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November 2020
*The Monthly Newsletter of the
Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.*

November 2, Federation Meeting

Young Meadows Presbyterian Church
9:30 AM Federation Executive Meeting
10:00 AM Federation Business Meeting

Coming Events

Nov 8 Remembrance Day Ceremony
10:00 AM Oakwood Cemetery Annex
Nov 19..... Grapevine Deadline
Dec 1 VA Hospital Decorating—Perry Hill
Dec 2 VA Clinic Decorating—Chantilly
Dec 4 Every Light A Prayer for Peace
Dec 7 Young Meadows Presbyterian Church
9:30 AM Federation Executive Meeting
10:00 AM Federation Business Meeting

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to Gloria Howard of Scattered Seeds Club in the recent loss of her daughter.

Veterans Hospital Flowers

Scattered Seeds.....Nov 28
Federation.....Dec 26



Hostess Club

Hostess for the November meeting will be Flower Power,
and for the December meeting will be Southern Charm.

— Lois Martin, Chairman

Remembrance Day

Each year The Montgomery Federation of Garden clubs participates in the **Service of Remembrance** at Oakwood Cemetery Annex for British and French military men who died while serving their countries in the United States during the World War II era. The Annex contains the graves of Royal Air Force and Free French air-men who died while training at Maxwell and Gunter in the early 1940's. More than 2600 Free French aircrewmembers and more than 200 RAF cadets trained here. Some of them lost their lives during training accidents. The care and upkeep of their graves, including horticultural support, is provided by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Every year on the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day, a Service of Remembrance is held to honor and remember those men who died here in service to their countries. In a simple service with an honor guard and bugler from Maxwell AFB, British and French officers stationed at Maxwell, along with representatives from the United States Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, the Alliance Française, and the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, pay tribute to these brave men by laying commemorative wreaths at the gravesite.

Due to Covid-19, we are not sure if there will be a ceremony or reception, but we will still present our wreath even if there is no one else there. If you plan to go, please be there by 10:00. Hopefully by the Federation Meeting on Nov. 2, we will have more information.



November Federation Meeting

COVID Guidelines

1. Wear a mask
2. Temperature check--we'll do that at the door
3. Social distance by leaving at least one chair between people in the conference room
4. Refreshments will be individualized and Keurig coffee and bottled water provided.
5. We need to sanitize the area we have used when we leave.

Officers will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the room next to the conference room and the main meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Please let me know your plans by Oct. 2 .

I understand if you are not ready to meet face to face yet. If you have information to share and will not be at the church, you can email it to me and I will be glad to pass it along.

The main focus of the meeting will be flower show updates.

Take care and hope to see you soon.

Rose

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Success Times Two—Wonderful, Beautiful Flower Shows Bring Sunshine During Our Challenging Times.

Thomas Edison defined success as "1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. An excellent definition but I would like to revise it just a bit to describe our flower shows:

10 % inspiration (otherwise there is no beginning),

10% worry (those wake up in the middle of night moments),

50% teamwork (both behind the scenes and hands-on),

30% perspiration (transferring it all to reality at the Coliseum).

You could change the percentages of the parts depending on your perspective, but I think you need all the "parts" to have a successful flower show. Thank you to June for being the chairman during this unforgettable unique year and to everyone in the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs!!

Rose

DID YOU KNOW?



A sunflower looks like one large flower but each head is composed of tiny flowers called florets, which ripen to become seeds.

The sunflower plant offers additional benefits besides beauty.

Can you name one other benefit?.

ANSWER
Sunflower oil is suggested to contain anti-inflammatory properties. Sunflower seed butter is an alternative to peanut butter and has significantly less saturated fat.

Horticulture Report

by Mary Long

***Camellia Sasanqua* – The Perfect Shrub for Fall Bloom**

While looking at all the beautiful horticulture at our flower show, I couldn't help but notice Walter Welch's *Sasanqua* bloom up on the front table. I have enjoyed *Camellias* but have never tried my hand at growing a *Sasanqua*. *Camellia sasanqua* and *Camellia japonica* come from China and Japan and other regions in the Far East. They were introduced to Europe in the 18th century.



The *Sasanqua* is especially desirable because it blooms in the fall before the *Camellia japonica*. You notice, there are never any *Camellia japonica* blooms in our flower show because their blooms come too late. If you enjoy early fall blooming shrubs it would behoove you to try a *Sasanqua*.

Camellia sasanqua is a densely branched, sometimes pyramidal, sometimes oval shaped tree-like evergreen shrub which can get 6-8 feet tall. It comes in many bloom types and colors. *Sasanquas* have been popular shrubs for southern gardeners because of their rich, glossy green foliage and easy to grow nature.....and they bloom at a time when other things in the garden are declining. It's important to have something stunning growing in your garden in the cooler months when the summer garden is shutting down for the year. The *Sasanqua* is somewhat smaller than the Japanese Camellia. The leaves are a darker green and somewhat smaller; the flowers are smaller than the *Camellia japonica* and usually are only three or four inches wide. As far as cultural requirements, the *Sasanqua* prefers partly shady areas with good drainage and acid soil. Filtered shade under pine trees is the perfect exposure for them. Dense shade can hinder flowering, and full sun can discolor and burn the foliage. Like azaleas, *Sasanquas* do not like wet soils. A soil test can tell you if your soil is good for growing *Sasanquas*.



Sasanquas bloom from fall through early winter, depending on the cultivar and growing region. They are generally hardy in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 7 through 9. Unlike Japanese camellias (*Camellia japonica*), *Sasanquas* typically need considerable trimming and pruning to maintain their shape and size and can tolerate heavy pruning, which can help revitalize an old, ailing plant or help train a young plant into a strong, sturdy structure.

Tips for pruning:

Sharpen and clean pruning tools if necessary. Jagged, rough cuts don't heal as quickly as clean, sharp cuts. Hand clippers and loppers are sufficient for branches with diameters between 3/4 inch and 1 3/4 inches. If the *sasanqua* that you're trimming is large, you may also need a pruning saw for larger branches.

Examine the plant and trim away any limbs or branches that are dead or dying,

***Camellia Sasanqua* (cont'd)**

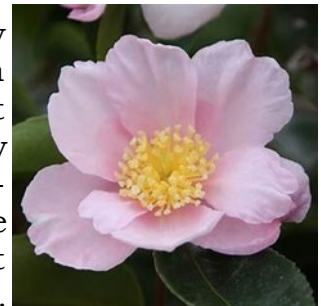
along with any that show signs of disease. Pruning these limbs away encourage healthy growth while minimizing the likelihood of disease and infestation. Also remove any branches that rub others, which can leave the plant vulnerable to disease or pests.

Remove any long shoots that grow from the base of the camellia. These thin branches grow quickly, but rarely produce flowers. Trim branches to shape the camellia as desired.

Prune an overgrown or young sasanqua to shape it into a shrub or small tree, depending on personal preference. To give it a shrub shape, prune all the vertical leaders and prune away all but the main group of multiple trunks. To encourage tree-like shaping, prune all but a single leader branch at the top and a single main trunk at the bottom.

Fertilize the plant with an acidic fertilizer to support and encourage the plant's formation of new growth. The American Camellia Society recommends a 4-8-8 fertilizer for well-established plants and advises following manufacturer instructions regarding the amount of fertilizer to use.

If you have ever grown *Camellia japonica*, you will surely enjoy the *Sasanqua* for its early bloom and long stems which are lovely in flower arrangements. *Camellia* blooms don't last long in arrangements; in fact, they fall off the stem pretty quickly. The *Sasanqua* performs better in flower arrangements as the flowers are not as heavy and thus stay on the stem longer. Now is the perfect time to get a *Sasanqua* plant since fall and winter are the best seasons to plant shrubs. The cool weather allows them to form healthy roots and they need less water in fall. Since they're blooming now, you will be able to see the flowers before buying one. It's a win-win situation!



Happy Gardening !!

Mary

67th Annual NGC Flower Show Post Analysis

Ladies and gentlemen,

You will never know how much I appreciate each of you and your efforts. As we continue our mission to provide an outreach to our community "to promote the love of gardening, floral design, civic and environmental responsibility", we made it together as a cohesive TEAM.

Now we need to look back and see what we did well even in the midst of major challenges and what improvements we can make to make the 2021 show the best ever. Please bring your thoughts and notes to a short meeting after the Federation meeting, November 2. These will be compiled and duly noted for planning later. If you can't come, please email your notes to me (junebug71050@aol.com) this week when you have time.

Many thanks,

June

Gardening Under COVID

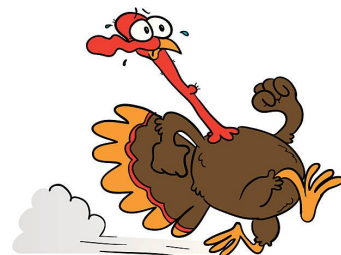
The Fall gardening season is off to a great start. I planted myself in front of the TV a few months ago, and I've already grown considerably.



If you would like to receive your issues of the Grapevine by email send us an email.

Jan1396@att.net

The grapevine will arrive in glorious color a couple of days before the Federation meeting !



The Grapevine

The Grapevine is a monthly publication of the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.

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NEXT ISSUE

November 19 is the deadline for articles to be published in the December issue of the Grapevine.

Use this email: Jan1396@att.net