



Aransas/San Patricio

The President's Corner

July 2010

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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

Editors

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Ellen Reisinger

It had been a particularly frustrating week out there in the garden! The deer ate a large bush and a small tree I had planted. The cut ants wreaked havoc in the garden by the front porch. The gophers chewed the roots of a small shrub. The heat was stifling. I was kinda cranky. My husband asked me, "Why do you keep on gardening if there are so many problems?" I think we have all asked ourselves that question at one time or another. But the doubt does not linger long. Why do we keep on gardening? Because we all know gardening is good for the soul. Tending a garden relieves stress and provides a break from the constant bombardment with information about economic concerns, environmental issues and other worries. It is a creative outlet that gives you a great sense of accomplishment in a job well done. Gardening is a personal link to nature and is peace personified. Weeding, digging and planting are great forms of exercise. We need physical activity to maintain health. Gardening can increase the value of your home. Studies have shown that around twenty percent of the value of a home is tied up in the landscape. There are so many benefits to gardening. So how did I answer my husband? I told him gardening is a labor of love and I am not into Thighmasters! Happy Gardening, Ellen

July Brown Bag
Tuesday, July 20 12:00-1:00 pm

Good Weeds

By Lonnie Matthew
Master Gardener

Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

Green Acres Garden Days
 July 9th & 23rd
 8:00 - 11:00 am

Tuesday, July 6th, 9 am
 Master Gardener Meeting
 Texas AgriLife Extension Office
 611 E. Mimosa Rockport

Tuesday, July 27th
 1:30 pm
 Information & Registration Session

2010 Master Gardener Class
 611 E. Mimosa, Rockport
 Classes meet Tuesdays:
 August 10th-
 November 30th
 1:30-5:00 pm

Happy Birthday !

Loretta Brandt, 3rd
 Darlene Gooris, 5th
 Harold Henley, 6th
 John Jenkins, 15th
 Mary Ann Porcher, 15th

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

DEAD OR DYING LIVE OAKS

By Todd L. Cutting, Master Gardener

The eighteen month, 100 year drought of 2008/2009 is over but the long term effects on the live oak trees, *Quercus virginiana*, are yet to be determined. When the environment acts up with an extended drought, the live oaks are really challenged to survive. Extreme heat, cold and flooding are other natural factors that stress live oaks. Any factor, natural or man-made, that reduces leaf or root area increases stress on the entire tree which then increases the likelihood of disease.

The drought that ended last summer provided extreme stress to our live oaks. Couple this with the flooding rains that ended the drought, the record breaking heat of last summer and the freezing nights last winter and the stress factors increase dramatically. There are the man-made stresses of construction injury, streets, lawns, land clearing, buildings and parking lots.

All of these stresses, combined, have created an epidemic of **Hypoxylon canker** in our live oak urban forest. This fungus known as *Biscogniauxia (Hypoxylon) atropunctatum* is an opportunistic pathogen. It is present in the sapwood of almost all healthy, vigorous live oak trees. Resistance mechanisms in healthy trees keep it from growing. But when the tree is stressed, and has reduced carbohydrate and water levels in the tissue, Hypoxylon grows with a vengeance.

The symptoms of Hypoxylon canker, in progression, are:

- Yellowing to brown leaves that turn suddenly, hang for 2 to 3 weeks and drop
- Small new leaves, and reduced twig growth, less than 3 inches per year
- Thinning canopy
- Dead limbs and branches
- Water sprouts on trunks and large limbs
- Dieback of feeder roots
- Sapwood in the cankered area becoming white and stringy

As these symptoms proceed and reach the sapwood phase, the outer bark will crack, loosen, and fall off exposing the fungus. The signs of the fungus occur in three stages:

- Early stage: light to dark reddish brown to olive green colored crusty fungal tissue. This needs space so it forces the bark off.
- Mid stage: a gray surfaced area that eventually flakes off to reveal a dark brown to black, dried tar, crusty material.
- Late stage: large discolored strips on the trunk and major limbs.
- As these stages progress, large limbs or the entire tree will die with a loss of structural integrity of the wood.



Loss of structural integrity means that these large limbs and trees are a danger to people and property, depending on location, and should be removed



promptly. Trees with 15% or less of the canopy affected should have all dead wood removed. This is best done in the months of November to January to prevent spread of oak wilt. If more than 15% of the canopy is affected, the tree should be considered for removal, depending upon its landscape

value.

Since all live oaks in the Coastal Bend are already infected with *Biscogniauxia atropunctatum*, additional inoculation from infected trees is irrelevant. Removed trees can be composted or

From Our Writers Continued

From Our Extension Agent

Continued from page 2
used for firewood. Firewood from infected trees should not be stored near live trees unless covered securely with plastic.

We are currently dealing with a Hypoxylon canker epidemic brought on by drought and exacerbated by other factors. Many trees, especially in landscape situations, may have received enough irrigation during the drought to not have stressed severely. These trees can be further relieved of stress by “vertical mulching.” This procedure is described in detail in factsheet, Part 3, “Managing Hypoxylon Canker.” It involves drilling 2 to 3 inch diameter holes, 18 to 24 inches deep in a pattern under the entire drip zone of the tree and beyond to double the size of the dripline. These holes are filled with pea gravel. The idea is to aerate the root zone of the tree and to allow deeper penetration of irrigation water and also to provide more rapid drainage. All of this increases root growth, uptake of water and nutrients, and better carbohydrate and water levels in the wood and leaves.

Further descriptions and pictures of Hypoxylon canker can be found at

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1262&terms=hypoxylon>

or go to the TAMU AgriLife Extension Plant Pathology site to find three fact sheets about Hypoxylon canker:

<http://plantclinic.tamu.edu/page.asp?o=tamu&s=TPDDL&p=Factsheet>

Congratulations to our Master Gardeners—Green Acres Demonstration Garden took 1st place in the Parks division of the Rockport in Bloom beautification contest! The award was accepted by Barbara McSpadden, Landscape Committee Chair, at a ceremony at City Hall. A big mahalo (“thanks” in Hawaiian) to all those who plugged away to keep Green Acres in award winning shape. It is very much appreciated!



Congratulations are also in order for several members; Jeanna Godfrey who got 1st place in the Residential division, Laura Clark who as a city employee has maintained Zachary Taylor and Compass Rose Parks (2nd and 3rd place, respectively in Parks division) and Nan Jackson and Gay Hejtmancik who volunteer in the garden at Fulton Mansion (2nd place in Business division).

I’m excited that the first Master Gardener class series since I’ve been here will start this month. The informational session and registration is July 27 at 1:30, with classes beginning August 10th and running through November 30th; tell your friends and neighbors. And remember, certified MG’ers can attend any or all of the classes for a refresher and earn CE credit.

Thank you all for your time and effort. Happy Independence Day!

Saturday, July 17th New Plumeria Passions
Program at the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, 10 am until noon, taught by Frank Eicholz, Plumeria Society.

Weather moves Flamingo Fandango opening to Sunday, July 4!

CORPUS CHRISTI—*Nobody* likes a wet flamingo! With ALEX promising rain, rain, rain, the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center has postponed the July 1 opening of its fourth annual FLAMINGO FANDANGO to Sunday, July 4!

But, starting Sunday, running through Labor Day, September 6, visitors will delight in the record-setting **FLOCK of 120** artist-designed and dressed plastic yard flamingos; plus the **NAKED FLOCK**, which provides creative visitor photo opportunities. Flamingos will be found in shady areas of the 11 floral and garden exhibits, including the Orchid House and new Anderson Bromeliad Conservatory.

Around the State

SPECIALIST TRAINING

Citriculture

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

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.

Participants for each session must be preregistered by their County MG Coordinator/Agent **By July 1st** 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. **Contact the Aransas County Extension Office for the Pre-registration form.**

Plant Propagation

August 26-28, 2010

Abilene, TX

Taylor County Extension and Big Country MG

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.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

Entomology

September 27 – October 1, 2010

Texas AgriLife Extension Service Bexar County
Office, San Antonio, TX

Get immersed in the wonderful world of insects this week, and come out feeling like a true entomologist. Meet others like you, who have a passion for bugs! Topics will include: Ento 101, Integrated Pest Management, Beneficials, Spiders, Urban Pests, Insect Photography, Veggie Pests, Landscape & Ornamental Pests, Invasives, and much more! Hosted by Molly Keck, Extension Program Specialist, and the Bexar County Master Gardeners.

- 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 30 applicants; **deadline is July 30, 2010**

Contact Molly Keck at mekeck@ag.tamu.edu or 210/467-6575 with any questions.

Irrigation Efficiency Training

October 27, 28, 29, 2010

Dallas County Extension

The Master Gardener Specialist – Irrigation Efficiency training will cover hands-on practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, soak and cycle method, minor irrigation repairs, system trouble shooting, catch-can test, converting spray head irrigation to new water conserving heads, converting spray irrigation to drip irrigation and other water conservation practices.

Only 15 participant spots are available for this training. Registration is first come/first served basis at \$200 per person. For more information log on to the Texas Master Gardener website Specialist Training.

<http://texasmastergardeners.com/>

July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 County Holiday	6 9 am MG monthly meeting	7 8:30 am Propagation Committee	8	9 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30am Landscape Committee	10
11	12 10 am Planning Committee	13	14 8:30 am Propagation Committee	15	16	17
18	19	20 12-1pm Brown Bag "Good Weeds" 1:30pm Board Meeting	21 8:30 am Propagation Committee 10am Tree Team Visits	22	23 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day	24
25	26	27 1:30 pm Master Gardener Class Information & Registration Session	28 8:30 am Propagation Committee	29	30	31 MG Hours Due