



Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume VII, Issue Four

Official E-Newsletter of the Ellis County Master Gardeners Association, Waxahachie, Texas

April, 2013

Welcome to the Ellis County Master Gardener's **E-Gardening** Newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to give you a month-by-month agenda of what you should be doing with your landscape. We will feature horticultural articles that we hope you will find interesting, and important dates where you can find the Master Gardeners speaking, demonstrating, and passing out information relative to your garden. If you would like to receive this newsletter monthly via your email address, log onto our website www.ECMGA.com, click on subscribe, and it will be sent around the 1st of every month. Best of all; it's FREE! Susan Clark, Editor

Thank you to everyone who attended the 13th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo! It was a great day and the Ellis County Master Gardeners appreciate your support. See you next year!

*Congratulations to the winners of the
Most Outstanding Booth and the Most Creative Booth of the 2013 Expo.*

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Listen to KBEC.....

Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. on 1390 AM.

The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a 5-minute segment every week, offering you helpful information on what you need to be doing in your landscape, as well as "happenings" around the county. Be sure to listen in!

Melinda Kocian



*Most Outstanding Booth
The Greenery*

*Most Creative Booth
Garden Inspirations*



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Earth-Kind® Rainfall Harvesting

- ◆ Efficient water use is increasingly important throughout Texas. With the growing population and limited supply of both groundwater and surface water, homeowners must use water wisely.
- ◆ Rainwater harvesting is an innovative Earth-Kind® approach to this important environmental issue.
- ◆ Harvesting rainwater for home landscape use saves money by reducing your water bill, reduces demand on municipal water supplies, makes efficient use of a valuable natural resource, and reduces flooding, erosion, and the contamination of surface water with sediments, fertilizers, and pesticides in rainfall run-off.

To learn more about Earth-Kind® Rainfall Harvesting, click on the Resource tab at www.ecmga.com and click on Earth-Kind®.

How Does It Work?

Rainwater harvesting systems with storage capacity include catchments, conveyance systems (connecting catchments to storage containers), storage, and distribution systems (directing water where it is needed).

It's April....What Needs To Be Done?

Planting

- Plant St. Augustine and hybrid Bermuda sod. St. Augustine can take some shade, but Bermuda needs full sun. Make good ground contact (use a roller) and keep sod moist until new roots are established. Common Bermuda can be started from seed, but it is best to hydro-mulch. In either case, keep the area moist for several weeks.
- Plant warm-season annuals from transplants. For sunny areas consider zinnias, firebush, pentas, petunias, blue daze, moss rose, purslane, butterfly weed, lantana, sweet potato vine, and Dahlberg daisy. For shade, consider begonias, Persian shield, coleus, impatiens, ferns, and hostas. Wait until May to plant caladiums.
- Sow okra from seed.
- Herbs such as dill, parsley, fennel, mint, oregano, thyme, basil, and Mexican mint marigolds can also be planted from transplants.
- Wait until May to plant the hot weather tropicals such as hibiscus, esperanza, and plumbago.

Pruning and Fertilizing

- Apply a high-nitrogen fertilizer to lawns. This is usually after the third mowing when the entire lawn is green. Follow up with additional fertilizer in June (optional) and again in September. St. Augustine and Bermuda grass need one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet two to three times a year.
- Mow Bermuda grass frequently at 1½ inches to keep thick and healthy; and mow St. Augustine at 2½ inches. Raise the mowing height one notch later in the summer to reduce evaporation and to make the grass more drought tolerant.
- Use a mulching mower and leave grass clippings on the ground. They will provide a source of nitrogen to feed the lawn.
- Six weeks after flowering, thin peaches to one fruit every six to twelve inches.

Garden Watch

- Closely inspect plants for insects. Treat only if you see the insect. Many insects are beneficial such as lady bugs, garden spiders, praying mantis, and assassin bugs. Identify the pest. If it is one that must be controlled, use an appropriate insecticide for that insect. The insecticide must make contact with the insect or be used while it is feeding on foliage.
- For fire ants, use the "Texas two-step method." First, apply fire ant bait to the area with a hand spreader. Use fresh bait from unopened containers. If fire ant colonies are still active after using the bait, treat the individual mounds with an appropriate insecticide. There are organic and chemical types available. Beneficial nematodes (microscopic worms) that can be purchased at many nurseries are also effective. Make sure you get the type that kills fire ants. If only a few mounds are present, avoid treating the entire lawn with an insecticide. It can kill earthworms and insects that are not harmful.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Celestial, Prairie Pleatleaf – Iris Family (Iridaceae)
Nemastylis Geminiflora Nutt

Region: 1 – 8 (Ellis County is Region 4)
Size: 1½ feet
Blooms: March through May, Perennial

Slender, delicate and attractive, celestials are blue with a white eye. Flowers are usually borne in pairs (*Gemini*, twin; *flora*, flower) from the tip of the stem. They are more than two inches across and open for only a few hours in the afternoon, so they are often overlooked. The folded leaves have a “W” shape in cross section. They are four to sixteen inches long and less than a half-inch wide, with one leaf taller than the flower. Celestials are found in grassy areas, in calcareous soil, and often in colonies. Their appearance is thought to be dependent upon spring rainfall.

Native Texas Tree: Mexican Buckeye

*By Marilyn Simmons
Ellis County Master Gardener Intern*



Mexican Buckeye *Ungnadia speciosa*

Mexican Buckeye is a deciduous, small tree that grows to a height of 20 feet tall by 20 feet wide. This native tree grows wild on mountain slopes, across Trans-Pecos, as well as, in central Texas.

This tree has compound leaves five to twelve inches long, with five to seven leaflets. The bark is very thin and light grey and is easily damaged by lawn



Mexican Buckeye
Ungnadia speciosa

equipment. With tree maturity, the bark becomes mottled grey to brown.

Mexican Buckeye is a beautiful ornamental that adds a variety of interest to the landscape. This drought tolerant beauty provides sweet pink blossoms in the spring. The buckeye bloom



Copyright © Robert O'Brien

time follows the redbud bloom time, so using both trees in landscape design would offer alternating color.

In the fall, this tree provides a glowing yellow leaf foliage. Ornate, three -

compartment seed pods cling to the tree, offering winter splendor.



Mexican Buckeye can be grown from seed. Plant a mature dry seed in warm moist soil. It will easily germinate in three weeks. This tree can also be propagated by

cuttings.

Birds are attracted to this tree. We have this awesome tree on our Ellis county property and most days, the branches are loaded with a variety of feathered friends.

Home owners should know that the leaves and the shiny black seed are mildly poisonous to livestock. Otherwise, this tree has few problems.

Herb of the Month

By Arlene Hamilton
Ellis County Master Gardener



April Herb of the Month – Mints

If you planted mint last year, your mint patch should be producing beautiful, flavorful, green leaves by now.

Although mints die back in our hot summers, they will reemerge early in the spring, well before the last frost date. Mints will grow with wild abandon all spring and into early summer when they will try to flower and then die back. Pollinating bees love the flowers, so be careful while harvesting.

Most mints need to be harvested often otherwise they will bloom and the leaves will be spaced farther and farther apart on the stems. Flavor is lost if flowering is allowed, so get out into your mint patch, pick a bunch, and brew up a tall glass of refreshing mint tea to enjoy as you take a break from all that gardening.

Mints belong to the genus *Mentha* in the Lamiaceae family. They are very aromatic plants with four-sided stems, opposite

leaves and small flowers in purple, pink, or white. Most mints do not produce seeds, or the seeds are not true to the mother plant. Mints spread by rhizomes and prefer loose, well-drained soil. These perennials grow beautifully and develop their best flavor in morning sun and afternoon shade in the Texas garden. Mints prefer more moisture than most culinary herbs, so be prepared to wa-



ter faithfully during our summer droughts. A light feeding is desirable but not too much fertilizer or you will have lush growth, but not much flavor. Mints make great container plants. In the garden, mints should be controlled with metal, plastic or wooden barriers, but expect some of the rhizomes to break through and spread throughout the garden.

Thanks to mints' promiscuous ways and the variability of their offspring, as many as 2,000 different varieties have evolved from about 25 distinct flavors. Mints are divided into two broad groups according to fragrance: the spearmint family (*Mentha spicata*) and the peppermints (*M. piperita*). The spearmint family does best in the Texas garden. Following are my favorites and a few to try in your herb garden.

dark green, curly leaves, it is excellent for lamb mint sauce.

❧ Variegata (*M. suaveolens*) is a beautiful creamy-white and soft green pineapple mint. Elegant to grow and use fresh, it loses much

flavor when dried.

❧ Hillary's Sweet Lemon named for former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, is a hybrid of apple and lime mint.

❧ Orange Mints (*M. aquatica* or *M. citrate*) are decorative in the garden, best in the early spring. Use to make a refreshing iced tea. The flavors of orange mints are too perfume-like to use in cooking, but the leaves make good pot-pourri.

❧ Chocolate (*M. xpiperita*) (pictured left) is one of my favorites.

It has a slight and delicious flavor of chocolate, especially when the leaves are candied.

❧ And my very favorite, 'use in everything' basic spearmint is Kentucky Colonel. Yes, it's the one preferred in mint juleps on Derby Day.

Here is a delicious summer recipe to try.



White Grape & Mint Salsa

4 cups seedless white grapes (green grapes)

2 tbs. onion chives, chopped

Juice of 1/2 fresh lime

2 tbs. spearmint, chopped

1 whole jalapeno, seeded and diced

Combine ingredients in food processor and barely pulse or chop by hand. Mix and refrigerate at least one hour. Serve with chips or top on grilled fish.

Lawn & Garden Expo Recap

With Cheryl Sandoval
Co-Chair of the Lawn & Garden Expo



The Ellis County Master Gardeners would like to thank everyone who was able to make it to our 13th Annual Lawn & Garden Expo.

We certainly appreciate you taking time out to visit with us, the many exhibitors and sponsors, and the speakers who help make the event possible.

This was our first year to have Smokey Bear visit and from what we could tell, kids of all ages were excited to get their picture taken with Smokey. The children's workshop was bustling with fun activities including pizza gardens. We heard several of you comment on the yummy treats served during the Food & Flavors of the Mediterranean from the eggplant caponata to the



orange-basil flavored water...and who knew roasted carrots on bruschetta could taste so good?

We're glad many of you got to hear Rosa Finsley, formerly of King's

Creek Nursery or Randy Johnson, formerly of Texas Discovery Gardens...both are very knowledgeable about gardening in our area. And we were happy to see so many of you buying plants from not only the Master Gardeners but many of the exhibitors, too. Plants bring smiles!

If you couldn't attend the Expo, be sure to visit us at the Farmer's Market. We'll have some tomato plants and perennials for sale and we're there to answer your gardening challenges.

A list of this year's sponsors is on the back page. Without their involvement, the Lawn & Garden Expo wouldn't be possible, so please support them whenever you can.

Happy Spring!



Ellis County Master Gardener Garden Projects Tour

Please note DATE CHANGE: Saturday, June 1, 2013, 10am--4pm

Please join the Ellis County Master Gardeners to see what grows in our display gardens in Waxahachie on June 1st.

In Getzendaner Park, the Star Garden will demonstrate working "From the Ground Up", which involves soil amendments and mulch to get your garden going and conserve water. Also in Getzendaner, the Butterfly Garden will feature butterfly habitat and focus on the Monarch butterfly. The Chautauqua Garden offers a glimpse of a garden in transition.

On the west side of the Waxahachie Convention Center "Garden Design" will be highlighted in conjunction with the red, white, and blue design at the Veteran's Memorial. A bit farther south on I-35E, our garden at the Presbyterian Children's Home showcases areas planted for sun, shade, and dry conditions. This garden has been in place for 15 years and maintains some mature trees and shrubs.

There is no fee charged for the tour, and Master Gardeners will be on hand to speak briefly and answer questions. There will also be some garden prizes and surprises. Please mark this day on your calendar. If you are bringing a group to the tour, please contact (972) 825-5175 to allow us to prepare.



Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

For reservations, call Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631.

Register online at http://www.wisd.org/default.aspx?name=CO_LighthouseforLearning

Thursday, April 4, 6:00–7:30 pm—Herbs, From the Garden to the Kitchen Of all the plants you can grow in your garden, herbs are some of the easiest, especially in the Ellis County area. Our dry, rocky soils make for good ground for these useful plants. Not only are they attractive and easy to grow, they are of great use in the kitchen. This class will teach you what to plant, how to care for it, and how to bring your herbs into the kitchen to make tasty and healthy dishes. Recipes and handouts included. Instructor: Susan Clark Cost: \$12.00

Monday, April 29, 6:00–7:30 pm—Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden Do you want to learn how to attract more butterflies to your garden? Join us for this informative class. You will learn what butterflies are in our area and what plants you will need to add to your garden to attract the various types of butterflies. Learn the difference between host and nectar plants and why you need both in order to have the most butterflies. Instructor: Carolyn Ross Cost: \$12.00

Thursdays, April 11- May 2, four classes, 6:00–8:00 pm—"Ag 101"—Beginning Farmer/Rancher Join this experienced instructor as you cover these topics: soils and soil fertility, soil testing, pasture management, basic livestock productions and pond management. This class will be held at the Ellis County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 701 S. I-35E, Suite 3. Instructor: Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources Cost: \$22.00



April Master Gardener Workday Schedule

Thursday, April 4, 9am	Chautauqua/Triangle Garden	The Ellis County Master Gardeners would like to extend an invitation to those who might be interested to work alongside them in the public gardens. This will be an educational opportunity to ask questions, to learn firsthand practical gardening techniques, and to get to know your local master gardeners. Please join us when you can! For more information, please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Office by calling (972) 825-5175.
Thursday, April 11, 9am	Presbyterian Living Classroom	
Tuesday, April 16, 9am	Ridgeview	
Thursday, April 18, 8:30am	Veteran's Memorial	
Thursday, April 25, 8:30am	Getzendaner/Star Garden	
Tuesday, April 30	Concept & Demo Garden	

What's Happening in April



IT'S BACK! Every Saturday from March to December from 8am–1pm.

410 S. Rogers (across from City Hall in the old lumberyard building)

Visit the Master Gardeners' Booth!

- ☼ Useful gardening tips
- ☼ Plants and herbs for sale
- ☼ Free handouts...Some items for a fee
- ☼ Tell a friend to sign up for the **E-Garden Newsletter... it's FREE!!!**



There are many opportunities in our area for learning more about gardening and the environment. Ellis County Master Gardeners' Lighthouse for Learning spring classes are listed on page five. The following organizations also offer classes. Please visit their web-sites for more information.

BRIT. Classes include: What is an Herbarium, Edible Flowers, and Herbs. Visit <http://www.brit.org/events/learners> for more info. Fees vary, some include lunch. Also check the calendar for other events at <http://www.brit.org/calendar/>

The Dallas Arboretum. A few class examples include: Rain Gardens, Perennials, Irrigation, Creative Arts, and many more. Visit <http://www.dallasarboretum.org/AdultEducation/index.htm> for details and registration. Fees vary.

Garden Inspirations. Classes in April are all about Vegetable Gardening. For complete details and to register for classes, visit www.gardeninspirations-tx.com.

Various dates and locations, Announcing "Growing Your Expertise in Texas Native Plants" presented by The Native Plant Society of Texas. Learn to identify 50 species of natives, understand the benefits of natives to the environment and humans, be a better steward, and receive your Level 1 Native Landscape Certification. Go to <http://npsot.org/wp/nlcp/classes> for class information. \$35 registration fee.



Are you using Texas natives to help combat the hot, dry weather? Check out these local plant sales.

Saturday, April 6, 9am–5pm and Sunday, April 7, 1pm–5pm, Heard Museum Plant Sale. Don't miss this opportunity to purchase plants from a huge selection of hard-to-find herbs, native and well-adapted plants. For info, visit www.heardmuseum.org

Saturday, April 6, 9am–2pm, North Central Chapter of the Native Plant Society Plant Sale at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. For more info, visit www.txnativeplants.org

Saturday, April 13, 9am–3pm, Tarrant County Master Gardeners Plant Sale. For more information, go to http://tarrantmg.org/linked/sharecropper_april_2013.pdf

Friday thru Sunday, April 19-21, Texas Discovery Gardens Annual Plant Sale. See details below or visit <http://texasdiscoverygardens.org>



Dogwood Canyon

1206 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill

<http://tx.audubon.org/dogwood-canyon-audubon-center>

Thursday, April 4, 9am–5pm, Dogwood Canyon—Free First Thursday. Located at 1206 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill, just south of Cedar Hill State Park entrance. For more info, go to: <http://tx.audubon.org/Dogwood.html>

Saturday, April 27, 9am–12pm, Dogwood Canyon—Fourth Saturday Workday. For more info, contact Julie Collins at jcol-lins@audubon.org.

Sunday, April 28, 1:30pm, Wildflower Walk led by Master Naturalist Jim Varnum. For more info, contact Jim at jvarnum@aol.com



Texas Discovery Gardens

3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas

TexasDiscoveryGardens.org

Saturday, April 6, 10am–12:30pm, Butterfly Gardening Workshop. If you plant it, they will come! Discover how easy it is to garden and attract native butterflies with Horticulture Director Roger Sanderson & Entomologist John Watts. Bring home a starter flat of butterfly host and nectar plants, valued at \$60. Class attendees get a chance to shop during the Friday Member's Only Preview Plant Sale! \$60, \$48 for TDG Members. Register in advance.

Saturday, April 13, 11am, Garden Explorers Walk. Get out in the garden on this family friendly walk! Take a garden tour with our garden docent and search for squirrels' nests, hungry caterpillars, frogs and butterflies in the great outdoors. It ends in time for you to catch the Butterfly Release talk at noon in our conservatory. *Included with admission.*

(Continued on page 10)

2013 Photo Contest Winners

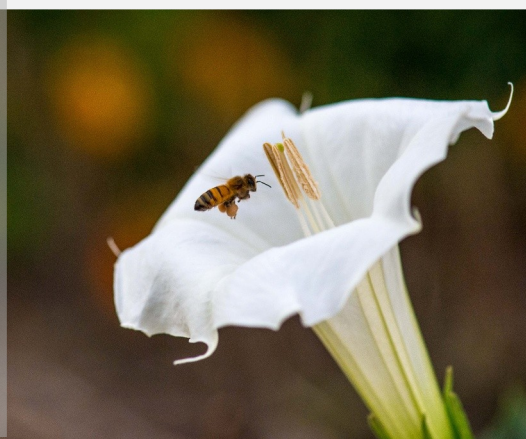
The Ellis County Master Gardeners would like to extend a gracious "thank you" to all who participated in the 2013 Ellis County Master Gardener Association photo contest. If you missed this year's contest, be sure to get your camera out and ready for 2014!

In the Garden Category Winners

*1st Place Winner
Pearl Vennell*



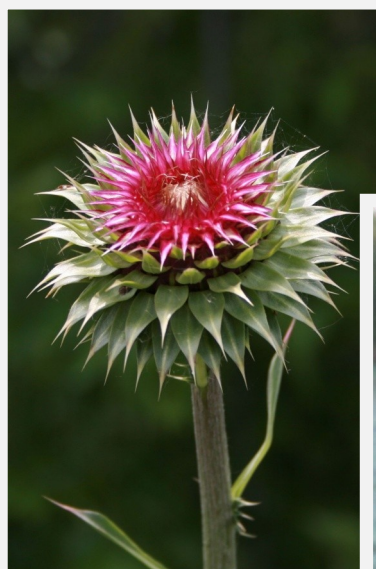
*2nd Place Winner
Ray Downs*



*3rd Place Winner
Cara Johnson*

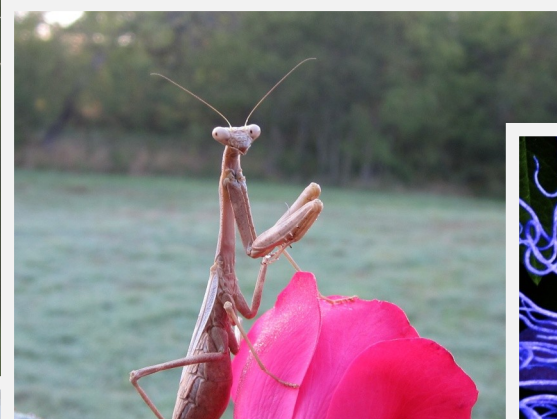


*1st Place Winner
Vicki Baggs*



Single Specimen Category Winners

*2nd Place Winner
Diane Ray*



*3rd Place Winner
Amy Vanpool*





Landscape Gardening

From: Gail Haynes, Ellis County Master Gardener

Ellis County Master Gardeners have a website at www.ecmga.com. Check this website for information on gardening in Ellis County, sign up for a monthly newsletter, or access other websites including the Texas A&M Horticulture website. Questions for Master Gardeners will be answered with a return email or telephone call, if you leave a message at (972) 825-5175.

Chinese Ground Orchid (*Bletilla striata*)

Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist Texas AgriLife Extension Service

B. striata is one of the few terrestrial orchids suitable for general cultivation in Texas and the Gulf South. In recent years several variations on the original plant have become available and interest has increased in collecting and growing them. It thrives in the shaded or partially sunny garden with a moist, humus-rich soil. The spikes of purplish-pink flowers emerge early in some springs and can be damaged by late spring freezes unless mulched well. Leaves are usually about 1 inch wide. When established, almost every 12-15" shoot will rise up from the pseudobulb containing up to fourteen individual, orchid-like flowers. Foliage is 12-18" inches length and pleated. Established clumps can have dozens of flower spikes, each individual flower resembling a miniature Cattleya orchid. Propagation is by dividing large clumps in late summer to early fall.

Originally from China and Japan, Chinese Ground Orchids were first cultivated in England around 1994. At first, only the standard *B. striata* (pictured right) was available. It is considered to be one of the most hardy,



usually thriving from Zone 6 through 9. *B. albostrata*, which has narrow, pleated, white edged leaves, is also considered substantially hardy. The Japanese striped variety 'Gotemba Stripes' has many narrow streaks of gold over the leaves.

'Kuchibeni', (pictured below) another Japanese cultivar, has two-toned flowers in purple and white, and 'Murasaki Kichibi' displays a pale bluish-lavender with a darker lip. There are also varieties that can be thought of as almost white from a short distance. These varieties are also relatively hardy.

B. ochracea, or Chinese Butterfly Orchid, has flowers that are yellow in color with a purple and yellow lip. It is considered hardy in zones 7 through 9, but is a more finicky plant that takes more care.

For further information and images of various *Bletilla*, refer to on-line plant nurseries such as Plant Delights Nursery of Raleigh, NC.

Garden Checklist for April 2013

- ✓ Prune spring-flowering shrubs soon after flowering. Keep the natural shape of the plant in mind as you prune, and avoid excessive cutting except where necessary to control size.
- ✓ Roses have high fertilizer requirements. For most soils, use a complete fertilizer for the first application just as new growth starts, then use ammonium sulfate, or another high nitrogen source, every four to six weeks, usually just as the new growth cycle starts following a flowering cycle. For organic sources, use cottonseed, rotted manures or alfalfa meal.
- ✓ Continue to spray rose varieties suscep-

tible to black spot, using a spray recommended for fungus control every seven to ten days. Many of the Old Garden Roses and some of the newer ones have considerable resistance to black spot.

✓ Climbing hybrid tea roses may be pruned as soon as they complete flowering.

✓ Removing spent flowers, trimming back excessive growth, and applying fertilizer to an established annual bed can do wonders towards rejuvenating and extending the life of the planting.

✓ As soon as azaleas have finished flowering, apply an acid type fertilizer at the rate recommended. Don't over fertilize, as azalea roots are near the surface and damage can occur. Water thoroughly after fertilizing.

- ✓ Seeds of amaranthus, celosia, cosmos, marigold, portulaca, zinnia, and other warm-season annuals can be sown directly in the beds where they are to grow. Keep seeded areas moist until seeds germinate. Thin out as soon as they are large enough to transplant. Surplus plants can be transplanted to other areas.
- ✓ It will soon be time for bagworms to attack junipers and other narrow-leaved evergreens. Control measures, such as Sevin dust or spray, should be applied while the insects and the bags are about one-half inch in length.
- ✓ When caterpillars attack live oak trees en masse, it is very alarming, but usually nothing can be done. A healthy live oak will usually regrow its leaves and resume normal activities.

(Continued on page 10)

What's Happening in April (Continued from page 7)

Friday, April 19, 3pm-4pm, Plant Sale Safari Guided Tours. (Allows entry to Member Preview Sale) This pre-sale tour by our Director of Horticulture, Roger Sanderson, shows you how to incorporate native and adapted plants into your landscape. Learn about the environmental conditions they thrive in and the beneficial insects they attract. \$15, \$10 for TDG Members. Advance registration strongly encouraged.

Friday, April 19, 4 pm-7pm, Member's Butterfly Plant Sale Preview. Our Member's Plant Sale allows you to shop before the Saturday rush! Members also receive 10% off plants. Rare native pollinator-friendly plants are a specialty.

Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21, 10 am-2 pm, Butterfly Plant Sale. The gardens are having their sale earlier this year to give you more time to plant. Enjoy native and adapted plants that are rare to find in local nurseries! For a plant list, go to: http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/plant_sale.php

Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21, 10am-6pm, Earth Day Dallas at Fair Park, Visit Fair Park for outdoor family fun, entertainment and education. Enjoy special activities at TDG throughout the weekend! For a schedule of events, go to: <http://www.earthdaydallas.org/schedule>



Ends Sunday, April 7, Dallas Blooms at the Dallas Arboretum. Once again, the Dallas Arboretum kicks off springtime with one of the most spectacular floral displays in the world. For more info about events and visiting the arboretum, go to: www.dallasarboretum.org/

April 1-April 30th, Ennis Bluebonnet Trails sponsored by the Ennis Garden Club.

Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21, 2013 Ennis Bluebonnet Trails Festival. The festival includes Arts & Crafts, Bluebonnet Souvenirs, Bluebonnet Trail Maps, Food, Children's Activities, and Live Music. For more information, visit http://visitennis.org/Festivals/Bluebonnet_Trails.html

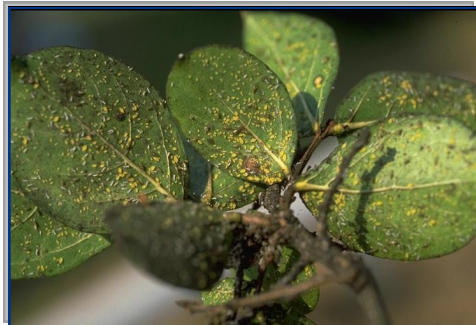
Saturday, April 20, 9am—12pm, Cedar Ridge Preserve—Conservation in Action Workday. Volunteers help remove non-native plants, restore trails, and work in the butterfly garden. Water, snacks, pruning shears, shovels, and work gloves provided. Contact: info_CRP@yahoo.com. Location: 7171 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas. www.audubondallas.org

Monday, April 22, 7pm, Indian Trail Master Naturalists presents Texas Native Grasses by John Snowden. The program is free and follows the 6pm Master Naturalist meeting that is open to the public. *New meeting location: Red Oak Public Library, 200 Lakeview Parkway, Red Oak. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu

Landscape Gardening (Continued from page 9)

- ✓ For instant color in your beds, purchase started annual plants. Select short, compact plants. Any flowers or flower buds should be pinched to give plants an opportunity to become established.
- ✓ Check new tender growth for aphids. A few can be tolerated, but large numbers should be controlled. Always follow label instructions on approved pesticides for control. Washing them off with a strong spray of water may be all that is necessary.

- ✓ Many flower or vegetable seeds left over after planting the garden can be saved for the next season by closing the packets with tape or paper clips and storing in a sealed glass



Crapemyrtle aphids

jar in your refrigerator.

- ✓ Start weeding early in the flower garden. Early competition with small plants can delay flowering. A mulch will discourage weed growth and make those that do come through easier to pull.
- ✓ Soil purchased for use in beds, low areas, and containers should be examined closely. Often, nut



grass and other weeds, nematodes, and soil-borne disease are brought into the yard through contaminated soil sources.

- ✓ Watch newspaper and other publicity for information regarding wildflower trails, and open garden days. Plan to take

a trip to enjoy beautiful gardens and trails that are abundant in many areas of Texas

Thank You All!!

**Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and visitors for making the
2013 - 13th Annual
Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo
Such A Success!**



Bronze
Vintage Bank
H-E-B
Waxahachie Civic
Center

Green
AmeriGrafix
Ennis Garden Club
Holcim (Texas) LP
Renewal by Andersen
CNB of Texas
EarthTones Greenery
Roland's Nursery & Landscape
Tex-Scapes Greenery
Travis Equipment
Universal Portable Buildings

Exhibitors

Adopt-A-Block	EarthTones Maintenance	Just Nuts	Southern Star Construction
Amazing Solar Solutions	ED's Landscape Service	Kahuna Satellite	SplashAway Pool
ARK Country Store	Ellis Co. Habitat for Humanity	Kaitlyn's Styles of Pasta	Sweet Sister Ent.
Art For The Garden	Ellis County Engineering	KBEC 1390	Texas Bluebird Society
Bethas Best	Ellis County Extension	L & J Nichols Farms	Texas Honeybee Guild
Bluemoon Soaps	Ellis County SPCA	Landmark Equipment	Texas Plant & Soil Labs
Brazos Valley Equipment	Ellis-Prairie Soil & Water Dis	Leaf Guard North Texas	Texas Toffee
Central Kubota	Ennis Garden Club	Legacy Remodel & Design Group	Tex-Scapes Greenery
CKB Designs	Exterior Transformations	Little Landscape & Tree Farm	The Pampered Chef
CNB of Texas	Garden Inspirations	Living Magazine	Tommy's Bird Houses
Concrete and More	Garden Variety Organics	Lonestar Backyards/Bldgs	Tomorrow's Treasures
Concrete Miracles	Gardenscapes by Diane	Lowe's	Travis Equipment
Costco Wholesale	Gary's Greenhouse	Ovilla Garden Club	Turf-Scape, Inc.
Countryside Greenhouse	Green Garden Club	Pastamore Gourmet Foods	Universal Outdoor Design
Crafty Couture	Green Mountain Energy	Piddlin' Peddler	Universal Portable Buildings
Creative Quilters Guild Ellis	Greenery, The	R & E Plants	Waxahachie Care
Crystal Connections	Grindstaff Metal Art	Renewal by Andersen	Waxahachie Daily Light
DFW Custom Decks	H-E-B	Roland's Nursery & Landscape	Waxahachie Garden Club
Diamond W Décor	Indian Trail Master Naturalist	Scout Troop #1029	Waxahachie High School Plants
Downs Garden and Glass	Invisible Fence of Texas	Silverado Landscape	Waxahachie Senior Center
Durjens LLC	Jams Jellies and More	Sophora Landscapes, LLC	Wimbish Tree Farm
EarthTones Greenery	Joey-Pied Piper Pest & Termite		Window World

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