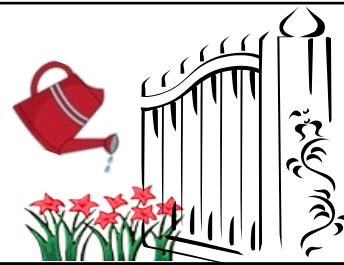




# Ellis County Master Gardener's E-Gardening Newsletter



Volume XIII, Issue 3

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

March, 2020

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](http://www.ECMGA.com) and click on subscribe. Best of all; it's FREE! Editors and Newsletter Team: Susan Ellis, Donna Seery, Bree Shaw

## 20th Annual LAWN & GARDEN EXPO

*Edible Landscaping: A Delicious Concept*

**MARCH 28**

9 am – 5 pm

Waxahachie Civic Center

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**AGRI LIFE**  
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### 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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## IT'S SPRING ~ 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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 much.
- ☉ 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.



## Ellis County Master Gardeners' Lawn and Garden EXPO

### *Edible Landscaping: A Delicious Concept*



Ellis County Master Gardener's 20th Annual Lawn and Garden Expo “Edible Landscaping – A DELICIOUS Concept” will be held Saturday, March 28, 2020, from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Waxahachie Civic Center located at 2000 Civic Center Lane. Exhibitors will fill the center with outdoor living necessities, plants, machinery, yard art and landscape project materials.

Adults can listen to the morning keynote speaker, Daniel Cunningham, at 10:00 am whose topic will be “Foodscaping”. Edible landscapes are one of the hottest trends in garden design!! Utilizing areas in your landscape to grow edibles is a great way to add food to your table and reduce your grocery bill. In addition, edible landscapes are colorfully beautiful and appealing to the eye. There will also be two additional afternoon speakers: Jay White, Texas Gardener Magazine, will speak at 12:30pm on “Bluebonnets: The Gateway to Native Plants.” Think Texas natives can only be used in a “southwestern” style landscape? Think again! Texas natives are beautiful, reliable and relatively pest free. This talk provides attendees with a list of tough Texas plants that can be worked into any style of landscape. Heather Rinaldi, Texas Worm Ranch, will speak at 2:30 pm on Restore, Regenerate and “Re-native” Your Soil, Plants and Property. From small backyard to Texas size ranches, improving our soil for better health and water management is key to growing success along with personal, community and planetary health. Furthermore, insect and bird populations have been critically impacted by many stresses. All Texans can help improve these situations with simple solutions to improve their soil life and property habitats for a wide range of beneficial organisms and human enjoyment.

Also available is “Ask the Expert” where you can inquire about specific gardening challenges, located in front of the plant sales area.

The Children's Workshop will have numerous interactive displays and activities along with take home projects. Please join us for a fun-filled day of activities!!

DON'T FORGET one of the most popular attractions: The Master Gardener Plant Sale (see list on pages 4-5) with a variety of flowering perennials, herbs and vegetables suited for our 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.

## Featured Texas Wild Flower of the Month

*Submitted by Melinda Kocian  
Ellis County Master Gardener*



**Texas Bluebonnet** - Legume Family (Fabaceae)  
*Lupinus texensis* Hook

**Range:** 1 – 7 (Ellis County is in Region 4)  
**Size:** 6-24 inches  
**Blooms:** March – May, Annual

Spring visitors to Texas are wide-eyed at the beauty of fields and roadsides carpeted with the state flower, the bluebonnet. Sandyland bluebonnet (*L. subcarnosus*), perhaps misidentified at the time, was adopted in 1901 as the official state flower, but in 1971 it was decided to make all bluebonnets naturally occurring in Texas the state flower. Bluebonnets are identified by their palmately divided, or hand-shaped, leaves and pea-type flowers, closely clustered in an elongated inflorescence, or raceme, at the tips of stems. The petals are blue or purple and occasionally pink or white. Texas bluebonnet (pictured) and sandyland bluebonnet are the only two species restricted to Texas, with Texas bluebonnet the most widespread. Sandyland bluebonnet is more likely to be seen in the eastern part of the state. In far west Texas, the Big Bend display in the early spring of favorable years.

### WHY SMARTSCAPE?

**SmartScapes** are **NOT**: Desert 'scapes, Rock gardens, Cactus plants.

**SmartScapes ARE** : Well adapted to the Texas heat , Drought tolerant , Pest and disease resistant, Attractants of beneficial animals and insects.

**By Using Native and Adaptive Plants, you:** Conserve precious water, Reduce stormwater runoff, Prevent water pollution, Provide wildlife habitat. No matter what point you are starting from, you can add ease, comfort and enjoyment to your yard or garden by using native and adapted plants.

**SAVE TIME AND MONEY!**

#### Seven Steps to a SMART yard

##### 1. Plan and Design

Start with the end in mind. Once you have a solid idea of what you want, look critically at what you've got.

##### 2. Reduce Turf

Less turf means more time to enjoy your lawn and more money saved because you won't have to water as much.

##### 3. Soil

Organic matter is the key to a solid foundation to help your plants thrive. Compost helps to condition the soil.

##### 4. Planting

The right plant in the right place. Use the SmartScape plant database to find native and adapted plants.

##### 5. Mulch

Mulch helps reduce evaporation and cools soils in the summer by up to 10 degrees.

##### 6. Water -Wise

Efficient irrigation will save you money. It is best to water in the early morning.

##### 7. Maintenance

Regularity and moderation should guide your maintenance schedule. Avoid excessive pruning as natural beauty softens the landscape.





## 2020 EXPO PLANTS FOR SALE

### 2020 EXPO Plant Sale Disclaimer

The listed plants have been ordered or are being grown for EXPO 2020. Please keep in mind that the plant availability, especially the water wise perennials, will depend on growing conditions. With EXPO being on March 28th, 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.

\*Hint, Hint – there might be some surprises to be found.

### PERENNIALS

**Achillea Yarrow:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water • Adapted • Bees and Butterflies • Upright • 3 ft. X 2 ft.

**Agastache Apricot Sunrise:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Use as Herb, Showy and Fragrant • Attracts Butterflies • 2-3 ft. high X 1.5 -2 ft. spread

**Agastache Blue Fortune:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Use as Herb, Showy and Fragrant • Attracts Butterflies • 2-3 ft. high X 1.5 -2 ft. spread

**Anisacanthus Flame Acanthus:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water • Native • Birds and Butterflies • 3 ft. X 3 ft.

**Aquilegia Columbine Texas Gold:** Partial to Full Shade • Low to Medium Water • Native • Birds (Hummingbirds), Butterflies • Evergreen • 1.5' by 2"

**Artemisia Wormwood Powis Castle:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Grey Green Foliage • Native • Evergreen • Upright • 2-3' X 1-3

**Buddleia Butterfly Bush Black Knight:** Full Sun • Medium water demand • Adapted Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 4 ft. spread • 6 ft. high

**Buddleia Butterfly Bush Nanho Blue:** Full Sun • Medium water demand • Adapted Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 4 ft. spread • 6 ft. high

**Callirhoe Winecup:** Full Sun or Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Native Plant • Butterflies • Deciduous • Spreading 2 ft. • 1 ft. high

**Coral Honeysuckle:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Demand • Ground • High climbing twining vine • Adapted Plant

**Coreopsis Early Sunrise:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium water demand • Native Plant • Birds, Butterflies (nectar source) • 2' wide 2.25' high

**Dianthus Bath's Pink:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Border, Edge, Container, Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Butterflies, Hummingbirds • 0.5' wide 0.6' high

**Echinacea Cone Flower Native Purple:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use as Focal Point, Container • Native Plant • Bees, Birds, Butterflies • Upright Form 3' high • Spreads 1.5'

**Echinacea Pow Wow Berry:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use as Focal Point, Container • Native Plant • Bees, Birds, Butterflies • Upright Form 3' high • Spreads 1.5'

**Echinacea Pow Wow White:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use as Focal Point, Container • Native Plant • Bees, Birds, Butterflies • Upright Form 3' high • Spreads 1.5'

**Eupatorium greggi Blue Mist Flower:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • **Fragrant • Native Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies • 1.5' high 3' wide**

**Eupatorium havanensis White Mist Flower:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium water demand • Very fragrant, Moon Garden • Native Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies, Birds • Upright form 3' high • Spreads 4'

**Iberis sempervirens Candy Tuft:** Full Sun • Medium Water demand • Use in Rock Garden, Salt Tolerant • Adapted Plant • Evergreen • Spreads 2' X 0.5' High

**Kerria japonica Japanese Rose:** Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Adapted Plant • Used as hedge • 6-10 ft. spread X 5-10 ft. high

**Malvaviscus Turk's Cap Pink:** Full Sun, Partial Shade, Full Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Focal Point/Specimen Plant, Salt Tolerant • Native Plant • Birds and Butterflies • 4' High X 3' wide

**Melampodium leucanthum Blackfoot Daisy:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Very Low Water Demand • Native Plant • Use in Container, Rock Garden, Salt Tolerant • 1-2' spread X 0.5 to 1' high

**Monarda-Bee's Balm Jacobs Cline:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Bees • 2' + high X 2' wide

**Monarda-Bee's Balm Marshall's Delight Pink:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Butterflies, Hummingbirds, Bees • 2' + high X 2' wide

**Nepeta Faassenii Catmint-Walker's Low:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Border, Rock Garden, Fragrant • Adapted Plant • 3' wide X 2' high

**Pavonia braziliensis Brazilian Rock Rose:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Containers or Rock Garden • Adapted Plant • Upright Form • 3' wide X 3' high

**Pavonia lasiopetala Rock Rose:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden • Native Plant • Attracts bees, birds and butterflies • Blooms Spring, Summer, Fall • Spreading Form 3' X 3'

**Phlox paniculata John Fannick:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Fragrant, Use in Container, Moon Garden • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Birds and Butterflies • 2' wide X 3' high

**Phlox paniculata Texas Pink:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Fragrant, Use in Container, Moon Garden • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Birds and Butterflies • 2' wide X 3' high

**Phlox pilosa Prairie Phlox:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Fragrant • Native Plant • Attracts Bees, Birds and Butterflies • Spreads 1' X 1'

**Phlox subulate Emerald Blue:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Demand • Rock Gardens, Containers, Borders • Adapted Plant • Attracts Hummingbirds, Butterflies • Spreading 1' X 1'

**Phlox subulate Pink:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Demand • Rock Gardens, Containers, Borders • Adapted Plant • Attracts Hummingbirds, Butterflies • Spreading 1' X 1'

**Rudbeckia Black-eyed Susan Goldsturm:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Demand • Adapted Plant • Attracts Birds and Butterflies • Upright habit • 2' X 2'

**Salvia greggii Coral:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden, Salt Resistant, Container • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 3' X 3'

PERENNIALS Continued

- Salvia greggii Furman's Red:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden, Salt Resistant, Container • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 3' X 3'
- Salvia greggii Mesa Azure:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden, Salt Resistant, Container • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 3' X 3'
- Salvia greggii violet:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden, Salt Resistant, Container • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 3' X 3'
- Salvia greggii White:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden, Salt Resistant, Container • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 3' X 3'
- Salvia greggii Hot Lips:** Full Sun • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden, Salt Resistant, Container • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • 3' X 3'
- Salvia nemerosa May Night:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Use • Fragrant • Attracts Butterflies • Deep Violet Blooms June to September • .5 to 1' high by .75 to 1' spread
- Salvia romeriana Cedar Sage Hot Trumpets:** Partial to Full Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Fragrant, Lawn Substitute • Native Plant • Hummingbirds and Butterflies • Spreading 1' X 1'
- Scabiosa columbaria Pincushion Butterfly Blue:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Use in Border, Container, Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Attracts Butterflies and Birds • Evergreen • Spreading 1' X 1'
- Scabiosa columbaria Pincushion Pink:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Medium Water Demand • Use in Border, Container, Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Attracts Butterflies and Birds • Evergreen • Spreading 1' X 1'
- Scutellaria frutescens Skullcap Dark Violet:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden • Adapted Plant • Upright form • 2' spread X 1.5' High
- Scutellaria frutescens Skullcap Pink:** Full Sun • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden • Adapted Plant • Upright form • 2' spread X 1.5' High
- Sedum Autumn Fire:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Salt Tolerant, Container • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies • Upright Form • 2' X 2'
- Sedum - Stonecrop Frosted Fire:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Salt Tolerant, Container • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies • Upright Form • 2' X 2'
- Sedum Stonecrop Vera Jameson:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Salt Tolerant, Container • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies • Upright Form • 2' X 2'
- Sedum-Stonecrop Blue Spruce Reflexum:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Salt Tolerant, Container • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies • Spreads 1' X 0.5' High
- Sempervivum Hen and Chicks Various:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Used Indoor and Outdoors • Used for container planting and rock gardens • Ground hugging
- Stachys byzantine Helen von Stein Lambs Ear:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Use as Border, Container, Moon Garden • Adapted Plant • Upright Form 1.5' X 1'
- Tagetes lemmonii Copper Canyon Daisy:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Attracts Butterflies • Upright Form • Spread 4' X 3' High
- Tagetes lucida Mexican Mint Marigold:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Container, Fragrant • Adapted Plant • Attracts Bees, Butterflies and Birds • Upright 2' spread X 3' High
- Verbena Homestead Purple:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden • Attracts Bees and Butterflies • Adapted Plant • Spreading Form • 3' spread X 1' High Form • 2' spread X 3' High
- Verbena Homestead Red:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Moon Garden • Attracts Bees and Butterflies • Adapted Plant • Spreading Form • 3' spread X 1' High
- Zexmenia:** Full Sun, Partial Shade, Full Shade • Low Water Demand • Use in Rock Garden, Border, Container • Native Plant • Attracts Butterflies and Bees • Upright Form • Spread 2' by 2' High
- Hemerocalis Purple d'oro:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use as Focal Point, Salt Tolerant, Border • Adapted Plant • Attracts Hummingbirds and Butterflies • Spreading Form • Spread 1' X 2.5' High
- Hemerocalis Butterscotch Ruffles:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low to Medium Water Demand • Use as Focal Point, Salt Tolerant, Border • Adapted Plant • Attracts Hummingbirds and Butterflies • Spreading Form • Spread 1' X 2.5' High
- Gaura lindheimeri Sparkle – Dwarf White:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Rock Garden or Moon Garden • Native Plant • Attracts Birds, Bees, Butterflies • Upright Form • Spreads 2' X 2' High
- Gaura Whirling Butterflies:** Full Sun to Partial Shade • Low Water Demand • Rock Garden or Moon Garden • Native Plant • Attracts Birds, Bees, Butterflies • Upright Form • Spreads 2' X 3' High
- Ficus caprica Celeste Fig:** Full Sun to Partial Sun • Medium Water Demand • Fruit Bearing • Disease **Resistant**
- Ficus Carica Brown Turkey (Zones 7 to 9):** Full Sun to Partial Sun • Medium Water Demand • Fruit Bearing • Disease Resistant

HERBS

Basil  
- Cinnamon  
- Genovese  
- Lettuce Leaf  
- Purple Ruffle  
- Thai Siam Queen  
Catmint  
Chives – Garlic Onion  
Dill - Fernleaf  
Fennel – Bronze  
Lemon Grass

Lemon Verbena  
Mexican Mint Marigold  
Mint  
- Chocolate  
- Kentucky Colonel  
Oregano  
- Greek  
- Cuban-Variegated  
Parsley  
- Curled  
- Italian

Rosemary  
- Upright  
- Trailing  
Scented Geranium  
- Citronella  
Stevia  
Sweet Marjoram  
Thyme  
- English  
- Lavender  
- Lemon

- Odena's Kitchen  
Lavender  
- Hidcote  
- Munsted  
Sage  
- Green Pineapple  
- Regular  
- Tri-Color  
- Yellow Pineapple  
Salad Burnet

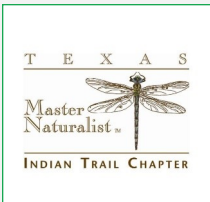
## THE LATEST TIPS AND TRICKS from PAUL JAMES

Host of Gardening by the Yard (from HGTV)  
Printed in the Tarrant County Master Gardener's Newsletter, February 2014

1. To remove the salt deposits that form on clay pots, combine equal parts white vinegar, rubbing alcohol and water in a spray bottle. Apply the mixture to the pot and scrub with a plastic brush. Let the pot dry before you plant anything in it.
2. To prevent accumulating dirt under your fingernails while you work in the garden, draw your fingernails across a bar of soap and you'll effectively seal the undersides of your nails so dirt can't collect beneath them. Then, after you've finished in the garden, use a nailbrush to remove the soap and your nails will be sparkling clean.
3. To prevent the line on your string trimmer from jamming or breaking, treat with a spray vegetable oil before installing it in the trimmer. PIC
4. Turn a long-handled tool into a measuring stick! Lay a long-handled garden tool on the ground, and next to it place a tape measure. Using a permanent marker, write inch and foot marks on the handle. When you need to space plants a certain distance apart (from just an inch to several feet) you'll already have a measuring device in your hand.
5. To have garden twine handy when you need it, just stick a ball of twine in a small clay pot, pull the end of the twine through the drainage hole and set the pot upside down in the garden. Do that, and you'll never go looking for twine again.
6. Little clay pots make great cloches for protecting young plants from sudden, overnight frosts and freezes.
7. To turn a clay pot into a hose guide, just stab a roughly one-foot length of steel reinforcing bar into the ground at the corner of a bed and slip two clay pots over it: one facing down, the other facing up. The guides will prevent damage to your plants as you drag the hose along the bed. PIC
8. To create perfectly natural markers, write the names of plants (using a permanent marker) on the flat faces of stones of various sizes and place them at or near the base of your plants. PIC
9. Got aphids? You can control them with a strong blast of water from the hose or with insecticidal soap. But here's another suggestion, one that's a lot more fun; get some tape! Wrap a wide strip of tape around your hand, sticky side out, and pat the leaves of plants infested with aphids. Concentrate on the undersides of leaves, because that's where the little buggers like to hide.
10. The next time you boil or steam vegetables, don't pour the water down the drain, use it to water potted patio plants, and you'll be amazed at how the plants respond to the "vegetable soup".
11. Use leftover tea and coffee grounds to acidify the soil of acid-loving plants such as azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias, gardenias and even blueberries. A light sprinkling of about one-quarter of an inch applied once a month will keep the pH of the soil on the acidic side.
12. Use chamomile tea to control damping-off fungus, which often attacks young seedlings quite suddenly. Just add a spot of tea to the soil around the base of seedlings once a week or use it as a foliar spray.
13. If you need an instant table for tea service, look no farther than your collection of clay pots and saucers. Just flip a good-sized pot over and top it off with a large saucer. And when you've had your share of tea, fill the saucer with water, and your "table" is now a birdbath.
14. The quickest way in the world to dry herbs: just lay a sheet of newspaper on the seat of your car, arrange the herbs in a single layer, then roll up the windows and close the doors. Your herbs will be quickly dried to perfection. What's more, your car will smell great. Gardening Tips & Tidbits



### Indian Trail Master Naturalists Events



Join the Indian Trail Master Naturalists at their monthly meeting on **Monday, March 23, 2020**. The program for the evening is entitled **"Wild Orchids of Texas"**. Stephanie Varnum will discuss the fifty-four species of wild orchids that grow in Texas which are found in all ten of the natural regions of the state. They range from moderately common to extremely rare and critically endangered. This talk will give an overview of the orchids of Texas and will highlight the seven non-photosynthetic, myco-heterotrophic orchids of the Hexalec-tris genus. Many of these species are endangered by human developments are not amenable to propagation so the only way to ensure their future is to protect their habitats. Stephanie Varnum is a native of western Penn-

sylvania who has spent her adult years in Texas. She has been a Texas Master Naturalist since 2002 and has volunteered in a Citizens Science Project, an annual botanical survey of native, non-photosynthetic orchids in Texas for 16 years.

The program is free and follows the 6 p.m. Master Naturalist meeting that is also open to the public. Meeting location: Ennis Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2200 Country Club Road, Ennis, TX 75119. For more info, call (972) 825-5175 or email [ellistx@tamu.edu](mailto:ellistx@tamu.edu)

**Saturday, March 14, 1st Wildflower Walk of the season ~ 9:00am.** Members will be leading a walk at Mockingbird Nature Park. Join in this ½ mile stroll along the trails to identify wildflowers. Free to the public. Participants should wear closed-toe shoes and bring drinking water. The walk will be canceled if raining. Info at: <http://txmn.org/indiantrail/> or email: [Information@itmnc.com](mailto:Information@itmnc.com)



## 2020 EXPO Keynote/Guest Speakers

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



#### **Daniel Cunningham**

Horticulturist, Project Manager

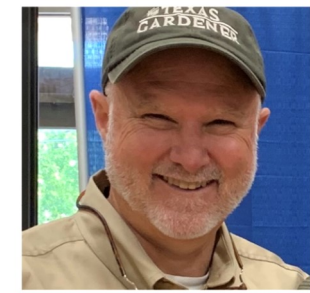
Texas A&M AgriLife- Research, Water University

#### **Bio**

As a horticulturist with Texas A&M AgriLife's Water University program, Daniel provides professionals and the public with the most current research-based information on resource efficient and water-conserving landscape management. Focused on a holistic approach, Cunningham specializes in native plants, edible landscaping, rainwater harvesting and utilizing landscapes as habitat for beneficial wildlife. Keep up with Daniel by following his @TXPlantGuy social media pages, by catching his latest segments on NBC channel 5, articles in the Dallas Morning News and Edible DFW or listen in on 95.3 "The Range" for tips on how to get the most out of your lawn, landscape or vegetable garden.

### **"Foodscaping" at 10am**

Edible landscapes are one of the hottest trends in garden design! Utilizing areas in your landscape to grow edibles is a great way to add food to your table and reduce your grocery bill. This program teaches you the most apPEELing ways to incorporate edible plants into your home garden and landscape by taking advantage of their ornamental value. You will learn how herbs, fruits and vegetables can add to the colors and textures of your permanent landscape combining both aesthetics and functionality. Why mow it when you can grow it?!



#### **Jay White**

Owner and publisher of Texas Gardener magazine

#### **Bio**

Jay White is an avid gardener who grows vegetables, herbs, native and improved flowers, flowering shrubs, fruit trees and native hardwoods on his two acre Brenham property. He is huge supporter of local farmers who are growing ecologically responsible flowers for the cut flower market and the favorite things in his gardens are the heirloom and pass along plants that have been shared with him by the incredible gardeners he has been blessed to know.

Jay loves sharing the stories of the plants and the people that make Texans the greatest group of garden enthusiasts on the planet. While Jay is a hobby gardener, he has a B.S. and M.S. in Agriculture. His time in graduate school at Texas A&M helped him develop a passion for the science of horticulture which he loves sharing in his fast paced and entertaining lectures. Whether you love growing fresh sprouts that only take a few days or

mighty trees that take a lifetime, Jay's talks will give you the encouragement and knowledge you need to be highly successful in your Texas garden.

### **Bluebonnets: The Gateway to Native Plants at 12:30pm**

Think Texas natives can only be used in a "southwestern" style landscape? Think again! Texas natives are beautiful, reliable and relatively pest free. This talk provides attendees with a list of tough Texas plants that can be worked into any style of landscape.



#### **Heather Rinaldi**

Owner Texas Worm Ranch (2008)

#### **Bio**

Lifelong gardener and environmental steward. Raised in the farm and ranch land of Oklahoma, she finished her degree in Health in 1993 at Oklahoma State University and had a professional career at Texas Instruments and Raytheon. Before starting her own business in 2008, Texas Worm Ranch, Heather had invested over 5 years in learning more about soil health to improve her own organic lawn and gardens. Her self-directed research in soil microbiology and ecosystem health led her to follow the teachings of Dr. Elaine Ingham, Allan Savory, Gabe Brown, and many other soil scientists, range land practitioners, and regenerative agriculturists. Heather has combined her agriculture background and health knowledge with her lifelong love of growing plants and observing the natural world. The mission of Texas Worm Ranch is to educate and empower healthy people, healthy community, and healthy planet through healthy soil. Ms. Rinaldi's accomplishments include: Life in the Soils Course

Student with Dr. Elaine Ingham, Green Source DFW Sustainable Leadership Award, 2016, Featured Book Interviews: Worm Farming Revolution, by Pauly Piccirillo, The Worm Farmer's handbook, by Rhonda Sherman. Speaker Highlights: Mother Earth News Speaker, North Carolina State University, Vermiculture Conference Speaker.

### **Restore, Regenerate, and "Re-native" Your Soil, Plants, and Property at 2:30pm**

From small backyards to Texas size ranches, improving our soil health for better plant health and water management is key to growing success, along with personal, community and planetary health. Furthermore, insect and bird populations have been critically impacted by many stressors. All Texans can help improve these situations with simple solutions to improve their soil life and property habitats for a wide range of beneficial organisms and human enjoyment.



## 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.

This year we will have a special focus on edible landscaping. From seed to fork, there will be info and examples of how to grow your own veggies. To top it off, there will also be an exhibit of nature's garbage disposal—worms! Worm composting is an excellent way to teach children about caring for the environment. So join us to learn more about what these creatures can do for your garden.

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. The workshop will be filled with activities for children 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.



ADULT MUST BE PRESENT WITH CHILDREN AT ALL TIMES



## Farmer's Market—Opening for the Season April 25, 2020



If you would like to learn more about the Farmers Market and being a vendor, there will be an informational meeting in April at Waxahachie City Hall in the council chambers. As of this publishing the date has not been determined. 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 or visit the City of Waxahachie's website at <http://www.waxahachie.com/Departments/DowntownDevelopment/DowntownFarmersMarket>



*MARCH*



*EVENTS*



### SEMINAR: NEW TO NORTH TEXAS

**March 14, 9am**



Just moved into our area or just want to know more about what grows great here in Midlothian, Texas? Then you need to attend this seminar. Hosted by our own staff, we will get into the dirty truth of what grows the best in our soils! Cost \$0.00

### SEMINAR: TREES OF TEXAS

**March 28 ~ 9am**

This informative seminar will cover the best trees for soils in North Texas. We will go over everything from roots in the ground to shade canopies above. Cost \$0.00



### FAIRY GARDEN WORKSHOP

**March 28 ~ 4pm**



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. Cost \$39.95



## Light House for Learning

(With the Ellis County Master Gardeners)

For reservations, contact Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631 or [mcobb@wisd.org](mailto:mcobb@wisd.org)

Register online at [https://www.wisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=1080753&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1369108](https://www.wisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1080753&type=d&pREC_ID=1369108)

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



**Monday, March 30 ~ Decorating your Front Entrance with a Beautiful Spring Garden in Containers** Instructor will assist you in putting your container or containers together; will instruct, demonstrate and answer questions. Come and have fun creating a fresh spring “curb appeal” to your home. Soil and plants will be provided. (If desired, you may bring plants you prefer to use.) Must bring your own pots.

*Instructor: Mattie Thompson*

**Thursday, April 2 ~ Texas Superstars** Learn a brief history of how plants have been named Texas Superstars and how they were found. Highlights of these superstars include annuals, perennials, fruits, trees and many more. *Instructor: Gayle Johnston*

**Monday, April 6 ~ Turf Grass/Lawn Maintenance** Is your lawn overgrown with weeds, brown spots that should be green, or do you just want to know how to better take care of it? If so, this class is for you. You will be provided with information on grass diseases, weed control and how to maintain your lawn for the growing season. *Instructor: Mike Peters*

**Thursday, April 9 ~ Vegetable Gardening in the Garden and in Containers** Come learn many ways to grow vegetables. This class will teach you how to grow vegetables in raised beds, square foot gardens and containers. Our Ellis county soils require special techniques for successful spring and fall gardens. Gain a wealth of knowledge to grow your own vegetables for your family. We're here to help! *Instructor: Joan Brammer*

**Monday, April 13 ~ Hobby Greenhouse Management** Greenhouse growing is easy and fun! This class will cover the basics to get you started. Learn about site preparation, types of greenhouses, materials, growing, temperature control, common pests and solutions. *Instructor: Walt Friis*

**Thursday, April 16 ~ 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 and efficient irrigation system. Gain the knowledge to install a system yourself or have the tools to ask the smart questions of an irrigation contractor. Information will be provided to help you maintain an existing system as well as 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*

**Monday, April 20 ~ Plant Propagation** Want to learn how to propagate plants from some of your favorites or some of your friends' plants? 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, April 23 ~ Growing Texas Tough Plants** The purpose of this class is to help the person who has a black thumb to begin to have a green thumb by teaching you that there are some beautiful plants that are hard to kill. With a little bit of knowledge those plants can become a beautiful addition to your Ellis County landscape. Many of them require less of our most valuable resource, water, and some are also more resistant to pests and diseases. *Instructor: Susan Knapp*

**Monday, April 27 ~ Texas Trees - Tree Planting and Care** For relaxation, food, protection and monetary value trees add so much to our landscape. This class will teach you what trees will grow best in our area; how to plant both bare root or container grown trees, proper care after planting and how to control any possible pests. *Instructor: Sheila Cloonen*

**Tuesday, April 28 –May 7 (four classes) ~ Beginning Farmer/Rancher** If you are a land owner or have newly acquired a farm or ranchland and are seeking information for the best way to utilize your property, join this experienced instructor for advice. You will cover 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-35, Suite 3 in Waxahachie. *Instructor: Mark Arnold, County Extension Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources. 6:00-8:00pm Cost: \$22.00*

**Thursday, April 30 ~ Culinary Herbs, from the Garden to the Kitchen** Herbs are some of the easiest plants to grow. They will grow almost anywhere, don't need a lot of fertilizer and generally prefer minimal watering and they will reward you with an abundance of flavor year-round. What more could the casual gardener want! We will discuss which herbs grow best in Texas, which love our hot summers and those that prefer the cooler fall, winter and spring seasons. Learn how to prepare for a garden and how to preserve your bounty. You will learn to make herbal blends, compound butters, party dips, herbal vinegars and more. There will be lots to smell and sample and hopefully some “pass-alongs”. *Instructor: Arlene Hamilton*

**Monday, May 4 ~ Small Gardens: Plant a Pocket Garden** A vertical garden is a method to grow plants in a container that can hang on a wall. Found in nature and ancient civilizations, living walls have been thriving for centuries on walls all over the world. In this class we will demonstrate several ways you can make your own vertical garden. A handout will be provided to help you complete your home project and also include a demonstration of making your own herb pocket garden. *Instructors: Ruth Spurr and Jane Sloan*

**Thursday, May 7 ~ The Rose: Our National Flower** A symbol of love and beauty, playing an important role in myth, history and poetry. Come learn how to choose, plant and care for roses in your landscape. *Instructor: Alice Thompson*

All classes cost \$14.00 and are taught from 6:00-7:30pm, unless indicated, at Waxahachie High School, Career & Technology Department, 3001 US Hwy 287 Bypass, Waxahachie, TX 75167.