

## BIRTHDAYS:

Volume 4, Issue 9 .....October, 2018

### October

Anna Baker, 10/9  
Lou Ellen Bliss, 10/10  
Joan Driver, 10/11  
Sharon Palmer, 10/21

### November

April Trekell, 11/02  
John Clark, 11/03  
Karen Gonzalez, 11/04  
Martha Mitchell, 11/12  
Mimi Sherwin, 11/15  
Tommy Phillips, 11/17  
Donna Burcham, 11/25  
Carter Hallmark, 11/29  
Bob Williams, 11/30  
Sally Mitchell, 11/30

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## Newsletter Staff Needs Your Help!

If you like to write, or even if you don't, but have good ideas for articles and/or subjects for the newsletter please consider joining the newsletter staff.  
Contact Sandra Rosen or Paula Marshall for more information.

We welcome all of our Master Gardeners to forward articles or information for our newsletter to our Editor:  
[sandrarosen42@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrarosen42@yahoo.com)  
News Committee:  
Sandra Rosen Joan Driver  
Paula Marshall Anna Baker  
Susan Dahlman

## FSMG Fall Seminar

By John Clark

Steven Chamblee, writer and horticulturist at Chandor Gardens in Weatherford, TX presented a program on "Texas Tough Plants" in Canton on Saturday, September 22nd.

He discussed the attributes and shortcomings of many great plants for Texas, as well as some landscape basics, ideas and considerations.

Steven had lots of his favorite plant and garden photos in his slide presentation, along with interesting and teasingly funny ones. He suggested that everyone should just relax and not get too uptight about their gardening exploits. His presentation was not only very informative but also "relaxed" with light-hearted antidotes that made the 3 hour seminar pass too quickly.

There were approximately 60 folks who attended the seminar. Among them were Master Gardeners from Rockwall, Smith, Hunt, Wood, Henderson, and Kaufman counties.

It was a fun morning of education, conversation, gardening discussion, and, as always, wonderful drinks and refreshments (by the way, Steven liked all the treats). All in all, it was a great way to spend a rainy Saturday morning and celebrate the first day of Fall!



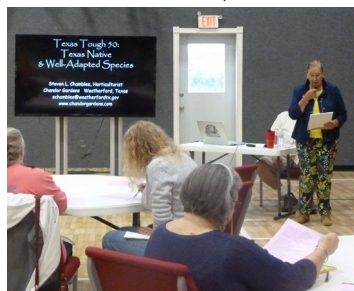
Vendor: Sherri Curran, Windchimes



Vendor: Blue Bonnet Worm Farm



Vendor: Nancy Szabo





## Butterfly Garden Update

By Robert Williams

We had some good work days last fall when the teacher and students were active in the project. Not much activity this past spring. The MG have added a concrete sitting bench and a stone walkway this past summer. Both the school principal and science teacher have departed for new jobs and we haven't had any contact with their replacements. There are some issues with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the previous administration.

Things we plan to do soon, this fall, are weed and mulch the beds as well as add some more annual pollinators that will grow to medium height.



## Plant Wildflowers Now!

By Sandra Rosen

Many of us will look at the beautiful fields of wildflowers in April and May and think, "Oh, why didn't I plant some wildflowers?" Well, now is the time. Those endless fields or even small patches of colorful flowers can be yours. In the southern and western portions of the United States, the autumn months of September through December are the most favorable to plant your wildflowers. Many of the species will quickly germinate in order to allow the seedling enough time to establish a healthy root system before going dormant in the winter. Follow these directions:

Select a site that drains well.

This one is optional: use a herbicide to eliminate any vegetation which may compete with your wildflowers.

Mow the existing or dead vegetation as short as possible. Collect the clippings and remove the material from the site.

To prepare the seed bed, rake or lightly till the surface of the soil to a maximum depth of one inch. Shallow soil preparation will limit the disturbance of dormant weed seed.

It is helpful to thoroughly mix a carrier such as masonry sand, perlite, potting soil, etc. to the seed to increase volume and to aid in even distribution over your site. Four parts inert material to 1 part seed is recommended.

Broadcast one half of your seed as uniformly as possible over the prepared area. Sow the remaining seed in a direction perpendicular to the initial sowing.

Press the seed into the soil by walking or rolling over the newly planted area. Do not cover the seed any deeper than 1/16 of an inch. Some of the seeds will remain visible.

The area should not be allowed to become completely dry. Supplemental watering may be required and definitely 8 hours of direct sunlight a day is needed. The only other thing required now is patience. (This information came from the aggie-horticulture website.)



## **October Gardening Chores**

Tommy Phillips  
County Extension Agent, Ag/NR

October is a great time for gardening and landscaping. Many plants can be set out now, and this is the perfect time to be replacing plants lost due to this summer's drought.

### **WHAT TO PLANT:**

#### **BULBS**

October is bulb buying month. They are in fresh supply, and provide welcome late winter and early spring color for the yard. Bulbs which can be planted right after purchasing include daffodils and the smaller flowered jonquils, species tulips and grape hyacinths. The larger showy tulips and hyacinths need to be refrigerated at least 45 to 60 days to provide enough chilling to bloom properly next year. Plant them in late November or early December.

#### **FLOWERS**

The most popular of the cool season flowering annuals to be set out now are pansies. There are so many types and colors of pansies it might be hard to pick just one. There are pastel shades, varieties with no faces, and miniature flowers, so you should have no trouble finding one you like. One tip for flowering annuals – the brighter the color, like reds or yellows, the easier they will be seen from a distance. Blues are best viewed up close.

Besides pansies, other bedding plants that can be planted now include pinks, dianthus, flowering cabbage and kale, snapdragons, violas, and calendulas.

Wildflowers and seeded annuals like California poppy, oriental poppy, larkspur and bluebonnets should be sown early this month.

October is also a great month to divide and plant spring-blooming perennials like native columbines, daylilies, phlox, Louisiana and bearded irises, dianthus, coreopsis, coneflowers and daisies. If you have extras after dividing, give to or trade with a gardening friend or neighbor.

#### **TREES AND SHRUBS**

The fall season is also a perfect time to establish new trees and shrubs. Plants set out now undergo less stress, and their roots have months to grow and become established before spring growth begins and summer heat and drought arrive next year.

#### **GRASS**

Tall fescue and ryegrass can also be planted in early October. It is too late to sow Bermuda or centipede seed. Beware that armyworms could quickly devour newly sprouted ryegrass.

#### **VEGETABLES**

Vegetables that can be transplanted or seeded in early October include beets, Brussels sprouts (plants), Swiss chard, collards, kale, lettuce, mustard, radish, spinach and turnips.

#### **LAWN CARE:**

St. Augustine, Bermuda and centipede lawns should be fertilized no later than the first week of October if you have not already made your fall application. Use a 3-1-2 or similar ratio. Lawns are not growing quite so fast now, but keep up with the mowing. Continue mowing at the same height, and do not remove more than 1/3 of the length of the grass blades to prevent stress.

If St. Augustine or Bermuda grass does not seem to be growing well, it could be the pH is too low. Fall is a good time to add lime if the soil is acidic. Get a soil test done to determine the soil pH and add lime if pH is below 5.7. Centipede lawns usually do not need liming since centipede tolerates moderately acidic soils.

Perennial and annual ryegrass can be sown now to cover bare soils to protect from erosion.

#### **PEST WATCH:**

Once cooler, wetter weather arrives, brown patch fungus can be a problem in St. Augustine (and sometimes centipede) lawns. This disease appears as more or less circular patches, with brown grass in the center and a halo of yellowing grass at the edge of the patch. A test for brown patch is to gently pull on individual yellowing or brown grass blades. If they pull easily from the runner, and appear rotted at the base of the blade, they have brown patch.

If your lawn has had brown patch in the past, it is a candidate to get it again under the right conditions. Conditions which favor brown patch development include mild days and nights with prolonged wetness of the grass. Do not water in the evening, and with the milder days of fall, lawn watering should be done less often, especially if it rains. Apply PCNB (Terraclor, Turfcide) or Bayleton at the first sign of symptoms to prevent this disease.

If you have planted any of the cole crops, like cabbage, collards and broccoli, watch out for cabbage loopers or cabbage worms. These are those green worms that riddle leaves like they've been blasted with a shotgun. Apply *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) to control these hungry pests. Bt controls only caterpillars and is very environmentally safe.

Pine trees, junipers and arbovitae all begin shedding needles at this time of year. This is normal. Make good use of pine needles as a mulch around shrubs and new trees.



## Gardening Events – October, 2018

By Susan Dahlman

**Tuesday, October 2:** Smith Co MG First Tuesday in the Garden with Anne Pattullo at 12 p.m. in the Patio in the IDEA Garden (Tyler Rose Garden, 1900 W. Front ). Topic is **Bulb Basics** with a preview of the “Bulbs to Bloom” event being held on Saturday, October 13.

**Thursday, October 4:** Henderson Co MG Fall Conference Fund Raiser **“An Evening with Neil Sperry.”** Athens Country Club, 500 Park Dr., Athens. 6 p.m. with Dinner, Silent Auction. Cost is \$50. 903-675-6130.

**Friday & Saturday, October 5 & 6: “300 Years of Plants on the Move in Texas”** sponsored by SGHS State Ambassadors Program, Stephen F. Austin State University Gardens and Friends of Historic Nacogdoches to celebrate Texas’ Tricentennial in gardening with tours, lectures and a reception. Event will be held at the prestigious Fredonia Hotel & Convention Center in Nacogdoches, 200 N. Fredonia St. Attendees will be able to attend a rare plant sale at the SFASU’s Piney Woods Native Plant Center. fohni@yahoo.com

**Friday, October 5:** Dallas Co MG for Southlake Garden Club’s program: **“Gardening on a Shoestring”** at TBD-Residence, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Program describes how to recycle household items for use in and around your garden. Angela DePauw 214-789-6507.

**Saturday, October 6:** Dallas Co MG **“Monarch Mania”** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the George W. Bush Presidential Library, 2943 SMU Blvd. Information on Pollinator Gardening and EarthKind plantings. Monarch Tagging with Master Naturalists. Free. 214-904-3053.

**Saturday, October 6:** Kaufman Co. MG Fall Seminar on **“Drought-Defying Landscapes: Making Beautiful Yards When Water is Scarce.”** First Methodist Church, 414 W. Broad St., Forney. 8:30 a.m. Let Dr. Dotty Woodson show you how to make your yard the envy of all without high water bills. \$5. 972-932-9069.

**Tuesday, October 9:** Dallas Co MG presents **“Wicked Plants”** at the Zula B. Wylie Library, 225 Cedar St., Cedar Hill, 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Topic covers plants that are deadly, illegal, intoxicating, dangerous, destructive and invasive. 972-291-1128.

**Wednesday, October 10:** Dallas Co. MG presents **“Post Harvest Care of Young Grapevines”** with Michael Cook, Viticulturist. Texas Agrilife Extension, 715 Rowlett Rd., Garland. 10:00 – 11 a.m. Free.

**Thursday, October 11:** Free State Master Gardeners, 9:00am Van Zandt Co. Library, **Hobby Greenhouses** - James Wilhite speaker.

**Thursday, October 11:** Texas Discovery Gardens on **“Container Gardening,”** 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Dallas 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Learn how to choose the container, plants and soil to grow beautiful flowers and flavorsome herbs. 214-336-6718.

**Saturday, October 13: Dallas Co MG Fall Garden Tour** featuring 5 residential gardens and one school garden, Moss Haven Farm. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Educational opportunities with experts speaking about water features, pollinators, turf, chickens and vegetable gardening. Ticket cost \$15 advance purchase and \$20 on day of home tour. Info @dallasmgma.com

**Saturday, October 13:** Smith Co MG **“Bulbs to Blooms”** Conference & Sale at Harvey Hall, 2000 W. Front St., Tyler. 8:30 a.m. - till, Bulb Sale is at 11:30 a.m. “Hardy, heirloom and hard to find bulbs for Texas and the South. Free.

**Monday, October 15 – Tuesday, October 16:** Texas Agrilife Extension Service is sponsoring **The Texas Fruit Conference** in New Braunfels Civic Convention Center. This will be an in-depth study of the culture, challenges, and opportunities associated with perennial fruit crops in Texas. Featuring 13 different speakers and highlighting 8 fruits. \$75 early registration; \$85 at the door.

**Tuesday, October 16:** Henderson Co. MG Library Series **“Secrets to a Beautiful Winter Landscape”** at the Clint W. Murchison Memorial Library, 121 S. Prairieville, Athens at 5:30 p.m. Lydia Holley, MG and Landscape Design Steward will show how to make your landscape look beautiful even in winter with evergreens, plants that flower even in the coldest months. 903-675-6130.

**Tuesday, October 16:** Dallas Co MG **“Birds, Bees and Butterflies”** at the Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northhaven Rd., Dallas. 7 – 8 p.m. Learn about the need to provide food for native plants and animals, focusing on pollinators. 214-868-9240.

**Friday, October 19:** Same as above at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, 9800 Preston Rd., Dallas. 10:30–11:15 a.m. 214-405-0329

(Continued on Page 8)

### Specialist Training Offerings in 2018

**Greenhouse Management**—October 18 – 20, 2018 hosted by Tarrant County in Fort Worth.

**Composter**—December 5 – 7, 2018 hosted by Fort Bend County in Rosenberg, TX.

*Further Information and Registration is available for all these classes on the Texas Master Gardener Website - [www.Txmg.org](http://www.Txmg.org)., then Specialist Training*



## President's Message

Greetings Master Gardeners

The year is winding down, elections for a new board are coming up and we have a couple of more Library series to host. My hat is off to all of you putting in fall gardens. The fall seminar was by and large quite good. Steve did a couple of great presentations, the rain didn't hold us up and our members provided some excellent snacks. It was a bit disappointing more of our membership didn't support the effort, but thanks to all of you who did and helped with setup, vendors and brought your spouses. Congrats to Mimi for all her efforts. Oh, and did I mention the armyworms?

Robert Williams, President  
713-628-6936

## Extension Garden No. 2 Update

By Jimmie Pierce

Xeriscape gardening (low maintenance, less water) sounded like the perfect idea for a class project for the Master Gardener class of 2016. Tommy allowed us to use the front lawn of the County Extension office as our project site.

After researching plant varieties, a landscape plan was drawn up by Karen Gonzales and Jimmie Pierce. Being under the impression that we had until the spring to complete our work, we didn't get in a hurry. Our idea was to prepare the ground, buy the plants and then plant in early fall.

The lawn was heavily sodded with bermuda grass, grass burrs, and various lawn weeds. In July, we began the process of digging, tilling, pulling, raking and carting off all that grass. By August, Tommy was ready to actually see a garden. So, in high gear, we began to trim the existing Indiana Hawthorn and Loropeta-

lum hedges, put down newspaper and a deep layer of bark mulch. Connie Tramel donated a load of white rock for edging. Using our landscape plan, we created two large beds, planted the plants, and deeply watered everything in.

A Vitex tree was planted in the grassy area to the right of the beds and a lantana to the left, in a small bed along the sidewalk.

In 2 years, we've lost a couple of plants, had a destructive gopher, busy fire ants and a lack of rain. But THIS IS TEXAS! Overall, we believe the garden has been a success. The beds are doing well. The Extension office staff, and the community seem to enjoy the colorful landscape. We have visits from photographers, the occasional flower picker, humming birds, butterflies, and bees. What more could one ask for in a garden?

## Garden Guru



**Dear Garden Guru: What are some herbs that do well in colder weather?**

Herbs that do well in October through June or July are arugula, cilantro/coriander, dill, fennel, lemon balm, and parsley. Some herbs, however, do well all year around. These are chives, marjoram, Mexican oregano, mint, oregano, pineapple sage, rosemary, sage, and thyme. Most need a well drained soil although mint and parsley like a lot of water. Parsley is the only herb that may need to be fertilized.

### Extension Garden No. 2



### Extension Garden No. 1





## Classified Ads

Wanted: someone or the name of someone, who makes slip covers for furniture.

Contact Paula Marshall 972-877-7988.

If you need something or need to get rid of something advertise here. Contact Paula or Sandra with the information.

**REMINDER**  
**Please turn in your time**  
**on the Master Gardener**  
**website:**  
**[texas.volunteersystem.org](http://texas.volunteersystem.org).**

**3rd Wednesday**  
**Master Gardener**  
**Work Day**  
 9:00 am  
 meet at  
 Extension Office  
 October 17, 2018



**Joan Driver, MG**

Every Master Gardener has a story, and other members are interested in each one. Members needn't wait for an invitation to be interviewed. The editors will assume that each member profile was extracted from a modest and unwilling participant. Please email me if you are willing to participate, and I will send you the uncomplicated questions. When I haven't been able to get requested answers, as recently, you get. . .me!

Born of Van Zandt County natives building a life in Dallas suburbs, I had little experience of gardening in my early life, although I was fascinated with the rows of vegetables in my grandparents' gardens. The few times I got the urge to raise flowers, Mom helped me scratch out a small patch to sow seeds. Alas, I would soon forget them, and later I would find them dried and withered. My identity as a black thumb was persistent, and I remember my husband, once spotting a new plant, asking me what I had dying in the window.

After three decades of full time employment and rearing three children, I found myself in early retirement with leisure time. When I made inquiries to the extension office on behalf of a daughter-in-law about the commercial possibilities of daylilies already growing on property she and my son were purchasing, I heard the unexpected comment, "You should contact a Master Gardener." And that was my introduction to a magical network where I, even I, learned that much of plant cultivation was simply the right plant,

in the right place, in the proper medium. I completed training in Smith County in 2007 and later transferred to the Free State Gardeners in 2015. In both clubs I have been blessed to gather planting wisdom from excellent and experienced gardeners. They, not I, are the masters.

I had long been fascinated with a bed of old orange daylilies that had maintained themselves for many years on our property where my mother was reared. Seeking out and acquiring new and colorful cultivars from gardens in such places as Paris, Center, Winnsboro, and Edom became my passion, and I learned to appreciate the old and adapted plants that thrive in East Texas. I love landscaping, especially flowering perennials, and some of my happiest hours are spent in my yard on the family farm, sometimes with one or another of my nine grandchildren as companions. I was overjoyed to participate in the recent Texas Superstar training in Tyler. Master Gardeners Program has expanded my life in ways I would never have otherwise experienced.

I have also enjoyed sharing my love of gardening through establishing and helping to maintain landscaping for Van Community Ministries, the food pantry at Van, and a prayer garden at Van United Methodist Church. Other favorite activities are reading, baking, traveling with family or friends (or my husband Gary when I can persuade him to leave his cows), or doing almost anything with our three grown children, our nine grandchildren, and my mom, who is still alive and somewhat active at 103.



## Speedy Oatmeal Cookies

- 1c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. cooking oil
- 1 egg
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1. c. oatmeal
- 1/2 c. nutmeats (I prefer walnuts)

Combine brown sugar and oil. Add egg and vanilla and stir well. Sift together flour, soda, baking powder, and salt into mixture and mix well. Add nuts. If I decide to go fancy, I'll add a 1/2 c. chopped dates. Bake 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool for 5 minutes on cookie sheet before removing. Yield: 36-40 cookies.



## Community Garden Update

By Louella Iliff

The Community Garden continues to keep on giving. We have had bumper crops this year of squash, tomatoes, peppers (LOTS OF PEPPERS!!), cucumbers, sweet potatoes, and okra. Also potatoes, onions, I am sure I forgot something. We have fought mites, rust, army worms and have still been blessed with a bountiful harvest. We have been able to harvest over 784.92 pounds this year starting June 1.

Melisa was able to give the produce to seniors, the handicapped, and single

moms. What was left over each week was then given to the detention center of Van Zandt County.

The trustees have helped us with the "heavy lifting". They spread mulch, weeded, painted our new storage building, moved the building, trimmed the tree branches over the building, and helped put down the plastic. I don't know what we would have done without their help. It was such a blessing.

Solarization is a process of putting down clear plastic on the garden during

the hot summer days. The purpose is to help eliminate pest and weeds. Tommy suggested we do that because we have so much trouble with mites, rust, etc. So we have put down plastic in parts of the garden that is finished producing this year. We will see next year what happens.

It has been a long year! When the okra, sweet potatoes, and peppers are finished we will take a much needed break until next spring.

## Blackwell House Garden Update

By Becky Hettinger

***There are no gardening mistakes only experiments.*** Janet Kilburn Phillips

The quote fits the Blackwell House. There have been many experiments going on at the Blackwell, some proved to be great and others will be replaced with new experiments.

Currently the team is planning for some fall color in small areas and leaving the rest for when spring arrives. Our herb garden is going to have a face lift with heat tolerant plants and more color. The bird bath has running water, so a new top will be needed at some point or repaired.

Our biggest disappointment was the destruction of the newly planted rose bed along the front of the house. The roses are slowly coming back and we are hopeful for a full recovery.

We currently are trying to corral a hosta eating critter. Our newly planted hostas on the north side are being used if a cafeteria plan.

All 'n all everyone is pleased with getting the Blackwell grounds back up to speed. We have plant donations to find homes for, and if, you haven't noticed, new signage is in place on the front sign giving credit to the Free State Master Gardeners as care takers.

In the coming weeks there will be a new American and Texas flag placed on the front porch of the house.





(Events continued from page 4)

**Thursday, October 18:** Texas Discovery Gardens ***"Containers that Grow,"*** 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Dallas at 1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Tips for creating attractive containers for the out-of-doors so that your containers become the envy of friends and neighbors. 214-336-6718.

**Thursday, October 18:** Free State Van Zandt MG Library Series: ***EarthKind Roses*** with Master Gardener John Clark at the VZ County Library, 317 First Monday Ln., Canton. 6 – 7 p.m. Free.

**Tuesday, November 6:** Smith Co. MG First Tuesday in the Garden Series: ***"Container Gardens for Winter & Christmas"*** at the Patio in the IDEA Garden (Tyler Rose Garden, 1900 W. Front) with Susan Nelson. 12 p.m. Free.

**Thursday, November 8:** Free State Master Gardeners, 9:00am Van Zandt Co. Library, ***Garden Photograph with Your Cell Phone*** - Rebecca Morrow, MG.

**Tuesday, November 13:** Dallas Co. MG presents ***"Perennials – Year-Round Color"*** at Sunnyvale Town Hall (Board Room), 127 Collins Rd., Sunnyvale. 10:00 – 10:45 a.m. Have an interesting landscape all year round by using perennials. Free. 214-454-8716. Also At the Chris W. Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria St., Mansfield. 6:30 – 7:15 p.m. Free. 817-343-1845.

**Thursday, November 15:** Van Zandt Free State MG Library Series on ***"Superstars"*** at the Van Zandt County Library, 317 First Monday Ln., Canton. 10:30 a.m. Free.

**Tuesday, November 20:** Dallas Co. MG ***"Bringing Texas Prairie Back."*** Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northhaven Rd., Dallas. 7 – 8 p.m. 214-868-9240. And at the George W. Bush Presidential Library Texas Native Park, 2943 SMU Blvd., 6:30 – 7:15 p.m.

#### FREE STATE MASTER GARDENER LIBRARY SERIES PRESENTS



**Earth-Kind® Roses**  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

**OCTOBER 18 - 5:30PM**

**VAN ZANDT COUNTY LIBRARY**

**JOHN CLARK, MG**



About Earth-Kind® Roses

How Cultivars Are Selected



Earth-Kind® Cultivars



Growing Tips for Earth-Kind® Roses

Landscaping with Earth-Kind® Roses



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If you need auxiliary aids to attend this or any Extension Program please contact the Extension office at 903-567-4149 one week prior to event.

#### FREE STATE MASTER GARDENER LIBRARY SERIES PRESENTS

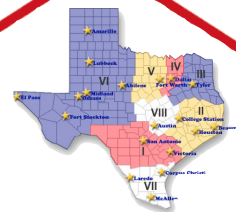


**NOVEMBER 15—10:30 AM**

**VAN ZANDT COUNTY LIBRARY**

**LOUELLA ILIFF, FSMG**

**TEXAS SUPER  
STARS  
IN YOUR GARDEN**



TEXAS A&M  
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EXTENSION

**Free Public Seminar, Everyone Invited!**



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