

Here's the Dirt



March Happenings

What's that saying? March blew in like a lion? Wow! We have been blowing and going here lately and the days just keep getting busier. March and April are busy times of the year for us and we have been fielding lots of requests for Master Gardener appearances. At our last General Meeting, we shared several public events happening soon that need volunteers for them. IF you are interested in being the lead or helping in some way, please reach out to Lisa Woods so she can finalize these events.



BEE in the Know

The Spring Plant Sale is happening this month and I know you are as excited as I am about it. Thank you to all who have worked so hard to put this together. The list is available on our Facebook Page as well as our website.. And pick up dates will be March 11th at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds. The plant list looks incredible and I can't wait to check out everything for myself! If you are available to volunteer, please let us know so we can plug you in somewhere.

What's Growing On...

March Board Meeting
03/07/23 @BEES

Spring Plant Sale
03/10-03/11
@Fairgrounds

March General Meeting
03/17/23 @AgriLife

Field Trip to Houston Botanical Gardens
03/24/23

Sea Center Nature Day
03/25/23

Master Gardener Intern Classes @BEES
03/02
03/09
03/16
03/23
03/30

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Nominate a Horticulture Hero

I may have only been here since September 1st, but boy, oh boy have I been impressed by all the hard work, drive, and dedication of our Master Gardeners in Brazoria County. We truly have an amazing group of individuals. 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 March 30th. Email me : kimberly.mayer@ag.tamu.edu

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March Horticulture Heroes: Cynthia Finney and Linda Erdman



Boy, Howdy!! Is this Dynamic Duo not the greatest? These two ladies handled the Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale like the professionals they are. Cynthia Finney and Linda Erdman managed their competent team of Tree Sale volunteers while juggling customer questions, making trips to Galveston County Master Gardener headquarters, and making sure our wholesaler was on the same page as they were. What a whirlwind of planning, meeting, loading and unloading. I'm tired just telling you about it! But, in all seriousness, these ladies showed what true Brazoria County Master Gardeners are all about and put on one of the best Fruit and Citrus Tree Sales that we've ever had. I've spoken with several customers and they all had wonderful things to say about the online sale and pick up. It all went so smoothly. So, please join me in congratulating Cynthia and Linda as your March Horticulture Heroes. Way to go ladies! Excellent job!

**NOT ALL
Heroes
WEAR
CAPES**

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**Brazoria County
Master Gardeners**

SAVE THE DATE!
Spring Plant Sale
In Person!

March 11, 2023
9:00-12:00 pm

Angleton Fairgrounds
901 S. Downing, Angleton, TX

We are delighted to host our in person Spring Plant Sale that includes ornamental, native and adapted, vegetable plants and more!

For more information: <http://tmg.org/brazoria/>

Educational programs of the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or marital status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Texas Commission on State Lands are also thanked.



save the date

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Legend of the Pink Bluebonnet



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Legend of the Pink Bluebonnet

This week I'm preparing a presentation on Wildflowers and happened across this legend of the pink bluebonnet. This was taken from <https://texashighways.com/wil.../stories-of-the-wildflowers/>
If you're a fan of Texas history, then this will be a quick read for you.

As you start to see bluebonnets pop up along the highways this spring, don't forget about the legend of the pink bluebonnet and #rememberthealamo. What better time to honor our Texas traditions than with Texas Independence Day coming up on March 2nd. "Greg Grant, a horticulturist and plant developer for Texas A&M in Tyler, related a Mexican legend he had been told by an elderly Hispanic woman—paraphrased below—about the legend of the pink bluebonnet:

One April many years ago, two children were playing in a field of wildflowers with their grandmother near San Antonio. Upon finding a white flower among the blue, the grandmother explained to her excited grandchildren that they were playing in a field of bluebonnets, and on rare occasions a white one is among them. "Some even say the Lone Star of the Texas state flag was fashioned after a spot of white bluebonnets among a field of blue," she said.

"Then what about this pink one?" one child asked, pointing to a flower at his feet. The grandmother paused. "When I myself was a little girl, my grandmother told me a special story about these rare flowers. They seem to only grow downstream from the Mission Alamo, and that is because of something that happened here many years ago." She went on to tell of how their ancestors once owned a beautiful house and farm before Santa Anna's army overtook the Texans in the bloody Battle of the Alamo. Heartbroken but thankful their lives had been spared, the grandmother, then a child, witnessed her mother place a pink wildflower in a vase beside the statue of the Virgin Mary. "She told me she had found it near the river where it had once been white, but so much blood had been shed, it had taken the tint of it."

After relaying her grandmother's story to her own grandchildren, she stopped to explain the meaning she had given the rare flower. "That is why you will only find the pink ones near the river, within sight of the old mission," she said. "So remember, the next time you see a pink bluebonnet, it's not only a pretty flower, but a symbol for the struggle to survive and of those who died so that Texas could be free."

Whether or not this legend is true, Parsons and Grant agree that the only place they have found those rare pink bluebonnets in the wild is along the road just south of San Antonio."

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Top Ten Turfgrass Tips for Spring

Lawns can sometimes be difficult to keep healthy in our urban environments, with our hot, drought-prone summers and our heavy clay soils. But there are some simple ways in which you can boost your lawn's health and avoid the problems with diseases and pests that are so common to our area.

- Give your lawn a great soil and it will vastly improve its overall health.
- Choose the right turfgrass for your yard.
- . Mow your lawn at the right height to avoid stressing it out.
- Train your grass roots to grow down deep into the soil by watering 1/2" once a week.
- Aerate high traffic areas with hard, compacted spots to allow more air flow.
- Fertilize lightly, and only when the grass needs it
- Perform an irrigation audit on your sprinkler system to maintain proper watering
- Identify weeds in your lawn right away.
- Use preventative, cultural, biological, mechanical and chemical controls for an optimum yard.
- Know the difference between pests that can attack your lawn and how to control them.

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