



Holland Park, London

CASWELL HORTICULTURE CLUB

November 2011 Newsletter

October's meeting with Penny Crumpton was well attended. Her lively and very informative program on nutrition inspired a lot of discussion and interest. We followed the program with a hasty meeting to bring everyone up-to-date on old business and our gardens.

Our November and December meetings are combined to decorate the Square for Christmas with wreaths and an illuminated Christmas tree in the balcony of the Courthouse. We time this event to coincide with the Christmas Parade that generally concludes with the Chamber of Commerce's lighting of the Christmas tree. As in the past we will gather at the **Historic Courthouse Thursday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.** *Jim Upchurch, Chair*

Courthouse West Gardens: The CHC's bench in memory of Hulen Aldridge is in place facing the Square in front of the Agriculture Building. A plaque will be placed near or on the bench. The Kwanzan cherry tree is beautifully pruned with all of the dead or dying branches removed. Discussion with the USDA and Extension Service regarding moving the signs away from the edge of the sidewalk was met with

resistance and is no longer under consideration.. The begonias in the container in the Alley Garden have filled the pot completely and are putting on quite a show. The large flowers and shiny foliage are much better appreciated in a container. This show has been accomplished with regular fertilizer and attention. *Pat Ewalt, Chair*

Square Garden: Plans for cleaning the statue on the Square are incomplete. Apparently it is quite expensive and final approval from the commissioners will be needed. We are therefore planning to call a workday to plant pansies. The planting had been delayed because cleaning the statue would certainly involve chemicals and damage to the flowers. *Pat Rowland, Chair*

Memorial Garden: With the exception of the pruning of the large holly trees (Nellie R. Stevens), to be completed by the county maintenance, the Memorial Garden is “put to bed” for the winter. You will notice the boxwoods (Wintergreen) have been clipped by the committee and are beginning to take on the more formal appearance typical of a parterre garden (see above, Holland Park photograph). *Nell Page, Chair*

Arboretum: The entry bed is ready to receive white blooming Echinacea plants that Luke Bernard is going to grow for us. We have been working toward building, what we hope, will be good soil by this spring. This bed will be planted in memory of Topper’s parents. We are still awaiting the installation of the bronze plaque by Cleve Wagstaff to complete our permanent sign. We hope to get a final winter weed eating done once all ticks and chiggers are gone with a hard freeze! *Yancey Smith, Chair*

Spring Seminar: We have not been able to confirm the Yancey House for our event. By this time of year, in the past, we would have firmed up our speakers and would have a good handle on the event. With the delay it was voted to forego the seminar in 2012 and revisit the possibility next summer.

I know you all join me in sending Mary Jane our best wishes for a complete recovery from a recent fall. We hope you’re feeling fine Mary Jane!

FYI: Look to berries, nuts or fruits for November interest in the garden. Native viburnum, dogwood trees, crabapples, pine cones, acorns and native grasses supply interest and wildlife food as winter eases into reality.

While symmetry may not be your particular fancy, gardens often benefit from symmetry. This can particularly be true for foundation plantings with a house that is symmetrical. Symmetry gives a feeling of peace and balance. Some of the “rules”, plant in odd numbers and only plant evergreens in the house front need not apply when seeking symmetry. An evergreen foundation planting does lend itself readily to

seasonal plantings of color. Repeating masses of the same color can provide the balance that is calming.

The emerald ash borer has killed more than twenty-five million trees and in spite of tens of millions of dollars spent on control measures, this introduced exotic pest is spreading to an ever widening area. The emerald ash borer will have a major impact in all locales where ash trees are dominate, either as landscape and street tree specimens or in native woodland populations. In North America, the emerald ash borer attacks only ash trees, primarily white ash (*Fraxinus americana*) and green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*) and their many cultivated varieties. Their native range covers two-thirds of the continental United States, from Montana to Maine, south to Florida and Texas. Because ash trees are fast growing and adapted to growing in alkaline soils, they are widely planted throughout the United States including all the western states. It is currently unclear if native western ashes, Oregon ash (*F. latifolia*), native from British Columbia to southern California, and Arizona ash (*F. velutina*), are also susceptible to emerald ash borer and may be attacked as well. The borer resembles a grasshopper that is beautifully iridescent green in color.

US Arboretum