



**Aransas/San Patricio
Master Gardener Association**

April 2009

2009 Officers

President:

1st VP: Sandy Stanley
2nd VP: Ellen Reisinger
Secretary: Susan Lopez
Treasurer: Beth Wilson

Extension Agent:

Amy Freeman
Extension Office Manager:
Ernie Edmundson
Secretary: Thea Edmundson

Website:

<http://aransas-tx.tamu.edu>

Graduates

L to R: Sally Gale,
Susan Thompson,
Carol Spangler,
Christine Grohman,
John Jenkins
Graduate Not
pictured: Ray Ahlers



MG Award Winners

Front Row L to R - L'Ella Andrews-500 hours, Frances Frizzell-500 hours, Barb McSpadden-250 hours, Maryellen Sherman-1000 hours, Nan Jackson-1000 hours, Marilyn Vaughan-60+150 CE-R, 250+500+1000 hours, Janice Holland-500 hours,
Back Row L to R: Todd Cutting-250 hours, Richard Snyder-100 hours, Ronell Burke-500 hours, Bob Crawford-1500 hours, Steve Vaughan-500 hours, Ernie Edmundson-3000 hours



New Texas Master Gardener Graduates

Congratulations

Happy Birthday !

Paul Eulenfeld, 3rd
Darla Cassel 6th,
Susan Lopez, 18th
Robert Field, 18th
Marilee Bell, 25th
Richard Snyder, 28th

**Seeking Serious
Plant Lovers**

Texas Master Gardeners are a team of volunteer horticulture educators who are under the auspices of:



Green Acres is our award winning demonstration garden located at 611 E. Mimosa, Rockport, Texas. The gardens showcase plants and landscape schemes suitable for the Coastal Bend. For help with plant problems, or for class information, please call (361) 790-0103, or email aransas-tx@tamu.edu

April Brown Bag Program

Tuesday, April 21 Noon-1:00 pm
The Well-Designed Perennial Garden
by Jeanna Godfrey, Master Gardener

Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

In Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Citrus Greening - Ellen Reisinger
Propagation by Simple Layering - Vicki Coble

**Green Acres
Garden Days**
April 10th
8 - 11 am

Editors

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Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Our Mission: *Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.*

From Our Writers

Citrus Greening

By Ellen Reisinger, Master Gardener

We all enjoy eating citrus products and reaping the benefit of having Vitamin C in our diet. Many of us in the Coastal Bend grow citrus trees in our own home gardens. Did you know that there is a devastating disease of citrus plants now found in the United States called Citrus Greening? This article discusses Citrus Greening Disease and explains what you can do as a home gardener to help detect and curb this growing menace.

Citrus Greening, also known as Huanglongbing (or Yellow Dragon Disease), can strike nearly all citrus species and even orange jasmine. This disease does not affect human or animal health. Citrus Greening Disease was first detected in the United States in Florida in 2005. At the present time the entire state of Florida is under quarantine. The disease is also present in Louisiana as of 2008. Outside the United States it has been found throughout Asia, the Indian subcontinent, Saudi Arabia and Brazil. The significance of this disease is that it can greatly reduce citrus production, render the fruit bitter and misshapen and it will ultimately kill the infected citrus tree. There is no known cure for Citrus Greening at this time.

There are three forms of Citrus Greening Disease (Asian, African and American). As of this date only the Asian form has been found in the United States. Citrus Greening Disease is caused by a bacteria. This bacteria is transmitted by insects called the Asian citrus psyllid and the African citrus psyllid. The Asian citrus psyllid has been detected in the United States, Mexico, southern Asia and Brazil. So far the African citrus psyllid has not been found here. It is unclear exactly how the Asian citrus psyllid first entered the United States. It has been theorized that the insect may have come in on an infected plant that was smuggled into this country.



Adult Asian citrus psyllid,

The Asian citrus psyllid is a small insect (3-4 mm in length) and is brown in color. The wings are mottled brown. This insect is most likely to be found on new plant growth. They feed with their heads down and their tails appear to be lifted off the leaf at a 45-degree angle. These insects lay their eggs on the tips of growing leaves. Eggs appear to be yellow-orange in color and are almond shaped. The eggs will hatch in a matter of a few days and the nymphs are yellowish orange. It requires about 17 days for an egg to develop into an adult. The Asian citrus psyllid can cause damage to the citrus plant by feeding on the sap in the leaves that then produces honeydew and ultimately sooty mold growth. You also may see white waxy deposits on the leaves. As the insect feeds it releases a toxin that results in malformation of the plant's leaves.



As mentioned above the most serious problem caused by the Asian citrus psyllid is due to its ability to carry the bacteria that causes Citrus Greening Disease. Thankfully, at this point in time Citrus Greening Disease has not yet been found in Texas but the vector (the Asian citrus psyllid) is present in the Rio Grande Valley. Literature indicates that the Asian citrus psyllid was accidentally introduced into the Rio Grande Valley on potted citrus plants from Florida. Some feel it is just a matter of time until Citrus Greening Disease arrives in Texas. The signs and symptoms of Citrus Greening Disease are blotchy mottling of the citrus leaves and leaf yellowing along with die back, poor flowering and stunted growth. Citrus greening leaf symptoms are somewhat unique in that the yellow mottling is not the same on both sides of the leaf. The fruit from an infected tree will often be green and bitter tasting despite being ripe (this is how Citrus Greening got its name). Infected citrus plants may not show signs of Citrus Greening Disease for a long time, sometimes up to two years. Eventually the entire tree will turn yellow and die.

Continued from page 2

In researching for this article I learned that the citrus nurseries in the Rio Grande Valley have a regular spraying program (about every two weeks) to eradicate any Asian citrus psyllid found on the trees there. This is not practical for the home gardener and these sprays are often only for commercial usage. What can we do as home gardeners to help detect and prevent the spread of this problem? First and foremost do not ship or move citrus plants outside of a quarantined area. Do not graft citrus plants and do not buy citrus plants of unknown origin. If you have fruit trees or orange jasmine in your own backyard it is important to inspect your trees regularly. Look for any signs of the insect or disease described in this article. If you find suspicious plants you can call the TDA (Texas Department of Agriculture) at 800-835-5832. The TDA will contact the nearest County Extension Office who will inspect the tree or collect samples if necessary and mail them to Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center for analysis. (Note: There are other insects and diseases of citrus besides the Asian citrus psyllid and Citrus Greening that can cause yellowing and misshaped leaves). For a photo of the Asian citrus psyllid and more information, a good website is <http://kcc-weslaco.tamu.edu>.



Nymphal stages of the Asian citrus psyllid

Long-term management of the Asian citrus psyllid that causes Citrus Greening is problematic in part due to the widespread citrus trees planted in this country. In Florida chemical control is used on young citrus unable to withstand the damage due to the psyllid. Biological controls such as lady beetles and wasp parasites have been employed as well. Research is ongoing. Meanwhile, we all need to do our part to help keep these very serious insect pests that cause Citrus Greening Disease under control.



Feeding damage

Editor's note - According to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Aransas and San Patricio counties are in quarantine due to the presence of the Asian citrus psyllid.

Kids Garden Fest April 25

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Activities and Prizes, Free Admission, Snack lunch provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Children's Discovery Garden in Green Acres Demonstration Gardens.

When to Use the Texas Master Gardener Title

Graduates of the Texas Master Gardener Program should not display credentials or give the appearance of being a Texas Master Gardener at a place of business unless that location is designated as a Master Gardener educational activity location by the local Extension office. Texas Master Gardeners must not use the title, Texas Master Gardener, in any form of advertisement. Implying Texas AgriLife Extension Service endorsement of any product or place of business is improper.

The Texas Master Gardener program is a public service program operated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to provide unbiased information, and the Texas Master Gardener title is to be used only when doing unpaid volunteer work in this program. When Texas Master Gardeners speak before groups on horticultural subjects it is permissible for them to accept unsolicited reimbursements or gifts.



Master Gardeners present Aransas County Commissioners Court with volunteer service check for \$193,743.52 representing 9,740 hours donated by Master Gardeners in 2008.



Spring Plant Sale

The 2009 Hidden Gardens Tour

As the season moves into spring, it is time to think about the Hidden Gardens Tour. We have all had to work a little harder to get sponsors this year, but we are very happy with our success so far. We will post a copy of the flyer we are preparing for the Chamber of Commerce that will list all of our sponsors. As you go out among the merchants, we hope you will thank them again for supporting the Master Gardener Association.

The Master Gardener organization is proud of our ability to reach out to our local communities with the educational programs that these fund raising projects enable us to sponsor. The spring plant sale was a GREAT success with over 400 people attending and the sale of most of the plants. The Brown Bag and Seminar attendance has grown and allows us to reach more people. With the continuing gardening articles and the ads that have been placed in the newspapers, our communities are learning more about the Master Gardener programs and are being really supportive.

It is wonderful to be showcasing eight wonderful gardens this year. We have one garden with a canal view, a garden with a natural hot tub, another featuring an adult tree house, and a garden in old Rockport that showcases the trees that make our community spectacular. There are four gardens in the Portland area, and each one has a different story. Two gardens have marvelous views of the bay and another one has a swimming pool. The fourth garden is about five miles north of Portland toward Taft. When you tour this multi-acre garden, you will want to sit and relax a while.

Now we ask the members to step up and help distribute the Tour Posters beginning April 16, and on May 9 we ask you to sit at one of these eight wonderful gardens. There is a sign-up sheet posted at Green Acres with the areas broken up into sections for the Posters. We will begin to put up the Posters on April 7. We want to have the town plastered by the end of the week. We will cover Aransas Pass and Portland. You will find the "Garden Docent" list posted at Green Acres. We have a great photograph donated by an award winning photographer that we will raffle at Green Acres for three weeks from April 20 through May 9 during the sale of the Tour tickets. On May 9 we will need two people for two hours and one person for three hours to sell the raffle tickets. The winning ticket will be picked at 1:00 p.m. at Green Acres.

Come be a part of this exciting ninth annual Tour and be a partner in the continuing growth of the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners organization. This is an easy way to gain volunteer hours and to have fun doing it. The pre-Tour for those working on Saturday, May 9 will be Monday, April 27 at 9:00. Plan to carpool from Green Acres. Maryellen Sherman

Around the State

'Orchids with Sam' Seminar at Gardens & Nature Center April 11

Sam Jones, well-known South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Orchid Curator, says "you too can grow orchids!" Learn the basics of orchid culture made simple by Sam from 10-noon, Saturday, April 11, in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples.

Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members and includes general admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

Water Garden Seminar at Gardens & Nature Center April 18

Do you want cool trickling water on your patio; or rich rock ledges with waterfalls in your landscape? "Adding Splashes to your Landscape" seminar is from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 18, beginning at the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples.

Workshop cost is \$6, \$3.50 Gardens & Nature Center members, and includes admission. For reservations, call 361/ 852-2100.



FIFTH ANNUAL ROCKPORT HERB FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 4, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Rockport-Fulton High School Commons,
1801 Omohundro

Shopping Galore!

- Plant Sale sponsored by The Herb Society of America -Pioneer Unit
- "Thyme Well Spent" Gift Shop
- Herbal Forum Book Store

Fact & folklore of the Curandera's Garden at Gardens & Nature Center April 25

Centuries of fascinating stories and tradition will be discussed *The Curandera's Garden—Fact & Folklore* seminar, from 10 am to noon, Saturday at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members.

Gingers for Tropical Spice Seminar at Gardens & Nature Center May 16

Gardeners who want to update or add some edgy tropical looks to their landscapes should attend this seminar, from 10 am to noon, Saturday, May 16, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples St.

Carol Krank, Texas Certified Nursery Professional from Turner's Gardenland, shares knowledge and design ideas to add some spice and color with numerous varieties of graceful gingers. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members, and includes general admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

Rose Pest and Disease Control Seminar at Gardens & Nature Center May 23

Well-known rosarian and Master Gardener Jan Shannon shares her favorite methods of controlling typical rose pests and diseases in the Coastal Bend, at a South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center seminar from 10 to noon, Saturday, May 23, in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples St. Class fee including general admission is \$6, \$3.50 members. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.



April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 9 am Plant Sale Wrap Up 9:30 am Website Committee 10 am Plant Sale for MG's	4 1:30 pm Composting Demo
5	6	7 9 am MG meeting	8	9	10 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee Holiday - Office Closed	11 1:30 pm Composting Demo
12	13	14	15 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day	16	17	18 1:30 pm Composting Demo
19	20	21 12-1:00 pm Brown Bag 1:30 pm MG Board Meeting	22	23	24	25 10 am - 1 pm Kid's Garden Fest 1:30 pm Composting Demo
26	27	28	29	30 MG Hours Due		