



## Aransas/San Patricio

### The President's Corner

June, 2010

#### 2010 Officers

**President:** Ellen Reisinger  
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**Extension Office Manager:**  
**Ernie Edmundson**  
**Secretary:**  
**Thea Edmundson**  
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**Website:**

[www.aspmastergardeners.org](http://www.aspmastergardeners.org)

### 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](mailto:aransas-tx@tamu.edu)

#### Editors

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Ellen Reisinger

Every year the Planning Committee (once called the Strategic Planning Committee) meets to go over the Bylaws and the Policies & Procedures. This year there is a major overhaul! One of the big changes this year is that the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures will now match up. For instance if Article IV in the Bylaws deals with membership, then Article IV in Policies & Procedures will further explain membership. This is a big effort and

Elayne Arne helped in coordinating this for us. I want all of you to know that everyone on this year's Planning Committee is going above and beyond in dedication to this task. The meetings last at least two hours and discussions are lively. What has impressed me the most is that everyone genuinely cares about this organization and wants things to run as smoothly as possible.

This year, upon completion of the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures, the Planning Committee will move on to long range planning. This is where we as an organization look at our mission, our vision and our goals and objectives.

To accomplish all this we will need help from all our members. After the amended Bylaws and Policies & Procedures are voted on by the Board of Directors they will be sent out to all members. Take the time to read the amended documents and voice your opinion. We want everyone to be comfortable with this year's changes to the Bylaws and Policies & Procedures. Also, the Planning Committee will need input as we carry out the long range planning. We all need to be thinking about what we believe is the main focus of this organization. In order to determine where it is going, an organization needs to know where it stands. Once that is accomplished we need to think about where we would like this organization to be in 3-5 years and then how we will get there. I am only expecting great things as we go forward!

Ellen

#### June Brown Bag

**Tuesday, June 15 12:00-1:00 pm**

*Top 10 Mistakes of Texas Gardeners*

By Ellen Reisinger & Lonnie Matthew,  
Master Gardeners

**GA Garden Days**  
June 4th & 18th  
8:00 - 11:00 am

**June 1**  
6:00 pm  
Potluck Dinner of delicious smoked Brisket and home-made beans. Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring lots of 'summertime' sides and desserts.  
and  
Monthly Meeting at Senior Center  
912 South Church  
Rockport

#### Happy Birthday !

Allen Ray Moers, 4<sup>th</sup>  
Pat Stanton, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Susan Thompson, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Jeanna Godfrey, 15<sup>th</sup>  
Annette Fowler, 27<sup>th</sup>  
Thea Edmundson, 30<sup>th</sup>

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

### The King of Butterflies – The Monarch Butterfly

By Suzy Wallace, Master Gardener

Monarch butterflies are the most beautiful of all butterflies, some say, and are considered the “king” of the butterflies, hence the name “monarch”. There are lots of very cool things to learn about the monarch butterfly and we’ll try to get through most of them here.

Monarch butterflies go through four stages during one life cycle, and through four generations in one year. It’s a little confusing but keep reading and you will understand. The four stages of the monarch butterfly life cycle are the egg, the larvae (caterpillar), the pupa (chrysalis), and the adult butterfly. The four generations are actually four different butterflies going through these four stages during one year until it is time to start over again with stage one and generation one.

In February and March, the final generation of hibernating monarch butterflies comes out of hibernation to find a mate. They then migrate north and east in order to find a place to lay their eggs. This starts stage one and generation one of the new year for the monarch butterfly. In March and April, the eggs are laid on milkweed plants. They hatch into baby caterpillars, also called the larvae. It takes about four days for the eggs to hatch. Then the baby caterpillar doesn’t do much more than eat the milkweed in order to grow. After about two weeks, the caterpillar will be fully-grown and find a place to attach itself so that it can start the process of metamorphosis. It will attach itself to a



stem or a leaf using silk and transform into a chrysalis.

Although, from the outside, the 10 days of the chrysalis phase seems to be a

time when nothing is happening, it is really a time of rapid change.

Within the chrysalis the old body parts of the caterpillar are undergoing a remarkable transformation, called metamorphosis, to become the beautiful parts that make up the butterfly that will emerge. The monarch butterfly will emerge from the pupa and fly away, feeding on flowers and just enjoying the short life it has left, which is only about two to six weeks. This first generation monarch butterfly will then die after laying eggs for generation number two.



The second generation of monarch butterflies is born in May and June, and then the third generation will be born in July and August. These monarch butterflies will go through exactly the same four stage life cycle as the first generation, dying two to six weeks after they become beautiful monarch butterflies.

The fourth generation of monarch butterflies is a little bit different than the first three generations. The fourth generation is born in September and October and goes through exactly the same process as the first, second and third generations except for one part. The fourth generation of monarch butterflies does not die after two to six weeks. Instead, this generation of monarch butterfly migrates to warmer climates like Mexico and California and will live for six to eight months until it is time to start the whole process over again.

It is amazing how the four generations of monarch butterflies works out so that the monarch population can continue to live on throughout the years, but not become overpopulated.

Mother Nature sure has some cool ways of doing things, doesn’t she?



2010 Hidden Gardens Tour



# Around the State

## *Flamingo Fandango brings Flock to Corpus Christi designers may pick up birds NOW!*

Remember, back in the day, when pink plastic yard flamingos were an outrageous fuchsia fad?

The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center once again plays a big pink spoof on those summers past—with its fourth annual Flamingo Fandango, which opens Thursday, July 1, running through Labor Day, Monday, September 6, at its 180 acre mix of gardens, native habitat and natural wetlands facility in Corpus Christi.

Professional, amateur and just-for-fun artists of all ages are invited to custom-costume the plastic flamingos for this now infamous best-dressed bird contest; and may pick up their 'naked' flamingos, from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm daily, at the Botanical Gardens, 8545 S. Staples St. A required deposit on bird bodies will be returned once the birds come back 'dressed'—no later than June 15. Corporate entries also welcome.

The goal of Flamingo Fandango is to ruffle some feathers with flamboyantly aesthetic flair, making Corpus Christi's warm, breezy slightly sultry summer a lot cooler—and putting a whole new spin on NATURE TOURISM! All flamingos remain property of the Gardens & Nature Center. (Birds not deemed in good taste may be banned from the flock). For more information, call the Gardens & Nature Center, 361-852-2100.



## From Our Extension Agent

Keeping track of your hours just got simpler! There are just two categories now: CE and MG. After considering input from a number of people, I decided that MG (Master Gardener) and GA (Green Acres) hours will both be counted as MG starting this month. So, whether you are tending one of the Green Acres gardens, answering phone calls at the Extension office, planning the Kid's Fest, or making arrangements for Hidden Garden Tour, to name a few examples; your hours should be listed as MG.

By the way, volunteers are greatly needed in the Green Acres demonstration gardens and to answer phone and walk in questions. Answering questions might seem intimidating, but no one is expected to know everything! It is more a matter of investigating-asking questions, gathering information, researching (if needed), and then coming up with a response. The questions don't have to be answered on the spot either; it is fine to get back to the person with the answer. Please volunteer for one of these!

As a reminder, in April, recording of Continuing Education (CE) hours was changed so it is no longer broken into CE-L and CE-R. All educational activities are all simply CE now.

Thank you for your many efforts on behalf of Texas AgriLife Extension and for the community.

## Specialist Training

The MG Specialist-Citriculture training is a comprehensive educational program aimed at preparing Master Gardeners to grow citrus in the home orchard successfully and manage the challenging complex of associated insects and diseases, including Citrus Greening. The two-day course will cover varieties, nutrition, frost protection, propagation, as well as identification and management of insects and diseases of citrus.

July 29-30, 2010, Fort Bend Co. Ag/Extension Center, 1402 Band Road, Rosenberg, TX, hosted by Fort Bend Co. Master Gardeners.

September 2-3, 2010; *The Neighborhood Place*, 3014 Rivas St., San Antonio, TX 78228 hosted by Bexar Co. Master Gardeners.

Participants for each session must be preregistered by their County MG Coordinator/Agent and approved by the MG Specialist Training Coordinator (Monte Nesbitt, Extension Program Specialist). Fee for the course is being specially priced at \$85/person, because of state grant awards for Citrus Greening prevention. Registration fee includes educational materials and three meals.

## Specialist Training

### Plant Propagation

Taylor County Extension and Big Country MG

August 26-28, 2010

Abilene, TX

Registration fee of \$150 includes lecture, hands-on instruction sessions, resource CD and copies of lecture materials, misc. propagation equipment; 2 dinners, 1 lunch, and snacks. Travel and lodging is on your own. Deadline is July 30. Participants must be preregistered by their County MG Coordinator/Agent.

# June 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>1</i> 6pm MG Monthly Meeting	<i>2</i> 8:30am Propagation Committee	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i> 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30am Landscape Committee	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 8:30am Propagation Committee	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> 10am Planning Committee	<i>15</i> 12-1pm Brown Bag 1:30pm Board Meeting	<i>16</i> 8:30am Propagation Committee 10am Tree Team Visits	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> 8:30am Propagation Committee	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i> 8:30am Propagation Committee  MG Hours Due			