



**Aransas/San Patricio
Master Gardener Association**

November 2008

The President's Corner

2008 Officers
President: Nan Jackson
1st VP: Ruth Thompson
2nd VP: Marilyn Vaughan
Secretary: Sharon Watkins
Treasurer: Sarah Shugart

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

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



Congratulations to Marilyn Vaughan - President, Sandy Stanley - 1st VP, Ellen Reisinger - 2nd VP, Susan Lopez - Secretary and Beth Wilson - Treasurer...our Master Gardener officers for 2009 !!

The budget process has begun and we hope to simplify the sections of the budget in order to allow for a better understanding of the entries. We will complete the task in December, and according to the by-laws, the budget will be on the agenda for the January, 2009 meeting.

Our Master Gardener Interns are excited about earning volunteer hours.... I have a faint recollection of that time. Committee chairs, this is your chance to get new committee members for next year.

The Bells (Marilee and Russ) are busy with the evening Earth Kind course which hosts a full house of attendees. We hosted a great seminar on Trees, their care and pruning with Paul Johnson. He is sooo enthusiastic about his job and the importance of trees; I learn something new every time I attend his sessions.

Fall is upon us.....isn't it lovely? Nan Jackson

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

November Brown Bag
Tuesday, November 18 Noon-1:00pm
"Fall for Your Garden"
Presented by
Master Gardeners
Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

November 7 & 19
Green Acres Garden Day
8-11am

Happy Birthday !
Laura Clark, 2nd
Judith Abbey 5th
Maryellen Sherman, 5th
Marilyn Vaughan, 7th
Olin Briggs, 9th
Suzannah Barnebey, 22nd
Suzy Wallace, 27th

In Area Newspapers this month watch for...
Putting Plumeria to Bed - Annette Fowler
Fall Seeds for Spring Bloom - Sandy Stanley
Mathematics for Gardeners- Jeanna Godfrey
Thanksgiving Herbs and Food - Linda Collins

Editors
Marsha Hendrix
marsha.hendrix@thc.state.tx.us
Ernie Edmundson
aransas_tx@tamu.edu
Frankie Fox
frankie.for@charter.net

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.*

Texas Superstar Plants

Duranta, Brazilian Sky Flower

Duranta erecta

Rapid growing, dense shrub with small glossy leaves and a profusion of pendulous racemes of small flowers with colors varying from light blue to purple.



Some selections fruit heavily, and the plant becomes covered with small, golden ball-like drupes. The cultivar 'Gold Edge' has intense yellow variegation and flowers sparsely.

Exposure: Sun or shade; flowers heavier in sun

'Gold Edge' prefers shade

Size: Height 12 to 15 feet in south Texas, but size depends on pruning

Bloom Time: Summer till frost.



Mari-mum

Tagetes erecta 'Antigua'

Wonderful annual for fall display. Showy, double-flowered American marigold makes a great substitute for short-lived mums.

Exposure: Full sun

Size: Height 1 foot tall, 1 foot wide

Bloom Time: September till frost.



Chinkapin Oak

Quercus muehlenbergii

Chinkapin Oak is an attractive medium to large shade tree suitable for use in much of Texas. Its distinctive saw-tooth leaves, which resemble those of the chinquapin tree found in the eastern U.S., are a rich green, turning yellow to bronze in fall. It grows in the wild on well-drained bottomland soils and limestone hills near water, but it is adaptable to a range of soils and exposures. It is moderate to fast-growing and develops an open rounded crown as it ages.

Exposure: Full sun

Size: Height 50 to 90 feet tall, 20 to 40 feet wide

Care: Seldom troubled by diseases or pests.



Firebush

Hamelia patens

Long blooming, easy care tropical bedding plant with showy red-orange, tubular flowers. Great hummingbird attractant. Tremendous heat tolerance coupled with good pest resistance.

Exposure: Full sun

Size: Height 8 feet tall, 8 feet wide in our area

Bloom Time: Summer till frost.



From Our Writers

THE BEST GROWING SEASON

By Sandy Stanley, Master Gardener,
Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Good gardeners know that spring planting is just the beginning. Summer, fall and winter, here in the subtropical coastal region, are planting seasons too. In some respects, this is the best time of year to sow seeds directly into the ground.

Before discussing specific seeds to plant, let us first mention areas that are optimum for broadcasting seeds. At least a half-day sun is usually necessary for most flowering annuals. If you like an informal look and want to save a little money, mix seeds of chosen annuals with fine sand or soil, sprinkle the mixture over bare soil, rake lightly and water. It is preferable to not broadcast seeds in a heavily mulched bed as the seeds will frequently not 'break through' the heavy mulch. Many gardeners in this area do use mulch to prevent weeds from encroaching in the bedding areas. If this is your situation, you may opt to rake the mulch back to a spot to save it. Then rake the soil that is to be seeded, broadcast the seeds, water and wait for the seedlings to appear. Weeds are not usually quite as rampant at this time of the year and the mulch can be reapplied later in the season.

Some annuals that can be planted this month include snapdragon, English daisy, calendula, alyssum, cornflower, wallflower, larkspur, forget-me-not, foxglove, sweet pea, linaria, stock, poppy, petunia, phlox, nasturtium, viola, and pansy. Some of these seeds may be available at local nurseries or feed stores. The internet provides a whole spectrum of seed sources.

Gardeners may want to think 'outside of the box' and include some herbs in with their annuals. This is an excellent time to broadcast cilantro, dill, parsley, and even fennel seeds. All these herbs look lovely in a cutting garden area. Another thought would be to sow a variety of leaf lettuces - arugula, kale and a Swiss chard along the borders. To prolong the harvest make small sowings every week to 10 days

particularly of the leaf lettuces and arugula.

You say that your seeds aren't germinating, in spite of all the tender loving care that you have given them? Fortunately, because seeds and seedlings' needs are few, the sources of trouble are usually few and easy to cure. Did you get the basics right? Was the soil prepared well? Were the seeds fresh (purchased from a reliable source)?

- Seedlings fail to emerge; soil surface feels hard. – Do not plant when soil is wet. Cover seeds with fine soil or sand to deter crusting.
- Seedlings are severed at base – possibly cut ants or cut worms. Contact local extension office for chemical insecticide choices.
- Seedlings weak; leaves and buds stunted – possibly aphids. Spray with insecticidal soap or horticultural oil.
- Leaves yellowing, dropping off; clouds of small white insects fly up when you brush plant – whitefly possibly. Spray with insecticidal soap.
- Seedlings' leaves chewed; silvery trails on leaves and surrounding soil – slugs or snail. Leave lumber scraps nearby, scrape hiding slugs off every morning.

Direct sowing of seeds is the simplest way to start seeds. Try it, you will like it. It is such a thrill to sow seeds and watch the seedlings break through. A few disappointments are probably inevitable, but the end result is worth it. Invest in a few packets of seeds. Watch the process of the seed shooting upward through the soil, unfurling, emerging to provide you and yours with its beauty. Soon, you too will be a "seedaholic". Happy sowing!



2008 Master Gardener Class Schedule

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Nov. 4 th 1:30-5:00 Nueces-5 th | Junior Master Gardeners At First Methodist Church, 801 E. Main, Rockport | Nueces Master Gardeners Stephanie & Gary Martin |
| Nov. 11 th 1:30-5:00 Nueces-12 th | Citrus and Fruits Composting / Worm Composting | Dr. John Fucik, Retired Horticulture Professor Nueces Master Gardener |
| Tues. Nov. 18 th 1:30-5:00 | Landscape Design and Xeriscape/MG Program **CC Museum of Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral Street, CC - Lecture Hall | Dr. Carol Brouwer, Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture |
| Dec. 2 nd 1:30-5:00 | Aransas – Tropicals Overview-MG Phone Desk & Common Homeowner Questions MG Post Test & surveys | Darlene Gooris, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Aransas Co. EA |



Teacher Awards

The Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners president, Nan Jackson, (left), awarded a \$2500 grant to Kimber Clark, (right), sponsor of the Interact Club at Rockport-Fulton High School. The project, a "Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary and Outdoor Classroom" is a joint effort of the Interact Club and the Building Trades program at RFHS, with Casey Stephenson, Instructor.

Farmer's Market sign up:

Master Gardener's and Interns are needed for the remaining Farmer's Market dates. The dates are as follows:

- November 1st--1 Intern signed up, MGs needed
- November 15th--2 Interns signed up, MGs needed
- December 6th--2 Interns signed up, MGs needed
- December 20th, tentative as this is so close to Christmas and many will be out of town.

Hope ya'll can help fill in the calendar! If you have any questions, call or email Ronell; 361-229-2382 or ronellburke@hotmail.com



Call for Gardens

Do you have a gorgeous garden? Do you know someone who has a beautiful yard? If so, contact Maryellen Sherman (727-1434) who is beginning the search for homes for the 2009 Hidden Garden Tour. Gardens in Aransas Pass and Portland are of special interest.

Around the State

Bromeliad Basics at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, November 1

From 10 a.m. to noon, members of the Corpus Christi Bromeliad Society will teach secrets of growing these tropical epiphytes which bring exotic beauty to homes and patios. Class fee is \$6, \$3.50 members, and includes STBGNC admission. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.

Daylily breeder discusses 'Sex in the Garden' November 8 at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, November 8

Master Gardener and daylily breeder **Phyllis DeVries** shares some of her daylily hybridizing successes, during a 'Sex in the Garden' seminar, from 10 am to noon. Devries will provide insights on purchasing, planting and maximizing bloom potential for these low-care perennials that make great additions to your landscape. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members, and includes STBGNC admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

Putting Plumeria to Bed! at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, November 15

The Plumeria Society of South Texas will show plumeria enthusiasts how to get their plants ready for winter's potential cold snaps,. Gardens & Nature Center Plumeria curator Frank Eicholz will explain the whys, whens, wheres and hows of plumeria hibernation dormancy from 10 to noon. Class fee is \$6, \$3.50 members and includes general admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.



Kristie Kringle's Garden Shoppe Open House, At South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, December 6 and 7

From hummingbird feeders to armadillo banks and wildlife wood sculpture—*new and unique gifts, tasty refreshments*, and *SANTA*, this Open House, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. The event is open to the public. Visitors Center admission is free!

Santa's on site with no line from 1 to 4 p.m. both days, inviting shoppers to bring their kids and cameras. Mrs. Santa's serving complimentary punch and cookies in the Meeting Room. Members receive a 10 percent discount on most purchases.

2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference April 23, 24 & 25, 2009

Marshall, Texas. Make plans to join us for the 2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference, that will be held in beautiful East Texas. The conference will feature world class azaleas, dogwood and crape myrtles, as well as unique bed & breakfast establishments, just to name a few. This year, something new, the Earth Kind Rose Workshop, an all-day session will be presented the day before the '09 conference and will feature some of the most renowned experts in the Earth Kind rose field!! Information on registration for this workshop will be added to the regular registration form, come a day earlier and don't miss-out on this added feature!

Harrison County Master Gardener Association
c/o Extension Office
102 West Houston
Marshall, TX. 75670
(903) 935-8413

See this link for more information:

<http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>

November 2008

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------|-----|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 MG Booth at Farmer's Market |
| 2 | 3 | 4 9am MG Meeting— Green Acres 1:30-5pm MG Class –First Methodist Church | 5 | 6 | 7 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 County Holiday 10am Education Committee 1pm Budget Meeting 1:30-5pm MG Class | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 MG Booth at Farmer's Market |
| 16 | 17 | 18 12-1pm BBL– Fall for your Garden 1:30 Board Mtg. 1:30-5pm MG Class | 19 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 / | 24 | 25 1pm Budget Meeting | 26 | 27 <i>County Holidays Extension Office Closed</i>  | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |