



Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association

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Seeking Serious Plant Lovers

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



Logan Respass
Extension Agent
Aransas County

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

Editors

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The President's Corner



Approximately 220 Live Oak Learning Center students were our guests at Green Acres over a three day period, May 19, 20 and 21. They trooped their way through ten learning stations, taught by Barb Mahan, Pat Baugh, Sharon Watkins, Richard Snyder, Russ Bell, Marilee Bell, Ellen Reisinger, Frances Frizzell, Janice Holland and Ronell Burke. Gay Hejtmancik, Sara Shugart and Judy Abbey provided much needed assistance. Elayne Arne came and took pictures for posterity. We dodged being sprayed with water in different areas all three days--it was a blast! When the three days were done, the kiddos were knowledgeable and happy and the MG's were whooped and wilted! Seriously, it was great fun and it is an event that will hopefully be repeated in the future.

The MG booth at the Farmers Market was visited by around 120 people who asked lots of questions and bought approximately \$170 in books and/or plants.

The May brown bag didn't put a damper on the curiosity of 46 attendees. The "Rainwater Harvesting" program was led by Barb McSpadden and Janice Holland and lots of good, basic information was presented/shown to the note-taking audience.

The gardens look great, but do be careful from now on regarding the UV rays. Please use a sunblock and avoid being out in the sun from 10am to 4pm. Are you ready for summer? It's coming whether we are or not!

June Brown Bag

Tuesday, June 17 Noon and 6:00pm

How Does Your Garden Flow? - Irrigation

Richard Snyder, Master Gardener
Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

Rainwater Harvesting Seminar,

Saturday, June 7th - 9 am - 12 noon,

Billy Kniffen, Menard County Extension Agent
Old Rockport School, 619 N. Live Oak, Rockport

June 2008

Dates to Remember:

- Tues. 3rd: MG meeting, 6 pm
- Wed. 4th: 11, 18, 25 Propagation. 8:30am
- Sat. 7th: Rainwater Harvesting Seminar, 9 am-noon
- Tues. 17th: Education Committee—10 am
- Tues. 17th: Brown Bag 12-1 pm & 6-7 pm
- Tues. 17th: Board meeting, 1:30 pm

Tuesday, June 3, 6 pm High School Commons MG Meeting

Salad Bar: The Food Committee will furnish lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, celery, broccoli, shredded carrots and three dressings: Ranch, Caesar, and Blue Cheese. If you do not see your favorite salad item, bring it as your contribution to the salad bar. Also, other salads like coleslaw, potato, macaroni, etc., and of course, desserts are welcome.

Happy Birthday !

Thea Edmundson, 30th
Annette Fowler, 27th
Jeanna Godfrey, 15th
Phoebe McNeill, 17th
Sharon Watkins, 2nd

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

EARTH KIND

Efficient Irrigation — Part III Guidelines for Irrigating the Landscape

Establish Irrigation Objectives

In a xeriscape-type landscape, the goal is to minimize the amount of supplemental water applied to the landscape. Therefore, routine irrigation should be needed only in the high-water-use zones. Occasional hand watering or a portable irrigation system, such as porous pipe, can be used as needed in the moderate-water-use zones. Established plants in low-water-use zones would receive only natural rainfall and no supplemental irrigation water except in extreme drought.

Use an Automatic Controller to Help Save Water

An automatic controller attached to the irrigation system turns the system on and off and controls the water flow through the various zones according to a pre-set time clock. It allows you to set the length of time each zone operates as well as the days of the week and time of day the system operates. An automatic controller, however, does not relieve you of the need to monitor the system's operation closely. The controller should be reprogrammed frequently during the growing season because water needs change from week to week.

A rainfall sensor attached to the controller detects rainfall and prevents the irrigation system from operating if significant rainfall has occurred. Another type of sensor measures soil moisture and overrides the system when soil moisture is adequate. Sensors are especially useful if the system cannot be monitored and adjusted regularly.

You can buy many different types of controllers. Make sure you get one with the features you need. When managed properly, an automatic controller can pay for itself in reduced water usage, cost, and labor.

Irrigation for Specific Landscape Plants



Irrigating Turfgrass

In moderate-water-use zones, turfgrass is irrigated only when it shows signs of moisture stress. Turf under water stress appears dull bluish green, the leaf blades roll inward, and footprints remain on the grass after a person walks over an area. To prevent serious plant damage and maximize water-use efficiency, irrigate turf in the moderate-water-use zones with a portable lawn sprinkler within 24 to 48 hours after these signs appear.

Under optimum growing conditions in a high-water-use zone, turfgrasses use 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week during hot, dry weather. It is usually best to divide this amount into two applications per week, applying 1/2 to 3/4 inch each time. Never apply more than 1 inch at a time as this will likely result in runoff or deep percolation below the root zone. Early or late in the season when temperatures are cooler, irrigating only once a week is usually adequate. Never water grass daily except during the establishment period. Daily irrigation with a small amount of water encourages a shallow root system and reduced drought tolerance. Since roots generally grow where the soil is moist, a shallow root system also prevents efficient uptake of plant nutrients. Shallow, frequent irrigation also increases evaporative water loss from the soil.

Irrigating Trees and Shrubs

Woody ornamental trees and shrubs have deeper, more extensive root systems than turfgrasses or herbaceous ornamental plants. The root system of a mature tree, for instance, extends two to three times the canopy spread. Woody plants can therefore extract moisture from the soil even when the soil surface appears bone dry, and they can survive long dry periods without supplemental irrigation.

Use drip irrigation on trees and shrubs in the water-use zones of the landscape. Locate the emitters within the drip zone line of plants where the concentration of absorbing roots is the highest. During extended dry periods, operate the system 1 to 2 times per week. Run the system long enough to thoroughly wet the soil 6 to 8 inches deep. Regular and thorough watering of newly planted trees and shrubs encourages good root establishment and greater drought resistance.



Irrigating Herbaceous Ornamentals (Annuals and Perennials)

Herbaceous ornamentals vary widely in their tolerance to drought. Some perform adequately with a minimum of supplemental water, whereas others require close attention to soil moisture. Irrigation can be provided most efficiently if the plants within a bed have similar water needs. Herbaceous ornamentals generally have a shallower root system than woody ornamentals and are among the first plants in the landscape to show water stress during dry periods. Water these plants once or twice a week and use drip irrigation whenever possible. Be sure to mulch the entire bed area with 3 to 4 inches of organic material.

Prepared by: **T. E. Bilderback and M. A. Powell,**
Extension Horticulture Specialists

Visit in the Gardens with Maryellen Sherman

As I learned more about who Maryellen is, I thought about what the gardener and author, Mirabel Osler wrote. "There can be no other occupation like gardening in which, if you were to creep up behind someone at their work, you would find them smiling." I can just see Maryellen working with her favorite roses and smiling in contentment. And speaking of roses, if you want to know which ones to grow in your garden, Maryellen has lots of experience with both Earth Kind varieties and others which are not so easy to grow. Maryellen confesses, "A rose lover is weak and goes for the flower first, then the scent, and then the proven strength."

A native of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, Maryellen moved to Rockport in 2002 after living in Los Alamos, New Mexico for 30 years. To make the transition from the high desert to the low coast, she knew she needed to learn new gardening techniques and plants, so Maryellen joined the 2002 Master Gardening Class. When one instructor mentioned "dew" a light bulb went off and Maryellen realized she had lived without that weather phenomenon for so long she needed to change her fertilizing habits.

Because the Master Gardening organization is one of "the highlights" of her life, Maryellen has immersed herself in MG activities. She has been the secretary twice and first vice president. She worked on the yearly budget, helped re-write the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures, co-chaired the Educational Committee, and chaired the Member Relations Committee. She is still involved with many of the same committees.

Maryellen has always been involved with the Hidden Gardens Tour but for the past two years she has chaired the Tour. She finds it so exciting to share other people's beautiful gardens. Moving the tour back to the spring turned out to be a huge success. Maryellen says, "The garden owners loved not having to keep their garden beautiful over the long hot summer; and the Tour committee and the MG

volunteers also found it to be easier than working during the heat of the summer." While there was some concern that our very supportive sponsors would not be happy donating so soon after the fall Tour in 2007, they were all wonderful. The HGT Auction will be held in December again this year. Maryellen is pleased to report we made over \$11,000. These funds will go towards the MG Educational programs.

While Maryellen's favorite thing about being a Master Gardener is the companionship of her fellow gardeners, she finds great benefit in gaining new knowledge. Her goal is to share her knowledge by using the skills she learned in Logan's Presentation Class to put together Power Point talks (in particular a presentation on why you should grow Earth Kind roses).

Maryellen is also active in the Unity Church, and she has taken art classes in acrylics and watercolors, but she loves working in pastels best. Then, in addition to gardening at Green Acres, Maryellen spends time at her home in Heron's Roost tending her very colorful beds which include herbs, ginger, citrus trees, native plants, and of course, roses. Her eye-catching Plumeria cause people to stop and ask what kind of plant it is.

In case you have not met him, Maryellen's husband, Larry has provided 25 "wonderful" years of marriage. Maryellen has a son who lives in NYC and a son that lives in Pasadena, CA. Her other family members live in Pennsylvania, and one day we will lose our happy gardener when she moves to be closer to family. Until that time, we will relish all the leadership and support Maryellen pours into our organization.



Congratulations to JoEllen Myers from Austin who won the raffle held during the sale of Gardens Tour Tickets on May 3. Mrs. Myers won the signed print by Dinah Bowman *Mustang Island Jumpin' Tarpon*.

2008 Hidden Gardens Tour



Three lovely ladies enjoy the Colmer's garden.



Jon Rappard is prepared to guide visitors through the Colmer's Garden.



D. J. Chilcoat and Frances Frizzell enjoy each other's company as they garden sit for the McNeill garden.



Sam Williams and Lulu Harris discuss Irene Anderson's "Off to a Great Start Garden."



Maryellen Sherman and Suzannah Barnebey make some adjustments at the McNeill garden during the pre-tour.

Many Thanks from Maryellen:

I would like to thank the committee---without their help there would not have been a Tour. Suzannah Barnebey headed the fund raising. Patty Bidwell was responsible for all the signs. Linda Collins did the PR in the magazines. The late Cathy Brock found the lovely gardens for the committee to go and review. Suzie Cook did the brochures and plant lists. Anneliese Dahle did the garden plant labels. Ruth Hoese was my great support! Elayne Arne did the local newspaper ads. Steve and Marilyn Vaughan helped put up the Navigation signs. Frankie Fox designed the flyers and the tour tickets. Of course, we want to also thank the volunteers who were guides at all the gardens and the Master Gardeners who allowed us to show their gardens---Irene Anderson, Ann Clark, Phoebe McNeill, Monica Morris, and Ellen Reisinger.

News from the Insect World

Around the State

Exotic Texas Ant, *Paratrechina* sp. near *pubens* or the “crazy raspberry ant”

This tiny, newly recognized species of ant has spread to five Houston-area counties since they were first spotted in Texas in 2002. The ants like to suck the sweet juices from plants, feed on such beneficial insects as ladybugs, and eat the hatchlings of a small, endangered type of grouse known as the Attwater prairie chicken. They also bite humans, though not with a stinger like fire ants. The good news is they eat fire ants.

The really bad news is they are attracted to electrical equipment and their population grows so quickly that typical ant controls do not work. It's not enough just to kill the queen. Experts say each colony has multiple queens that have to be taken out. When you do kill these ants, the survivors turn it to their advantage: They pile up the dead, sometimes using them as a bridge to cross safely over surfaces treated with pesticide.

To learn more about this invasive species which might migrate to our area, refer to the following web site:

http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/exotic_tx.cfm



In Local & Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Invasive Plant Species by Lonnie Matthew, Master Gardener Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Composting by Heather Bywater, Master Gardener, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Seaside Gardening by Suzy Cook, Master Gardener, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Scale and Mealybug Control by Elayne Arne, Master Gardener, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Creating a Living Privacy Fence by Susan Lopez, Master Gardener, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Passion for Plumeria Seminar, June 21 at The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

Plumeria Society members will discuss tips on purchasing and raising these exotic, tropical beauties, lead a tour of the Gardens & Nature Center new 100-plant Plumeria Garden & Willoughby Viewing Platform, and preview the Society's July 19th sale to be held from 10-2 at the Garden Senior Center 5325 Greely. Seminar is from 10 a.m. to noon. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 for Botanical Gardens & Nature Center members, and includes admission. For seminar reservations, call (361) 852-2100.

2008 JMG Specialist Class

Please save the date of June 11-12, 2008. Junior Master Gardener Specialty Training will be held at the Williamson County Extension Office in Georgetown, TX. Cost is \$250 and application are available on the TMGA website.

Texas Master Gardener Specialist Training - Plant Propagation

June 5 - 7, 2008 - Abilene, TX

Sponsored by Big Country Master Gardener Assoc. and Taylor County AgriLife Extension Service. Registration fee of \$155.00 includes lecture, hands-on instructional sessions and materials; resource CD and copies of lecture materials; misc. propagation equipment; denim shirt; transportation for field trips; 2 dinners; 1 lunch; and, snacks. Transportation and lodging is on your own. Course is limited to the first 30 applicants. Contact Melissa Clifton, CEA-Hort, at dmclifton@ag.tamu.edu or at 325.672.6048 should you have any questions You may also access the Specialist Training information on the TMGA website Specialist page <http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/>

Master Gardener Specialist Entomology Training Sept. 15-19

Hosted by Wizzie Brown, Extension Program Specialist, Travis County. Registration fee of \$300.00 includes collecting kit with lots of goodies; lectures; Extension bulletins; 3 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks & drinks. Transportation and lodging is on your own. Course is limited to 20 applicants; deadline is July 18, 2008. Contact Wizzie Brown at ebrown@ag.tamu.edu or 512.854.9600 with any questions.

The **June 2008 TMGA Newsletter** is available at http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/news/news_index.html Click on Web newsletter June

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6 pm MG Meeting - High School Commons	4 8:30 am Propagation Committee - Greenhouse	5	6	7 9 am-noon, Rainwater Harvesting Seminar - Old Rockport School 619 Live Oak
8	9	10	11 8:30 am Propagation committee – Greenhouse	12	13	14
15	16	17 10 am Education Committee - GA 12 pm & 6 pm Brown Bag - Library 1:30 pm Board of Director meeting	18 8:30 am Propagation Committee – Greenhouse	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Propagation Committee – Greenhouse 8:30 am	26	27	28
29	30					