



## BIRTHDAYS

### March

Gay Mitchell

3/2

Sandra Rosen

3/10

Eva Stuart

3/17

### April

Cynthia Holifield

4/15

Melisa Rhodes

4/16

## Reminders from President Pat...

1. There are lots of great gardening events going on in the Spring (check out Gardening Events that Marsha provides us), so try to catch a few and share with us what you learned!
2. It's also time to get our FSMG projects cleaned up for our spring planting. The Leads will let us know when workdays are scheduled, so please try to help out. I love working together as a team.
3. Don't forget the annual conference in McKinney in May! Register at: <http://www.ccmgatx.org/txmg2016>
4. Mark your calendars for May 12 Intern Graduation. It'll include a luncheon (probably covered dish) and it is always very nice and provides a warm welcome to our new members.
5. Your garden is alive, it breathes and grows and loves attention. Enjoy it!

## UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:



Specialist: Vegetables March 10-12

Specialist: Irrigation Efficiency March 21-23

Specialist: Propagation April 21-23

Specialist: Rainwater Harvesting April 27-29

Specialist: Composter June 22-24

Specialist: Earth-Kind® August 3-5

Specialist: Texas Superstar® September 20-22

Specialist: Vegetables November 9-11

There are many [events](#) popping up all over the state. Have you checked them out? Have you submitted your event to share with others?

[Aransas/San Patricio Plant Sale](#) March 18

<http://txmg.org/event/spring-plant-sale-aransassan-patricio/>

[Henderson County Spring Conference](#) March 31

[http://henderson-co-tx-mg.org/events/Plant-Sale/Plant\\_2016.jpeg](http://henderson-co-tx-mg.org/events/Plant-Sale/Plant_2016.jpeg)

[Smith County - First Tuesday in the Garden](#) April 5

<http://txmg.org/event/first-tuesday>

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We welcome all of our Master Gardeners to forward articles or information for our newsletter to our Editor:

[sandrosen42@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrosen42@yahoo.com)

News Committee:

Sandra Rosen Joan Driver

Paula Marshall Anna Baker

Henderson County Master Gardeners

## Plant Sale!

Saturday, April 23rd - 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.  
inside Senior Citizens Center  
3356 State Hwy 31E, Athens (by the rodeo arena)  
Rain or Shine!

Offerings will include a wide variety of trees, shrubs, bulbs, perennials, annuals, natives, heirlooms, vegetables, and herbs

## March Gardening Chores

Tommy Phillips  
County Extension Agent, Ag/NR

- Prepare beds for planting warm-season flowers and vegetables. For every 100 square feet of bed area, work in a 2- to 3-inch layer of organic material such as compost, pine bark, or sphagnum peat moss.
- Select and order caladium tubers as well as geranium and coleus plants for late April and early May planting. Do not plant caladiums until soil temperature reaches 70 degrees F. As camellia and azalea plants finish blooming, fertilize them with 3 pounds of azalea-camellia fertilizer per 100 square feet of bed area.
- Check mulch on azalea and camellia plantings and add where needed. Consider using pine needles, pine bark, or similar organic materials.
- Beware of closeout sales on bare-root trees and shrubs. The chance of survival is rather low on bare-root plants this late in the season. Best bets for now are container-grown or balled-and-burlapped plants.
- Remember that many trees and shrubs are damaged or killed each year by the careless application of weed killers, including those found in mixes of fertilizers and weed killers. Always read and follow label directions very carefully. Weeds in a lawn usually indicate a poor lawn-management program and can usually be crowded out in a healthy turf.
- Start hanging baskets of petunias and other annuals for another dimension in landscape color.
- Freeze-damaged beds of Asiatic jasmine ground cover should be sheared back just as new growth starts to encourage new growth from the base.
- For early color in the landscape, try some of the following annuals as transplants: ageratums, cockscombs, coreopsis, cosmos, cleomes, marigolds, nasturtiums, petunias, phlox, portulacas, salvias, sweet alyssums, sunflowers, and zinnias.

- Divide existing clumps of fall-blooming perennials, such as chrysanthemums, autumn asters, Mexican marigold-mint, and physostegia (obedient plant)
- Be ready to cover frost tender vegetables. As a precaution for those of us that don't have time to cover plants-wait till after Easter to plant tomatoes and like plants.

## March

### Master Gardeners ...

*on the move!* By Paula Marshall



Jim Lathem attended a class on Earth Kind Landscaping in McKinney on February 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. The class was taught by Dr. Steve George, TAMU, and the class learned about soil preparation, plant selection, mulching, composting, watering, and landscape design. Each student will meet with Dr. George for a one and one-half hour design consultation for their home. Nancy and John Szabo are building a 60x16 foot greenhouse, with 40x15 being under plastic and 20x15 being under shade cloth to protect plants during hot weather. Nancy Szabo and Bob Williams will attend Vegetable Specialist training in Fort Worth March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The training session will be taught by Steve Chaney.

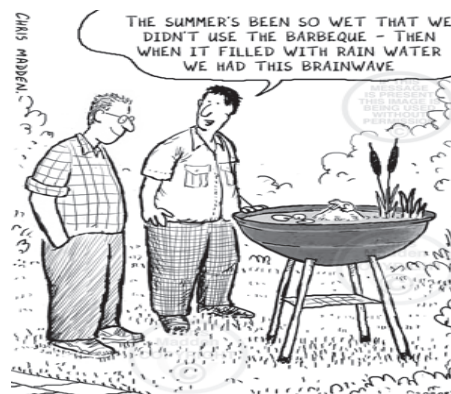


## Garden Guru

Dear Garden Guru is a new section in our newsletter. Send your questions to any one of the people on the newsletter staff (Sandra, Paula, Joan, Anna), and we will search our books, check the internet, ask Tommy or Melisa, or "rack our brains," and we will find the answer.

Dear Garden Guru – Where can I find a milkweed plant that will attract the Monarch butterflies?

Answer: The Blue Moon Nursery in Edom will have milkweed plants in about 2 weeks. The price will be \$5.50. The Butterfly Plant Sale at the Texas Discovery Gardens in Dallas on April 8-10 will also have milkweed plants.



### Swap, Share, Sell & Recycle

- Cut to order milled cedar boards. Maximum length 8 ft. Contact Nancy Szabo, Our Thyme Farm, 903-560-8213 for pricing.
- I have lots of plastic pots, most at 1 gallon size if anyone needs these please let me know. Anna baker2anna@gmail.com

## Have You Been to this Garden?

By Sandra Rosen & Joan Driver

Sometimes we get so focused on our "big city" gardens and well-known places to visit that we forget that there are really special places in our nearby small towns and also in the cities that we may not know about. We are highlighting some special ones in our area this month.

### THE HEARD NATURAL SCIENCE MUSEUM AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY –

1 Nature Place, McKinney, Texas.

There is so much going on at this place that it is hard to tell about it all. There



are exhibits and collections presented in interactive environments: Texas' venomous snakes, rocks, mineral and fossils, seashells and marine life, North Texas ecosystems, and on and on and on. There are two special gardens: the Native Texas Butterfly Garden and House and the Native Plant Garden. Then there are the activities, such as family canoeing, an owl prowl night hike, zip line day, summer nature camps, spring plant sale with hard to find plants, night hikes, ropes course, nature talks, and guided nature trails. This place warrants a visit. <http://heardmuseum.org/>

### TEXAS DISCOVERY GARDENS

These gardens- 7.5 acres of botanic gardens - are found inside Fair Park in Dallas – gate #6. They are the first public gardens to be certified 100% organic by the Texas Organic Research Center. Each day there is a daily release



of newly emerged butterflies at the Rosine Smith Sammons Butterfly House and Insectarium. There are ten themed areas which include a butterfly habitat, a native wildlife pond, a scent garden, a shade garden, an heirloom garden, and a Master Gardeners' garden. There are family events throughout the year as well as gardening workshops and guided tours providing expert advice on using native and adaptive plants. On April 2, there is a Butterfly Gardening Workshop and April 8-10 there is a Butterfly Plant Sale. This one isn't a small town garden, but it is often overlooked. <http://texasdiscoverygardens.org/>

### MALAKOFF SUNKEN GARDENS AND THE JAMES SURLS SCULPTURE GARDEN

These are two separate and really special gardens in the Malakoff area. The Bartlett House and the Sunken Gardens are part of a historic ruin. They were bought by the Greater Malakoff Garden Club in 2008. You may wander around the gardens – there is no tour or entry fee. The James Surls Sculpture Gardens may be visited by calling ahead and arranging for a private tour. It is located on 5 acres and has, in addition to the sculptures located on the grounds, a storybook house, a guest house, and



a log house. There are also paintings by James Surls inside the house. James Surls is an American sculptor and visual arts artist. His artwork is in collections at the MoMA, the Guggenheim, the Whitney, and other places as well as Malakoff. For information: 903-489-0987.

### Mrs. Lee's Garden

The website for Mrs. Lee's garden says it all: "Most people have never heard of it... yet those who have, believe it is a private paradise tucked away among the East Texas landscape." For those who take joy in daffodils in early spring, a trip

to Mrs. Lee's is a pilgrimage. Visitors have free viewing of millions of golden blooms scattered over approximately 28 acres. The four-mile unpaved trail (closed in wet weather) meanders over rolling hills and around two lakes to a replica pioneer log cabin.

The garden is a labor of love of Mrs. Helen Lee, who loved the property that she and her husband T.W. Lee purchased when they became wealthy in the oil business. After he died in 1954 she purchased an entire boxcar load of daffodil bulbs and had them planted. The spring after her death in 1984 the garden was opened to the public.

The garden is open 10-4 daily throughout daffodil blooming season, generally mid-

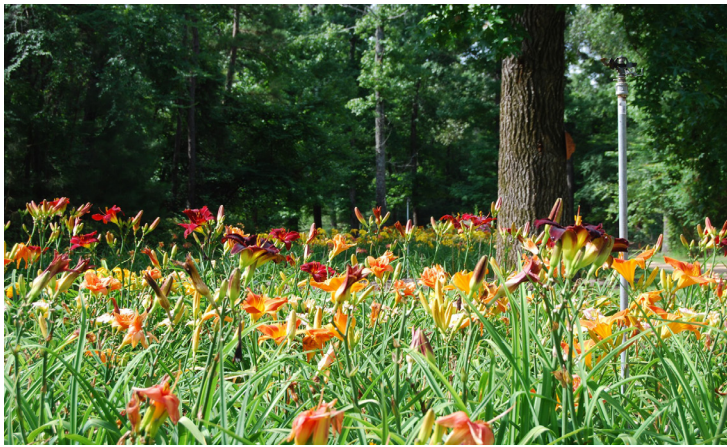


February through March, or until the flowering ends. The only requirements of visitors are that they not damage or pick the flowers, and that they not litter. Visitors are requested to register visits in order guarantee funding to keep the garden open.

From Van Zandt County, drive east on I-20 to Hwy. 271 toward Gladewater. After 7 miles turn right on CR 3104 and drive 1.5 miles; continue right on CR 3103 ¼ mile to the entrance: 21600 CR3103, Gladewater 75647. For road conditions and blooming, call (903)845-5780. Website: [www.daffodilgarden.com](http://www.daffodilgarden.com). Email: [daffodils@daffodilgarden.com](mailto:daffodils@daffodilgarden.com)

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### Glenda Mae's Farm

Glenda Mae's Farm is a commercial daylily garden located four miles west of downtown Edom on FM 2339, on the left. Opened in 2010, Joey and Glenda Dziema have added to daylily stock each year until they now have an abundance of more than 350 cultivars planted in sweeping beds of dazzling color. Although the daylily season does not typically begin before mid-May, they will open March 15 (Tuesday-Saturday 8-5, and Sunday, noon-5) with annuals (baskets, flats, and pots), ferns, perennials, heirloom vegetables, and clay pots. They close at the end of June but open again October-Nov. 15. Contact them at 120 VZ CR4712, Murchison, TX 75778; (903)469-3647 or (903)235-2529. Website: [www.glendamaesdaylilyfarm.com](http://www.glendamaesdaylilyfarm.com). Facebook: Glenda Mae's Farm.

## Gardening Events – March/April 2016

**Saturday, March 12, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. at Blue Moon Gardens: "Grow Berries", by Mary Wilhite. Cost is \$24.** *(Call 903-852-3897 to register and to confirm class is being held.)*

**Saturday, March 19 - Ellis County Lawn and Garden Expo in Waxahachie:**  
*(For more info, call 972-825-5184 or go to: <http://txmg.org/ellis/lawn-garden-expo/>)*

**Thursday, March 31 -- Henderson County MG Spring Conference in Athens: Dr. David Creech will present "The Natives are Restless"** *( Tickets available from any Henderson County Master Gardener or email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) with your contact information.)*

**Saturday, April 2 – Athens Organic Nursery's Spring Festival:**  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.      3730 State Highway 31E, Athens

**Saturday, April 2 – Tyler Rose Garden Center:**  
Dr. Joe Masabni will present "Aquaponics".    Registration 8 a.m. Cost is \$15.  
*(Call 903-590-2980 for info and registration.)*

**Tuesday, April 5 – Tyler Rose Garden, SCMG's 'Idea Garden': "First Tuesday in the Garden" program by SCMG's Andie Rathbone called "Bullet-Proof Plants".** Starts at noon with a 30-minute program and 30-minute Q&A. No charge. Might want to take a folding chair. *(Call 903-590-2980 for info.)*

**Saturday, April 9 – Quitman Arboretum Spring Plant Sale**  
*(Exact time not published yet.... Just says to get there early.)*

**Saturday, April 23 - Canton Iris Garden Club Plant Sale**

*Blackwell House Museum Yard 8:00am - 2:00pm*

## Sandra Rosen and John Womack *A Dynamic Gardening Duo*

By Paula Marshall



***Although John Womack and Sandra Rosen were both master gardeners before they joined our group in 2015, they continue to seek out new information, attend training seminars, and use the knowledge they gain through the Master Gardener Program to discover new and better ways of gardening. Sandra is Editor and contributor to our newsletter, and she and John participated in last summer's Van Zandt County Jubilee by building and displaying a transportable vegetable garden. I wanted to know more about this dynamic couple and what motivates them to continue to learn and teach others. This is what I found out:***

John grew up and worked hard on a tobacco farm in North Carolina, and he is still working hard today. He has two degrees in chemical engineering and worked for DuPont most of his career, spending eight years in Taiwan as a project manager building several DuPont plants there. After retirement, he moved to Sun City, became a MG with the Bell County Master Gardener group, and started the Horticulture Club

in Sun City in Georgetown, Texas, which has been a bench mark for other Sun City Horticulture Clubs. John is certified in water harvesting and likes to do grafting of vegetable plants.

Sandra grew up in Woodville, Texas, and graduated from Baylor and Lamar Universities with education degrees. She taught English (mostly writing) during her career, both at the sixth grade level and in community colleges – Lone Star in Houston and TVCC in Athens, Texas. Sandra became a Master Gardener in Georgetown and enjoyed being a part of the Sun City Horticulture Club.

Sandra loves her vegetable gardens, butterfly gardens, and herbs gardens and enjoys cooking directly from the vegetable garden. She said, "We are both interested in good health and believe that working in the garden and eating organically means fewer pills that we have to take as we age."

Sandra and John became a "we" in 2007 and left Sun City to move to John's ranch in Canton. Says Sandra, "We have four children and seven grandchildren between us, and I have two great grandchildren. (John says **he isn't that old.**) We have an RV and enjoy traveling with that group. We also enjoy being part of a group in Austin, named Design, Live, and Build, that is a part of the natural building movement. They share a love of gardening, the outdoors, learning and trying new ideas in their gardens, and feel that the Master Gardener group is a great place to encourage learning and try

new ideas.

When I asked for their recommendations on how to have a better garden, Sandra said, "Trial and error has taught us that raised garden beds just work better. They are about 1½ times more productive, especially with low growing vegetables. Our favorite beds are concrete blocks, but we also use non-treated wood boards. If the vegetable plants are very small, we frequently put a clear plastic cover over them for several weeks creating a greenhouse effect, making very healthy plants." John believes that when you plant new plants in the garden, you should plant them in a well, so that the initial watering holds the water around the plants.

John and Sandra brought a transportable garden and a rainwater collection system to the Van Zandt Jubilee.

Being a part of the Van Zandt Free State Master Gardeners' group has given us so many opportunities to learn and grow and enjoy. We feel blessed."

***Thank you, John and Sandra, for telling us about yourselves and sharing your knowledge and gardening ideas. As you learn more please let us know about your successes, and even a failure or two if you should ever have any! As in life, that's how we learn to be better gardeners - listening to wise people, trying new ideas, seeking more knowledge and continuing to learn from others' endeavors.***

"The photo below shows plants that were very small, and are now only 2 weeks old. We also don't feel the need to always till our gardens any more. We lay down old newspapers and magazines (and old seed catalogues) to kill the weeds and then put a mixture of compost, manure, and top soil in the beds."

