

# Here's the Dirt

KIMBERLY MAYER, CEA - HORTICULTURE

Brazoria County

TEXAS A&M  
AGRILIFE  
EXTENSION

## November Happenings

We sure did welcome Fall this week with an amazing cool front and low humidity. A great combination, if you ask me. I hope that you've been out in this nice weather and are enjoying some gardening. November is a great time to work outside and prepare your lawn and garden beds for the upcoming winter.

And don't forget to eat plenty of turkey on Thanksgiving. Can you believe we're already talking about turkey day? Gobble gobble! My favorite Thanksgiving food is a tie between Green Bean Casserole and Pumpkin Pie. What's yours? What ever the case may be, I hope that you and your family have a safe a happy Turkey Day!



## What's Growing On...

Plant Thyme Fall  
Luncheon - KPB -  
11/03/23

REI Event in Pearland  
11/04/23

November Board Meeting  
11/07/23 9 am @BEES

Captain Bob - Ag  
Awareness Day 11/08/23

November General  
Meeting  
11/10/23 10am @AgriLife

Veteran's Day 11/10/23  
County holiday

Harvest for the Hungry -  
JMG Class- 11/21/23

Thanksgiving Holiday  
11/23/23 and 11/24/23

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## November Horticulture Hero: Rosa Fletcher

There are a lot of deserving nominees at BCMGA, but I'd like to nominate Rosa Fletcher.

Rosa Fletcher is a dedicated Master Gardener and volunteer in Brazoria County. With her unwavering passion for plants and love for nature, Rosa has spent countless hours contributing to the local community through her own expertise and selfless service. Rosa loves being outdoors, loves plants, and cares about others. She may seem quiet, but once you get to know her, you love her because she is a giver. She displays through her own service the importance of continuous learning and giving back. As a Master Gardener, Rosa actively participates in many different community outreach programs and educational events. She is deeply committed to promoting sustainable gardening practices, environmental stewardships and working with others. Her tireless efforts and dedication as a Master Gardener volunteer have transformed her into an invaluable asset to the Brazoria Community. She inspires others to connect with nature and make an impact on the world around them.



Rosa Fletcher is a prime candidate for the Master Gardener's Volunteer of the month due to her exceptional commitment, passion for learning, love for nature, and selfless service. She goes above and beyond in her efforts to support others in their gardening endeavors. You will most likely see her at any time volunteering at BEES and BCMGA events; she is always ready to lend a helping hand. Her selflessness and genuine desire to see others succeed make her an outstanding representative of the Master Gardener program. Rosa is a true asset and shining example to our program.



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# Nominate a Horticulture Hero

We truly have an amazing group of individuals within the Brazoria County Master Gardener Association. I wanted to make sure that we recognize and fully appreciate our volunteers on more than just a yearly basis. That's where this program comes in to play. I would love for you to send me your nominations for a monthly Horticulture Hero. The requirements are simple. Just send me an email with a paragraph explaining why this individual should be nominated for this award. I will make the final decision each month and then award that person at the General Meeting. Some examples could be: above and beyond service at an outreach event, behind the scenes planning and coordinating, or even an outstanding presentation to a local group, The possibilities are endless. Get your nominations to me by the last day of the month. Email me : [kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu)



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## October Outreach Volunteers



**Thank you to members who volunteered to lead or assist at the October BCMGA outreach events!**

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## Agent's Corner





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## Notes from the Herb Garden



### Cilantro

**By: Joy Hargett and Sandy Henderson  
Brazoria County Master Gardeners**



This month's Herb Corner will focus on Cilantro. Last month, we talked about Parsley. Cilantro is very similar in looks. However, Cilantro smells and tastes quite differently than Parsley so it's very important to understand distinguishing facts.

Cilantro (*Coriandrum sativum*) is in the family Apiaceae, which is the carrot family. The foliage of Cilantro is similar to the tops of carrots, however, cilantro roots do not make a carrot type structure.

Cilantro is a cool weather herb, that can grow well in the fall, winter or spring. It's a fast-growing plant that is generally ready for use in about 4-5 weeks after seed propagation. It can reseed and sprout anytime, but hot weather will either kill it or certainly hamper its growth. Some people might have success growing in the shade during hot months, and I have had seeds germinate in late spring, however, most often they do not last long in the heat. Heat can also affect its taste. Cilantro can also be grown indoors with a grow light system or placed near a window with good light exposure any time of the year.

The cilantro bush is similar in size to parsley getting about 12-18 inches in height. When leaves start to appear, cilantro can be used. The stems also contain flavor. Like other herbs, it doesn't usually need fertilizer, although a well-balanced fertilizer can enhance production if transplanted or grown in a planter.

Cilantro has a very cool and refreshing scent. Some may describe it as "citrusy" and others may think it is pungent. Cilantro is very versatile herb that is used in Mexican, Thai or Indian cuisine. It can enhance salads, pizzas, salsas, soups, stews or guacamole. While it does contain vitamins, it's rarely eaten in large enough quantities to make a difference in nutritional health. However, being low in calories, it's a great addition to other foods.

Cilantro can survive cold weather and did well during freezes in the past couple of years. Like parsley, some foliage might suffer, but the roots will survive. A covering of dried tree leaves or a sheet/blanket will help protect the foliage during very cold times, but in some instances is not necessary. If in an outside planter, it's probably best to bring indoors or cover well, as the roots won't be as protected. When the spring comes and it gets warm, cilantro will bolt to form flowers and set seed. The leaves and flowers are still edible but have a sharper flavor. You can harvest the seed for next season or let the seeds self-sow for volunteers to come up in your rows.

Cilantro does not store well and in fact, gets very mushy when frozen. Some people may freeze cilantro leaves in water in an ice cube tray and then use those cubes to flavor dishes like stews, soups or sauces. Drying cilantro may have some limited success (there are methods listing on the internet), however, this author has not had much success in that arena.

Cilantro can be stored in the refrigerator for 1-2 weeks with it's stems or roots in a glass of water. This is useful, if cilantro is purchased for multiple culinary dishes.

Many recipes call for cilantro and good reason to grow at home is to potentially save money. Many grocery stores sell live herbs in the produce section, but these can cost several dollars for a small specimen. If you have the right conditions, Cilantro can easily be grown and ready for use at many times of the year.

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## Destinations

By: Mark Mckee

Brazoria County Master Gardener

Have you ever been aware of something in your town that you would probably enjoy but have never gone to see it? And when you do finally go, you wonder why it took you so long? This month's destination falls squarely in the middle of that category for me!

In the middle of the Houston Museum District and part of Houston's Hermann Park, surrounded by the Museum of Natural Science, Miller Outdoor Theatre and the Children's Museum of Houston is the McGovern Centennial Gardens. McGovern Centennial Gardens were created in 2014 to celebrate the centennial of Hermann Park.

The eight-acre site is laid out as a series of garden rooms surrounding a central lawn area. Each garden room has a theme and as you stroll along the paths, you will find yourself passing through a grassland, an arid garden with some large agave plants, a pine tree shaded area reminiscent of an East Texas forest and a formal rose garden. There is also an ornate Friendship Pavilion, a gift from Houston's sister city of Taipei, Taiwan that makes a great photo backdrop.

Along each side of the central lawn area is the Portico Walk. Bordered on either side of the walkways are beds filled with many plants you will be familiar with, including some massive trumpet vines covered in their bright yellow blooms. At either end of the Portico Walk are water features, one a dancing fountain, and the other a waterfall that cascades down the side of The Mount, a man-made hill that can be ascended on a sidewalk that spirals around. The climb is worth the effort, providing you with a great view of the gardens, as well as the surrounding area.

Along the other side of the gardens is the Woodland Garden, a shady area with ferns, azaleas and camellias. This garden winds around small grass covered hills that offer a comfortable place to pause for a break.

Next to the Woodland Garden is the Family Garden, a vegetable garden that demonstrates the types of vegetables that can be grown in the Houston area. This garden is maintained by the Hermann Park Conservancy, the Houston Parks & Recreation Department and our friends at Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the Texas Master Gardeners of Harris County. The produce grown here is donated to local food banks. We felt right at home!

On a beautiful day, the McGovern Centennial Gardens is a peaceful walk among beautiful gardens, making it a great destination!

Hermann Park and the Museum District are not far from Rice Village and there are a lot of unique places to eat. If you decide to visit this destination, do a little research and see if there is something that catches your eye (and your taste buds!). We tried a place called Barnaby's, which is named after the owner's childhood dog. They have a patio where dogs are welcome, and a menu just for your canine companion. The human food was excellent as well, and on the "Would you go back?" scale, we would definitely go back!

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**By: Mark Mckee**  
**Brazoria County Master Gardener**

McGovern Centennial Gardens  
1500 Hermann Dr.  
Houston, TX 77004

<https://www.hermannpark.org/visit/mcgovern-centennial-gardens/>

### UPCOMING DESTINATION EVENTS:

Christmas In Roseland

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from November 24 to December 23

Special Christmas Market - December 8 – 11

(The gardens of the American Rose Society will be lit up for Christmas, with entertainment and special events each night)

American Rose Society  
Shreveport, LA

<https://www.rose.org/visit-public-gardens>

(If you have a suggestion for a destination, or would like to contribute a DESTINATIONS story, please let Kimberly Mayer or I know.)



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# Writers wanted!



**If you enjoy writing about gardening and would like contribute an article or two to our newsletter, please feel free to reach out and let me know. I'd love to have you participate in this newsletter. I am looking for short but informative articles that speak to a variety of interests. It can be a question that you get quite often from friends and neighbors or maybe a subject that is near and dear to your heart or we can do something like a plant or tree of the month and share some great information on that. If you are interested, email me at [kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu).**

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# Community Outreach Needs



**Captain Bob - Ag Awareness Day on  
November 8th: need 4-6 volunteers  
from 9am-12pm and 12pm-3pm**

**JMG Lesson at Harvest for the  
Hungry - November 18th from 9am-  
11am**

\*Please reach out to Susan Wood to sign up or for more details.

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21017 County Road 171  
Angleton, TX 77515  
979-864-1558

<https://brazoria.agrilife.org/horticulture/>

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