What an exciting start to our Women’s Council season! Welcome to all of our new members. We had a fabulous New Member Party at the DeGolyer Estate chaired by Kay Weeks and Susan Adzick. At Bent Tree, we all went “Wild About Flowers”! We were captivated by the skill and speed of Dan Pierce’s floral arranging. Dan owns the Wild About Flowers Florist, and he was so kind to donate the beautiful arrangements to our group.

Carole Ann Brown certainly kicked off our year perfectly by chairing our Fall Meeting with a sold out crowd for the luncheon. A foraging did they go! A festive group set out on a beautiful September day to follow Tom Spicer aka “The Spiceman” to Tom’s secret garden. All went to In the Garden on Knox for cooking demonstrations and more. Thank you so much to Glenda Cotner for being such a creative and lovely Chairman.

Ooh la la, it has been announced! Sherwood Wagner is our Honorary Chairman for the 27th annual Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, themed: April in Paris. Ninety people celebrated at Brookhollow Golf Club to welcome and congratulate Sherwood and Mad Hatter’s Chairman Sharon Popham. Coming up November 6th is an event you do not want to miss! A Writer’s Garden is sure to captivate all in attendance, and Chairman Dorothea Meltzer has created a one of a kind opportunity for us. November 10th is Twelve Days of Christmas. The 12 days of Christmas will be displayed in 12 life sized gazebos with movement and sound. Hurry and purchase your tickets to both events!! Don’t miss this first look opportunity. Marena Gault

A Writer’s Garden Literary Series – Thursday, November 6th, 9:30am -1:30pm

Marena Gault, Women’s Council President, and Dorothea Meltzer, A Writer’s Garden Chairwoman, will welcome members and guests to the 8th annual A Writer’s Garden Literary Series. “Treasured Legacies” is the theme of the fall symposium, which will feature illuminating portraits of two of the most widely read and celebrated writers in literature, Jane Austen and Edith Wharton, by speakers Kim Wilson and Kelsey Mullen, respectively. And our third speaker is Greg Grant, horticulturist, naturalist, garden writer, and plant developer from Arcadia, Texas.

Kim Wilson noted speaker and author of Tea with Jane Austen and In the Garden with Jane Austen brings to life the Georgian and Regency worlds of Jane Austen (1775 – 1870) through social history, biographical details and delicious excerpts from her novels and correspondence. Austen’s novels vividly portray with humor and remarkable insight the society and world in which she lived. Her own life was deeply influenced by her surroundings and travels in Southern England, and the importance of house and home to her characters is a
noted hallmark of her brilliant and enduring stories. With gorgeous illustrations and photography, Wilson’s new book *At Home with Jane Austen* explores Austen’s world, her physical surroundings and the journeys she took during her lifetime.

A public historian and audience advocate, Kelsey Mullen, is Director of Public Programming and Education for The Mount. Located in Lenox, Massachusetts, The Mount is a National Historic Landmark and cultural center celebrating the literary, artistic and humanitarian legacy of Edith Wharton (1862 – 1937). Mullen will share with us new insights and perspectives on the transformational effect of Wharton’s home on her life and writing. In her 1934 autobiography *A Backward Glance*, Edith Wharton wrote, “The Mount was my first real home . . . its blessed influence still lives in me.” Author of *The Age of Innocence*, Ethan Frome and *The House of Mirth*, Wharton was the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University and a full membership in the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The book, *Edith Wharton at Home: Life at the Mount*, written by Richard Guy Wilson in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Edith Wharton’s birth will be featured.

Speaker, Greg Grant, has degrees in floriculture and horticulture from Texas A&M University and extensive hands-on experience as a horticulturist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Stephen F. Austin State University, Mercer Arboretum and San Antonio Botanical Gardens. Greg Grant has successfully introduced dozens of plants to the Texas nursery industry, all while maintaining his long-held family property and renovating the home of his ancestors in Arcadia, Texas. He writes the popular “In Greg’s Garden” column for Texas Gardener magazine and is co-author of *Heirloom Gardening in the South*. Additionally Grant has authored a book of 60 essays in the publication, *Greg’s Garden: A Pineywoods Perspective on Gardening, Nature and Family*, which reveals the heart and soul of a seventh-generation native Texan who has devoted his entire life to gardening, nature and family. Greg lives in deep East Texas in his great-grandparents old dogtrot house, where he tends terriers Rosie and Molly, a yard full of laying hens, a patch of sugar cane, a forest full of endangered trilliums and one hundred bluebird houses.

All Women’s Council members have received an invitation to “Treasured Legacies,” A Writer’s Garden Symposium and Luncheon. Make your reservations to attend the November 6th event and consider patron level participation and table sponsorship. A limited number of individual tickets are available at $150. Please consider Patron Level tickets at $250 or Table Sponsorship. The WC-DABG website has patron level details & you may purchase tickets (MasterCard/VISA) at www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org or purchase tickets by check (payable to WC-DABG and include names of those with whom you wish to be seated). For additional information, call Liz Respess, Reservation Chair at (214) 739-6013. Checks may be mailed to: Liz Respess, 3309 Lovers Lane, Dallas, TX 75225.
Co-Chairs, Terry Irby (left) and Sharla Bush (right) are thrilled to welcome Women’s Council members and guests to a private premier of The 12 Days of Christmas, hosted at the DeGolyer home (cocktail attire). The exhibit will be open to the public from November 16th – January 4th, so attendees will enjoy a sneak preview of this one-of-a-kind exhibit featuring an elaborate collection of twelve 25-foot Victorian gazebos, filled with costumed characters and whimsical animals that celebrate beloved Christmas carols. Each gazebo is encased in glass and extravagantly decorated on all sides and illuminated at night to provide a dramatic three-dimensional experience featuring mechanical moving parts and festive music to bring the characters to life. (Note, over 18,000 tickets have been pre-sold to date for the public viewing of Twelve Days of Christmas.)

Tram tours have been arranged to view these magnificent gazebos and if that is not enough to stir your holiday spirits, the DeGolyer estate will be filled top to bottom with a collection of Byers Choice Ltd. Christmas caroler figurines. This beautiful private collection has been donated for display at the Arboretum by John and Kim Semyan. This magical evening includes a buffet dinner, an open bar offering a selection of beer, wine and winter coffee drinks, and open table seating. A festive musical serenade provided by violin accompanied carolers will ensure a truly memorable evening. Valet parking will be provided at the DeGolyer Estate. Note, tickets are $100 each and your on-line purchase is your reservation (VISA or Master Card accepted). The co-chairs ask that tickets be purchased by Wednesday, November 5th. Your on-line purchase may be may be made at: www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org

Our thanks to watercolor artist, Sherry Daerr, whose gazebo painting was incorporated into our invitation. Ms. Daerr has painted each of the “12 Days of Christmas” gazebo installations, which have been made into a set of holiday note cards on sale at the Arboretum Hoffman Family Gift Store.

Winter Meeting – Wednesday, January 21st

Women’s Council President, Marena Gault, Winter meeting Co-Chairs, Beth Walthall and Sharon Walker, and Vice-President of Programs, Jewel Williams, are very excited about plans for the Winter General meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, January 21st at the Dallas Arboretum Rosine Hall. The program speaker, Gina Woods, is a Texas Master Gardener whose early interest in orchids became the focus of her career in the early 1990’s as she developed her first two orchid shade houses. She later expanded her commercial career to become the first cut-flower dendrobium orchid producer in Mexico. Woods will speak on “The Wonderful World of Exotic Tropicals” sharing her love for orchids, bromeliads and tillandsias. The meeting begins with a 10am coffee and reception, a 10:30am meeting/program with a luncheon immediately following. Invitations will be sent to membership with luncheon reservation details.

A Valentine Tea – Tuesday, February 10th

Chairwoman, Dorothea Meltzer, and honorary Chairwoman, Marilyn Hailey, will welcome members and guests to the annual Valentine Tea, 1:30pm – 3:30pm at the Dallas Arboretum Rosine Hall. The theme this year is “Objects of Beauty.” Further information in the Winter Newsletter.
Sharon Popham, our Mad Hatter’s chairwoman and a veteran event organizer along with her committee members are hard at work planning the 27th annual Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2015 at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. This year’s theme is “April in Paris” and we know we can look forward to an over-the-top entertaining event!

Dallas’ premiere fashion event producer Jan Strimple will orchestrate the style show for the Mad Hatter’s Tea featuring the collections of fashion sponsors Betty Reiter, Canary, Nardos Imam, and V.O.D.

An Announcement Party hosted by the Women’s Council at the Brook Hollow Golf Club on October 16th introduced Honorary Chair, Sherwood Wagner. Growing up in Midland, Texas, Sherwood graduated from Dallas’ Hockaday School and TCU, going on to work for PSI, a public relations firm. She is involved with various charities in Dallas and West Texas and served as president of Girls Inc. Auxiliary. Sherwood is a board member of the Ellen Noël Art Museum in Midland, which is named for her grandmother. Sherwood and her mother Lissa were joined by ten friends from Midland who came to celebrate this special occasion. Sherwood has made an extremely generous financial gift to the Women’s Council and is naming The Pulpit in A Woman’s Garden. It will be dedicated to Ellen Noël and Lissa Noël Wagner, Sherwood’s grandmother and mother.

Introducing Sherwood, Women’s Council President, Marena Gault said, “Sherwood is a beautiful, energetic, stylish young woman, modest and humble. She embodies everything about A Woman’s Garden, epitomizing the complexities of the essence of women with all their virtues and strengths . . . She is the new Dallas It Girl!”

For the evening, Sherwood wore jewelry by designers David Lee Holland and Yanni Kyriazis who flew in from New York City for the evening event. David Lee Holland Fine Jewelry is the brainchild of the two designers who create botanically-themed jewelry. They will be custom-designing a piece of jewelry to be auctioned at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party. (Information and photos provided by Deborah Brown, of Deborah Brown Communications. All photos: Chuck Clark)
Women’s Council President, Marena Gault and Co-chairs Kay Weeks and Susan Adzick welcomed new members to the Women’s Council at an evening new member welcome party hosted at the Dallas Arboretum DeGolyer home. An introduction to the Women’s Council initiatives and activities was shared as well as the opportunity to meet current Women’s Council board members. (Susan Adzick photo provided by Sharon Adams/Social Whirl)

Jewel Williams, VP of Programs and Carole Ann Brown, Chairwoman for the Fall General Meeting, welcomed members and guests to the fall meeting and luncheon held at the Bent Tree Country Club. Thanks to the efforts of these ladies and the committee members, Susan Scullin, Patricia Cowlishaw, Judy Birchfield, Sue Ringle and Katherine Phillips, this sold out meeting hosted over 160 attendees for an outstanding program. Also of note was the beautifully presented and delicious luncheon created by Bent Tree Country Club chef, Ralph Fernandez.

The program speaker, Dan Pierce, is the owner of “Wild About Flowers” located at Preston and Royal in Preston Hollow. Pierce is a floral designer to former First Lady, Laura Bush and provides the traditional Hockaday School pearl and rose wrist corsages. A fourth generation florist, Pierce demonstrated fall arrangements that would beautifully accompany the Thanksgiving holidays. Stating “Anyone can do this . . Just watch!” Pierce entertained attendees with his lively discussion while creating gorgeous arrangements to grace any holiday table.

Glenda Krottinger Cotner, VP Service & Education, planned a fun-filled day for thirty ladies in a “Farm to Table” Fall Service/Education trip. The ladies met up at Into the Garden, a patio/garden store on Knox street to start the day off with coffee and treats. Then they boarded a bus headed for the Old Fish Hatchery Nature Area on the southwest side of White Rock Lake, where Tom Spicer aka “Spiceman” led the group on a nature walk.

The White Rock Municipal Fish Hatchery was built by the Dallas Park Board in 1930 at a cost of about $23,700 and later closed sometime after 1953. A favorite spot for many, Spicer identified a variety of wild plants found in the fish hatchery area. This area also shelters a variety of wildlife representative of our north central Texas area, including red-shouldered hawks, barred owls, egrets, sandpipers and all sorts of wading birds.

The group then headed over to FM1410 (at Fitzhugh & Bryan streets), Spicer’s exotic gourmet emporium frequented by professional chefs and “foodies” for some of the best vegetables, greens, mushrooms, and a variety of exotic foodstuffs from local and far away places and – everyone’s favorite – black garlic! Tom Spicer and sister Susan Spicer, the celebrated chef-owner of Bayona restaurant in New Orleans, come from a long line of gardening expertise as their great-grandfather provided fruits, vegetables and flowers to the Vanderbilt family at their Newport, Rhode Island summer “cottage,” – a 70-room mansion. Enjoying Pimm’s cocktails and Hibiscous tea, the ladies helped Spicer prepare a truly outstanding luncheon – beautiful in its presentation, exotic and scrumptious to eat. All in all it was a fun-filled and enjoyable day!
Fall Trip – October 15th – Photo Collage

Photography by Giana DePaul: 1) Tom Spicer at his backyard grill making lunch for the Women’s Council Ladies, 2) Tom Spicer leads the exploration of woods of White Rock Lake, 3) Glenda Krottinger Cotner, Carol Nelson Cece Rogers, 4) Vicki Petersen, Susan Scullin, Michelle Mew, Nancy Connor, Linda Spina, 5) Katherine Phillips & Rita Conway, 6) Giana DePaul & staff member of FM1410.

Autumn at the Arboretum

Named one of the best Pumpkin Festivals in 2014 by Fordors Travel, for the past nine years, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden has hosted the Pumpkin Village and Tom Thumb Pumpkin Patch. Taking 48 workers more than three weeks to set up, the numbers are staggering: 65,000 pumpkins, gourds, and squash comprise the nationally acclaimed Pumpkin Village; 30 pumpkin types; 15 squash types; 8 gourd types; 1,350 bales of hay; 1,200 corn stalks in the Pumpkin Village; 285 Ears of corn; and 1,000 gourds donated by the Dallas Gourd Society (Information and photos from the Dallas Arboretum & Botanical Garden website)

Fall Volunteer Day – October 22nd

Volunteer Day Chairwoman, Markita Thompson (left) greeted Women’s Council members at the Fall Volunteer Day, which took place during the September 20th – November 26th “Autumn at the Arboretum” featuring the nationally acclaimed “Pumpkin Village,” (see discussion above). Volunteers met at the DeGolyer mansion on the Arboretum grounds for assignments. Thanks to the generosity of Dorothea Meltzer, volunteers wore official “Women’s Council” imprinted aprons. Spring Volunteer Day is Wednesday, March 25th so, if you missed the Fall Volunteer Day, we encourage you to contact Markita next Spring at: 972-596-8463 or via email at: mjthompson6@gmail.com to sign up!
A Woman’s Garden – Donor Naming Update

On behalf of the Women’s Council, Patricia Cowlishaw, VP, Donor Naming, would like to express our grateful appreciation for these gifts to A Woman’s Garden:

- **Norma Friou Fouts** in the naming of a magnificent Bald Cypress in the Lower Meadow in honor of her brother, Ross Friou
- **Elisabeth A. Evert and friends** in naming of a Japanese Maple located adjacent to the walkway in the Genesis Garden, in tribute to her mother, Joan Harrington Evert.

What a fantastic Christmas gift for a loved one – to have their name and yours on one of the magnificent specimen trees in our garden!

Our sincerest thanks to these donors for their extraordinarily generous financial gifts. For further information regarding donor naming opportunities, please contact Patricia Cowlishaw at 972.239.1702 or patriciacowlishaw@sbcglobal.net

Illustrations: Bald Cypress (L) and Japanese Maple (R)

A Woman’s Garden – Update on Garden Projects

From Marsha Dowler, VP Garden Projects, we have an observation on our garden: Autumn's first breezes are stirring across White Rock Lake and the magnificent Monarch Butterfly, enroute on its annual 3,000 mile migratory path extending from Canada to Mexico, has arrived at last to find a resting sanctuary in the Dallas Arboretum. There is no better place to witness this miracle of flight than A Woman's Garden! Wafting just overhead on gentle currents of air, you can witness at close hand the miracle of their flight. With numbers reduced by an alarming ninety percent within the past twenty years, it stirs the gardener's soul to see these impossibly delicate creatures migrating through A Woman's Garden. With an abundance of nectar plants to attract and nourish the Monarchs throughout the gardens, we wish them Godspeed on their phenomenal journey with prayers for a safe return in 2015.

Photo of Monarch Butterfly at A Woman's Garden, by Marsha Dowler

Women’s Council – Membership Update for 2014/2015

Nancy Connor, VP Membership (photo at right), is pleased to announce that year to date, we have over 550 members, which includes 67 new members. Membership dues are a major source of funding for our garden projects so thank you to all of our members! We have so many exciting events this year and the Arboretum is a wonderful destination for every season. Please invite others to join by going to the Women’s Council website at: www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org or you may contact Nancy Connor at: (214) 363-7445.
2014 – 2015 Women’s Council Calendar of Events

Monday, September 15th
New Member Party, Arboretum, Rosine Hall

Wednesday, September 24th
Fall General Meeting, Arboretum, Rosine Hall

Wednesday, October 15th
Fall Service/Education Trip

Wednesday, October 22nd
Fall Volunteer Day at the Arboretum

Thursday, November 6th
A Writer’s Garden Symposium/Lunch, Arboretum Rosine Hall

Monday, November 10th
12 Days of Christmas Gazebo Preview Party

Thursday, November 13th
Board Meeting – 10045 Surrey Oaks, Dallas 75229

Wednesday, January 21st
Winter Meeting & Luncheon, Arboretum, Rosine Hall

Thursday, February 5th
Board Meeting – 3514 Gillon Ave, Dallas 75205

Tuesday, February 10th
Valentine Tea, Arboretum, Rosine Hall

Wednesday, March 5th
Board Meeting – 3548 Rankin Ave, Dallas 75205

Wednesday, March 25th
Spring Volunteer Day at the Arboretum

Thursday, April 2nd
Board Meeting – 4212 Lorraine Ave 75205

Thursday, April 9th
Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, Arboretum Rosine Hall

Mon-Thurs, April 20th-23rd
Spring Trip to Ashville, NC Biltmore Festival of Flower

Thursday, May 7th
Awards Luncheon/Spring General Mtg, Arboretum Rosine Hall

Please remember our “Memorials and Honoraria” opportunities during the year benefiting A Woman’s Garden Endowment Fund. A form is in your yearbook and can be sent to Sharon Ballew at: 9705 Stone River Circle, Dallas, TX 75231

From The Editor
The Women’s Council newsletter is published and archived on-line at our website: www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org as well as mailed to those members who have requested paper copies as part of their membership subscription. Should you have newsletter submissions or questions, contact me at: cheryl.buckles@att.net or by phone at: (214) 533-7033

Memorials and Honoria
Newsletters posted & archived on website (www.womenscouncildallasarboretum.org)