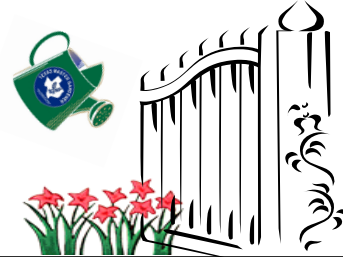




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue 3

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

March, 2019

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 and click on subscribe. Best of all; it's FREE! Editors and Newsletter Team: Susan Ellis, Donna Hubbard, Bree Shaw

The Ellis County Master Gardeners
19th Annual Lawn and Garden Expo
Saturday, March 30, 2019
Waxahachie Civic Center

Visit any sponsor for free tickets!!
For complete details
please visit www.ecmga.com

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION



Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10am on
1390 AM.

The Ellis County Master Gardeners have a fifteen 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!

Scott Rigsby

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Ellis County Master Gardeners' Lawn and Garden Expo

"Be Plant Wise, Grow Smarter"

Admission at the door \$5 (Children under 12 free)
FREE Advance Tickets Available from Our Sponsors

The Waxahachie Civic Center will be home to the 19th annual Ellis County Master Gardeners' Lawn and Garden Expo on Saturday, March 30th, 9am-5pm. Exhibitors will fill the center with outdoor living necessities, plants, machinery, yard art and landscape project materials. There will be an outdoor food court for patrons to enjoy some tasty local cuisine.



Adults can listen to the morning keynote speaker or attend afternoon workshops on gardening topics. Available also is "ask the Expert" about specific gardening challenges.

The Children's Workshop will have numerous interactive displays and activities along with take home projects. NEW this year will be a Farmers Market for children to experience the benefit of healthy, fresh produce. Each child will also have the opportunity to decorate a recycled tin can planter and take home a seed starter package to grow their very own plant. Please join us for

a fun-filled day of activities!!!

Don't Forget one of the most popular attractions, the Master Gardener Plant Sale, with a variety of flowering plants along with herbs and vegetables suited for North Texas landscapes and climate.

Be sure to register for the many great door prizes donated by our wonderful exhibitors.

A big "Thank You" to the Expo sponsors for making this event possible.



It's March—What Needs To Be Done!

Planting

- * Plant these annuals early in the month for spring color: petunias, larkspurs, foxgloves and stocks. Other annuals such as marigolds, celosia and wax begonias may be planted late in the month.
- * Plant tomatoes, peppers and eggplants from four-inch pots after March 15th. Plants should be hardened off (gradually exposed to outside conditions) before putting in the ground.
- * Plant warm-season vegetables – beans, corn, squash, melons and cucumbers starting mid-month.
- * Plant herbs in raised beds with soil amended with organic matter. Harden off plants before planting.
- * Plant perennial flowers in amended well drained soil. Know each plant's prime blooming season,

height, width and color to ensure season-long color. Mulch new plantings.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- * Trees, shrubs, vines and groundcovers can be fed with high-nitrogen fertilizer or compost. For patio pots and container gardens, apply a diluted, water-soluble, high-nitrogen fertilizer once a week.
- * Remove old growth from Bermudagrass lawns by lowering mower one or two notches, allowing the grass to spread faster and choke out weeds. Bag the clippings for composting or as mulch.
- * Prune spring-flowering shrubs and vines such as flowering quince, azaleas, forsythia, bridal wreath (Spiraea), Lady Banksia rose and Carolina jessamine immediately after they finish blooming.

Garden Watch

- * If frost or freeze is predicted, cover tender vegetables and annuals with frost cloth. It can make a six to eight-degree difference.
- * Beware of close-out sales on bare-root trees as survival rate is low when planted this late in the season. Spend a little more on container-grown plants.
- * Control black spot, powdery mildew and thrips on roses with an appropriate fungicide or systemic insecticide. Use a stream of water or insecticidal soap on aphids.
- * Apply pre-emergent herbicides on lawns to control broadleaf and grassy weeds if needed. A "weed and feed" fertilizer is not recommended because it is too early to fertilize lawns.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener*



Baby Blue-eyes – Waterleaf Family (Hydrophyllaceae)
Nemophila phacelioides Nutt.

Region: 1 – 4, 6 and 7 (Ellis County is region 4)
Size: 28 inches
Blooms: March through May, Annual



Baby blue-eyes is a hairy plant that may be upright or straggling. Its stout stems have many branches. Blue or light purple flowers are one-half to one inch across, with a splash of white in the center. All five petals are notched at the tip and may be either slightly cupped or wide-open and flat. Its deeply cut leaves are divided into five to eleven irregularly lobed segments. Typically, baby blue-eyes are found in moist, shady places such as woodlands or bottomlands, at the edges of thickets or in brushland. It is often found in masses carpeting a large area with solid blue.



2019 Expo Workshops

Lead by Ellis County Master Gardeners

12 pm—Using Native Plants as a Sense of Place

Native plants have been in Ellis County much longer than gardeners and are easy to grow, love the Texas heat and are drought tolerant as well as beautiful. They also have a history with the humans who have shared this land with them. Come hear their stories. Speaker: **Maureen Nitkowski**

1 pm—Tomatoes and Peppers: From Start to Finish

Tips on how to grow tomatoes and peppers including (a) selection of best varieties for Ellis County (b) preparation of soil (c) planting (when and how) and types of fertilizers to use and (d) plant care and dealing with common plant diseases and insects in Ellis County. In addition, there will be discussion on what to do with all of those wonderful tomatoes and peppers that you grow and harvest. Speaker: **Tom Graves**

2 pm—Harvesting Rainwater and Installing Residential Irrigation

Information will be provided on the basics for collecting rainwater and storing it for future use. Learn how to install a basic residential irrigation system and maintain it for optimal performance for years to come. If you already have a system, learn the smart questions to ask the contractor. We will have a display of materials, equipment and useful tools to complete the job. Speaker: **James Derstler and Allan Paxton**

3 pm—Plant Propagation

Do you want to learn how to propagate plants and seeds given to you by friends or cuttings from a favorite garden? This class and hands-on workshop will give you information on growing from seeds as well as different methods of propagation such as layering, cuttings and plant division. You will have classroom instructions then go to the planting area for some hands-on experiences. Speaker: **Walt Friis**

*For those attending the workshops there will be an opportunity to register for a free rain barrel.
All workshops will be held in the Speaker's room across from Hospitality.*

Winter Jasmine

"Jasminum nudiflorus"

By Melinda Kocian, ECMG

Winter Jasmine is known by the Chinese as "welcoming spring flower". The Latin word, *nudiflorum*, literally means "naked flower". Winter Jasmine is a deciduous perennial that produces beautiful flowers in the dead of winter, making it a must for your winter garden. The vine-like shrub was introduced to England from China in 1844, by the English plant collector, Robert Fortune. Winter Jasmine is the first plant to bloom in colder regions, and brings lively color to your winter garden all year around because of its eternally green stems.

Winter Jasmine blooms in USDA Zones 6-9 but can be successfully grown in zones 5 and 10. It blooms on the first warm day in January but is quickly stunted when the next frost comes along only to return in a sprinkling of blooms until March, with its peak blooming in February. The blooms start at the base and move to the tips through these months, reaching about an inch in size at maturity with vibrant yellow waxy petals. It won't disappoint and will bring joy to your garden way before your neighbors' plants start to bloom!

Winter Jasmine can grow up to four feet high and five to seven feet wide in a trailing, cascading mound. The vines will root anywhere they touch the ground. Winter Jasmine's ability to root makes it a great tool against erosion, and its size and growth style make it ideal for that beautiful arbor, trellis or for cascading down a wall.

Conscientious pruning is necessary when Winter Jasmine is left without a structure to which it cannot root. Otherwise it can be quite invasive. It can be grown in full sun to part shade and prefers well drained, fertile soil, though the vines can survive in nearly any type soil or light exposure. Cutting back these vines after they bloom in the spring and giving the plant a good dose of organic fertilizer will likely ensure beauty during the cold months of winter.

Winter Jasmine has none of the characteristic scents of the family, but the cheery buttery blooms help dispel winter gloom and bring encouragement to the cabin fevered gardener. Any type of flower in winter seems like a major miracle. Cold season blooms are rare, but Winter Jasmine is a scrabby shrub that will start the gardener thinking of spring sunshine and summer heat. Jasmines have a deeply sweet scent, but an interesting piece of Winter Jasmine information is its lack of scent. Still, these starry little blooms are magical surprises in a cold season landscape. The glossy green leaves are deciduous and attached to deeply green stems. In early January, small buttery yellow five-petaled flowers appear, each measuring ½ to 1-inch wide. Winter Jasmine information should include its family, which is the Olive family.

Use Winter Jasmine to obstruct ugly walls and fences, as a ground cover or grown over a trellis with training. As a hanging plant, the Winter Jasmine looks particularly attractive on garden walls. As a climbing plant, the Winter Jasmine requires a frame which provides it with support: a ladder trellis or another shrub are suitable options. In addition, the Winter Jasmine can be raised easily in a pot where it can make an attractive addition to your balcony, patio or house entrance.

If over the winter season you would like to enjoy splashes of color in your garden, the Winter Jasmine provides an attractive option. Whereas, most plants lay dormant during the cold season, Winter Jasmine is one of the few frost-resistant winter flowering plants. In mild weather it opens its first flowers in December, and valiantly continues to flower until April.

The charming feature of this winter plant is that its yellow flowers open one after the other, so its amazing progress can be enjoyed over an extended period of time. It does not require particular care as it generally prospers on its own. It is therefore considered an easy-care, robust and long-lasting plant. The Winter Jasmine is not susceptible to disease or pests. The best planting period for the Winter Jasmine is in spring as it will then flower the next winter. But, because the plant flowers on one-year shoots, it is recommended to cut back the shoots after flowering by approximately a fifth of their length. Even when the Winter Jasmine loses its leaves in autumn, its green branches ensure that it never looks bare or boring. An interesting fact is that the plant can easily propagate through budding. If a shoot lies on the ground, it will quickly form new roots and later separate from the mother plant.



Farmer's Market—Opening for the Season April 27



If you would like to learn more about the Farmers Market and being a vendor, there will be an informational meeting Tuesday, April 2, at 5:30pm at Waxahachie City Hall in the council chambers. Application forms, as well as market rules and guidelines, will be available. Vendors will be able to tour the market area, turn in paperwork and fees and ask questions at the meeting. Returning sellers are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Anita Brown at city hall, (469) 309-4111.

For more information, visit <http://www.waxahachie.com/Departments/DowntownDevelopment/DowntownFarmersMarket>

Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

For reservations, call Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631 or email at mcobb@wisd.org
Register online at http://www.wisd.org/default.aspx?name=CO_LighthouseforLearning

Join Ellis County Master Gardeners and Ellis County Extension Agency in a variety of classes to prepare your gardens and yards for spring



Monday, April 1: Container Gardening: Gardening in a container can be as simple as filling a pot. However, there are specific plants that like each other and others that do not. Come to this class and learn some new and old ideas on space, plant choices, soil, sun and water ideas including a demonstration on how to plant a simple container garden. Bring questions, pictures and anything you may want to inquire about. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and get personal answers.

Instructor: Jane Sloan

Thursday, April 4: Hobby Greenhouses: The world of greenhouses is a magical one, a place where seasons and climates don't matter. This class will take you through the basics of setting up and maintaining a greenhouse. We will talk about different types of greenhouses, how to assess your needs and how to be successful growing in the greenhouse environment.

Instructor: Susan Knapp

Monday, April 8: Vegetable Gardening: This timely class will tell you how to grow vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, asparagus, kale, onions, squash and broccoli. It will also cover site selection, soil testing, weed management and provide instruction on planting seed, using fertilizer, pesticides and much more.

Instructors: Arlene Hamilton and Jessie Mellon

Thursday, April 11: Irrigation: How to Cut Your Water Bill in Half! If you have a home irrigation system chances are you could be wasting over 50% of your water usage due to an inefficient system. Learn the basics of designing an efficient irrigation system. Gain the knowledge to install a system your-

self or have the tools to ask the smart questions of an irrigation contractor. Information will be provided to help you maintain an existing system; test procedures to determine if any adjustments are required to keep your system in top condition. No matter if you intend to install a new system, maintain an existing system or just want to know more about one of the most ignored systems in the home, this class is for you.

Instructor: Jim Derstler and Allan Paxton

Monday, April 15: Texas Superstars: Learn a brief history of how plants have been named Texas Superstars and how they have been found. Highlights of these superstars include annuals, perennials, fruits, trees and many more.

Instructors: Susan Ellis and Gayle Johnston

Thursday, April 18: Perennials for All Seasons: Perennials are valued mostly because they return to the garden each year. However, the gardener needs to know which ones will bloom the longest, when they bloom and how they add to the landscape in other ways before choosing new additions to their gardens.

Instructor: Maureen Nitkowski

Monday, April 22: Plant Propagation: Want to learn how to propagate plants from some of your favorites or some of your friends? This class will give you information on growing from seeds as well as different methods of propagation such as layering, cuttings, and plant division. You will have both classroom and hands on activities.

Instructor: Walt Friis

Thursday, May 02: Firewise: You can't control wildfires, but you can increase the chances of saving your home if you create defensible space around your property. Attendees are encouraged to bring a flash drive or CD with pictures of their home (up close and from about 50- 60 feet away) to discuss areas of concern and possible solutions. **Instructor: Lee Dann**



Ellis County Master Gardener Scholarship 2019

REMINDER: All scholarship applications must be received no later than 4:00pm on March 15, 2019.

All sponsor donations provide scholarships to Ellis County High School Seniors choosing college studies in horticulture or life sciences.

EXPO'S KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Daniel Cunningham, Horticulturist and Project Coordinator

Daniel Cunningham, Horticulturist of Texas A&M AgriLife's Water University program, reaches professionals and the public with the most current sustainability information about landscape water use, including design, plant selection and water-conserving landscape management practices. His primary focus is a holistic approach to landscaping and food production systems. Cunningham specializes in Texas native plants and trees, vegetable gardening, edible landscaping and rainwater harvesting. He is also passionate about utilizing landscapes as habitat for beneficial wildlife. He focuses on the edible value of common landscape plants and is known in the public arena for leading courses on foraging and engaging in the practice as a source of his own food.

Join Daniel for his one hour class at 10am in rooms C&D as he discusses Texas Plants. There is a growing trend to incorporate native plants in landscapes not only for their ability to save water, but also for the incredible beauty and the countless ecosystem services. Learn how to grow your favorite native wildflowers, trees and shrubs as well as perennials with lush vibrant colors and textures to make your garden the envy of the neighborhood. We will also talk proper soil preparation, proper installation and provide tips for long term maintenance to keep your native landscaping looking its best. You will be provided a plant list as big as the Lone Star State!!

Children's Workshops at EXPO



The Children's Workshop Room has become a favorite area at the annual Ellis County Master Gardener Lawn & Garden Expo. Both children and adults enjoy the educational exhibits, hands-on activities and lively atmosphere of the children's workshop room. The opportunity to move to a larger room has been such a success that we will again be set-up in the light filled Crape Myrtle Room of the Waxahachie Civic Center.

Parents and children are encouraged to bring their gardening questions to the numerous master gardener volunteers that will be available. Representatives from the Junior Master Gardener program will also be present to share information about the youth gardening program that supports hands-on learning experiences. The Indian Trail Master Naturalists are always an important part of the children's workshop room, and working closely with the master gardeners, will provide fun learning activities throughout the day. Joining us this year, The John Bunker Sands Wetland Center is sure to bring some wild fun to the workshop. The workshop will be filled with activities for children while at the expo and will also include a few take-home surprises. Thanks to Texas Tree Farms of Waxahachie they will also go home with a young tree to plant. The children's workshop room is sure to be buzzing with activity so please plan on joining us.



Workshops are all day events

Texas Super Star – 'Mystic Spires Improved Blue' Salvia
(*Salvia longispicata* x *Salvia farinacea*)
Submitted by Gayle Johnston



March is finally here. The last frost of the winter is in sight and spring is right around the corner. For the "Plan Ahead" crowd cool season vegetables are in the ground, and spring vegetables are cozy in their pots awaiting transplantation to warm spring earth once the danger of frost is past. For the "Not Quite Ready" folks warmer weather provokes thoughts of "what can I do in my garden right now that will pay off not only this year but in future years as well?". Luckily for these folks, March is a great time to plant perennial flowers and shrubs that will fit the bill handily, and provide a dependable background for colorful season annuals that will be planted in future months.

One of North Texas gardeners' favorite perennials is the salvia in its many varieties, and thanks to the Texas Superstar program one of the most popular varieties just became even better. As a 2018 addition to the Superstar program, Mystic Spires Improved Blue Salvia brings with it a long heritage as a stalwart of North Texas gardens.

Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is a hybrid of two large Mexican sages "*Salvia longispicata* and *S. farinacea*" and is a compact form of another popular salvia called Indigo Spires, which was discovered as a chance hybrid seedling in the 1970's. According to Dr. Brent Pemberton, Texas Superstar Executive Board Member and AgriLife Research Ornamental horticulturist in Overton, the improved Mystic Spires variety is the result of choosing and propagating better Blue Salvia within the original variety, and represents over four years of field testing throughout Texas. Dr. Pemberton also notes that "After 2018, the 'Improved' part of the name will be dropped, as the original form will no longer be available".

Although shorter than Indigo Spire, the variety flowers even more freely throughout the entire growing season. It produces masses of true-blue flowers that mix nicely with other annuals and perennials, is tolerant of heat and both low and high humidity and is not bothered by pests, diseases or browsing deer. The improved form sheds dead petals for a cleaner look in the garden resulting in a plant that looks fuller, healthier and more colorful. It is a good variety for bedding, containers and perennial borders and shows nicely as a cut flower.

Characteristics of Mystic Spires Improved Blue Salvia are as follows:

Plant Type – herbaceous perennial with upright and roundish spreading clumps. Leaves are evergreen, deeply veined, simple and dark green. Purplish blue flowers borne on 8 to 12-inch-tall terminal spikes rising above the foliage. Blooms from late spring to early fall, often a little longer in warmer areas. Fruit are small, dry, brown capsules with little ornamental value.

Size – 18 to 30 inches in height with spread of 12 to 18 inches.

Hardiness – Hardy in USDA zones 8 to 11 as a perennial and as an annual in other zones. Will tolerate light freezes and does exceptionally well in heat.

Light – Full sun to part shade.

Soil – Will grow in a variety of well-drained soils in the pH range of 6.0 to 7.0.

Watering – Good drought resistance once established so minimal watering is required. Will, like most plants, bloom better with irrigation in dry spells.

Fertilization – No special fertilizer needs. Unless a soil test suggests otherwise, a slow-release balanced fertilizer applied per product label will suffice. (Excessive watering and fertilization can result in excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers.)

Pruning – Low maintenance plant which is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. If necessary, after first frost, cut back to one foot tall. Do not cut plant to the ground. No need to dead head.



Mystic Spires Blue Salvia will give waves of reliable color throughout spring well into fall. It is a great landscape bed addition where it will work well with other perennials such as purple coneflowers, summer phlox or combined with yellows such as black-eyed Susans and New Gold Lantana. Mystic Spires Blue Salvia fits perfectly in the backyard wildlife habitat where it will attract butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. It is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is an excellent "thriller" in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination.

If your summer agenda also includes golf, boating or tennis, Texas Superstar Mystic Spires Blue Salvia is a perfect low maintenance addition to your North Texas landscape or garden.

Pictured Left: Original Mystic Spires Blue Salvia on the left with the Improved version on the right.

2019 EXPO Plants for Sale

See disclaimer on Page 9



HERBS

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Basil | Lemon Verbena | Rosemary | - Odena's Kitchen |
| - Cinnamon | Mexican Mint Marigold | - Upright | Lavender |
| - Genovese | Mint | - Trailing | - Hidcote |
| - Lettuce Leaf | - Chocolate | Scented Geranium | - Munstead |
| - Purple Ruffle | - Kentucky Colonel | - Citronella | Sage |
| - Thai Siam Queen | Oregano | Stevia | - Green Pineapple |
| Catmint | - Greek | Sweet Marjoram | - Regular |
| Chives – Garlic Onion | - Cuban-Variiegated | Thyme | - Tri-Color |
| Dill - Fernleaf | Parsley | - English | - Yellow Pineapple |
| Fennel – Bronze | - Curled | - Lavender | Salad Burnet |
| Lemon Grass | - Italian | - Lemon | |

PERENNIALS

- Achillea Yarrow
 Agastache Apricot Sunshine
 Agastache Blue Fortune
 Anisacanthus Flame Acanthus
 Aquilegia Columbine Texas gold
 Artemisia Wormwood Powis Castle
 Buddleia Butterfly Bush Black Knight
 Buddleia Butterfly Bush Nanho Blue
 Callirhoe Winecup
 Coral Honeysuckle
 Coreopsis Early Sunrise
 Dianthus Bath's Pink
 Echinacea Cone Flower Native Purple
 Echinacea Pow Wow Berry
 Echinacea Pow Wow White
 Eupatorium greggi Blue Mist Flower
 Eupatorium havanensis White Mist Flower
 Ficus caprica Celeste Fig
 Ficus carica Brown Turkey
 Gaura lindheimeri Sparkle-Dwarf White
 Gaura Whirling Butterflies
 Hemerocalis Purple d'oro
 Hemerocalis Butterscotch Ruffles
 Iberis sempervirens Candy Tuft
 Kerria japonica Japanese Rose
 Malvaviscus Turk's Cap Pink
 Melampodium leucanthum Blackfoot Daisy
 Monarda-Bee's Balm Jacobs Cline
 Monarda-Bee's Balm Marshall's Delight Pink
 Nepeta Faassenii Catmint-Walker's Low
 Pavonia braziliensis Brazilian Rock Rose



- Pavonia lasiopetala Rock Rose
 Phlox paniculata John Fannick
 Phlox paniculate Texas Pink
 Phlox pilosa Prairie Phlox
 Phlox subulate Emerald Blue
 Phlox subulate Pink
 Rudbeckia Black-eyed Susan Goldstrum
 Salvia greggii Coral
 Salvia greggii Furman's Red
 Salvia greggii Mesa Azure
 Salvia greggii Violet
 Salvia greggii White
 Salvia greggii Hot Lips
 Salvia nemerosa May Night
 Salvia romeriana Cedar Sage Hot Trumpets
 Saxifraga stolonifera Strawberry Geranium
 Scabiosa columbaria Pincushion Butterfly Blue
 Scabiosa columbaria Pincushion Pink
 Scutellaria frutescens Skullcap Dark Violet
 Scutellaria frutescens Skullcap Pink
 Sedum Autumn Fire
 Sedum-Stonecrop Frosted Fire
 Sedum-Stonecrop Vera Jameson
 Sedum-Stonecrop Blue Spruce Reflexum
 Sempervivum Hen and Chick Various
 Stachys byzantine Helen von Stein Lambs Ear
 Tagetes lemmonii Copper Canyon Daisy
 Tagetes lucida Mexican Mint Marigold
 Verbena Homestead Purple
 Verbena Homestead Red
 Zexmenia

TOMATOES AND PEPPERS



- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Arkansas Traveler Tomato | Roma Tomato "San Marzano" | Hatch Chile Pepper—Big Jim |
| Better Boy Tomato | Sungold Hybrid Tomato | Jimmy Nardello Pepper |
| BHN 444 | Supersweet 100 Tomato | Ancho Pepper Mosquetero Hybrid |
| Celebrity Hybrid Tomato | Tycoon Tomato "Texas Superstar" | Mucho Nacho Jalapeno Pepper |
| Cherokee Purple Tomato | Anaheim Chili Pepper | Pequin Pepper |
| Early Girl Hybrid Tomato | Baby Belle Pepper | Sweet Banana Pepper |
| Juliet Hybrid Tomato | Hatch Chile— Sandia Pepper | |



*2019 EXPO Plant Sale Disclaimer

The listed plants have been ordered or are being grown for EXPO 2019. Please keep in mind that the plant availability, especially the water wise perennials, will depend on growing conditions. With EXPO being on March 30th, conditions may not be right for some of our listed perennials to be available. We hope to be able to provide those plants which have been ordered.



Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events



Join the Indian Trail Master Naturalists at their monthly meeting on **Monday, March 25, 2019**. The program for the evening is entitled "Devil in the Details-Using Scat to Estimate Population Size of Texas Horned Lizards". Alexis Ackel, Environmental Project Manager at DFW International Airport, graduated with a Master's of Science in Environmental Science from TCU, where she studied the school's iconic mascot the 'Texas Horned Lizard' in the conservational biology lab. Alexis will discuss how these diminutive dragons of Texas lore have vanished from DFW, and face population declines through their natural range. Accurate population data are needed to ensure their effective conservation. Alexis' talk will focus on utilization of non-invasive genetic sampling via scat to estimate population size. The program is free and follows the 6pm Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. Meeting location: First United Methodist Church, Family Life Center 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email ellis-tx@tamu.edu

Saturday, March 16, 9am. First Wildflower & Bird Walk of the season. Members will be leading a walk at Mockingbird Nature Park. Join in this ½ mile stroll along the trails to identify wildflowers and birds. Free to the public. Participants should bring drinking water and binoculars. The walk will be canceled if raining. Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: Information@itmnc.com



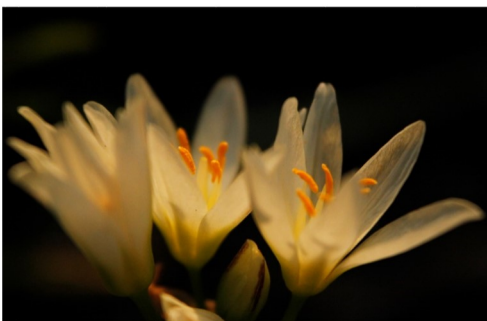
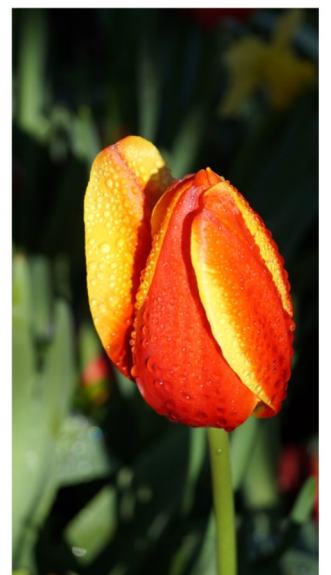
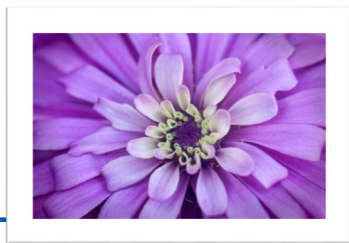
Announcing the Amateur Photo Contest

Sponsored by the Ellis County Master Gardener Association

**Winners will be announced at the Lawn & Garden Expo
March 30, 2019**

Two Categories: "Single Specimen" and "In the Garden"
Photos must be submitted by midnight March 19, 2019

Photo Contest Rules with link to entry form
<https://txmg.org/ellis/photo-contest/photo-contest-rules/>
Photo Submission Form
<https://txmg.org/ellis/photo-contest/>



Amateur Photo Contest winners from previous years



Hummers A 'Coming

By Susan Ellis, ECMG



Ruby Throated Hummingbird

It's March and time to get the hummingbird feeders ready. The Ruby Throated and the Black Chinned Hummingbirds, the most common hummingbirds in this area of Texas, are known to arrive between mid-March and early to mid-May.

Having your feeders ready assures a food source for these birds as it is too early for most plant sources to be available to them. The preferred nectar mixture is four parts water to one part sugar. Once the sugar is dissolved in the water, store any excess nectar in the refrigerator. The nectar should be changed every four days, cleaning the feeder each time to prevent souring.

Once the weather warms and plants begin to emerge, Turk's cap, salvias and trumpet vines are some of the hummingbirds' favored plant sources.

Check with your local nursery to see which plants are native to this area. Keep in mind what hummers like: plants that bloom during the day, plants with large quantities of nectar, plants with long, narrow tubes and plants with no scents.

Your efforts to attract the hummingbirds will be rewarded and bring you much enjoyment.



Black Chinned Hummingbird

March Events at EarthTones Greenery



3-9-19 @3pm: FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP

Build a miniature garden for enchanting fairies to live! We will have all the supplies, figures and plants needed for everyone to take home a unique garden that will transport you to a land of enchantment and wonder! Pick from our assortment of fairies and build the perfect fairy land for them to live! Limited to 25 creation stations, \$35 per creation

3-16-19 @ 3PM GARDENING SEMINAR: BEST FOR NORTH TEXAS

If you are new to North Texas or just need to know which plants and trees do best in our area.... then this is the seminar for you! Learn all about which species grow well in our soils and climate. We will get you on the right track with a free gift at the end of this info packed course! \$10

3-23-19 @ 3PM: HARRY'S MAGICAL GARDENS

Build a magical Harry Potter themed garden! Create a miniature garden that would fit right in at Hogwarts, using characters from the beloved films and books. We will have everything on hand for you to build a take home garden that will bring you back to the magical world of Harry Potter every time you water it! Dress up in your favorite Harry Potter costumes and listen to the music from the movies as we build these awesome themed gardens. Fun for the whole family, you won't want to miss this one! \$35 per creation. Limited to 25 creation stations. Building one with someone else is accepted.



3-30-19 @ 3PM GARDENING SEMINAR: VEGGIE/HERB GARDENING

Learn how to get the best yields from your veggies and herbs with this informative course. You'll learn how soils can vastly change your produce game! Free gift at end of class! \$10