

May 2015 Newsletter

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Spring season wraps up with Friends of Peckerwood Day on May 30

We have had a wonderful, busy spring season at Peckerwood Garden with record attendance at each of our weekend Open Days and many private tours for local groups. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and our corps of knowledgeable docents, we were able to welcome nearly 1000 visitors since we opened in March.

Photo by Li Xipeng

Brenda Wilson helps a guest in the Nursery.



Our thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the season possible, and particularly to nursery volunteer Brenda Wilson, who tirelessly helped guests with their plant selections and care instructions. Adolfo Silva and his team kept the garden looking immaculate, and office manager Bethany Jordan coordinated all the moving parts of the operation to open

Peckerwood Garden to the public this season.

John Lomax as docent to a group of Open Day guests.

The spring season wraps up with our annual Friends of Peckerwood Day on Saturday, May 30, from 2-5 pm. This is a festive gathering to thank our members and friends, with specialty garden tours, music and refreshments, and a sale of international folk art donated from private collections. Members are the guests of honor at Friends of Peckerwood Day, and their guests are admitted free. Non-members may share the fun with regular admission fee of \$10 per person. Please reserve in advance



Peckerwood Garden Foundation welcomes new board members



Photo by Bethany Jordan
The Peckerwood Garden Conservation Foundation is the tax-exempt nonprofit organization that cares for the garden and opens it to the public, and presents educational programs and events to support its mission. The Foundation's [board](#)

[of directors](#) is composed of community leaders, professionals, and colleagues of founder John Fairey and meets regularly in Houston.

At its April meeting, the board welcomed the following new members: Kathy Huber, long-time garden editor of the Houston Chronicle whose coverage of

Peckerwood Garden has helped us reach so many gardeners in the greater Houston area; Randy Johnson, horticulture director at the Dallas Zoo and native plant expert; John Lomax (seen above), cactus and succulent enthusiast, Peckerwood Garden docent, and oil industry financial executive; and Randy Twaddle, visual artist whose most recent public work is on view at the new McGovern Centennial Gardens in Hermann Park. The officers of the board for this year are: Sarah Newbery, President; John Roberson, Vice President; Bill Bartlett, Treasurer; and Jill Whitten, Secretary.

Rites of Spring dinner a magical evening in the garden



Chef Monica Pope

A capacity crowd attended the Rites of Spring benefit dinner in the garden in late April. Rock star chef Monica Pope contributed her time and talents to create a magical setting under the nursery pergola, and guests enjoyed a specialty cocktail followed by a robust and savory menu based on local foods. Lingering until the stars came out, with a background of sweet western music, was an unforgettable experience. Event chair Jill Whitten thanked all our guests and Founders Circle members for their support of Peckerwood Garden.

Garden Conservancy's Houston Open Day spotlights Peckerwood Garden

Jeff Law and Warren Morales Garden



The Garden Conservancy, a national organization that saves and shares outstanding gardens, presents an annual series of garden visiting opportunities around the country called Open Days. Peckerwood Garden is pleased to be the local partner and beneficiary of the Houston Open Day, which took place this year on April 18th. Landscape architect and Peckerwood Garden

member Frank Brown III is the regional representative for the Conservancy program and coordinates the recruitment of gardens each year. The generous hosts who opened their gardens this season were: Lynne Hoefer, Jeff Law and Warren Morales (left), Lori Riberi, Melissa Suhr-Atherholt, Sandra L Tirey (below right), and Susan and Walter Py.

Sandra L Tirey garden

It was a treat to see a variety of gardens in different parts of the city, ranging from a magnificent re-envisioned ranch home in Tanglewood to the colorful mix of tropical plants and artifacts in Jeff Law's garden in Sharpstown. Peckerwood Garden held a small plant sale near two of the open gardens in The Heights, and volunteers greeted visitors and offered two-for-one admission passes for a visit to Peckerwood the next day.



We are grateful to Frank Brown and Mark Scioneaux, Kathleen Divita, and all the garden hosts for their support of Peckerwood Garden, and look forward to collaborating with the Garden Conservancy on this successful event again in 2016.

**Featured video: Central Texas Gardener KLRU
interview with John Fairey**

For a [virtual tour](#) of Peckerwood Garden and insights into how it was created and developed, please enjoy this beautiful video interview with founder John Fairey, which captures the light and textures of the garden, John's planting philosophy, and also his feeling that people "need to learn to laugh and have fun!"

Rites of Spring Dinner



Friends of Peckerwood Patron Members: Pick up your annual plant selection from the nursery at Friends of Peckerwood Day!

Photo by Bethany Jordan

All members receive a 10% discount on plants at our nursery, and also at our partners:

[Arbor Gate Nursery](#) – Tomball

[Caldwell Nursery](#) – Rosenberg

[Bluebonnet Herb Farm](#) – Hempstead



Special thanks to our [Professional Ambassadors](#), members of the landscape industry who support Peckerwood Garden.

