



**PGS Officers
2010-2011**

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Member Profile— Tamara Houser



I have been married to my husband, Jeff, for 18 years. We both work for American Airlines. He is a pilot on the 777. I am an international flight attendant and have been flying since 1983. We have two wonderful children. Ryan is 16 and a junior at CSHS. He plays football, lifeguards at the Aquatic Center, and works camera 3 at Whites Chapel UMC. Rebecca is 13 and an eighth grader at CMS. She plays the flute and has a very creative side. She is also my up and coming gardener. We moved to Southlake in 1998.

I grew up in Lufkin, TX which is the heart of the piney woods. I graduated from Baylor

University in 1978 and taught school in Arlington for 5 years. My love of gardening probably began by visiting my grandmother in Ft. Worth. She loved her flowers, and as I now know, most of her garden was perennial. I have a lily from her yard all over my yard and would love to share it with any of you. It is either a crinum lily or a spider lily.

I am a self taught gardener. Presently, I am trying to correct all the mistakes I made in our landscape when we moved into our home. I thought I could grow all the wonderful things we had in Lufkin since I finally had shade. Unfortunately, my soil is not acidic and our winters are colder. I have so enjoyed PGS because of all the knowledge I have gained. I wish I had known about PGS and joined years ago!

Fort Worth Botanic Gardens

Our April meeting is a field trip to the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens (see next page for details on the field trip). Covering 109 acres in the Fort Worth Cultural District, FWBG is the oldest botanic garden in Texas and is home to over 2500 species of native and exotic plants. There are 21 specialty gardens—including Rose, Cactus, Japanese, and Perennial. There's a 10,000 square foot Conservatory with tropical displays of orchids, bromeliads and trees. The Four Seasons Garden has hundreds of iris, daylily and chrysanthemum varieties. The Japanese Garden, home to both a Spring and Fall Festival, is 7 acres of pathways, ponds, waterfalls and stunning plants.

The Spring Plant Sale is a fund raising event for

FWBG, and you can find shrubs, vines, annuals and—of course—perennials. If you haven't been to either the Spring or the Fall plant sale, you need to go! Most of the plant material is grown at the Botanic Garden and the perennials are specially selected for Texas Gardening. It's a great way to add to your garden, while supporting FWBG. This year's sale is scheduled for April 2nd, beginning at 9 am.

Individual membership to FWBG is \$40 per year. Memberships help maintain the beauty of the gardens and in addition to free entrance to both the Japanese Garden and the Conservatory, you will be part of the reciprocity program at more than 100 other gardens in the US and Canada.

**Local Gardening
Events**

- April 2—Perennial Swap, Calloway's Hurst, 9-11 am
- April 2—Plant Sale, Ft Worth Botanic Garden
- April 16—Collin County Master Gardener Plant sale (www.ccmgatx.org)
- **April 17—SPIN Into SPRING Garden Tour, Southlake, 10-4 pm**
- May 15—Trophy Club Women's Club Garden Tour

SPIN Into Spring Garden Tour



Don't forget, the SPIN Into Spring Garden Tour is coming up on April 17th. Six beautiful gardens showcasing a variety of landscapes and gardening styles are being presented jointly by SPIN, Keep Southlake Beautiful, and the Perennial Garden Society of Southlake. In addition to an opportunity to view some of the premier gardens in Southlake, SPIN Into SPRING traditionally strives to provide tour participants with information and understanding of responsible

gardening related practices with Master Gardener's located in each garden, along with demonstrations and handouts on related topics.

Tickets go on sale on March 25th at Central Market, Calloway's, and the Library. Please help support PGS to make this the most successful Garden Tour we've ever had!

April Garden Tips



Plant: Warm-season vegetables, including tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash, cucumbers, melons, corn, okra, sweet potatoes, southern peas. Warm-season annual color plants to replace pansies and other cool-season annuals. Shade trees, shrubs, groundcovers, vines and roses.

Prune: Spring-flowering vines, shrubs immediately after they finish blooming to reshape them for this season's growth. Pinch growing tips out of mums, fall asters, copper plants and coleus to keep them compact. Lanky, overgrown houseplants to take advantage of spring's brighter con-

ditions for best regrowth.

Fertilize: Almost all of your plants.

On the Lookout: Thrips will cause rose buds to fail to open properly (systemic insecticide monthly).

April is a month to plant the gardener's favorite vegetables such as tomatoes, sweet corn and snap beans and pepper. In April you can plant cucumbers, lima or butter beans, cantaloupe, okra, southern peas, pumpkin, squash, peanuts and watermelon.

March Meeting Re-Cap

The March meeting was held at the home of Bobby and Debbie Hudnal. The wonderful refreshments were provided by Ken Stone. We started the meeting with an update on activities and a review of the request to submit your survey forms. We also had a reminder to attend the special Leadership Breakfast to be held at Margaret Collins' home on March 25th at 8:30.

Our presentations this month were from Michael Bosco from Soils Alive and Dave Phillips with Wiggle Worm Soil Builders. Michael talked about insects in our gardens and Dave showed us the benefits of using earthworm castings. Both presentations were met with great enthusiasm from the group.

April PGS Meeting

April is Field Trip Month, and this year we are going to the Conservatory Greenhouses at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden. We will have docents leading a private tour. If you would like to carpool/caravan, we'll meet at The Lodge at 8:45. If you would like to meet us there, please meet

in the parking lot for the Japanese Garden at 9:45.

For anyone who is interested, we will have lunch at The Paris Coffee Shop (704 West Magnolia).

Next meeting April 13th

Greenhouse Tour

Ft. Worth Botanic Garden

Meet at The Lodge at 8:45 for carpool/caravan



The Perennial Garden Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating its members on gardening topics specific to the North Texas area. The primary focus of the group is native and adapted drought tolerant perennials and grasses. Our purpose is to promote, encourage and share ideas with other gardeners regarding the implementation of native and adapted perennial in the suburban Texas landscape.

