



TGC Keeping in Touch

Sarah's E-Blast - Tx KIT # 4
October 2013

TGC President's Letter to Club Presidents

Fall is a festive time and a time for cleaning and readying your garden and for enjoying educational programs through TGC to increase your knowledge and skills. The recent Landscape Design School had outstanding speakers with practical applications.

I just returned from the National Garden Club's Fall Board meeting and learned from the reports and committee activities, which I'll be sharing with District Directors and TGC Board and members at the Fall Convention.

I look forward to seeing you and your club members at the upcoming TGC Fall Convention. Please share the highlights in this President's Letter with your members. Bring a car of your members to Houston for Fall Convention.

Sarah McReynolds
2013-2015 Texas Garden Club President
"Changing Our World Through Education & Friendships"



Dragonfly - Dragonfly pins are available for \$10 as a TGC Ways and Means project.

A bright silver toned pin in a variety of colors is a fun accessory. Also, Member Garden

Signs, Dragonfly Scarf, Recycle Purses, Bluebonnet Bottle Tree. See W&M co-chairs Heather White & Suzanne Milstead in Houston.

Dragonfly Symbolism - The dragonfly is considered to be an agent of change and presumably symbolic of a sense of self realization, from how the dragonfly uses its power to control its movements so elegantly. Change and evolution is all about the dragonfly's ability to fly and the way it can be comfortable on water, land, as well as the air. Help your club members be agents of change.

TGC Fall Convention - "Fall Faire.....Far Out"
TGC's 85th Fall Convention October 17-18-19, 2013 in Houston. Registration received by Oct 13. Late registration - meals not guaranteed. See texasgardenclubs.org or the Summer LSG. Include \$30 registration fee.



With a renaissance theme, along with our President's passion for Dragonflies, you are sure to have a blast. Sarah's theme and our title will be fun in a wonderfully renaissance inspired "midway" where you will play games from the period and try to best your friends.

Start off with a pool party Thursday evening and enjoy the company of old and new friends! Cash bar available. TGC Board is encouraged to arrive Thursday. There will be surprises!!!

Friday morning's breakfast program will be a whimsical "Dragonflies and Damselies".

Featuring Brookwood Community, a State Project for many years, many members have never had the opportunity to visit, so we are bringing Brookwood to you at Friday lunch. You will surely be inspired!

Learn how your garden is a reflection of you. Discuss some controversial plaques and collages.

"An Eye on the Garden" is an unusual program that draws many connections between your sight and your garden. Perhaps "unusual" eyeglasses would add to the fun here !!!

Lunch Saturday - Texas Native Plants for Your Garden and honor TGC Member of the Year.

Stay for Saturday evening's special Design program featuring The Houston Designing Women "Without Constraints".

Speakers, vendors, games, and more - expect to have fun and be educated. Come hear about new services and projects. Don't miss out and get your registration in ASAP. Remember the renaissance theme. Come with a costume or anything that suggests the theme. Always more fun when we do. From: Convention Team

Brookwood - The Brookwood Community is a residential facility and vocational program for adults with disabilities, located in Brookshire, TX, 40 miles west of downtown Houston, with 114 residents and 82 day students. Brookwood provides an educational environment that creates meaningful jobs, builds a sense of belonging, and provide dignity and respect for adults who are functionally disabled (mental/physical disabilities preventing them from living on their own.)



Enterprises include horticulture, handcrafts, food packaging, mail orders, café, weddings, receptions, & catering. Resident's abilities are matched, ie, design Christmas cards, pour cement pieces into molds, sand pieces of statuary. Others make cuttings of plants, plant plugs, fill pots with potting soil, water and haul flats to green houses. Some serve patrons in the Café or help with greeting customers.

The God-centered facility is funded through sales from entrepreneurial enterprises 40%, tuition 40%, and private sector donations 20%. No government funding is received.

Donations from TGC go directly to the Horticulture industry for supplies the regular budget can't provide, like raincoats while moving plants to greenhouses during the rain; backpack sprayers to make spraying go faster; 32 gallon trash cans to hold potting soil & move where needed; furniture for the breakroom; nursery carts & 2 way radios ... whatever is on their needs list each spring.

Check out Brookwood's Gift & Garden Center and Café ... Best food, best plants, best gift selection anywhere! Browse the 47 greenhouses, learn about the educational and work programs, shop, and have lunch - all make a fun pilgrimage for clubs. The poinsettia growing program is very impressive. Christmas Shopping!

If you can't get here, check us out online at brookwoodcommunity.org. From Carol Smith, TGC Brookwood Community Project Chair.

Awards - Clubs are doing many good projects in your communities. Share highlights of your activities by entering a 3 page report, recognizing your club member's expertise. Honor accomplishments and be congratulated for your services and successes with a TGC certificate. Club award packets are due to District by Nov. 1. More info TGC was in the August Tx KIT.



Tx KIT - Sarah's e-letter to Club Presidents are available on the TGC web site at texasgardenclubs.org.

Make a copy of the online e-letters. Go to the TGC web site, then click the pink Tx KIT, and go to the e-letters to read and download with clip art graphics, to discuss and share with members at your club meetings.

E-Mail - Be sure to send updated and new e-mail addresses, so your members can receive LSG. Send to 1) Lkrimm01@gmail.com, 2) District Director, 3) tgcoffice@aol.com.

Symbolisms of the Dragonfly - Focus on living 'IN' the moment. The dragonfly normally lives most of its life as a nymph or an immature. It flies only for a fraction of its life and not more than a few months. An adult dragonfly does it all in these few months and leaves nothing to be desired. This lifestyle symbolizes and exemplifies the virtue of living life to the fullest. By living in the moment you are aware of who you are, where you are, what you are doing, what you want, what you don't and make informed choices on a moment-to-moment basis.



This ability lets you live your life without regrets like the great dragonfly.

TGC Travels - September 5-14, 2014 Gardens of Portugal and The Azores. Start now making your plans. Several people have already signed up, and around 50 brochures were picked up at the Landscape Design School. Get brochures



at Fall TGC Convention and online at texasgardenclubs.org. Join us for a "Once in a Lifetime" experience. For information: call/email Helen Quinn, 936-718-0531, hortiq@gmail.com.