Director of CAM (Cypress Assistance Ministry), an organization that the garden club has supported for many years. This local organization started in 1990 as a way to help struggling individuals and families with the most basic necessities.

In collaboration with 'Christ the Redeemer' church, CAM expanded their services from feeding and clothing the needy to making many other resources available. This faith-based organization is privately funded. Their resale store 'Angels' Attic' is the largest funding source. Besides the resale store, CAM manages a large Food Pantry with the help of many volunteers. Other services include:



**CYPRESS
ASSISTANCE
MINISTRIES**

Other services include:

- Financial assistance with rent and utility payment
- Delivery of grocery to seniors, the disabled and infirm
- Job placement services provided by retired executives
- GED preparations and ESL classes
- Coffee and Conversation provide neighborly interactions
- Special events (i.e.: free pictures with Santa next month)

The expanding services support community members in many unfortunate and challenging circumstances. An important goal is to prevent homelessness and unemployment and help the individual to regain self-sufficiency with hope for a better future. Ms. Burnes thanked us for the continued support and encouraged us visit the website and consider volunteering at the Food pantry or Angels' Attic.

<https://www.cypressassistance.org/>

The Meeting continued with an appeal for volunteers for Brookwood by Lynn White. Many helpers are needed to sleeve poinsettias for the holidays.

Margo reminded us that the Poinsettias we ordered from REACH can be picked up from her house after our Christmas luncheon.

Barbara Crum announced that our donations to 'Wreaths Across America' added up to \$2806 or 165 wreaths.



Pam Randall reported on the Federation meeting and the Bee expert that instructed members on beekeeping. It sounded very interesting. Tickets for the Federation Christmas party are still available. Pam also asked us to add children gardening tools to the kid sized wheel borrow, our contribution to the silent auction during the Federation Christmas event.

Barbara Davidson promoted the annual plant sale at Mercer Botanical Gardens.

For **Horticulture**, Sue Hull reminded us that it is time to plant winter vegetables. Many varieties will be available for sale at REACH. Every year Sue planted expensive garlic she bought in garden shops and on line but she learned that the inexpensive garlic she buys at the grocery store grows just as well. Who knew??



Program



Our speaker today was Robert Martinez, a retired State Trooper and current Master Gardener, and expert on Heirloom Bulbs. Mr. Robert Martinez has traveled far and wide and has collected heirloom bulbs wherever he found them. He brought his friend and neighbor, Madeleine, along to assist him with the presentation.



An heirloom is considered any plant that has been around for more than 50 years. Bulbs, he explained, are differentiated by their shape and characteristics.

1. **True Bulb** - is a round, layered structure filled with plant carbohydrates with a plant shoot in the core. It has a basal plate where roots grow, fleshy layers, an outer skin, and the shoot at the center flanked by developing bulblets. Tulips and Daffodils are true bulbs.
2. **Rhizomes** - are simply underground stems that also store plant food and can sprout new growth. Common plants having rhizomes are irises.
3. **Tubers** – are thickened roots that store glucose for the plant. Examples of tubers are potatoes, daylilies and begonias.
4. **Corms** - similar in appearance to bulbs, but they are solid. Crocus, gladiola and freesia grow from corms. They grow and spread easily.



<https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/bulbs/bgen/different-bulb-types.htm>

Mr. Martinez brought with him many varieties of plants that he grows in his own yard and was able to tell us about the history of his favorite varieties. Gladiola and tulip bulbs originated in Turkey. Gladiola corms don't do well in pots and have to be planted in the ground because they have a long root.

Spider lilies came to this country from Japan when President Phillimore Pierce opened trade with that



nation. His foreign minister brought 3 bulbs with him from a trip to Japan and gave them to his niece in North Carolina where the lily thrived and multiplied. The lily blooms in September and can be encouraged to re-bloom with regular watering.



Amaryllis – a native of south America was discovered there by a Dutch botanist in 1768. The cultivation of amaryllis bulbs in the 19th century yielded new hybrid varieties that produced larger blooms in a variety of vibrant colors.

Texas Prairie Lily – also called rain lily, is found in east, central, and southwestern Texas, along streams, in valleys, on roadsides, in open woods, or on hillsides. It prefers full sun. They tend to bloom in spring, with its flowers opening in the evening and only lasting a day. <https://rangeplants.tamu.edu/plant/rainlily/>



Oxblood lily – A native of Argentina, this hardy bulb was introduced to Texas by a German botanist and was heavily passed around among German and Czech settlers in the Texas Hill Country. The vermilion-red, amaryllis-like flowers bloom in full sun. But the flowers hold up best when they can bloom in partial shade, away from the scorching sun. They grow their foliage after the bloom. During the winter they need at least 6 hours of sunlight a day. A shady spot under a tree that protected the flower



from the hot sun in summer, provides much needed light when the tree loses its leaves in the winter. Oxblood lilies will come back and bloom more prolific each year. They bloom, often 2-3 times in late summer. Their foliage remains green all winter.

<https://www.southernbulbs.com/oxblood-lily-or-schoolhouse-lily/>

Once the flower has faded, the green leaves must be left intact since they are the ‘solar panels’ for the plant, providing energy to the bulbs for more flowers next season.

When dividing bulbs and tubers, Mr. Martinez recommends returning the mother bulb back to its original hole.



What is the difference between a daffodil and a narcissus???

According to Mr. Martinez: The daffodil has only one bloom per stem, but narcissus have many blooms on each stem.

