



# WHAT'S GROWIN' ON

FEBRUARY 2009

## CONTENTS

The Prez Sez	1
AgriLIFE: Enabling Garden	1
B.E.E.S. Buzz	2
Early Spring Color	3
Tropical Garden Update	3
The Inquiring Gardener	4
Plants of the Month	5
Have You Heard?	6
Special Announcements	7

## COMING UP

- ⇒ **CLUTE GARDEN SEMINAR**  
Sat, 02/07/09  
8 am-12 noon  
Clute Community Center  
108 Hargett
- ⇒ **MG TRAINING Ongoing**  
Every Thursday  
02/05-02/26  
9:00 am AgriLIFE Office  
Volunteers Needed!  
See Page 4
- ⇒ **BCMGA MEETING**  
Tues, 02/10/09  
6:30 pm AgriLIFE Office  
Citrus Sale Prep
- ⇒ **B.E.E.S. GRANT MEETING**  
Fri, 02/13/09  
10 am BEES
- ⇒ **CITRUS SALE**  
Sat, 02/21/09  
8 am-sellout BEES
- ⇒ **MARCH GARDEN SERIES**  
Begins Sat, 03/07/09  
9 am-12 noon at BEES  
Veggies

## ED BARRIOS, THE PREZ, SEZ

Since this is the first newsletter of the year, HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Thanks to everyone for the great job ya'll did in 2008. We completed the rainwater harvesting system; had a financially successful "What's Growin' On" education session for the public; bought and installed a weather station; completed one professional-looking set of bleachers; hosted the State rainwater harvesting seminar; expanded the grape and berry gardens; developed the orchard; received \$10,000 for an Enabling Garden; started the process to apply for a \$100,000 grant for numerous upgrades; built impressive work benches in the barn; re-paired Ike damage to the potting shed; added a square foot garden, a native garden, and a "Grandmothers" garden; made major improvements to the "Men's" garden; and that's all in addition to maintaining our existing 24 garden areas, holding 2 plants sales and 6 Open Houses!!! Wow, we did good!!!

Let's all welcome the new crop of Spring 2009 interns. Photos will be at BEES soon.

<b>Howard Allen</b>	Lake Jackson	<b>Sandra Lockhart</b>	Richwood
<b>Gerrie Baccus</b>	Lake Jackson	<b>Charles McFerrin</b>	Brazoria
<b>Joan Bailes</b>	Angleton	<b>Trisha Meiller</b>	Lake Jackson
<b>Kaye Cooper</b>	Brazoria	<b>Ruby Lee Williams-Robinson</b>	Lake Jackson
<b>Les Cooper</b>	Brazoria	<b>Lynn Waters</b>	Freeport
<b>Donna DiGiuseppe</b>	Danbury	<b>Fred Wetherly</b>	Lake Jackson
<b>Judy Easterling</b>	Angleton	<b>Rose Wilson</b>	Alvin
<b>Jane Eppner</b>	Lake Jackson	<b>Barbara Zetka</b>	Angleton
<b>Sandy Henderson</b>	Lake Jackson		

## PAULA CRAIG'S AGRILIFE: THE ENABLING GARDEN

As many of you already know, Master Gardener intern, Dr. Jennifer Northrop, was recently awarded \$10,000 in grant monies for the installation of the Enabling Gardens of Texas at the Brazoria Environmental Education Station (BEES) through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

According to its website, The NMSS, Lone Star Chapter "has created a program to reward creative, innovative individuals who are passionate about developing new ways to improve the lives of Texans touched by multiple sclerosis."

**Project Overview:** Jennifer hopes to give back some of the activities that are often thought to be lost after the diagnosis of MS by creating both individual and community enabling gardens that are completely accessible, including raised beds. A web site will allow interested gardeners to download plant suggestions and an illustrative guide, and to

redesign building plans to ensure a comfortable space for gardening. People living with MS will be able to continue to participate in the pastime of gardening, and some may even develop a new hobby.

Advisors on design and content of the garden include Drs. Joe Novak and Louis Castillo of Texas A&M University. They hope that this garden and associated programming will serve as a prototype for counties throughout Texas, even the nation.

Jennifer Northrop is a pediatric genetics specialist in Houston Medical Center. She is a gardener currently residing in Brookside Village. I can't say that Jennifer is a victim of MS, because that's not a word anyone can use to describe her. Jennifer battles MS—I think with every weapon available. She is an active volunteer for NMSS and a welcomed member to the BCMGA.

## FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks to everyone who wrote great information for this newsletter. Hope you enjoy the new format — remember you can magnify the .pdf file! We're already planning next month's issue, so if you have ideas for articles, plants you want to introduce or special topics you'd like covered, send me an email at [bcmga-newsletter@att.net](mailto:bcmga-newsletter@att.net)

## THE BEES BUZZ WITH LEE WITHERS



Wow! The old year went out with a whoosh! And the new has come in with a bang! Big exciting times for BCMGA. Our little gardening group is taking big steps to grow from a young toddler to at least a teenager.

What does this mean? BCMGA has begun a huge upgrade process. We are attempting to get a grant from Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC). H-GAC's mission is to serve as the instrument of local government cooperation, promoting the region's orderly development and the safety and welfare of its citizens. Key H-GAC governmental services include transportation planning, cooperative purchasing, homeland security, air and water quality planning, forecasting, and mapping. The grant's primary focus is recycle, reduce and reuse.

The areas we feel we can use the money from this grant are:

- ◆ ADA complaint walkways-especially in water prone areas,
- ◆ More rainwater harvesting
- ◆ Fencing for security
- ◆ Upgrading the composting area
- ◆ Signs for gardens and buildings, etc
- ◆ Greenhouse fans and heaters
- ◆ Irrigation for citrus grove
- ◆ Painting the buildings
- ◆ Finishing out the horse barn with classroom and bathrooms
- ◆ Acquiring tools needed for these projects
- ◆ And probably something I have forgotten

Whew! To enhance our ability to get the grant from H-GAC we needed a logo that embraced the theme of the grant. We adopted "B.E.E.S. --Brazoria Environmental Education Station (unless we have to tweak this for the grant) and a cute little cartoon bee that I named "Braz" - short for Brazoria. This logo does not replace our Brazoria MGA logo but will be used in conjunction with any educational programming and will help emphasize our public outreach.

Jennifer Northrup and I are coordinating the actual grant writing, but many people are helping with the research that will help pin down the finer points. Final pricing on all aspects of the grant is due Friday, February 13.

All members and interns are welcome to attend this update meeting at 10 am at BEES.



**B.E.E.S.**

Brazoria Environmental Education Station

## MORE BUZZ

### CITRUS OPEN HOUSE—A SUCCESS

The first Open House of 2009, on Saturday, January 31, featured the fruiting plants we will sell at the Citrus and Fruit Sale. Although the day started in the low thirties, it was beautifully sunny and warmed up fast. Nearly seventy people turned out to hear Gil Livanec tell us the characteristics and culture of various citrus, avocados, and other fruits. He brought an array of citrus for tasting, pleasing us all even more. Many guests used break periods to tour the demonstration gardens, and to express interest in our other educational programs. Thanks to Gil for a great program, to all the Master Gardeners who came last week to weed and clean BEES, and to those who gave tours, answered questions, and charmed the visitors the day of the Open House.



### ALL FOR THE BETTER—STRUCTURAL CHANGES

When Hurricane Ike ripped off the lean-to area at the south of the **Potting Shed**, we needed to make some changes. Fortunately the giant stainless steel sink unit was fine - it would take more than a rickety lean-to to dent that monster. Part of the reconstruction included raising and smoothing out the floor of that area with crushed stone. All those odd bits of concrete and other unevenness are history. And the new lean-to, constructed by Larry Lewis and Billy Heck, looks fresh and airy, and very functional.

That old **hoist apparatus** at the front of the Potting Shed is gone. It was a hold-over from the shed's service in for-

age research, back in the Ag Research days. It wasn't Ike who removed it, however. In January, some county workers noticed that the very large hoist, and the very heavy I-beam that supported it, seemed to be attached by one rusty bolt...they took it down for us.



The **Shade House** is now much more functional. We've struggled for some time with our potted plants sitting directly on the gravel floor; some areas flooded, some of our backs couldn't appreciate the ups and downs of tending the pots.

Recently, we installed new benches which are constructed with cinder blocks and cattle panel. The look is professional and clean, and we won't have to fight to get pots uprooted from the substrate anymore...not to mention having to fight to get ourselves upright anymore.

← Happy plants on new benches



## COLOR FOR BRAZORIA LATE WINTER GARDENS

While the north is snowed-in, we can have a whole different garden in the winter and early spring.

We have the tried-and-true annuals available in every big-box store — the pansies, petunias, alyssum, dianthus and snapdragons. With some field trips to nurseries in the Houston area we can even find some interesting cultivars of the usual annuals.

Or, for maximum choice, buy seeds of hardy annuals and their cultivars. Many can be started early, then transplanted in fall through winter.

Some early spring annuals do best if seed sown *in situ*, such as "Peony-flowered" and annual poppies, California poppies, larkspur, nasturtium, sweet peas, and nigella.

And while we're at those nurseries (or online), check for standard northern cool summer perennials that bloom for us as late winter through spring annuals — delphiniums, lady's mantle, fox glove. Kathy Huber recommends the polyanthus

primrose, the gaudy ones, for bright winter through spring color.

Then there are the plants that are lesser known but worth a try because they're designated in seed catalogs as "hardy annuals."

For instance, *Limnanthes douglasii*, the "Poached Egg Plant" is a 6"x6" edging plant with shallow-cupped white flowers with a large, bright golden center — or, golden flowers with broad white tips.

For smashing winter color, there are flowering cabbages and kales, ornamental mustards, and colorful lettuce varieties. 'Bright Lights' Swiss chard positively glows.

The Salvia 'Mystic Spires', a compact version of 'Indigo Spires', has flowered non-stop for the last 18 months in Lake Jackson. Dwarf pomegranate, 'Knock Out'® rose and fibrous-rooted begonias slow down only below freezing and then keep on blooming.

Euryops pectinatus blooms sporadically most of the warm year, but puts on a real show in winter with its golden daisies.



Finally, some plants that struggle through the summer begin to thrive and flower during the winter. The abutilon cultivar 'Voodoo' flowered all last winter, with just a bit of flower damage at 28°. 'Autumn Embers' Encore Azalea® flushed repeatedly from early autumn through spring.

*A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast*, 4th Edition, 1989, the River Oaks Garden Club, is still a valuable reference. Some sections need revision, but "Month by Month in Your Garden" remains especially useful for schedules of seed starting, as well as when to plant bulbs, perennials and annuals.

*Sunbelt Gardening: Success in Hot-Weather Climates*, 2000, Tom Peace. Excellent sections on winter and early spring gardening by a San Antonio gardener.

## A TOUGH YEAR IN THE TROPICAL GARDEN



The weather has been playing havoc on the gardens, especially the tropics.

It's the driest winter (following a dry spring,

summer and autumn) many have seen in a long time. The winds this past year have been unusually strong and persistent — not even considering Hurricane Ike, and Ike was, is, and will be a consideration.

The *coup de grace*, the temperature swings this winter—hot, cold, hot, cold—have significantly damaged already stressed plants. When we have had multiple days of warm weather, some of the plants send out little shoots in hope of spring's arrival. Then, the cold weather comes and smites the poor little shoots, further weakening the plant. According to our weatherman, Ted Jagen, our gardens have seen four events below freezing that total about 16 hours below freezing. The lowest temp recorded at

BEES was 28°, but the total number of hours below freezing in each event is also a major factor in plant damage.

The end result of these interwoven aspects is that the tropics are looking stressed and cold damaged. It's actually depressing for us who tend to the garden every week. We need to take good notes on how the various plants come out of this weird winter. Not to be an alarmist, but we could lose many plants when spring finally comes.

Significant damage is already showing on hibiscus, fishtail and sugar palms, 'Xanadu' philodendrum, some ti plants and some plumerias. The brugmansia has limb die-back. Even the crinums have died back.

But not to despair, there are some bright spots. The Norfolk Island Pine and pony tail palm show no damage. Some of the plumerias still have firm green branches. If they prove to be hardier than other

plumerias in the ground, we might want to propagate those as outdoor plants. And one unnamed cultivar of ti plant (chocolate and green wide leaves) has sailed through these freezes with minimal damage. The ficus, protected on a south wall, also are doing well.

Even if we lose plants, we have the opportunity to investigate and plant many other cold hard tropics. After all, the tropical garden is intended to show county residents what can grow and thrive in our weather. Looking at some of the garden books and magazines, there are literally thousands of additional plants we can try.

Finally, as a reminder, this is NOT the time to prune, plant or transplant tropics. Pruning tends to encourage new growth and we still have another month of possible cold weather. Ed Barrios normally waits until the end of February to start pruning, but our official last freeze date is mid-March. And he's seen freezing weather in early March.



## ANN McLAIN, THE INQUIRING GARDENER: GRANDMAS' VEGGIE GARDEN



If your gardens are looking frazzled, you might want to go admire the hard-working, healthy vegetables in Grandmas' Garden. Not that all is perfection - the tomatoes have recently given up, despite their frost cloth overcoats - but this garden is a happy place to visit. It makes me want to go home and make a big pot of vegetable soup.

About a year ago, some of our women were getting impatient to plant some veggies. As you may recall, development of the new, big vegetable garden was tripped up again and again. So Barbara Brown organized a group of gardening grandmas into this space just north of the potting shed, and told them to make rows and get planting.

Over the course of the first year, Debbie Soderman and Beverly Straughan have really bonded with this space, and they are the gardeners responsible for it now. It's obvious that a lot of work went into improving the soil. The texture of these rows is light and fluffy. Between the rows there is a thick mat of shredded leaves, which end up being incorporated into the soil. Debbie says that she and Beverly are trying to promote healthy worms, which will help maintain healthy soil.

Now that the rows have been in cultivation for a year, tillers don't seem to be needed much. Unlike the usual strategy for big vegetable gardens, this space is managed more like a square foot garden. There is never a time when the whole garden is empty and available for tilling. As the crop in one short part of a row finishes, Beverly and Deb pull that out, work up the soil with a hoe, and replant immediately with a new crop. So instead of two major crop seasons for the year, this small garden has a lot of individual and overlapping seasons.

With the emphasis on healthy soil (and worms), less fertilizer is needed. The gardening grandmas hoe in some 13-13-13 when they prepare a space for a new crop, or they sprinkle some slow release around new transplants. In the warm season, they do some foliar feeding.

What about bug problems? Deb told me that she loves the cold season in the garden, because there are few bugs. During the warm season, the garden did come under attack, particularly by aphids. This next summer they plan to try some companion

planting and they will spray with insecticidal soap. Right now, the mustard that is starting to bolt is acting as a trap crop. It's a bit buggy, but the other veggies around it look clean.

Deb and Bev confess that this winter their turnips and beets have been a disappointment and have been pulled out. But the cole crops - currently they have cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts - have been fantastic. And indeed they look wonderful. Even if you don't like brussel sprouts, those growing in Grandmas' Garden are just darned cute. And there is some gorgeous "leaf cabbage" just developing. ↓



This is a good garden for aspiring veggie growers to study. First, it's so neat and appealing, it makes us want to dive in. Yet Debbie says that an hour or two of picking and weeding on each of our two weekly workdays is enough to keep it that way. And second, although the garden is small it certainly looks productive. This 30' x 40' plot would fit in almost any back yard, yet it provides more veggies than one family would eat. So come, admire this beautiful produce, and be inspired.



### DEB and BEV

No one can look this happy and not be having a great time!

Talk to them Tuesdays and Fridays at BEES — or send a question about their garden to the editor and we'll publish the answer.



## PLANTS OF THE MONTH

### VINE: *Aristolochia trilobata* (Bejuca de Santiago)

**Size:** 20'+

**Shape:** Fairly flat against surface support; stems twine

**Light:** Shade to light shade

**Soil/Water:** Consistently moist only

**Flowers:** See photo. Blooms heavily January-April; intermittent rest of year

**Fertilize:** Regular regime

**Propagation:** Softwood cuttings; pegging down piece to



#### THIS IS DUTCHMAN'S PIPE?!

Pipevine swallowtails know it is. Caterpillars denude the leaves, but the vine recovers quickly.

The understory vine hails from Central America where it grows in swamps and roadside ditches.

The flowers aren't as showy as some others of the genus, but are weirdly neat with an almost 1' long "tail". They appear to be pollinated (or at least visited) by flies.

The outstanding 6" wide, thick, glossy three-lobed leaves have prominent yellow veins. They remain evergreen to at least 28° and continue to grow all year.

Although robust, the vine can be easily controlled. It will need support for its twining stems.

In sum...good foliage, unusual flowers, shade tolerant, pest-free (unless you hate butterflies).

Not commonly available. Perhaps plant sales or Caldwell's.

### NATIVE: *Muhlenbergia capillaris* (Gulf Coast Muhly Grass)

**Size:** Up to 4'x4', usually 3'x3'

**Shape:** Rounded graceful clump

**Light:** Full sun; barely acceptable with a few hours of sun

**Soil/Water:** Wet to dry; best with moist soil.

**Flowers:** 12"-18" feathery purple plumes above foliage in Sept/Oct fading to tan

**Fertilize:** Early spring and late summer, but not heavy feeder

**Propagation:** Divide clumps, or allow it to self-sow.

#### THIS GRASS HAS IT ALL!

A well-behaved warm-season clumper, it remains evergreen in Brazoria year-round.

The glossy, fine textured, individually thin blades are flexible but not floppy. Wind and rain have little effect: no smashed, shredded or tattered blades.

Muhly looks good in both formal and informal gardens, either massed or as single specimens.

Since it's evergreen, it can be trimmed back after flowering and still look good the rest of the winter.

If cut down hard in early spring, it recovers quickly. Cutting back also lets the gardener look for weeds or undesirable grasses that may have weaseled their way into the dense center.

Available usually as a pass-along or at local plant sales; some mail order nurseries carry it.



### SHRUB: *Galphimia gracilis* (Golden Thryallis, Shower of Gold)



See a nice thryallis specimen at BEES in front of the greenhouse

**Size:** About 6'x6'; can be kept smaller

**Shape:** Dense oval twiggy

**Light:** Full sun; leggy with reduced flowering in less sun

**Soil/Water:** Any but permanently wet

**Flowers:** Bright yellow clusters any time of the year if warm

**Fertilize:** Regular

**Propagation:** Tender softwood cuttings in summer, or fresh seeds.

#### YEAR ROUND BLOOMER

If you are looking for a shrub that grows in full sun, provides cheerful yellow blossoms year-round and requires little maintenance once established, consider thryallis.

Listed as an evergreen tropical, originating in Mexico through Guatemala, thryallis forms a dense thicket of stems bearing  $\frac{3}{4}$ " yellow flowers in 4" to 6" clusters at the stem tips.

My 3 year old plant stands 4- $\frac{1}{2}$  feet tall and about as wide. It can reach 6 feet tall and wide making it suitable as single accent piece or as a hedge if planted en mass as a background.

It may be propagated from summer cuttings or by seeds. I have given at least 6 plants per year to friends from sprouts beneath my plant.

Ike may have broken a few branches, but the blooms were still plentiful.

Carole Wenny

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

Disclaimer: Information is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by AgriLIFE Extension or BCMGA is implied

### AIR LAYERING PROPAGATOR

If you read Paula Craig's email about the Rooterpot™, a propagator to simplify air layering, you might be interested in prices and sizes.

Small:  $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " limbs from \$2.81-\$3.99/ea  
Large:  $\frac{1}{2}$ "-1" limbs from \$4.18-\$6.99/ea  
(The cheapest requires a set of 4)

Suppliers include, but aren't limited to:

Ward's Scientific

<http://tinyurl.com/ward-rooterpot>

Lee Valley Tools

<http://tinyurl.com/lee-rooterpot>

Peaceful Valley

<http://tinyurl.com/pv-rooterpot>

### VARIEGATED INLAND SEA OATS

*Chasmanthium latifolium* 'River Mist' PPAF

It's Saul Plants, a grower and wholesaler, introduced this white and green variegated cultivar of our native Inland Sea Oats. Stems are green with the variegated leaves holding color throughout the season. Allegedly even the young seeds are variegated.

Both growth and cultural requirements are the same as the species (although it might need less sun in this area). Whether it will be as prolific a self-seeder as the species isn't mentioned.

So far, only one online nursery carries it for \$15.

Surely local suppliers will have it eventually...

<http://tinyurl.com/river-mist-sea-oats>



### FREEZE-PRUF

It's not on the market yet, but...

Dr. David Francko of the University of Alabama developed a spray that increases the cold tolerance of plants by 2.2° to 9.4° depending on the species. The developers' research shows it to be effective on palms, tropicals, citrus and flowers. However, there's no report listing the degree of increased tolerance by plant species.

It's a mixture of five ingredients (that are used in food production) in a water-based solution.

"Each ingredient has a different function, but when you put them all together you get an effect that is larger than any single component, alone," Francko said. "It's non-toxic, it's cheap, and the idea is to apply it once per season."

Members of the Palm Talk web forum talked to the distributor who hopes to have some product at box stores in late winter/early spring 2009.

Don't hold your breath though...it was originally scheduled for release last autumn. Maybe next year it will be worth a test.

Announcement from the University of Alabama:

<http://research.ua.edu/archive2008/coldspray.htm>

### TOMATO GRAFTING

Huh? Yes, the newest tomato twist is grafting heirloom tomatoes onto disease-resistant rootstock. Heirlooms (defined as cultivars over 50 years old...) are generally poor producers and prone to diseases. Some people, however, believe heirlooms have better flavor than hybrids. According to Tom Leroy, Montgomery County's Extension Agent and veggie guru, grafting the heirloom scion gives it the disease-resistance of the rootstock. Montgomery County will formally test grafted vs. non-grafted heirlooms this summer.

For an introduction to the process, see North Carolina State's

<http://www4.ncsu.edu/~clrivard/TubeGraftingTechnique.pdf>

### TOM LEROY'S RECOMMENDED TOMATO VARIETIES

If cutting, joining and manipulating 6" tall plants isn't appealing, Tom recommends the following hybrid tomatoes based on yield and taste tests (in high to low rank order): 'Celebrity Bush', 'Solar Set', 'Dona', 'Carnival', 'Heatwave', 'Early Girl'. For cherry tomatoes, use 'Juliet', 'Baxter's Early Bush', 'Sweet Chelsea', 'Yellow Pear'.

None of the "heat setting" tomatoes performed significantly better during summer trials in Montgomery County.

Finally, he suggested that Brazoria gardeners put in some tomatoes now! If protected against light freezes, that gives a 4-6 week head start when common insect pests aren't yet active.

### CALLING ALL YANKEES...GROW RHUBARB

Are you missing rhubarb sauce, pies, cakes? Any Texas folk tempted to try an ornamental edible? According to Tom Leroy, we can grow rhubarb as a winter annual. Buy seeds now, start them in late summer/early autumn, harvest in spring, dead in June. They won't make quite the size they do as a perennial up north, but a few plants should keep us happy. The best seed strain is 'Victoria' which is readily available through seed catalogs. Information from the University of Arizona gives directions and timelines: <http://tinyurl.com/annual-rhubarb>. They were surprised at their success too.

Or, get a northerner to whack off a piece and ship it in October.

### THORNLESS BLACKBERRY 'OUACHITA'

Pronounced WASHataw and introduced by the University of Arkansas, 'Ouachita' appears to have promise in Brazoria. Roy Morgan took left-over plants from last year's sale and established a trial area. He loosened the soil, hilled it up, and added sandy compost. 'Ouachita' produced the first summer. Production problems later in the season are now resolved and he hopes to see better fruiting this year.

Tom Leroy is excited about this release, especially its resistance to the double blossom/rosette fungus which can wipe out fruiting.

Read all about it at <http://tinyurl.com/ouachita1> or in the comprehensive 2009 BCMGA Fruit Sale brochure.

# BCMGA

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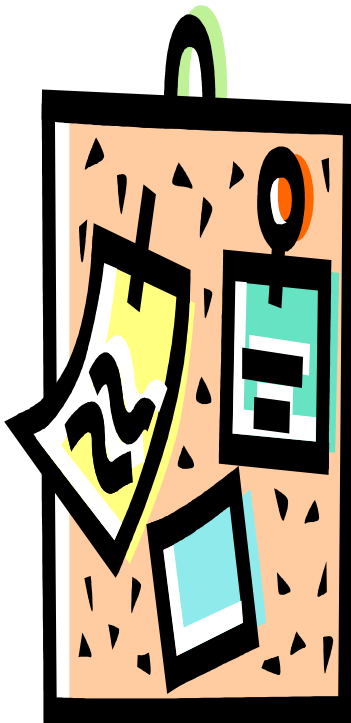
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*Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



**Volunteers Needed: BCMGA Spring Intern Training on Thursdays from 12:00pm—3:00pm through March 19th.**  
Assist speakers, answer general questions, put away equipment and general clean-up.  
Contact Cindy Goodrum at [cj\\_goodrum@yahoo.com](mailto:cj_goodrum@yahoo.com) (cj\_goodrum@yahoo.com) as soon as possible.

**Volunteers Needed: Nature Day Celebration, Sea Center Texas, Sunday, March 1 from 10:00am—3:00pm**  
Contact Paula Craig at [p-craig@tamu.edu](mailto:p-craig@tamu.edu) or call her at 979.864.1558

**State Master Gardener Conference in Marshall, TX: March 1 Early Registration Deadline**  
Information at <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com>

**Volunteers Always Needed: B.E.E.S. (the gardens), every Tuesday and Friday, 7:30am—12:00pm**

**Spring Plant Sale:** Our Spring Plant Sale will be coming up soon. We would like for members who are dividing or rearranging beds and have plants that are unusual, hard to find (can't buy at the big box stores), or that are good reliable performers, to please let us know what they may have. Contact BeBe Brown or Cindy Goodrum to see if we can use them for the plant sale. Thanks for everyone's help and support. Cindy

### March Garden Series at BEES:

March 7 Growing Veggies in Big Gardens, Small Gardens, and No Gardens at All

March 21 Growing Green: Composting, Lo-Tech Pest Control, Lawn Alternatives

March 28 Growing Tips for All Kinds of Fruit: Citrus, Berries, Stone Fruit and More

**More information about the seminars in the March newsletter**