



Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association

August 2008

2008 Officers

President: *Nan Jackson*
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Website:
<http://aransas-tx.tamu.edu>

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



Thank goodness we continue to be lucky concerning landfall of storms in the Gulf! At least the much-needed rain will alleviate some of the water concerns of an overworked landscape/propagation committee. Give them a pat on the back for their tireless efforts throughout the summer. Hat's off to Sharon Watkins and Bob Crawford for hosting the First Learning Tree Daycare students in the Children's Discovery Garden!

It's time to be thinking about the Fall Plant Sale...can you believe it? I know that Vicki Coble will be asking for help in going forward in this endeavor. It is one of our major money-making projects for the year.

The MG's have received several requests for help in landscape planning in the community. Ronell Burke will be reporting on this at our August meeting.

Gosh, it is time to sign up to help during the Intern class and training that begins August 5. Contact D.J.Chilcoat to help with refreshments and/or mentoring.

We will continue our discussion and decide whether we want to continue the Evening Meetings as in the past or have several "celebratory" meetings instead. Please seriously consider the pros and cons and take part in the discussion.

Nan Jackson

August Brown Bag

Tuesday, August 19 Noon and 6:00pm
"Oh, You got Trouble. Turf Trouble"

Presented by Master Gardeners
Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

In Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Establishing and Watering Lawns - Monica Morris
Plants and Your Allergies - Lou Harris
Planting Bluebonnets & Wildflowers - Suzy Wallace
Esperanza - Elayne Arne

Dates to Remember:

- Sat. 2nd: JMG Training, 8:30-4pm
- Tues. 5th: MG meeting, 9am
- Tues. 5th: MG Class orientation, 1:30-5pm
- Fri. 8th: GA Garden Day, 8-11am
- Tues. 19th: JMG Training, 8-3:30pm
- Tues. 19th MG Class
- Tues. 19th: BBL 12-1pm & 6-7pm
- Wed. 20th: GA Garden Day 8-11am
- Wed. 20th: Board meeting 1:30pm
- Tues. 26th MG Class

Happy Birthday !

Carole Howard, 2nd
Elaine Dreyer, 4th
Ellen Reisinger, 9th
Sarah Shugart, 10th
Frankie Fox, 11th
Suzie Cook, 14th
Irene Anderson, 17th
Elayne Arne, 23rd
Wayne Orchard, 25th
Ceil McKinney, 27th

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The 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.*

EARTH KIND

Appropriate Maintenance

This is the 7th and final basic principle for Earth Kind landscaping.

An added benefit of Earth Kind landscapes is less maintenance. A well-designed landscape can decrease maintenance by as much as 50 percent through reduced mowing; once-a-year mulching; elimination of weak, unadapted plants; and more efficient watering techniques.

Proper Mowing and Fertilizing Conserves Water:

Mowing grass at the proper height conserves water. Mow St. Augustine and buffalo at 3 inches, Bermuda at 1 inch, centipede and Zoysia at 2 inches.

Applying fertilizer to the lawn at the proper time and in the proper amount can save time, effort and money through reduced mowing and watering. Fertilizers also can be a major source of pollution of streams and groundwater if excessive amounts are applied.



Fertilize the lawn once in the spring and again in the fall to produce a beautiful turf without excess growth which demands frequent watering. Use a slow-release form of nitrogen in the spring application and a quick-release form in the fall. Apply only 1 pound of actual nitrogen fertilizer per 1,000 square feet of lawn at one time. By using this fertilizer schedule, no other fertilizer is needed to maintain most shrubs and trees in the lawn area.

Other Cultural Practices To Save Water:

Other cultural practices that add to the efficient use of water by plants are periodic checks of the irrigation system; properly timed insect and disease control; elimination of water-demanding turfgrass and plant materials; harvesting the rain with rain barrels; using more efficient irrigation

equipment such as ET (weather based) controllers; and installing rain and freeze shut off sensors.

Water Conservation Commitment:

For each person in Texas, water must always be a vital concern. Water is a limited and fragile resource. The water used to irrigate landscapes



is considered a luxury use of water by many people. Nonessential use of water implies a special responsibility to efficiently use the resource and to protect its quality.

Water conservation in the landscape does not mean planting a harsh cactus and rock garden. It means common sense landscaping to protect water quality and quantity. It also means following the principles of water conservation to ensure continued prosperity for the residents and businesses of Texas.

By following these guidelines and tips, you can proudly create your own Earth Kind landscape.

EarthKind.tamu.edu



For more information about water efficient landscaping for Texas visit this website: <http://urbanlandscapeguide.tamu.edu/waterwise.html>

Education Grants

On June 25, 2008, the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners awarded education grants to Live Oak Learning Center teachers.



Left to right - Candice Ochoa, Teacher, Project: *Gardening with Literature*, 3rd Grade, amount \$1722; Nan Jackson, President, Master Gardeners; Alison Harbour, Teacher, Project: *Gardening the Live Oak Way!*, Grades 1-3, amount \$2915

Junior Master Gardener Training

August 2nd - Dr. Darlene Locke, Director, Texas 4-H Conference Center will lead this session for educators from 8:30 - 4:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall



August 19th—Lisa Whittlesey, Junior Master Gardeners National Program Coordinator will lead this session for educators from 8:00 - 3:30 pm at the Old Rockport Elementary School, Rms. A8-A9 (Alternative Campus) on Orleans Street



Contact Nan Jackson if you plan to attend either of these training

August Master Gardener Classes

5th - Orientation and Tour of Green Acres
 12th - Basic Botany
 19th - Internet Resources, MG Time Sheets, MG Projects
 26th - Propagation Seeds and Vegetation
 All classes meet 1:30-5pm at Aransas County Library unless otherwise noted.

Teacher Seminar

Free PROJECT LEARNING TREE one-day teacher short course offered at Gardens & Nature Center September 6
Teacher tuition underwritten by AEP Texas!

The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, in partnership with AEP Texas, offers two free **Project Learning Tree (PLT)** one-day short courses for kindergarten through eighth grade teachers, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, September 6; at the Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples. Teacher tuition and box lunch is underwritten by AEP Texas. Teachers from any area school district may enroll.

The **PLT** short course provides **96 ready-to-go lesson plans** for a hands-on interdisciplinary approach to science and environmental education activity lessons—for Science, Math, Social Sciences, Language Arts, Visual Arts and even Physical Education teachers. It covers plant life wildlife, water, waste management, energy and many other biospheric environmental elements, introducing **how-to-think, not what-to-think** concepts.

The course, which includes *teacher/student goals* and a *Teacher Guide*, allows teachers to expand and facilitate science education outside the textbook and outside the box. Lessons are correlated to the *Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)*. Each participant can attain six hours of continuing education credits; and six hours toward *Texas Environmental Education Certification (TEEC)*.

Class size is limited to 20 students. Instructor is STBGNC Executive Director, Michael Womack, Ed.D. Pre-registration is required. For information, call 361/852-2100.

Around the State

“Luffas--yes they are herbs!”

presented by Sharon Watkins Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group, August 13 at 10:00 a.m.

Sharon will bring in luffas and give us a hands-on presentation. Her luffas are not like the hard ones that you find in the stores. Her luffas are very soft and wonderful!

ACISD Maintenance Department (Formerly Rockport Elementary), 619 N. Live Oak Street, Room 14

Flamingo Fandango, July 1 - Sept. 1 at The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

Flamingo Fandango, in its second year, features classic pink plastic yard flamingos theme-designed and “dressed” by area artists of all ages, plus a “naked” flock of about 200 perfect for photo ops.

Beginning Bird ID Series, Sept. 1 - Dec. 5 at The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

12 Monday evening sessions (6:30-8:30pm), 6 field trips, with entertaining birder & naturalist, Gene Blacklock, of Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. (The Maximum class size is 16.) Payment must accompany registration-Register by September 4. \$175, \$150 members. For program reservations, call 361-852-2100.

Water Garden Seminar at The South Texas Gardens & Nature Center September 13

Do you want cool trickling water on your patio; or rock ledges and waterfalls in your landscape? The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center hosts “**Adding Splashes to your Landscape**” seminar from **10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, September 13**, beginning at the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples.

Members of the Coastal Bend Water Garden Club will share their knowledge about creating and maintaining water features that relax and subliminally cool your garden’s guests with pleasant splashing, trickling, or bubbling sounds of moving water.

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

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.

Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training September 11-12, 2008 in Conroe, TX

The purpose of this course is to provide advanced training whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in rainwater harvesting that support or expand designated educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. This training was created as an intensive multi-day, hands-on course to provide Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to communicate rainwater harvesting information to others. Completion of the course and other requirements results in recognition as a Master Gardener “Rainwater Harvesting Specialist”. For more information, visit: http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu/training_gardener.html

Learn how to make your yard a hummingbird playground at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center class September 20

Learn what plants and feeders will attract our tiniest feathered Winter Texans to your yard, not only in the fall, but well into our mild winters, at a hummingbird seminar, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, September 20, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. Texas Parks & Wildlife biologist Brent Ortego also will give a tour of the Gardens & Nature Center’s whimsical Hummingbird Garden.

Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 members; and include Gardens & Nature Center admission. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.

**Hummer/Bird Celebration in Rockport-Fulton
September 11-14**—Programs on Hummingbird & Butterfly Gardening/ Water Features/ Habitat Gardening & more
<http://www.rockporthummingbird.com/>

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8:30 am -4 pm Junior Master Gardener Training
3	4	5 9 am MG Meeting - Green Acres 1:30-5 pm MG Class	6	7	8 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee	9
10	11	12 1:30-5 pm MG Class	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 8 am-3:30 pm JMG Training 12 pm & 6 pm Brown Bag - Library 1:30-5 pm MG Class	20 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day 1:30 pm Board of Director meeting	21	22	23
24 31	25	26 1:30-5 pm MG Class	27	28	29	30