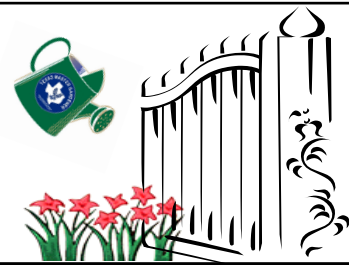




Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XII, Issue 7

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

July, 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

What's Happening in July?

Every Saturday from April to October 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!**

Every week at the Market, there is a unique theme designed to highlight vendor products, in-season produce, children's activities or interesting garden subjects.

Following are the upcoming themes for July

July 6 TASTE OF MARKET will feature garlic as the vegetable of the month. Our market chefs and a guest garlic grower will be discussing the many uses of garlic and will feature some unusual samplings. Besides its wonderful flavor, garlic has many healthful qualities. It has been used as medicine for thousands of years, and studies confirm its value to our health. Stop by the tasting room in the front of the market for recipes, samples and information, then shop the produce sellers for this year's crop of fresh garlic to take home and enjoy.

July 13 KIDS CRAFT DAY The Master Naturalists always bring an exciting outdoor experience to the market while teaching young people how to care for plants and wildlife. Everyone can learn from these trained naturalists so look for them in the classroom in the front of the market. It's air conditioned!

July 20 POP-UP HORTICULTURE presented by the Master Gardeners. The featured topic is our wonderful Texas Superstars®. Plants chosen as Texas Superstars® have been observed in demonstration gardens across the state for a number of growing seasons. They are judged on their performance, their ornamental appeal and their importance in the Texas landscape. Look for the white pop-up tent next to the Ellis County Master Gardener booth.

July 27 "ALL ABOUT PICKLES" Vendors who make and sell all sorts of pickled vegetables will be offering up samples of their culinary skills. The word pickles doesn't mean just cucumbers. Almost any vegetable or fruit sold at the market can be pickled. Join some Master Gardeners in the market classroom at the front of the building for a demonstration on easy to make pickles. There will be more samples, lots of recipes and basic instructions on canning pickles. Shop the market, pick up your favorite summer produce and try your newly learned skills at home.



Listen to KBEC

Saturday mornings at 8:10am on 1390 AM and 99.1 FM.

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!

Scotty Rigsby

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Ellis County Master Gardener Monthly Meeting—You are invited! Second Tuesday of the month



Janet Laminack, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulture Agent for Denton County will be speaking at our monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 9, 2019. Janet will briefly cover the history of horticultural therapy, the types of programs that use horticultural therapy as well as the cognitive, social, emotional and physical goals of therapy. Janet received her B.S. in horticulture from Texas A&M University as well as a Master of Education in agricultural education. She has worked for Denton County since 2008. She previously worked as a horticultural therapist at Denver Botanic Gardens for several years and was also the horticulture Extension agent for Taylor County (Abilene, Texas).

Social time begins at 9:30am and our program begins at 10am with guest speaker starting at 11am. Please be our guest! The meeting takes place in the Fidelis "Banquet" Hall of the First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Ave., Waxahachie. For info, call (972) 825-5175.

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



Planting

- ◇ Plant tomatoes and peppers from four-inch pots. Visit <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable> for recommended varieties.
- ◇ Early July is the time to plant small and medium pumpkins for a Halloween harvest.
- ◇ Plant heat-tolerant annuals that have been acclimated to hot, sunny conditions. This includes moss rose, purslane, trailing lantana, purple fountain grass, firebush and copper plants.
- ◇ Lawn grasses can be planted this month, but you will need to water twice daily for short intervals to keep soil surface moist until the grass has established good roots, usually in two to three weeks.

Fertilizing and Pruning

- ◇ Fertilize plants that bloom on new growth, such as crape myrtles, tropical hibiscus and roses, with a high-nitrogen fertilizer to promote late-summer growth and fall blooms. Apply same fertilizer to boost summer annuals and fall-flowering perennials.
- ◇ Light pruning of erratic spring growth may be done to maintain the natural form. Dead and diseased wood from trees and shrubs should be removed. Major pruning should be postponed until mid-winter.
- ◇ Deadhead all blooming plants. Remove dead leaves and spent blooms from container plants.

Garden Watch

- ◇ Be a "plant health" detective! Plants respond in various ways to heat and drought stress. These symptoms are often misdiagnosed as an insect or disease problem. Correctly identify the problem before turning to a pesticide.
- ◇ Galls on leaves of oaks, hackberries and other trees are caused by many species of gall-forming insects and are a result of the female stinging the leaf tissues as she lays her eggs. Galls are harmless since the insect doesn't feed on plant tissues.
- ◇ Watch for lawn pests. Dry, light-colored areas in sunny parts of St. Augustine are probably the result of chinch bugs (small black insects with a white diamond on their backs). Apply Merit (imidacloprid) or other labeled insecticide. Grub worms are the culprits if the turf turns brown and easily comes up when pulled on. Treat with a granular insecticide.
- ◇ Rapid death of established landscape plants and orchard trees during the summer may signify the presence of cotton root rot, a soil-borne fungal disease common in our calcareous clay soils. Since there is no effective control, verification by the Plant Diagnostic Lab at Texas A&M (<http://plantclinic.tamu.edu>) will help you know what plants can be used as replacements.



Beneficial insects like bees and ladybugs aid pollination and eat destructive bugs in gardens. Encourage these insects to feed in your garden using brewer's yeast, an inexpensive pollen substitute used by beekeepers. This yeast, a byproduct of fermentation, is sold as nutritional supplements for humans and livestock. A mixture of yeast, honey and water set about your garden in saucers provides insects with protein to aid them fight pests. A ladybug eats up to 5,000 aphids during its life span.



Annual Iris Giveaway



The Ellis County Master Gardeners will be having their annual "Iris Giveaway" at the Waxahachie Farmer's Market on Saturday August 17, 2019. If you have iris beds that need to be thinned (every 4/5 years) and you plan to do that this year, we will be happy to take them. You may either dig them up yourself or call us and we will come to your location and dig them for you. By proclamation the Iris was made the flower of the City of Waxahachie several years ago, so it is our privilege to be able to share these beautiful flowers with others. Please call Dee Stroope at 972.268.2831 for scheduling.



Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

Submitted by Melinda Kocian
Ellis County Master Gardener



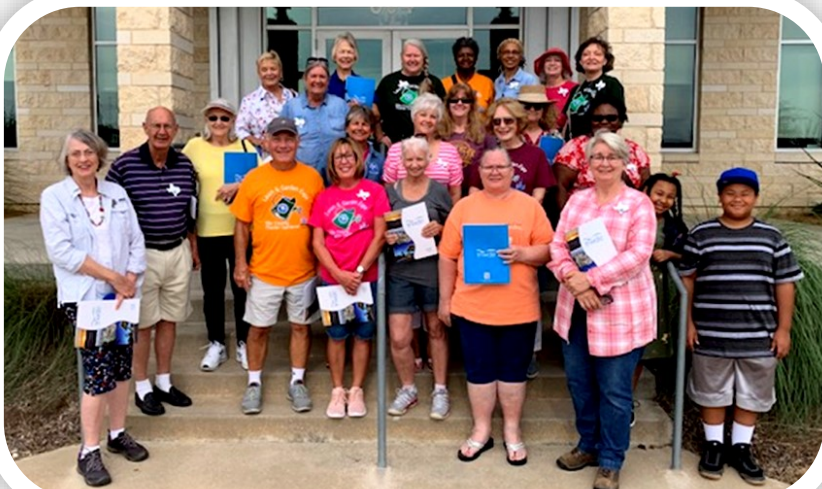
Mexican Hat – Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)
Ratibida columnifera (Nutt.) Woot & Standl.

Region: 1 through 10 (Ellis County is Region 4)
Size: 1 – 4 feet
Blooms: February – July, Perennial



Mexican hat is perhaps the most easily identified of all the wildflowers. Its “sombbrero,” an elongated disk sometimes two inches high, sets Mexican hat apart from other coneflowers. The disk/column is gray-green at first, turning brown as it matures. Its base is surrounded by drooping, velvety petals. Petal color varies from all yellow to all red-brown, or assorted mixtures of red-brown painted on a yellow petal. The lacy foliage is deeply divided into almost thread-like segments. Leaves up to six inches alternate up slender stems, but the top third of the stem is bare, accenting the flower head.

Master Gardeners Having Fun!!



June Field Trip—Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD)
Fort Worth, Texas



Farmers Market—Judy Shelton shows off the
June Plant of the Month

Ellis Co. Master Gardeners



June Farmer's Market Pop-Up Horticulture-Container Gardens. Mattie Thompson demonstrated how to successfully grow anything in a grocery market shopping bag with tomatoes, squash, okra, beans and marigolds.

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER

Master Gardener's New Logo



Texas Superstar – Award Winning Water Lily

Gayle Johnston – Ellis County Master Gardener

With the wet spring that we've been having here in North Central Texas, you might be thinking that it is time to reconsider more water loving plants for your garden. In fact, you may have come to the conclusion that you now have an area of your property that that would be perfect for a pond and water loving plants!

Although being "water loving" is not a category that one would normally think of as contributing to Texas Superstar status; in 2005, Dr. Jerry Parsons, founder of the Texas Superstar program, decided that there were enough aquatic plants growing and thriving in Texas to include them in the rigorous evaluation process necessary to become a Texas Superstar. Thus, began a multi-year test and evaluation period that culminated in the inclusion of eight water lilies and one bog plant in the 2007 list of Texas Superstars. Today, although all eight water lilies are still available and continue to be well adapted to the Texas climate, one continues to enjoy Texas Superstar status - the Texas Dawn Water Lily.

Texas Dawn (*Nymphaea* 'Texas Dawn')

A hardy and exceptionally lovely plant, *Nymphaea* Texas Dawn was created in 1985 by Texas resident Kenneth Landon, a world-renowned expert in the field of *Nymphaea* and the director of the International Water Lily Collection in San Angelo. A hybrid of *N. Mexicana*, a native Texas species, and *N. Pink Starlet*, a global favorite of water lily enthusiasts, Texas Dawn was introduced in 1990, and is a much hardier plant than either parent. That same year it received the American Award from the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society (IWGS) and in 2011 was recognized by Governor Rick Perry as the official water lily of the State of Texas and the first to be named for Texas. Today it is listed by other hybridizers as a parent for more than a dozen other waterlily hybrids.

Described as one of the most stunning yellow water lilies to be introduced in more than a century, *N. Texas Dawn* frequently blooms 10 inches above the surface of the water in clusters of six or more and the plant may grow up to four feet across.

Blooms may be three to eight inches in width and exude a lemony scent when open. They have yellow inner petals surrounded by larger outer petals that range from light pink to dark pink. It can be expected to produce seven to eight blooms at a time by mid-summer and to bloom repetitively throughout the summer. In early spring, the base of the petals produces a light orange glow, and in late summer and fall, the flowers may suffuse with pink.

Leaves are dark green with purple spots.

A true product of the South, it cannot tolerate temperatures below 15°F. It thrives in USDA zones six through ten and can even be grown in zones as far north as five if protected. It loves full sunlight but also grows in partial shade environments.

Adding to its versatility as a landscaping option, even though Texas Dawn does best with full sun, it is one of a very few varieties of lily that will produce blooms with little more than 3 hours of sunlight per day.

The other members of the eight original Texas Superstar Water Lilies are also well-adapted for Texas.



N. 'Layde-keri Fulgens' - the most productive red hardy for hot Texas summers. Smallish leaves, four to six inches, producing many flowers



N. 'Panama Pacific' – perhaps most widely grown tropical water lily. Wine purple flowers produced non-stop from spring until hard freeze. Sweetly scented flowers help several inches above the water surface.

N. 'Colorado' – the most profuse blooming of the hardy waterlilies; bloom number limited by pot size (up to 15 open blooms in 24-inch pot).



N. 'Clyde Ikins' -Apricot-colored flowers that literally glow several inches above the water. Consistently blooms weeks later than other hardy lilies at season's end.



N. 'Star of Siam' -exciting tropical cultivar. Maroon mottled leaves provide backdrop for medium blue flowers borne in profusion.



N. 'Red Flare' – Dark tropical red flowers open at dusk and close mid-morning the following day. Contrast nicely with green and mottled pads of other waterlilies.



N. 'Perry's Double White' – a compact dependable-blooming white flower that fits nicely into smaller spaces.

Water Efficient Landscaping for North Texas

From Texas A&M AgriLife Research Extension

Healthy landscapes offer a variety of advantages for the home. They not only add aesthetic value, but can also provide erosion protection, temperature control and serve as usable outdoor space for relaxing and entertaining. Oftentimes however, North Texas landscapes can be over-watered, over-fertilized or over-saturated with pesticides, which can be detrimental to water resources and your landscape.

The EPA estimates that in dry climates like that of North Texas, **a household's outdoor water use can exceed the amount of water used for all other residential purposes!** In some households, during summer, as much as 60% of a total water budget could be spent on landscape irrigation.

By incorporating irrigation best management practices and by selecting the right plant material for your specific needs, you have the potential to drastically reduce water and chemical use in your landscape.

Remember, irrigation systems are designed to supplement the lack of rainfall. Your system might just consist of you and a hose-end sprinkler and soaker hose, or it might include an automated controller with permanent irrigation heads. In either case, to transition towards a more sustainable lawn and landscape, you should irrigate less often but deeply, as opposed to more often and in shorter intervals.

Automated Systems

This type of irrigation system is designed to maintain soil moisture and ultimately to protect the overall health of your landscape. In times of sufficient or excessive rainfall, irrigation systems should be in the off position. When supplemental water is needed, the



delivery systems should precisely deliver the water without waste. Accurately calculating plant water needs and taking into consideration soil type as well as slopes in the terrain (which might influence water flow) will help determine the best delivery system to avoid water waste.

Sprinkler heads should be adjusted properly to avoid misting, or over-spraying sidewalks, driveways and streets.

Turf areas may require water more frequently than beds with native and adapted perennial plants or shrubs. Areas with mature trees may require watering deeper and more infre-

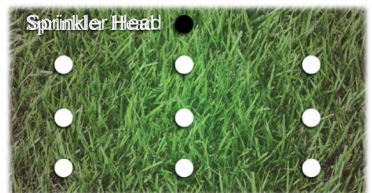
quently than the rest of your landscape.

By hydro-zoning or designing your system to water these areas separately, you will avoid both over-watering and/or under-watering your plant material.

Catch Can Test

A catch can test is used to determine how long to run an irrigation system or hose-end sprinkler and how well the water is distributed over the landscape. The root zone (where water and nutrient absorbing roots grow) is typically 6 inches deep in clay soil. Usually 1 inch of water will fill this root zone, but in many cases, irrigation systems apply water faster than the ground can absorb. During a summer drought with high temperatures, the water requirement may be higher. Each type of sprinkler (spray, rotors, multi-stream rotor, drip) applies water at different rates; therefore, a catch can test is essential to determine the run time and efficiency of the system. Follow the steps below to determine the runtime of your irrigation system:

1. Place 5 to 9 catch cans (tuna or cat food cans work great) in each irrigation zone or station.
2. To determine how much water is applied to each area, run each zone with spray nozzles for 5 minutes; run 10-15 minutes for zones with rotors. Measure the amount of water in each catch can at the end of the specified time.
3. To determine run time (time each station should run), use this example: if there is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of water in each catch can after running for 5 minutes, to apply 1 inch of water, set the run time for 20 minutes (this is just an example; your measurements could vary greatly). Some irrigation systems apply water faster than the ground will absorb 1 inch of the water. To avoid water running off the landscape into the street, you may need to run these stations several short times instead of one long time. With this example, set the controller to run 10 minutes 2 times. (See 'Cycle and Soak' and 'Aerate Lawn Area' for more ideas.)
4. If the water levels in the catch cans are equal or near equal, your irrigation system is working efficiently (distributing water evenly).
5. Test each zone. Water application and distribution can vary by zone.



This grid shows placement of catch

Cycle and Soak Irrigation Method

Some irrigation systems apply water faster than the ground will absorb. This is especially true in lawn areas with compacted clay soil. To avoid water running off the landscape into the street, you might need to irrigate these areas several short times instead of one long time. Use the cycle and soak method:

1. Determine how long to run each zone. See *Catch Can Test* above.
2. Water each station in 2 or 3 short cycles instead of 1 long cycle by setting several short times.
3. Set multiple start times, 30 to 60 minutes apart, to allow water to soak into soil between cycles.

Most irrigation controllers have a way to set different start times. If you have trouble programming your controller, visit the irrigation controller company's web site or contact their customer service for instructions for cycle and soak. Some newer controllers have a cycle and soak setting, which might warrant upgrading your irrigation controller.

Herb of the Month—Fennel

By Arlene Hamilton, Ellis County Master Gardener



Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is a beautiful tender perennial growing to a height of four feet or more in the southern garden. It is a relative of dill, coriander, caraway, cumin, carrot and Queen Anne's lace. You might find it in the produce isle of your grocery store referred to as anise. The most common culinary fennels are green, bronze and Florence or bulb fennel. Florence fennel forms a bulb base that can be sliced and served raw as a salad or sautéed and presented as a vegetable. The ripe seeds of the plant add a soft taste of anise to puddings, spiced beets, breads, teas, sauces, liqueurs and Italian sausage. Many Asian Indian restaurants have a bowl of seeds at the checkout counter, offered as a breath freshener and digestion aid as you depart. The delicately flavored leaves and stems are suited for relishes, salads and garnishes. Fennel leaf adds a wonderful flavor to fish and helps reduce the fish odor. Fennel stalks make a delicious bed for salmon or other whole grilled fish.

Fennel is easy to grow from seed in early spring or fall. Both bronze and green leaf varieties are readily available as seedlings from local herb growers in the spring. Once established the plants can grow from 3 to 5 feet high when in bloom. Fennel is very hardy and drought tolerant but extra water improves its appearance. Harvest mature seeds and store in a dry dark place. Collect and use the leaves fresh. They lose their flavor when dried.

Bronze fennel adds a striking background appearance to a vegetable, herb or flower garden and is a favorite plant in my garden. Although many herb growers consider swallowtail butterflies a pest to fennel, dill and parsley, I suggest you plant extra for these beautiful creatures. The striped caterpillars which feed on these herbs will pupate then emerge as gorgeous swallowtail butterflies.



Featured Recipe of the Month

Fennel Slaw with Mint Vinaigrette

From Simply Recipes



Prep time: 10 minutes
Marinating time: 1 hour
Yield: Serves 4-6



The sugar helps bring out the natural sweetness of the fennel, don't leave out!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large fennel bulb (or 2 medium bulbs)
- 1½ teaspoons sugar
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh mint
- 2 teaspoons minced shallot or onion

METHOD

- ◆ **Make the vinaigrette:** Put the lemon juice, shallot, mustard, salt, sugar and mint in a blender and pulse briefly to combine. With the motor running, drizzle in the olive oil until it is well combined.
- ◆ **Shave the fennel into thin slices:** Using a mandolin, shave the fennel into 1/8 inch slices starting from the bottom of the bulb. Don't worry about coring the fennel bulb, it's unnecessary. If you don't have a mandolin, slice the bulb as thin as you can. Chop some of the fennel fronds as well to toss in with the salad.
- ◆ **Marinate fennel with vinaigrette:** Toss with the fennel and marinate for at least an hour. Serve this salad either cold or at room temperature.

Dragonflies

Prepared by Larry Baker, Galveston Master Gardener



Quick Facts	
Common Name:	Dragonflies
Other Common Names:	Mosquito Hawk, Skimmer
Genus / Species:	Numerous species including <i>Anax junius</i> (Common Green Darner) and <i>Epitheca cynosura</i> (Common Baskettail)
Size:	3/4 to 2 inches average (varies by species)
Type of Beneficial:	Insect predator
Type of Metamorphosis:	Mature stage is different in appearance to immatures (i.e., complete metamorphosis)
Beneficial Stage(s):	Immatures (known as nymphs) and adults; immature stages are aquatic
Prey:	Adults feed on mosquitoes, gnats, flies, swarming ants, swarming termites...just about any flying insect small enough for them to catch. Nymphs feed on aquatic insects, even small fish.
Occurrence:	Widespread across the county
Mounted Specimen?	Yes (mounted specimen for viewing available in insect collection at County Extension Office)

Figure 1



Dragonflies are beautiful to watch as they sweep back and forth over open areas of water, lawns or parking lots. Their bright colors and powerful flight attract our eye to them. They are hunters, like hawks, with good eyesight and great speed.

The Dragonfly has eyes that cover most of the head surface and they can fly at speeds of 20-35 miles per hour. Their prey includes mosquitoes and midges as well as moths, butterflies, smaller dragonflies and other flying insects. Other common names for Dragonflies include mosquito hawks, devil's darning needles and snake doctors.

Dragonflies may be confused with their smaller cousins the damselflies. The most recognizable difference is the flight where the Dragonfly is direct and powerful while the damselfly is fluttery. Also, the damselfly's abdomen is proportionally longer and its eyes are spaced further apart. Both are in the Order Odonata but the Dragonfly is in suborder Anisoptera of the Insect Kingdom.

The adult Dragonfly is focused on feeding and mating. The female returns to a wetland area to meet the male. They mate in flight in a wheel formed by their curved bodies. After mating, the female lays eggs in plants near or in water, directly on the water surface, or on mud at the water's edge depending on the species. Predicated upon on environmental conditions and species, eggs may hatch in as few as 7-9 days or may require several months to hatch.

After eggs hatch, the young are generally known as immatures. However, some entomologists identify this stage as nymphs. Other entomologists identify them as naiads, but this term is becoming archaic.

Immature stages feed on aquatic insect larvae such as mosquitoes, tiny fish and tadpoles. Their main predators are fish and frogs. Again, depending on environmental conditions and species, immatures undergo approximately 10-20 molts, over a time between 3 months and 6-10 years. Immatures then crawl up a vertical plant stem and molt for the final time. The youthful adult fills out its body with fluid and hardens until it can fly.

The Dragonfly flies away from the water until it becomes sexually mature. This results in a dispersal where the Dragonfly finds other wetland areas. Perhaps this inherent plan allowed Dragonflies to be one of the most successful creatures on earth. Fossilized remains of large Dragonfly ancestors have been found indicating they were around 300 million years ago.

As with many beneficials, providing a suitable habitat is vital to maintaining their populations. Small backyard ponds with some clear surface area, vertical plant stems, and at least partial sun will be colonized by larvae. You may already have Dragonfly nymphs in a water garden in your landscape. On a broader note, maintaining wetlands of all types will keep these valuable insects flying in our landscapes and help provide effective control of insect pests!



Figure 4

FIGURE 1. The coloration of Dragonflies comes in a range of colors but most in our area are brightly colored.

FIGURE 2. Dragonflies have two pairs of wings. They are strong flyers and can fly at speeds of 20-35 miles per hour. (Photo of a specimen from our Insect Collection.)

FIGURE 3. (Top Right) Depending on the species, a female Dragonfly lays eggs in plants near or in water, or directly on the water surface, or on mud at the water's edge. Thanks to Galveston Master Gardener Margaret Canavan for this photo!

FIGURE 4. Dragonflies are voracious predators. Their diet consists a wide variety of insects including flies, mosquitoes, midges and other flying insects. Shown left is a Dragonfly eating a moth that was caught while in flight (note the wings and a portion of the moth's abdomen can be seen).

GARDEN CHECKLIST FOR JULY

by Dr. William C. Welch, Professor & Landscape Horticulturist, TX A&M



- Caladiums require plenty of water at this time of year if they are to remain lush and active until fall. Fertilize with 21-0-0 at the rate of one-third to one-half pound per 100 square feet of bed area and water thoroughly.
- Sow seeds of snapdragons, dianthus, pansies, calendulas and other cool-season flowers in flats, or in well-prepared areas of the garden, for planting outside during mid-to-late fall.
- Plant bluebonnet and other spring wildflowers. They must germinate in late summer or early fall, develop good root systems and be ready to grow in spring when the weather warms. Plant seed in well-prepared soil, one-half inch deep and water thoroughly.
- Picking flowers frequently encourages most annuals and perennials to flower even more abundantly.
- It is time to divide spring-flowering perennials, such as iris, Shasta daisy, oxeye, gaillardia, cannas, day lilies, violets, liriope and ajuga.
- Make your selections and place orders for spring-flowering bulbs now so that they will arrive in time for planting in October and November.
- Don't allow plants with green fruit or berries to suffer from lack of moisture.
- It is not too late to set out another planting of many warm-season annuals, such as marigolds, zinnias and periwinkles. They will require extra attention for the first few weeks, but should provide you with color during late September, October and November.
- Establish a new compost pile to accommodate the fall leaf accumulation.
- Trim off faded flowers on crape myrtles and vitex to encourage later rebloom.

Indian Trail Master Naturalists



Join the Indian Trail Master Naturalists at their monthly meeting on Monday, July 22, 2019. The program for the evening is entitled **"The Thrill of Victory and the Agony of Defeat...Bird Photography In The Field"**. Sue Frary will present a program for folk interested in Texas Birds and photographing them as a means to understanding bird identification, ecology and conservation. Dr. Frary will cover the ethics of bird photography as well as camera basics, with setup suggestions for backyards, car blinds and open field photography. Program attendees are guaranteed a digital Painted Bunting and an Elf Owl, among others including bats in perilous circumstances! Dr. Frary is a member of Indian Trail Chapter-Texas Master Naturalist (class of 2016). She holds a bachelor's degree from Bennington College and a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Vermont.

The program is free and follows the 6 pm 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.



Are you a Facebooker? Ellis County Master Gardeners are on Facebook and we'd love to have you join us. Use our page as your point of contact to ask us gardening questions or get information about flowers, vegetables and herbs...we cover it all! You'll find us at the link below, and all you have to do is click the "Like" button to see our daily posts! We look forward to hearing from you with questions and comments.

<https://www.facebook.com/ECMGA>



Save The Date!
Saturday, March 30, 2019

Thank You All!

Thanks to the sponsors, exhibitors and visitors for making the 2019 Ellis County Master Gardener's Lawn & Garden Expo a great success!

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Artisan Outdoor Lighting
Barris Pottery & Ceramics
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Tommy's Hot Dog
Travis Equipment
Waxahachie Equipment Co.