



HOE!
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November 2013

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 9, ISSUE XI

IN THIS ISSUE

Officers for 2013

President: Jamie Brunns
Vice President: Kathy Laughlin
Secretary: Pat Randall
Treasurer: Cathey Hardeman

Committee Chairs

Administration: Nicky Maddams
Timekeeping: Martha Brogdon
Awards/Social: Scotty Bennett/Phyllis Pollard
Children's Activities: Phyllis Pollard/Marti Luedtke
Communications: Nicky Maddams
Class: Nicky Maddams/Jamie Brunns
Co-op: Fred Vesperman
Anderson Beautification: Janeth Nevill
Publicity: Peggy Sloan
Fundraisers: Phyllis Pollard/Dianna Westmoreland
Go Texan Landscaping: Mike Brame
County Fair Judging: Marti Luedtke
Historian: Sharon Murry

Texas AgriLife Extension

Extension Agent: Kimberly Hall
MG Coordinator: Jayla Fry
Secretary: Sandra Cook

Newsletter

Editor: Nicky Maddams
Article submissions, photos and information due by the 20th of each month. Send to:
biplanechik@yahoo.ca

Website: txmg.org/grimes

Email: grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

November 2 9:00am until sold out. Autumn Bake Sale in front of Navasota WalMart.

November 12 9:00am Monthly Meeting with Election of New Officers; Speaker: Joe Floyd "Snakes in the Garden & Other Things that Bite & Sting"

December 6 Christmas Party and Installation of New Officers

- November Planting Guide
- Photo Albums
- Committee Descriptions and Opportunities



Get to Know Your Fellow Master Gardeners!

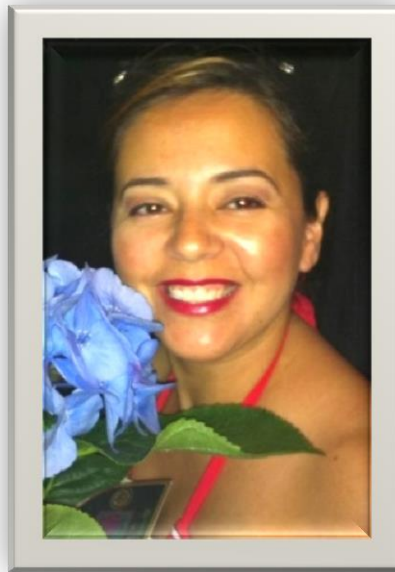
Meet Rosalia Mendez!

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

November Vegetable Planting Guide

Broccoli *	Now-11/15
Brussels Sprouts*	Now-11/05
Cabbage*	Now-12/31
Carrots	Now-12/31
Cauliflower*	Now-10/31
Kohlrabi	Now-11/30
Lettuce, leaf	Now-11/30
Mustard	Now-11/15
Turnip	Now-11/20
Radish	Now-11/30

*Use plants, not seeds; be sure to provide shade and adequate water.



ROSALIA MENDEZ



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

NOVEMBER brings us the following birthdays:

- Peggy Sloan – November 1
- Alice Bonds-Kocian – November 4
- Nicky Maddams – November 22
- Carolyn Guillotte – November 27
- Alvie Vesperman - November 27

On November 16, 2013, Peckerwood Gardens is offering a three hour seminar on Mexican trees and shrubs. A light continental breakfast will be included along with lunch. Cost for current Master Gardeners is \$25.00 (\$40.00 to the public).

Peckerwood Gardens, which we toured on our September field trip, are located at 20571 F.M. 359, Hempstead Texas, 77445

You can contact the gardens by telephone Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm at 979-826-3232 for more information.

Where were you born and how long have you lived in Texas?

I was born in Brownsville Texas, but I grew up in Houston Texas. I moved north to Michigan when I was 18 to attend college, but then returned as fast as possible.

Where is the farthest you have traveled from Texas?

The furthest I've traveled was Ho Chi Min City Vietnam.

Where would you go on your dream vacation?

My dream vacation and retirement location would be Honolulu, HI.

What is your favorite flower and tree? Do you grow them?

My favorite flower is difficult to choose one of the two; the star gazer lily and the plumeria. I have the lily around my trees in the back yard and the plumeria in the side yard.

Where is the prettiest garden you have ever been to and what made it so?

The prettiest garden I have ever been to would have to be the entire Island of Hawaii, if that's considered a garden. Everything is so lush, green, and beautiful.

What restaurant do you go to more than any other?

The restaurant I like to frequent is an Indian restaurant in College station called Taz. They

have the most wonderful vegetable curry and rice dish that I can never get enough of.

What is your favorite season?

My favorite season is spring, only because I like to see all of nature wake up from its winter sleep.

Why are you a Master Gardener or Intern?

I decided to become a Master Gardener because even though I believe I know a bit about gardening, I want to learn all I can and what better way to learn something than becoming a student?

What is the closest you have been to a natural disaster?

The closest natural disaster I have been to was hurricane Ike. Even though my house sustained only cosmetic damage from downed trees, my immediate family lost a whole lot. My family and I were also on the first responder team to clean up and I witnessed the damage water and wind can do.

When in your life have you needed an alibi?

Well if I answered this question I would call on my Master Gardeners for another!

Where would you like to go that is "off the beaten bath"?

My most favorite place to unwind would have to be my in-law's beach house on Tiki Island near Galveston. There is no TV, but has all your everyday conveniences and offers the most warm, salty, calming breeze.

What vegetable do you hate?

I wouldn't call myself a vegetable hater, I love all things green, but I really don't like radishes. I have tried them every which way I can and I can't seem to find them "tasty", but will eat them if it was offered.

What do you love the smell of?

I love the smell of roses. At the precise moment when I walk to my front yard and I have new blooms on my rose bushes and the scent just hits me as I get close, automatically puts me in a good mood.

What is your favorite ice cream?

My favorite ice cream is really determined by two things; my mood, and the season. If I've had a hard day and need a break, bluebell's Rocky road does the trick, but the one Bluebell flavor that is only available according to

bluebell's "seasons" is the chocolate covered strawberry.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Call me crazy but I do try to find joy in chores, but the chore that I absolutely despise is laundry only because I can never say I'm done!

What electronic gadget could you not live without?

I couldn't see myself living without my iPad; call me a nerd or new age, but I see it as my own portable library! So instead of hauling around several books (as I once did) all I need now is a small 4x2 piece of plastic.

Are you a social butterfly or do you prefer solitary endeavors?

I don't consider myself a social butterfly, but I do love getting to know people and listening to their stories. I also love spending time alone with my thoughts or a good book. I guess it really depends on the activity.

Name one wonderful childhood memory involving gardening.

One wonderful childhood memory I have is the very first time my teacher made me the good ole' bean in the plastic bag with a wet napkin. Watching the little sprout grow from that bean was what I think started my fascination with gardening.

What would you say is your garden style? (Country, cottage, formal, sculptural, etc.)

I guess I would call my gardening style "multi-media" since I have a little bit of everything growing around all over the place.



HARMONY IN THE CABBAGE PATCH - Garlic loves Brussels Sprouts -

Submitted by Helen Quinn

Now is the time that you have, or will very soon be planting your cabbage family vegetables - the Cabbage, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Kale, etc. If you are a "believer" or just interested in Companion Planting, you will be pleased to know that this is also time to plant members of the onion family, *Allium spp.* Onions and all members of the Cabbage family get along well with each other. They also "like" beets, strawberries, tomatoes, and lettuce, but do not like peas and beans. Ornamental relations of the onion are useful as protective companions for roses.

And, speaking of the Alliums, did you know that no other herb has served as many roles in the culinary, medical, and folkloric histories of so many cultures as garlic? An Egyptian medical papyrus from the sixteenth century B.C. lists twenty-two remedies employing garlic for everything from heart disease and worms to tumors, headaches, and bites. Ancient Olympic athletes chewed garlic to build strength and stamina, and for centuries the Chinese have drunk garlic tea to relieve fevers, cholera and dysentery.

When used as a spray, garlic has been reported to help purge the garden and orchard not only of insects but of certain plant diseases as well. Researchers at the University of California found that garlic sprays effectively controlled downy mildew of cucumber and radish, cucumber scab, bean rust, bean anthracnose, early blight of tomato, brown rot of stone fruits, angular leaf spot of cucumber, and bacterial blight of beans.

To make a spray take three ounces of chopped garlic bulbs and let them soak in about two teaspoons of mineral oil for 24 hours. Then slowly add a pint of water in which 2/4 ounce of pure (not detergent) soap has been dissolved, and stir well. Strain liquid through fine gauze and store in a china or glass container because it will react with metals. Try the spray against your worst pests, starting with a dilution of 1 part to 20 parts water, and then watering the spray down to 1 part in 100. To give it an extra zing, try adding half a dozen ground-up hot peppers to the brew. Adding a teaspoon of fish emulsion might act as a deterrent to rabbits feasting in the garden.



Allium ampeloprasum, (ampeloprasum group), known as Elephant garlic, isn't really a garlic at all. It is more closely related to the leek (*A. ampeloprasum* (porrum group)). Gerard (1545-1611) described it as "degenerate garlic grown monstrous". The flower heads of elephant garlic are large like those of the leek and more white than pink in color, and they do not produce the bulbils. These flower heads, when dried, make excellent flower arranging material. In place of several large cloves within the bulb, elephant garlic often produces what is known as a round - a single, large, onion-like bulb without clove segments. This happens because the plants have a tendency to bloom only every other year and bulbs do not separate into cloves until it is time for the plant to flower. When these "rounds" are produced, they are usually saved for replanting. They will divide into cloves the next year.

Superstitions abound around garlic.

*During the reign of King Tutankhamun, fifteen pounds of garlic would buy a healthy male slave. Indeed, when King Tut's tomb was excavated, there were bulbs of garlic found scattered throughout the rooms.

*In Palestinian tradition, if the bridegroom wears a clove of garlic in his buttonhole, he is assured a successful wedding night. Among practitioners of Auryvedic medicine, garlic is held in high regard as an aphrodisiac and for its ability to increase semen.

*European folklore gives garlic the ability to ward off the "evil eye". Central European folk beliefs considered garlic a powerful ward against devils, werewolves, and vampires. To ward off vampires, garlic could be worn on one's person, hung in windows, or rubbed on chimneys and keyholes. When diseases caused by mosquito bites were considered "The touch of the vampire," garlic came in handy as a mosquito repellent.

*This old Welsh saying may indeed have merit as a health remedy: "Eat leeks in March and garlic in May, Then the rest of the year, your doctor can play."



2014 COMMITTEES

The positions in red need people to fill them! You may be wondering what each one is about, so we've included that following the list. Please consider offering your talents and abilities to the association.

1. Administration: Nicky Maddams
 2. Timekeeping: Martha Brogdon
 3. **Fair Judging:**
 4. Communications: Nicky Maddams
 5. Community Projects:
 - a. Go Texan Landscaping:
 - Michael Brame- Mike Arden
 - b. Anderson Beautification:
 - Janeth Neville
 - c. Sheridan Nursing Home:
 - Ann DeWitt
 - d. Navasota Center:
 - Ann DeWitt
 - e. **Senior Day @ GC Fair:**
 6. **Children's Activities:**
 7. **Fundraising:**
 8. **Social/Awards:**
 9. **Intern Class:**
 10. **Mentoring:**
 11. Advertising: Peggy Sloan
 12. Nominating: Carol Garnett
 13. **Historian:**
 14. **Audit: Two required**
 15. Demonstration Garden:
 - Fred Vesperman
 16. **Speakers Bureau:**
 17. Co-op: Fred Vesperman
 18. Directors: Kathy Denning
- Two required PLUS two alternates**

Fair Judging: Assist with Horticulture Division of the Fair and coordinate volunteer judges

Senior's Day: Coordinate with MG volunteers to create a booth at Senior's Day in June.

Children's Activities: Coordinate MG volunteers and create activities for Junior Ag Day, Big Backyard at Grimes County Fair, Trunk or Treat, etc.

Fundraising: Brainstorm ideas and present to the association; coordinate fundraising events and volunteers

Social/Awards: Coordination of refreshments at monthly meetings; plan Christmas party (book venue, organize potluck and provide decorations and entertainment options, if applicable); coordinate awards for the association.

Intern Class: Coordinate speakers, book venue, organize each class, brainstorm outreach, order materials from A&M

Mentoring: Assign mentor to each intern and ensure mentoring is being established. Outline role of mentor.

Historian: This position will be discussed as to what spectrum we wish it to cover

Audit: Review year-end financial records for accuracy

Speakers Bureau: Respond to requests for speakers and coordinate with our available MG speakers. Seek out speaking opportunities. Keep active list of specialists within our membership.

Directors: Attend quarterly meetings in College Station, representing Grimes County; vote on TMGA (state) business; report back to membership on information presented in meetings; encouraged to attend the State Conference.

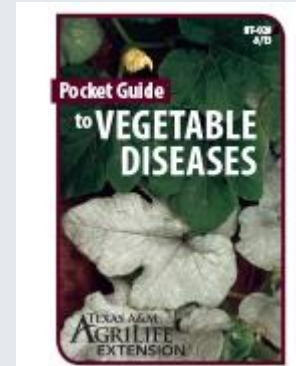


QUESTIONS RECEIVED THROUGH THE EXTENSION OFFICE in OCTOBER

We received an inquiry from a gentleman who owns 65 acres in Grimes County which is about 1/3 trees and 2/3 pastures. He took a pretty good hit in the drought on the trees and was interested in planting a bunch of pines and oaks. He was looking for any programs to obtain seedlings cheaply?

He was referred to the Texas Forest Service and Arbor Day programs and a nursery in Spring.

We had an inquiry from a lady interested in beekeeping and another who recently relocated from Houston to Grimes County and wanted to find out what types of plants, trees, etc. to plant. They have cattle, horses, dogs, and cats on the property and wanted to plant non-toxic plants and trees.



This spiral-bound, 3"x4" pocket guide, in English and Spanish, was designed to help home gardeners and commercial growers identify common vegetable diseases. Included are photographs, symptom descriptions, and treatment recommendations for 50 diseases of 14 vegetable crops. The book is intended to be used not for definitive disease diagnosis, but as a starting point for identifying general disease symptoms and possible control options. 104 pp. By Joseph Masabni, Thomas Isakeit, and David Laughlin.

The guide can be ordered at the AgriLife Bookstore, <http://www.agrilifebookstore.org/> for \$10.

Submitted by Kathleen Flick

Fall Social at the home of Dianna Westmoreland



Janeth Nevill with Connie Arden



Our wonderful host: Dianna Westmoreland



*Michael Arden, Edmond McGee, Rebecca Corbello Camarigg, Marguerite Corbello
(Rebecca is Marguerite's No. 2 sister who was visiting)*



Kathy Denning with daughter Michelle and grandson Grayson



Helen Quinn with Peggy Sloan



Teddy Ridout with Edmond McGee

Anderson Beautification Project Historic County Seat



A 3 year planning project was recently approved by TXDOT to beautify the Historic County Seat of Anderson. Alea Carrell, an Anderson High School Senior, who was selected as a Ford Leadership Scholar has chosen to beautify downtown Anderson, the County Seat of Grimes County, for her sustaining community project.

She is taking a leadership role in implementing this project and has joined with: The City of Anderson, Grimes County Master Gardeners, business owners along Main Street, The Grey's Confederate Park and The Sheriff's Office. Several area businesses are also donating their expertise, time, and materials.

Master Gardeners involved with this project include Chair Janeth Nevill and her committee: Edmond McGee, Peggy Sloan, Sharon Murry, Ann DeWitt, Marti Luedtke and Michael Havens.

Photos by Sharon Murry



TMGA State Conference McAllen, TX

Each year, the Texas Master Gardeners Association holds a conference in a different part of the state. This year it was down in McAllen, Texas and five of our members attended.

Next year the conference will be hosted by the Permian Basin Master Gardeners in Midland/Odessa on September 25-27, 2014.

Congratulations to Nicky Maddams for placing second in the Photo Contest with her submission of clematis 'Utopia'.



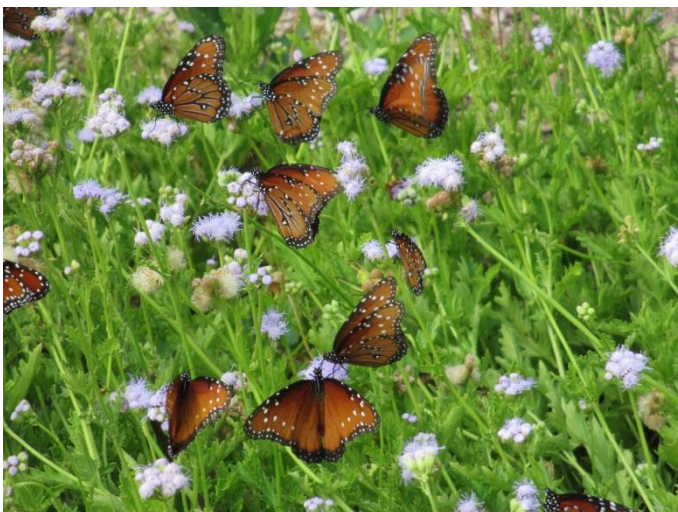
Grimes County attendees: Michael and Connie Arden, Kathy Denning, Nicky Maddams and Pat Randall



The female mariachi band provided entertainment at the Borden Welcome Reception



One of the great tours at Old Hidalgo Pumphouse



Another tour option was The National Butterfly Center of South Texas



Opening Day Navasota Center



Publicity Chair Peggy Sloan has lots of informaton at the ready



Sharon Murry planting in preparation for the opening



Ann DeWitt provided her expertise on native Texas plants



Fred and Alvie Vesperman opened the Co-op to the public



Hardworking team: Ann, Peggy, Janeth and Dorothy



Janeth Nevill with her hands in the dirt...er, soil

Trunk or Treat in the County Seat



Our bewitching (and catty!) Master Gardeners: Kimberly Erhardt, Jamie Bruns, Dianna Westmoreland, Marti Luedtke, Kathy Laughlin and Sharon Murry



We were awarded a trophy for 'Crazy Fantastic Trunk'



Our display in the bed of the truck



This little cutie was not afraid!!



Photos by: Kathy Laughlin and Sharon Murry