

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Here's the Dirt Newsletter

VOL. 3 Edition 9

Brazoria County Horticulture Agent



Kimberly Mayer, CEA, CPTM

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September Happenings



September is the start of lots of beginnings. It's the start of the new Program Plan year for AgriLife Extension. It's the pre-cursor to fall and all the pumpkin spice latte drinking, cardigan wearing and soup making days with cloudy cool weather that you can ask for. It's the best time to plant trees and wildflowers. It's also time for the Second Annual Strawberry Jamboree.

Despite securing the Ballroom at the Lake Jackson Civic Center for this year's event, Hurricane Beryl had a different idea. Due to ongoing repairs from the damage that the storm caused, we will be holding this year's event at the Lake Jackson Recreation Center. Big shout out to Crystal for reaching out to them and helping to secure this location for us! The show must go on and we will do all that we can to make it another successful event.

I'm berry thankful for all of you that have signed up to volunteer and those that will be attending.

So, keep calm and berry on...strawberry season is upon us.



2024 Strawberry Jamboree

8:00 am - Doors open and Tradeshow begins

8:30 am - Welcome Kimberly Mayer, CEA Horticulture

Opening Remarks, Cody Vasut State Representative

Musical Guest - Josh and Ari Music

Results of Strawberry Variety Trial, Kimberly Mayer

9:00 am - Strawberry Preservation- Shana Kutac, CEA Family and Community Health

9:30 am Q&A with Destin Noak, Texas Garden Guy

10 am - Dr. Russ Wallace, Associate Professor and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Specialist

11:45 am Strawberry Shortcake Awards, Evaluation and Door Prizes





Save the Date
Second Annual Strawberry Jamboree
*8am -12pm | September 21st
Lake Jackson Rec Center
91 Lake Road*

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September Horticulture Hero



August and Ruth Aimone are a volunteer partnership that we all agree are key to the success of our Brazoria County Master Gardener organization. They are experienced, skilled educators and we have all benefited from their formal classes and “on the job” teachings on vegetable gardening, propagation and proper greenhouse procedures.

Before retiring, the Aimones were school teachers who both taught math to several generations of Pearland students. They won’t confirm or deny, but we believe they are also retired Hogwarts professors with magical green thumbs.

You first meet these wizards in your intern class where they teach you how to successfully grow vegetables and the art of plant propagation. Their classes combine Ruth’s engaging, interactive lectures with hands-on practice and always include a bit of comedy from August as he keeps Ruth on script and sprinkles in a few good puns. We all still remember what we learned in those classes and the Aimone’s always receive high marks from the interns. As talented as they are in engaging adults in horticulture lessons, their true talent lies in maintaining their calm and keeping elementary and middle school Junior Master Gardeners engaged in learning about plants and gardening.

The Aimone’s talents don’t end with their teaching experience. That’s just the beginning. They work their magic in the BEES greenhouse. In the dead of winter when the BEES demonstration gardens are cold and brown, the Aimone’s begin to transform the old BEES greenhouse into a world of healthy green vegetable seedlings. They start with planting hundreds and hundreds of tomato and pepper seeds on the warming tables and then lead a team of volunteers in caring for them as they grow into healthy green

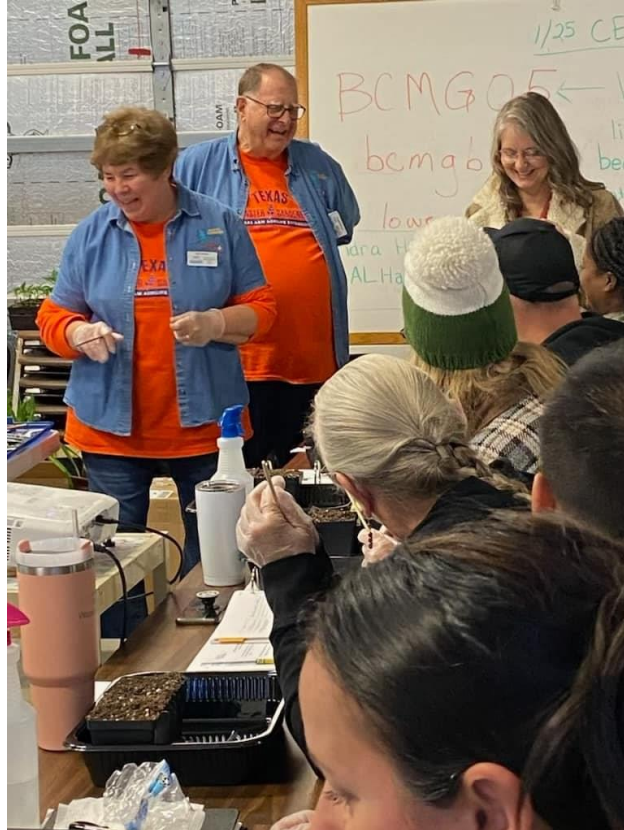
seedlings that later turn into greenbacks at our annual veggie seedling sale. Working in the greenhouse with Ruth and August is a transformative experience for the volunteer as well as the seedlings. Every BEES greenhouse volunteer levels up their propagation skills working side-by-side with Ruth and August.

Want to learn which variety of a vegetable does best in Brazoria County? Ask the Aimones. Not enough room in your garden bed for the vegetables you want to plant? The Aimones will teach you how to create a successful container garden out of 5 gallon buckets, empty water bottles and some good soil. Want to increase your success rate in raising seedlings? Ask the Aimones to share their magical plant medium recipe and Hasta-Grow potions with you. Want to know what seeds to buy and where to buy them? Say it with me, "Ask the Aimones".

So much more can be said about the magical Aimones. Besides always being ready to teach when asked along with caring for the BEES greenhouse, they have also given many hours to the BCMGA Board in a variety of capacities including Greenhouse Leader (Ruth) and Board Secretary (August). We know every BCMG member and intern has their own favorite Aimone story or pun to share.







Nominate a Horticulture Hero

We truly have an amazing group of individuals within the Brazoria County Master Gardener Association. I wanted to make sure that we recognize and fully appreciate our volunteers on more than just a yearly basis. That's where this program comes in to play. I would love for you to send me your nominations for a monthly Horticulture Hero. The requirements are simple. Just send me an email with a paragraph explaining why this individual should be nominated for this award. I will make the final decision each month and then award that person at the General Meeting. Some examples could be: above and beyond service at an outreach event, behind the scenes planning and coordinating, or even an outstanding presentation to a local group. The possibilities are endless. Get your nominations to me by the last day of the month. Email me : kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu

Upcoming Educational Opportunities

9/12 - Keep Pearland Beautiful Garden Lecture Series

9/21 - Strawberry Jamboree

9/23 - Triple P Plant Phenology Workshop

Keep Pearland Beautiful Garden Lecture Series

"Tree Planting 101 + Top
Brazoria County Trees"

with Kimberly Mayer

Thursday
September
12th @ 7pm

LIVE on our Keep Pearland Beautiful
Facebook page



In partnership with the Brazoria County Master Gardeners, the KPB Garden Lecture Series promotes best practices in home garden development and management. Lectures are held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00pm, broadcasted live on Keep Pearland Beautiful's Facebook



Keep Pearland Beautiful is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization | PearlandRecycles.com

Save the Date

Second Annual Strawberry Jamboree

8am - 12pm | September 21st
Lake Jackson Rec Center
91 Lake Road

The logo for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Horticulture, featuring the text "TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION Horticulture" in a circular emblem.The logo for Texas A&M University of Agriculture and Forestry, featuring the text "TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY" in a circular emblem.

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TX TRIPLE-P LEVEL CERTIFIED

The Basics of Plant Identification, Phenology, & Value

September 23, 2024 from 8:30 am - 3:15 pm

Brazoria Environmental Education Station

583 East Hospital Drive

Angleton, Texas, 77515

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 8 AM,
WORKSHOP BEGINS PROMPTLY
AT 8:30 AM

COME PREPARED FOR INDOOR
CLASSROOM & OUTDOOR FIELD
WORK.

BRING: NOTE-TAKING TOOLS,
PAPER, PENCIL/PEN, SCISSORS,
TAPE

WEAR: CLOSE-TOED SHOES,
PROTECTIVE CLOTHING, ETC.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

REGISTER BY
[CLICKING HER E](#)
OR SCAN QR CODE



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

- Learn the basics of plant identification and how to teach this to others
- Begin learning the master plant list that many 4H and FFA contests use
- Have fun in a half day workshop with other professionals
- Drinks, snacks, and lunch provided
- Workshop Fee- \$75
 - Fee covers workshop costs & helps support the development of a new and improved TX Plant Identification App



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PVAMU
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Rangeland, Wildlife
& Fisheries Management



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

August Outreach Volunteers

During the month of August, Preston Armistead taught a class out at Warrior's Refuge in West Columbia. And we had a hard working collaboration of Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners doing some cleanup work at the Delores Fenwick Nature Center in Pearland. Well done, everyone!





Agent's Corner

During the last week in August, I had the distinct pleasure of spending several days in Santa Fe, New Mexico to attend the Extension Master Gardener Conference with colleagues from across the country. What an honor to be able to receive a National Award for Distinguished Service in Early Career Award! A big shoutout to Jayla Fry and Nicki Maddams with Texas Master Gardeners¹ for their nomination and outstanding leadership in Extension. Extension Master Gardener² thank you for your hospitality and support of horticulture across the country.

New Mexico's unique landscape was definitely enchanting, the food was deliciously spicy (not stove hot, but chile hot) and the people were kind and generous. If you haven't been, I would highly encourage you to check it out one day. During my short stay I was able to see Albuquerque, the Sandia Mountains,

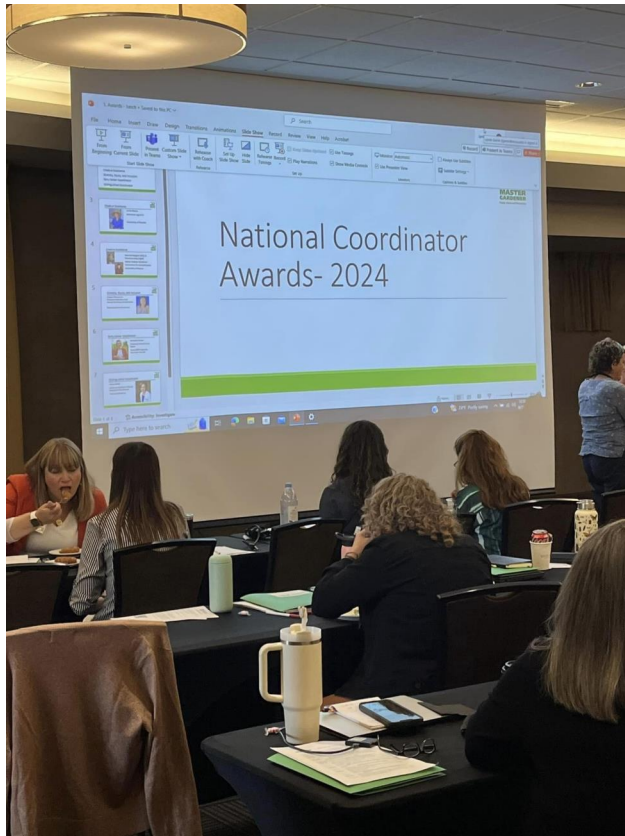
¹[https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterGardeners?_cft__\[0\]=AZUyqQHYYySWB-217clZzsukag4iJs4Plq5y6uFZoC-wlvp6lGajs7tekHqpB0PV6AE4m4fqN7QCxOArA3Sit8Gw5TSbvDFV1G3Owj25HjEDtOYn7lhCNtDTqSkNlleNySdLMhdHpQ_jxZ7nnZPrvucdUezrQPHjOfCFB3IZawVwHDiGE1qOPBNVwJc5P2b8OQLu_WS2V1eEbNX0KVDcE9rZgLdvt9srmDvGUs6es95LIMoIji8P8D9sn8UGCKTeKbtg&_tn=-\]K-R](https://www.facebook.com/TexasMasterGardeners?_cft__[0]=AZUyqQHYYySWB-217clZzsukag4iJs4Plq5y6uFZoC-wlvp6lGajs7tekHqpB0PV6AE4m4fqN7QCxOArA3Sit8Gw5TSbvDFV1G3Owj25HjEDtOYn7lhCNtDTqSkNlleNySdLMhdHpQ_jxZ7nnZPrvucdUezrQPHjOfCFB3IZawVwHDiGE1qOPBNVwJc5P2b8OQLu_WS2V1eEbNX0KVDcE9rZgLdvt9srmDvGUs6es95LIMoIji8P8D9sn8UGCKTeKbtg&_tn=-]K-R)

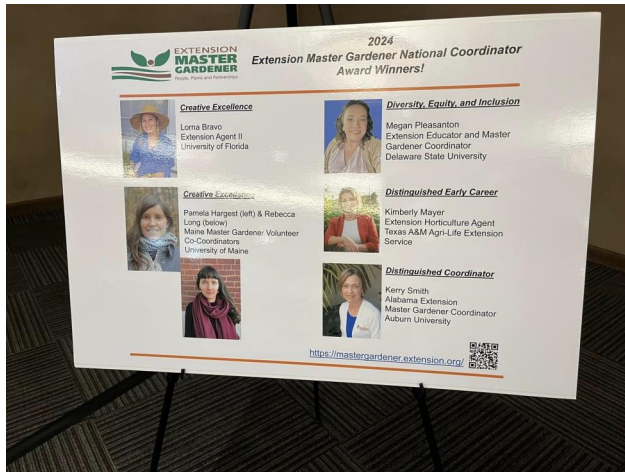
²[https://www.facebook.com/extensionmastergardener?_cft__\[0\]=AZUyqQHYYySWB-217clZzsukag4iJs4Plq5y6uFZoC-wlvp6lGajs7tekHqpB0PV6AE4m4fqN7QCxOArA3Sit8Gw5TSbvDFV1G3Owj25HjEDtOYn7lhCNtDTqSkNlleNySdLMhdHpQ_jxZ7nnZPrvucdUezrQPHjOfCFB3IZawVwHDiGE1qOPBNVwJc5P2b8OQLu_WS2V1eEbNX0KVDcE9rZgLdvt9srmDvGUs6es95LIMoIji8P8D9sn8UGCKTeKbtg&_tn=-\]K-R](https://www.facebook.com/extensionmastergardener?_cft__[0]=AZUyqQHYYySWB-217clZzsukag4iJs4Plq5y6uFZoC-wlvp6lGajs7tekHqpB0PV6AE4m4fqN7QCxOArA3Sit8Gw5TSbvDFV1G3Owj25HjEDtOYn7lhCNtDTqSkNlleNySdLMhdHpQ_jxZ7nnZPrvucdUezrQPHjOfCFB3IZawVwHDiGE1qOPBNVwJc5P2b8OQLu_WS2V1eEbNX0KVDcE9rZgLdvt9srmDvGUs6es95LIMoIji8P8D9sn8UGCKTeKbtg&_tn=-]K-R)

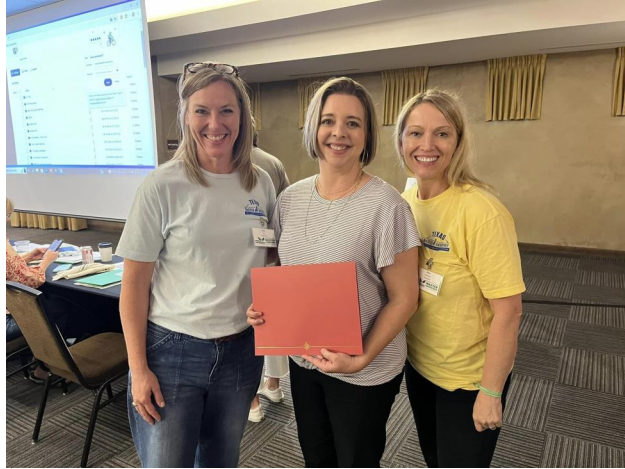
Santa Fe and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. All quite breathtaking! I'm looking forward to going back one day.

Ahhh New Mexico...it grows as it goes.









Community Outreach Needs

I could use a handful of volunteers to help with the upcoming Texas Triple P: Plant, Phenology, Project happening at BEES on September 23rd from 8 am until 3pm. Please reach out to me or the Armistead's if you are interested in helping with set up, take down, snacks, lunch, registration or evaluations. See the flyer in the section above.

Open House for Interns happening on September 28th from 10-12. Garden leads are needed to give tours and answer questions. Master Gardeners are needed to answer questions and mingle with prospective interns.

Upcoming Events:

9/10 Board Meeting at BEES 9am

9/12 Keep Pearland Beautiful Garden Lecture 7 pm

9/13 General Meeting at AgriLife at 10 am

9/14 Open Garden Days 10 am

9/21 Strawberry Jamboree 8am

9/23 Triple P Workshop 8 am

9/28 Open House for Interns 10 am

