



Aransas/San Patricio

November 2009

The President's Corner



Lonnie Matthew

I am writing this from a beautiful autumn location in New England. We were very lucky to arrive during a peak time. I don't miss cold weather, but I sure enjoy looking at the beautiful fall colors all around me.

Just as the year is starting to wind down as evidenced by the changing season, our MG year is also drawing to a close. In our case, it's demonstrated by new elections and the efforts to include our members in the activities required to manage the Association and the gardens. We have many committees where the real work gets done, from fund raising to digging in the dirt. Please respond positively when asked to participate in these activities. Every bit of work is much easier if we work together to carry the load.

I want to thank Sandy Stanley for stepping up to lead the meeting in my absence. I'll be back in mid-November. Enjoy our somewhat cooler weather with our occasional rain.

2009 Officers
President: Lonnie Matthew
1st VP: Sandy Stanley
2nd VP: Ellen Reisinger
Secretary: Susan Lopez
Treasurer: Beth Wilson

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

Website:
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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Ernie Edmundson
aransas-tx@tamu.edu

November Brown Bag

Tuesday, November 17 12:00-1:00 pm

Holiday Designs for Your Home

By Janie Moon, Master Gardener Intern

Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

In Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Epizote, Quinoa and the Goosefoot Family -

Pat Baugh

Feng Shui for the Garden - Susan Lopez

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.

Green Acres Garden Days
November 6th & 18th
8:00 - 11:00 am

November 14
8:00 - 12:00

Seminar Tree Management

The Joy of Trees
with Paul Johnson,
Staff Forester,
Texas Forestry
Service

Old Rockport School,
619 N. Live Oak,
Rockport, TX

Happy Birthday !

Laura Clark, 2nd

Maryellen Sherman, 5th

Marilyn Vaughan, 7th

Olin Briggs 9th

Christine Grohman, 14th

Patrice Gorski, 17th

Suzannah Barnebey, 22nd

Sally Gale, 23rd

Suzy Wallace 27th

From Our Writers

Feng Shui for the Garden

By: Susan Lopez, Master Gardener, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

Feng Shui (pronounced fung schway) is the art of living in harmony with the earth. Its origins go back at least 5,000 years. While many of us are familiar with, and may have applied one or two Feng Shui principles inside our homes, we may not be as familiar with applying Feng Shui to our gardens.

The ultimate goal of Feng Shui in the garden is to keep “Ch’i” (good energy) moving throughout your garden, while minimizing or avoiding altogether the introduction of any “Shar-Ch’i” (bad energy). To do this there are many Feng Shui principles that can be applied through plant location and colors and the design and use of structures and hardscapes placed strategically throughout the garden. Three principles described in this article are: (1) Using curves in lieu of straight lines for beds and pathways; (2) Introduction of the five Feng Shui elements into your garden and; (3) Garden cleanup and maintenance to avoid “Shar-Ch’i.”

Curves are very important in your garden as curves in the garden slow down the flow of “Ch’i” and thus enhance the good energy flowing through our gardens. The ancient Chinese believed ghosts could only travel in straight lines, therefore a gently curved path is always preferred over a straight path. Many of us, ghosts or not, have already chosen to use curved paths in our garden because they are more appealing than a straight path. If you have a straight path, you can minimize the line by letting plants grow over it so “Ch’i” can circulate around the plants and encourage the good energy to stay there awhile.

There are five elements in Feng Shui – water, fire, wood, metal and earth. Every well-planned

garden needs to include most if not all of these elements, but of all these, water is the most important as it represents life itself. Introduction of the water element can be achieved by a pool, a simple circular pond, or by a fountain. However, one important thing to note is that the water in the pond or fountain must be clean and clear and never stagnant. Stagnant water encourages “Shar-Ch’i” (and mosquitoes). It should also be noted a metal fountain is better than a ceramic or other earthen material fountain, as the earth element can block and neutralize the effect of the water. For best results, your water element should be placed in the North corner of your garden.



Fire is another important element in Feng Shui and is represented by red and orange flowers – think of red firecracker plants and brightly colored hibiscus. Introduce your fire element in the South corner of your garden. Shrubs, bushy plants and trees represent the wood element.. These plants recycle the air we breathe, and maintain the “Ch’i” in our garden. For best results, introduce the wood element into the East corner of your garden, but since in Feng Shui wood represents wealth, you may want to disperse your wood thoroughly throughout your garden.

Metal in your garden can come in the form of copper, silver, gold and bronze. The most practical solution for most is a metal fountain or sculpture, but be sure



if it is a sculpture it has rounded edges and not sharp or pointed edges, as again sharp edges can negate the flow of good energy around the object.



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Introduce the metal element into the West end of your garden. The earth element is the final element to add to your garden. The earth element is best represented by boulders or terracotta pots and should be placed in the East end of your garden.

For a final touch, add wind chimes to complete your Feng Shui garden. The addition of a wind chime, especially a wooden or bamboo wind chime can, by its sound and movement, invite "Ch'i" into every corner of your garden and be pleasing to the ear at the same time.



The last thing that needs to be mentioned in order

to have a beautiful Feng Shui garden is landscape maintenance. Poor landscape maintenance invites "Shar-Ch'i" into your garden and drives away the good energy. Water features need to be cleaned regularly and never allowed to stagnate. Fix all leaks, for leaks can bring on a major drain in your finances, as can any blocked drains. Clear away all dead vegetation and plants and trim dead limbs off of your trees, as they disrupt the flow of "Ch'i" and lower the energy level of the area. Clean up any junk piles and hide trash bins, etc. behind screens and existing structures if possible.

Whether or not you are a big fan of Feng Shui, or just an occasional dabbler into the art, applying some of these principles of Feng Shui to your garden will enhance its appearance and make it a pleasing retreat to enjoy year after year.

Now Open

2009 Master Gardener Raffle

FIFTY amazing items are now on display in the extra office room at Green Acres.

Here's your chance to support Master Gardeners and acquire some wonderful items at the same time.

GO NOW to the Green Acres office. Purchase as many raffle tickets as you possibly can.

\$2 per ticket; \$10 for SIX!! Who can't afford that!?

Then go into the raffle room and put your tickets into the container(s) by the item(s) you hope to win. Highlights include:

- * SEVEN wonderful gift baskets of coffee & tea-related items from Starbucks
- * A beautiful Amethyst with a gift certificate for mounting from Victoria's Gold
- * Exciting items from flower shops and nurseries around town.
- * A couple of B. McSpadden's darling quilted Christmas pillows
- * A couple of Fitness gift certificates to start the new year right
- * A wonderful gift basket that includes Harriet's cookbook from Fulton Mansion
- * A Mishe Bag from Magnolia Gifts in Ingleside
- * An indoor-outdoor rug from C-Side
- * Wonderful gifts from downtown Rockport shops
- * A Skimmer cruise
- * Gift Certificates from over 15 restaurants & hotels
- * Art from various galleries about town.
- * A cordless grease gun from Tractor Supply!
- * One of L'Ella's amazing movie baskets

All these items and more on display at Green Acres through November 30. Winning tickets drawn on December 1 & announced at the Master Gardener winter meeting that night. Though you don't need to be present to win, this meeting is open to the public.

Invite your friends and family to come to Green Acres to participate and support us also.

THANK YOU from Barbara Mahan (361-903-0935), Suzannah Barnebey (361-557-1960) and all the Raffle committee.

2009 Master Gardening Class Schedule

Tues. Nov. 3rd *Extension Office	Container Gardening Tropicals	Carol Krank & DeAnna Baumgartner, Nueces Master Gardener & Darlene Gooris, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener
Tues. Nov. 10th	Citrus and Fruits Composting / Worm Composting	Dr. John Fucik, Retired Horticulture Professor & Nueces Master Gardener
*Wed. Nov. 18 1:30-5:00 pm **CC Museum of	Landscape Design and Xeriscape/MG Program Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral St.	Dr. Carol Brouwer, Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture CC - Lecture Hall
Tues. Dec. 1st	MG Phone Desk & Common Homeowner Questions / MG Post Test & Surveys	Aransas Co. Extension Agent

2009 Earth-Kind Landscaping Class Schedule

Date/Location	Topic	Instructor/Speaker
Tues Nov 3, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Ext. Office	Tree Selection, Planting & Maintenance; Integrated Pest Management	Dr. Michael Womack; Michael Potter
Tues Nov 10, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Library	Water Conservation, Water Audits & Irrigation Options; Rainwater Harvesting; Soil Test Results	Lee Wehring; Russ Bell
Tues Nov 17, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Ext. Office	Design Presentations; Wrap-up & Evaluation	Class Members; Russ & Marilee Bell

Volunteering Without Losing Your Mind

November 3rd at 10 am, or right after the Monthly Master Gardener meeting
A presentation we can all benefit from given by Bethany Bowman and JJ Janssen
Approved for CE units

Around the State

Orchid Novice Class
at Botanical Gardens and Nature Center
Continues 1st Thursdays Each Month

The *Orchid Novice Class* meets at 7 p.m., Thursday, November 5, in the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. Meeting the first Thursday of each month on a continuing basis. No reservations necessary. For more information, call 361/854-7624.

Putting Plumeria to Bed
at Botanical Gardens and Nature Center
November 14

Saturday, November 14, 10 a.m. to noon
Plumeria Curator Frank Eicholz explains the whys, whens and hows of Plumeria hibernation dormancy. \$6, \$3.50 members.

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 9 am MG meeting, 10 am Volunteering without Losing Your Mind-CE 1:30 pm MG class- Containers & Tropicals 6 pm E-K class	4	5	6 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee	6
8	9	10 1:30 pm MG class- Citrus & Composting 6 pm E-K class	11 County Holiday	12	13	14 9am - 12 pm Tree Management Seminar
15	16	17 12-1 pm Brown Bag - Holiday Designs 6 pm E-K class	18 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day 10 am Tree Team visits 1:30 pm MG class- Landscape Design	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 County Holiday	27 County Holiday	28
29	30 MG Hours Due					