



BIRTHDAYS:

September

Joanne Elston
9/24

October

Anna Baker
10/9

Lou Ellen Bliss
10/10

Joan Driver
10/11

Volume 2, Issue 8..... September, 2016

NATIVE PLANT SEMINAR

Thursday, September 8, 2016

6 pm – 9pm

Van Zandt County Farm Bureau- 281 E. Hwy 243 – Canton Tx. 75103

RSVP by September 1 if planning on attending to (903) 567-4149

\$10 Registration fee

- 6:00- 6:10 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:10-7:00 Native Prairie Restoration – “Starting from Scratch”
Mrs. Heidi Bailey – Texas Parks and Wildlife -Biologist
- 7:00 – 7:15 Break
- 7:15-8:15 Native Grass and Plant Selection – “ In the Wild and In the Yard”
Mrs. Heidi Bailey – Texas Parks and Wildlife -Biologist
Tommy Phillips, CEA, Ag/NR – Van Zandt County
Dr. Dotty Woodson – Extension Program Specialist – Water Resources
- 8:15- 9:00 Utilizing Natives in the Landscape
Dr. Dotty Woodson – Extension Program Specialist – Water Resources

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We welcome all of our Master Gardeners to forward articles or information for our newsletter to our Editor: sandrarosen42@yahoo.com

News Committee:

Sandra Rosen Joan Driver
Paula Marshall Anna Baker



TEXAS A&M
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EXTENSION

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating If you should need auxiliary aids to attend this or any Extension program – please contact the Extension office at 903-567-4149 one week prior to event

Gardening Chores

Tommy Phillips

County Extension Agent, Ag/NR

The month of September marks a turning point in the year. Kids are in a new grade in school and the milder weather of fall is on the way. Gardening activities also pick up in September as we prepare for winter and next spring. Here are several items you might want to do this month, organized by plant types.

Perennials, Annuals and Bulbs:

Now is the time to start transplants of cool-season annuals for planting later this fall, including pansies, calendulas, Johnny-Jump-Ups (violets), flowering cabbage, flowering kale and others.

Collect seed for next year's garden from many of the summer flowering types now, such as marigolds, cosmos, zinnias and others. You must first allow the flower heads to fully mature and dry. Collect and lay seeds on newspaper or paper towels, turning often to dry; then store in glass jars or envelopes in a cool (40 to 50 degrees F), dry, dark place.

Perennial garden phlox should be divided about every third or fourth year. Early fall and early spring are the best times to plant and transplant them. Divide big clumps into thirds.

Establish new perennial flower beds. Dig, divide, and replant overcrowded beds of cannas, daylilies, coneflowers and other perennials. Spread a liberal amount of organic matter evenly over the area and mix into the soil at least 6 to 8 inches deep. Space divisions about 1 foot apart in all directions so competition will not be a problem for several years. To plant bulbs, loosen the soil and make a hole with a trowel or bulb planter. Don't mash the bulb into the soil or you may damage the basal plate (bottom of the bulb), causing it to rot.

Outdoor ferns should be planted in early fall for best results. To have a healthy fern garden, add several inches of leaf mold or compost to the soil before planting and keep moist.

Landscape Plants:

Allow plants to finish the summer growth cycle in a normal manner. Never encourage growth with heavy applications of fertilizer or excessive pruning at this time. New growth can be easily injured by an early freeze.

If pesky seedlings of woody plants, such as privet, oak, elm or hackberry, are found growing in your hedge, remove them as soon as possible. If left too long, they will take over and leave gaps in the hedge when they are finally removed. Fall is usually mild and moist, so it's a great time to plant trees and shrubs. Research has shown that roots will continue to grow throughout most of the winter, resulting in well-established plants for next year's growing season. Add a 3-inch layer of organic mulch, such as shredded bark or pine needles, around the base of plants to retain soil moisture and regulate soil temperature.

Lawns:

Chinch bugs have been a problem in some areas in August. If St. Augustine looks like it is wilting due to lack of water, then turning brown, and you are sure your irrigation system is functioning properly, it could be chinch bugs.

Invest in a rain gauge to keep track of how much rainfall you are getting (or not getting). Lawns should receive about 1 to 1.5 inches per week whether from rainfall or your sprinkler system.

Fertilize lawns sometime between now and early October.

Mid September is the time to apply a pre-emergence herbicide to established lawns to help prevent winter weeds, like *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass), henbit and chickweed, from sprouting and becoming a nuisance in your lawn in early spring.

If your lawn had brown patch last year, apply a preventative fungicide this fall once it turns cooler.

Vegetables:

Plant beets, broccoli (plants), Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower (plants), Swiss chard, collards, kale, garlic, lettuce, mustard, parsley, English peas, radish, spinach and turnips this month. Soak seed furrows with water before sowing seed, and mulch lightly. Water the rows daily to promote germination and growth of young seedlings.

A green manure or cover crop improves water infiltration, reduces soil erosion, reduces nutrient leaching, promotes the growth of microorganisms and adds organic matter to the soil when it is tilled back into the soil at maturity. Elbon rye can be sown at the rate of 3/4 to 1 pound per 100 square feet during late September or October to help reduce nematodes. Do not use common rye grass. Be sure to rototill the cover crop 1 month before spring planting to give it time to decompose.

Gardening Health: Fall clean-up and planting in the garden can provide enjoyable exercise. One hour of gardening chores (cultivating, pruning, weeding, planting) burns about 300 calories!

Gardening Events – September/October

By Marsha Sasser

Saturday, September 10: Smith County MG's 2016 Garden Lecture Series: "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly", by Erfan Vafaie, at the Tyler Rose Garden Center. Registration at 8 a.m. \$15.

Saturday, September 10: Kaufman County MG's present: "Keyhole Gardening", by Dr. Deb Tolman. 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Kaufman County Fair Grounds on St. Hwy. 34, east of FM 1388 (4001 S. Washington. \$15. (If interested, call Sharon Burden at 972-932-9069 to ask about late registration.)

Saturday, September 17: Blue Moon Gardens, "Gourmet Gardening", by Mary Wilhite. 10 a.m. – noon. \$25. Call 903-852-3897 to register.

Thursday and Friday, September 22 and 23: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Research Center at Overton, 1710 FM 3053 North, presents "Beginning Farmer and Gardener Conference".

\$60 for both days; \$40 for one day. Contact Dr. Joe Masabni at jmasabni@tamu.edu or call 903-834-6191.

September 23 - October 2: East Texas State Fair. Go to <http://2016AgriWorld>.

Saturday, October 1: Dallas County MG's Annual Tour of Gardens. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine. Tickets \$20 at any home: 4407 Glenleigh Dr., 5030 Shadywood Lane, 3224 Bryn Mawr Dr., 5114 Homer St., 5112 Swiss Avenue.

Saturday, October 8: East Texas Arboretum Fall Festival, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 1601 Patterson Road, Athens.

Saturday, October 8: Smith County MG's present "Bulbs for Southern Gardens", with Brent Heath of Brent & Becky's Bulbs. Harvey Convention Center, 2000 W. Front St., Tyler. Registration 8 a.m.; Program 8:30 a.m. \$15 for lecture. Bulbs and More! Sale -- 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Entrance to the sale (only) is free.

Note: Interesting events by Collin County MGers at Myers Park in McKinney. <http://collin.agrilife.org/events>.

Classes at the Dallas Arboretum. <http://dallasarboretum.org/education/adult-programs/gardening>

Garden Guru

Dear Garden Guru – How can I get rid of nut sedge in my vegetable garden?

Good question, but the answer is not good. An infestation of nut sedge compares in scope to a plague of locusts. In a season, it can produce 1,900 new plants and 7,000 nutlets on their roots. From an article by William C. Welch of Texas A & M and from an article in Mother Earth News, it appears the best solution is to start over. Probably you should take this bed out of production for a year while cultivating it every three weeks or so. The nut sedge tuber gets weaker with each cultivation. When the garden spot appears pretty clean, cover it with mulch – plastic, newspapers, grass clippings, straw, etc. – until time to plant again. When you do plant, use tight spacing to keep the soil as shady as possible, pull out any nut sedge sprouts as soon as you see them, and limit water to only where you are actually growing your crops. (In one study, pine bark mulch reduced nut sedge by 75%.)



Dear Garden Guru – I have read that female asparagus plants are not as desirable as male. The female is identified by the berries it produces. How can I make and keep my asparagus beds males only?

From Dr. Sam Cotner's book, *The Vegetable Book*: Asparagus produces both male and female plants; the female produces small, red berries. The female plants generally are few in number, less vigorous and produce smaller and fewer spears. Also, these berries will drop to the ground, germinate and produce additional asparagus plants that will act like weeds and cause crowded conditions. To avoid these problems, simply dig up the crowns that produce female plants. Those spaces left vacant can be replanted the following spring. Within two years after planting, all your asparagus plants should be male and potentially highly productive. (By the way, if you do much vegetable gardening, you should have Dr. Cotner's book.)

John Womack is our Garden Guru. Please send all your questions to him at sandrарosen42@yahoo.com

Plants for Fall Gardening

By Paula Marshall

Every year, by the end of August, I am sick and tired of gardening! Then, we get a little bit of rain, the temperature drops a few degrees and I get the fever all over again. Here are a few vegetables that do well in the fall garden:

Seeds:

Green Beans (bush)	- Plant ASAP! Mine were up in less than a week
Carrots	- 8/15 through 10/15
Swiss Chard	- 8/1 through 10/15
Sweet Corn	- oops! Probably too late, # of days to maturity varies
Cucumber	- 8/1 through 9/1
Garlic bulbs	- 9/1 through 10/15
Kohlrabi	- 8/15 through 9/15
Leaf Lettuce	- 9/15 through 10/15
English Peas	- 8/15 through 9/15
Radish	- 9/15 through 10/15
Spinach	- 9/1 through 10/15
Turnips	- 10/1 through 11/1

Plants (if you can find them)

Broccoli	- 8/1 through 9/15
Brussels Sprouts	- 8/1 through 10/1
Cauliflower	- 8/15 through 9/15
Irish Potatoes	- 8/15 through 9/15

If you have never planted a fall garden, try it. The weather is better, weeds have slowed down a bit and the bugs aren't quite so prevalent. When I have put in a fall garden, it has produced as well as the spring garden – most years even better.



Reminders from President Pat:

Since our September meeting is a public event and we won't have a business meeting, I thought I'd share about some important events coming up as our year is on the downhill slope.

In October the Nominating Committee will present a new slate of officers for 2017 (which we'll vote on in November). We will also vote to approve some updated and mildly edited bylaws and standing rules, which you will receive a few days prior to the meeting either by email or by mail (if you don't have a computer) so you can have time to review them. So please mark your calendars for these important meetings in October and November.

"But now in September the garden has cooled, and with it my possessiveness. The sun warms my back instead of beating on my head ... The harvest has dwindled, and I have grown apart from the intense midsummer relationship that brought it on." - Robert Finch

A List for Fall and Winter Color

By Sandra Rosen

It would be overwhelming to try to totally update your yard for fall and winter color, but it does work if you just add a bit of color each year. Here are some ideas from The Texas Gardener magazine.

1. Pansies – Wait until night time temperatures are at 70 or below.
2. Violas – Johnny jump ups, wood violets
3. Ornamental cabbage
4. Ruffley kale
5. Swiss Chard
6. Frilly red leafed lettuce
7. Deep purple Osaka mustard
8. Rosemary
9. Geraniums, cyclamens, and primroses – These are susceptible to the freeze mark, but are worth the precautions. Usually a light tea towel will protect them.
10. Bulbs
11. Berries – hollies, nandinas, pyracanthas, American beauty berry
12. Some roses
13. Nana coreopsis and native hymenoxis – provide yellow color
14. Some verbenas – Magneta Lace and Mexican Verbena
15. Compact burning bush, Barberry, and Oakleaf hydrangea are shrubs that provide fall and winter color. (from the Garden Gate magazine)



Propagation Specialist

By Joanne Elston

In early May of 2015 I attended classes in Fort Worth to become a Plant Propagation Specialist. The training was hosted by Tarrant County Master Gardener Association. The classes began at noon on Thursday and finished at noon Saturday. Attendees listened to lectures on propagating plants and participated in hands-on plant propagating. Everyone was thrilled to take home all of the new plants they had produced.

Another part of the specialist training included two tours. We toured the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens Begonia Greenhouse on Thursday evening and Friday morning we toured Seville Farms which supplies plants for large companies such as Home Depot and Lowes.

Besides attending the classes attendees are required to volunteer twenty hours of service to their local Master Gardener Association beyond their local association's yearly requirements within a year of completing the training.

I taught two classes this spring to our 2016 Master Gardener Interns, Bulbs 101 and Propagation, which fulfilled my twenty hours of service. It was so much fun sharing with the interns all of the great things I learned at propagation training. There was a lot of hands-on learning in both sessions and everyone was able to take home lots of new plants! Interns learned how to make mini greenhouses, self-watering propagators, how to use rooting hormones, how to propagate plants using seeds and asexual

methods including division, cuttings, layering, and grafting. In the Bulb 101 training interns learned how to differentiate between bulbs, corms, rhizomes, and tubers plus several different ways to propagate bulbs.

I enjoyed the Propagation Specialist Training immensely! It deepened my understanding of the different methods of plant reproduction and my gardens are proof that propagation produces plants that are beautiful and free! It is a wonderful feeling to see the five beautiful Boston ferns which grace our deck this year knowing they were the result of simple division from a plant donated to me by another Master Gardener! Thank you Paula for the parent plant!

This is a reprint from the Aug. 11th Canton Herald!

What's all the BUZZ at Canton Jr. High?

Changes have been occurring in the front landscape of Canton Junior High School over the past couple of years and we aren't finished yet!

The seventh grade science classes have been working alongside the Van Zandt Master Gardeners to create an educational butterfly garden. It's a garden with a purpose!

Imagine living in a world without flowers or fruit or even coffee or chocolate for that matter. Thanks to the wonderful work of pollinators like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, much of the food we eat and flowers and plants we enjoy are made possible.

Despite the importance of pollinators, they are taken for granted all too often. Worldwide, there is an alarming decline in pollinator populations due to excessive use of pesticides and an over-expanding conversion of landscapes to human use.

The goal of this garden at CJH is to get students enjoying the outside world around us and to educate them now on choices they can make to improve their future world.

I've been working alongside a volunteer group of Master Gardeners, led by Cynthia Holifield, to help create this garden to use to educate the students and create an outdoor lab.

Thanks to the support of CISD Principal Amy Autry, this project has been allowed to take root and grow.

It has been quite a process to get this up and running. Landscaping designs and blocking off sections of the garden to focus implementation have helped make the landscape area be properly established and maintained.

Funds have come from many different sources to make the project possible.

Two grants from the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund have been received, along with funds from the Canton Junior High School and the Master Gardeners. Dustin McClendon from Legacy Ag Credit helped purchase much of the plants that were used this past spring.

Changes to come this year will include an arbor, the final back section of garden to be planted along with finishing touches on overall design and layout.

By Denise Stapleton

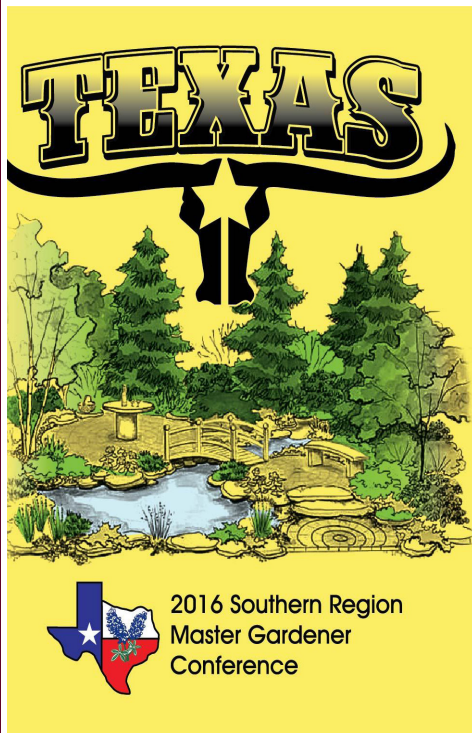


Courtesy photos Free State Master Gardener Bob Williams teaches students Audrey Thelen and Eve Dial how to properly plant.

Students throughout the year will help maintain the garden and will use the outdoor lab to discover and observe micro-habitats and their changes throughout the seasons.

So drive by and take a look and maybe become inspired yourself to plant a garden with a purpose.

Denise Stapleton is a seventh grade science teacher at Canton Jr. High.



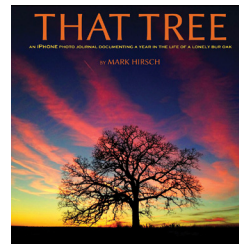
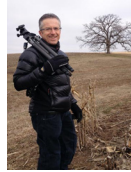
Go Here:

<https://2016southernregionmg.com/>

November 1-4, Arlington, TX

Speakers

Mark Hirsch

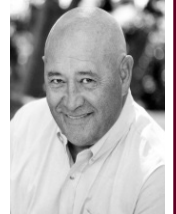


Neil Sperry



**Master Gardeners State Coordinator Panel
Learn, Grow, Eat & Go!
Jr. Master Gardeners**

Barry Corbin



Breakout Speakers:

- Bob Byers – Director, Fort Worth Botanic Garden
- Janet B. Carson – Extension Horticulture Specialist, U. of Arkansas
- Steven Chamblee – Horticulturist, Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, TX
- Dr. Sam Feagley – Professor and State Soil Environment Specialist, Dept. of Soil and Crop Sciences, Texas A&M
- Tim Hartmann – Program Specialist, Earth-Kind®, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services
- Dr. Lelia Kelly – Horticulture Specialist, Mississippi State University Extension Services
- Laura Miller – Texas AgriLife Commercial Horticulture Extension Agent in Tarrant County, TX
- Dr. Kevin Ong – Associate Professor & Director of The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
- Charles Porter – Professor and Author
- Dr. Justin Scheiner – Assistant Professor and Extension Viticulture Specialist & Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University
- G. Michael Shoup – Owner, Antique Rose Emporium
- Dr. William C. Welch – Professor and Author

Registration:

2016 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference Early registration is now open! We are excited that you will be attending the 2016 Southern Region Master Gardener Conference. Your registration includes first class speakers, three breakfasts, two lunches, one banquet and a conference tote bag. You can also register for optional guided tours and “The Cowboy Experience” in the world-renowned Fort Worth Stockyards. We have worked hard to give you a variety of options to select from, so please review these conference materials carefully before completing the registration

Registration Fees:

Regular	\$275.00	June 16, 2016 –October 9, 2016
Onsite	\$305.00	November 1-3, 2016

Partial Conference: A limited registration is available for those who want to attend only one of the two full days and/or who want to attend specific dining events. Fees for each of these events are as follows: Wednesday’s speakers, breakfast and lunch \$100.00. Thursday, speakers breakfast and lunch and dinner \$130.00. On-line registration until Oct. 9th. Please note, hotel costs are not included in the registration fee. Lodging reservations and payments should be made directly with the hotels. Please check the [Lodging](#) page for hotel information. Tours Tour prices include transportation. Only 50 seats are available for each tour, first come, first served. If the tour minimum is not reached, the tour may be canceled and you will be able to choose another tour or have your money refunded. Information on your tour choices will be included in your email confirmation.

Registration Confirmation: After submission, you will receive an acknowledgment email showing the selections you requested and the items you purchased. Reservations are not guaranteed until your payment has been received. Payment may be made by check, credit card, debit card or via PayPal.

Cancellation & Refunds – We hope it will not be necessary for any of our guests to cancel their trip to our conference. However, if it is necessary our refund policy is as follows: Before July 1, 2016—80% of total registration will be refunded. From July 1 through July 31, 2016—70% of total registration will be refunded. From August 1 through August 31, 2016—60% of total registration will be refunded. From September 1 through September 30, 2016—50% of total registration will be refunded. After September 30, 2016—No refund will be issued 4 – 6 weeks after the conference. Questions? Please email us at SRMG2016@tarrantmg.org or call (817) 884-1945, leave a message and your call will be returned.