

# THE GALVESTON COUNTY Master Gardeners

Easy to care for  
*Bromeliads*

June 2012 - Issue 179

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*"You might be addicted to gardening when you look at your child's sandbox and see a raised bed. You go to a nursery and forget what you wanted, but still spend a hundred dollars. You plan vacation trips around the locations of botanical gardens, arboreta, historic gardens, etc. You appreciate your Master Gardener badge more than your jewelry."*  
(Author Unknown)



By Camille Goodwin  
MG 2008

If you were unable to attend the MG State Conference held in San Antonio last month, you may not have heard that our MG Association won the following awards:

Outstanding Association Award - SECOND PLACE

Publication Award (12 Worst Weeds in Galveston County) - FIRST PLACE

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/Galveston-County%27s-12-Most-Aggressive-Weeds.pdf>

Newsletter Award - THIRD PLACE

Individual MG Award (Dr. Margaret Canavan) - THIRD PLACE

Mass Media (Jan Brick's monthly column in *The Islander Magazine*) - FIRST PLACE

Welcome to June and the official calendar start of summer. Did you know that the month of June is also uniquely celebrated as the aquarium, candy, dairy, fresh fruit & vegetable and rose month? June is a busy month for our Master Gardeners who are contentedly getting their gardens ready for the summer's fricassee of heat along our magnificent share of the Texas Gulf Coast.

Your response has been enthusiastic toward the new electronic format of our newsletter. Additional improvements/enhancements are planned, including the addition of video links and tutorials. However, we still solicit comments to continuously improve the newsletter from you. Please contact Linda Steber at [steber8@msn.com](mailto:steber8@msn.com) or Laura Bellmore at [galv3@wt.net](mailto:galv3@wt.net) to let us know your opinions and ideas.

This edition of our newsletter is once again, packed with timely, educational and informative articles. The Q&A pieces this month (pages 4 & 5) present tips on growing pecan trees in your landscape and on water conservation. Do you know your water footprint?

Page 13 features the 5<sup>th</sup> article in our series on Edible Theme Gardening Fun by the Square Foot with a design for a salad garden. Get the buzz, page 10, presents a fascinating article on beginning Beekeeping. Trowels & Tribulations (page 6) gives us gardening tips for June and the coming summer. Page 7 discusses companion planting and possibilities for the popular caladium and kalanchoe. Best shots (page 8 & 9) this month describes the delights of bromeliads.

Sadly, we will greatly miss our friend and MG Donya Camp who left us way too soon. Please enjoy the reprint of Donya's Remembering a Master Gardener interview on page 12. Don't forget to checkout other popular newsletter sections including the results of UTMB's Earth Day (page 14), the Monthly Rose Bed Update along with advice on what you should be doing for your roses right now (page 14), and the Carbine Park Update is highlighted on page 17. One of Dr. Johnson weekly news columns appears on page 20 with an article on how garden color influences our temperments and views.

NOTE: It's imperative and very important that you maintain and update your volunteer hours, see page 16.

Our Upcoming Events (page 15) and Bulletin Board sections (page 19) have been updated

with approaching meetings, seminars, conferences, classes, specialty training, volunteer opportunities and other local & state gardening events (page 18).



Photo by GCMGA

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Check out page 11 on easy to care  
for Bromelads

Front Cover Photo  
by MG Laurel Stine

## How to Reach Us



### Extension Office:

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### To Submit Newsletter Articles:

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### To Submit Monthly Calendar Input

Contact Karen Cureton  
Phone . . . . .281-337-6271  
E-Mail . . . . .klcleela@gmail.com

We encourage your articles!  
Due the 20th of each month.

### To Send Volunteer Hours:

E-Mail . . . . .mghours@wt.net

### Speakers Bureau:

Contact Cindy Croft  
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*Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas cooperating.*

*References to trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas Agrilife Extension is implied.*



# ask a master gardener...



## Q&A

### Hot Line Topics

Photos by Herman Auer

By MG Karen Cureton MG 2008 &  
Bill Cummins MG Intern 2012



For more detailed information, please see the following:

Publication GC -101 Pecan Production Guidelines for Galveston County. Co-authored by Dr. William Johnson, Dr. Bastiaan Drees, Dr. Jerral D. Johnson, and Dr. George R. McEachern in association with Jim Hall.

<http://galveston.agrilife.org/files/2012/03/Pecan-Production-Guidelines-for-Galveston-County-Publ.-GC-101.pdf>

Agri-Life Extension/Aggie Horticulture Texas A&M. Publication titled Home Fruit Production-Pecans. Co-authored by John A. Lipe, Dr. Larry Stein, Dr. George Ray McEachern, Dr. John Begnaud, Sammy Helmers.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/homefruit/pecan/pecan.html> Home Fruit Production-Pecans

Homeowners Fruit and Nut Spray Schedule and Homeowners Fruit and Nut Spray Guide <http://www.pcmg-texas.org/HomeownersFruitandNutSpraySchedule.pdf>

There is also an article by Dr George R. McEachern dated October 20, 1995 entitled Evaluating Pecan Problems. <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit/pecan1.html>

Homeowners Fruit and Nut Spray Guide <http://rains.agrilife.org/files/2011/03/fruit-and-nut-spray-schedule.pdf>

Aggie Horticulture Fruit and Nut Production

[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/lawn\\_garden/fruit\\_nut.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/lawn_garden/fruit_nut.html)

**Q**uestion: Can you give me the pros and cons of growing a pecan tree in the backyard?

The pecan tree, *Carya illinoensis*, is a native tree that grows best in moist, well draining soils. It was named the state tree of Texas by the 36th State legislature in 1919. This native tree can be found on well draining soils along rivers and streams. It is a major nut crop in Texas. In the backyard it can be a majestic shade tree with the added bonus of pecans to eat and use in baking. However before you decide to plant this beauty, there are a few things to consider.

Soil is a major factor. If you do not have moist, well draining soil you will have to work harder for that beautiful, productive tree. A pecan tree needs at least 32 inches of soil depth with good movement of water and air.

Size is a consideration. A mature tree can be 70-120 feet tall, up to 6 feet in diameter, and have a 150 foot canopy. Size varies with the cultivar and the age. If you place a pecan tree too close to another tree, a house, or other structure, or a sidewalk/driveway it will impact the beauty, natural shape, and productivity of the tree. When planting a tree, allow at least 35-40 feet between trunks and at least 35 feet from foundations or driveways. Also take into consideration overhead power lines.

Water requirements can be a factor in areas where there are periodic droughts and watering restrictions. Pecan trees require an average of 1 inch of water per week. The heaviest water use is during the growing and bearing seasons, April through October.

Fertilizer requirements tend to focus on nitrogen. A good starting point to determine if adequate phosphorous and trace elements are present is a soil analysis. Nitrogen should be applied uniformly to the area under the tree canopy and watered in. Fertilizer is applied monthly, April through June.

Zinc is another requirement for healthy productive trees. In our area this must be applied as a foliar spray to prevent zinc rosette disease which manifests by short stunted shoot growth. Please see a spray schedule for information.

Diseases of pecan trees include several fungal diseases: pecan scab, downy spot, and stem-end blight. Pecan scab is an especially serious problem in humid areas. There are resistant cultivars and there are fungicides that may help in the control of these fungal diseases.

Insects can be serious problems as well. These include: pecan nut casebearer, hickory shuckworms, black aphids, yellow aphids, phylloxera, leaf casebearers, and fall webworm. There is a spray schedule available online or from our Extension Office with guidelines on how to manage these pests.

If you desire an attractive landscape tree without all the spraying, in the "Texas Pecan Handbook," Texas A&M Horticulturists Dr. George Ray McEachern, Dr. Larry Stein and Dr. John Begnaud recommend a native pecan or ungrafted seedling as a landscape alternative. Dr. McEachern notes that native or seedling pecans in the home landscape require less training, have a straighter and stronger central leader, and will need less spraying for insects and disease. Zinc sprays and fertilization are still needed to have those bonus pecans and a beautiful tree. I also spoke with Herman and Jackie Auer who are both Master Gardeners and have many years of experience in growing pecans. Jackie had a bumper crop this last year. Herman states that Caddo, Mahan and Mohawk all make beautiful landscape trees that will complement a home.





By Julie Massey  
MG 1996  
CEA-Coastal &  
Marine Resources

## Take the 40-Gallon Challenge!

**Q**uestion: Can you tell me about the 40 gallon challenge?

Do you turn off the water while you brush your teeth or run the dishwasher when it is full? Great! You are saving 10 gallons of water a day with these practices! Would you like to save up to 40 gallons a day? Then take the 40 Gallon Challenge!

The 40 Gallon Challenge is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 40 gallons per person, per day. The challenge began in 2011 as a voluntary campaign to increase water conservation.

The 40 Gallon Challenge encourages people to save a minimum of 40 gallons a day by adopting new water-saving techniques. The pledge card outlines ideas for water-saving practices and the daily water-savings to expect. You can use the pledge to review the water-saving practices that you or your family currently puts to use. By pledging new practices, you will see the total daily

savings expected for your household. Visit the <http://www.40gallonchallenge.org/> to make a pledge!

The 40 Gallon Challenge provides maps and charts to see pledge activities in your state and across the United States. At the time of this writing, Texas had 565 people who had accepted the challenge. Ellis County is leading the state with 165 pledges. Galveston County has only four pledges!

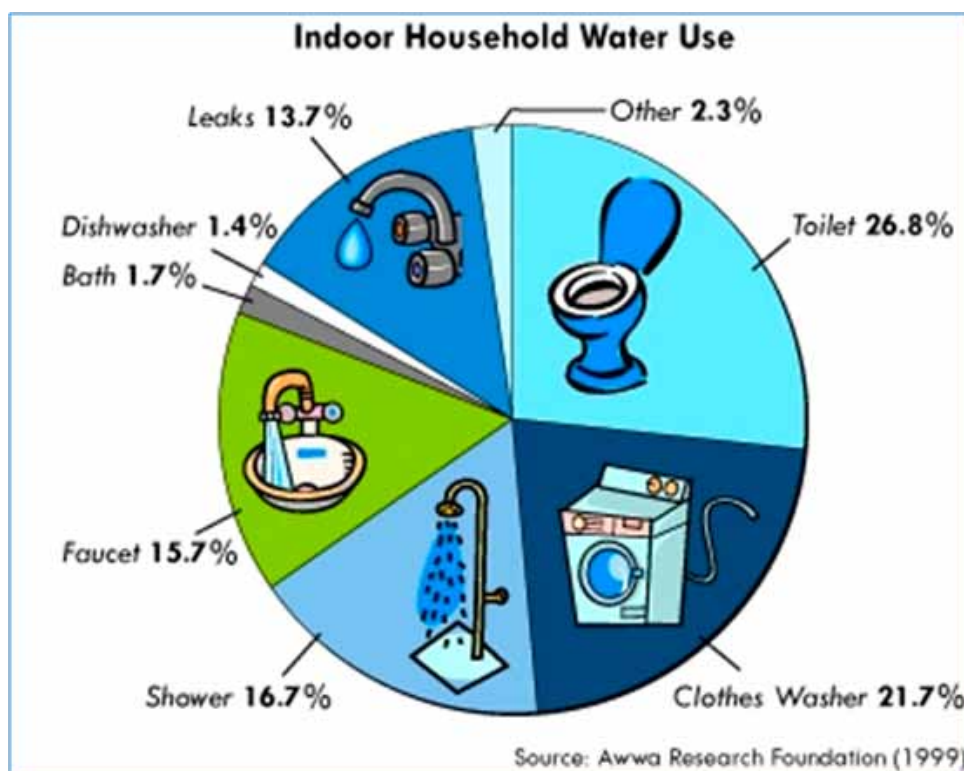
### Why should I conserve water?

Drought conditions, population growth and increasing water demands have put added stress on the water supply. By conserving water, these water demands and the demand for energy-intensive systems that obtain, treat and distribute water are both decreased.

### Why should I pledge to save at least 40 gallons?

Reducing water usage at home not only saves this precious resource, it also helps homeowners keep more money in their wallets. Saving a minimum of 40 gallons a day for 30 days adds up to more than 1,000 gallons per month. This is an easy way to document the amount of water saved since most water providers bill in thousand-gallon increments. In other words, you should see real savings on your water bill if you follow through with your pledge and put to use the recommended water-saving practices.

Join Galveston County Extension volunteer organizations to reach our goal of 100 pledges for Galveston County by the end of summer! Please email Julie Massey at [jmassey@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:jmassey@ag.tamu.edu) after you complete the 40-Gallon Challenge so we can track pledges made by MGs! Take the 40 Gallon Challenge and make a commitment to water conservation for Texas!







By Donna J. Ward  
MG 1996

## water, water, water

# TROWELS & TRIBULATIONS In a Suburban Garden

*(Editor's Note: This is a reprint of Donna's article for La Ventana Del Lago, the City of El Lago's neighborhood newspaper.)*

June isn't much of a gardening month. Your summer annuals are doing well, the spring blooming perennials have done their thing, and you've pruned the spring blooming shrubs. Hopefully you are harvesting cantaloupe, summer squash, watermelons, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, and the okra is headed for the gumbo pot. The hard jobs are finished, nothing much left to do except keep your landscape alive through the hottest months of summer. . . Water, water, water.

If you do come across a few blooming plants on sale from your local nursery (they don't want to try to keep them alive in those little pots all summer long) bear in mind that they will have a tough time establishing roots in summer's heat. Give them a bit of help and remove all blooms and buds before planting – they don't need to be burdened with trying to develop roots and produce blooms at the same time. Once established you'll get plenty of blossoms. Believe it or not, there are some heat-loving annuals. Our Gulf Coast summers are enjoyed by globe amaranth, pentas, yarrow, zinnias, coleus, cosmos, morning glories - and coral vines simply adore our summers. Begonias appreciate our heat and humidity, and will perform for you if given enough shade. Angel wing and the cane type will bloom continually if given loose, rich soil, a blanket of mulch and adequate moisture. There are some types – those with red-tinged foliage that can take some sun, preferably the gentle morning rays.

The drought of last summer is still showing its effects on our trees. If it's not too late and they haven't succumbed to the lack of water, get out the soaker hose and lay it at the drip line which is the outer edge of the leaf canopy. Or at the same location, use a deep-root

watering device, remembering that the tree's feeder roots are located within the upper 12 to 18 inch layer of soil. The key word here is 'deep.' Just soaking the upper soil surface encourages roots to grow upward to the top few inches of soil - not much of an anchor in high winds, not to mention that when we do get a deep soaking rain, the roots are literally not in position to take advantage of it. If you don't have a deep-root feeder or soaker hose, just letting water slowly dribble from your garden hose for an extended length of time at the drip line will be beneficial. If we've been a long time without rain, and if you haven't watered regularly, don't fertilize until one or the other happens. Always water first, and then feed.

Chinch bugs adore hot dry weather. In our neighborhood I often spot their infestation in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street. These patches of soil stay warm from the radiated heat from the concrete, and let's face it – it's the area that often gets neglected when we do water the lawn. There are several chemicals to control the pest, and they have to be used according to directions – when the bag says "treat again in 30 days" – do it, otherwise you've wasted time and money. Keeping that area well watered might discourage them from moving in and also checks their spread.

I know you're tired of hearing me preach about mulch, but it's your plant's best friend along with adequate moisture over the summer months. It moderates soil temperatures – cooler in summer – warmer in winter. Not to mention, that as it decays it provides microbial critters and organic matter to the soil – two things necessary for a healthy landscape.

Have a great summer, stay as cool as possible.



Okra in bloom



Tomatoes ready for picking

Photos by GCMGA

## THE ISLAND GARDEN

# Caladiums and Kalanchoes - a beautiful combo

(Editor's Note: This is a reprint from Jan's article in "The Islander" magazine.)



By Jan Brick  
MG 2001

Companion planting or plant pairing is a popular technique used by garden designers and home gardeners alike. Creating a pleasurable aesthetic impression is an important aspect of garden design if one is a fan of an orderly array. Purely personal preference and perception...Mother Nature just throws it all out there and that certainly works well for her!

Two of my favorite plants for sharing space...in a pot or in a bed are caladiums and kalanchoes. The evergreen kalanchoe grows up and out with bright green foliage and vivid blooms in winter and spring. The caladiums sprout up as the blooms are fading on its companion. The combination creates a remarkable and striking blend as the brilliant green leaves of the kalanchoe compliments the soft variegated heart-shaped foliage of the caladiums.

### KALANCHOE

The kalanchoe is a popular houseplant available for sale during the late winter and spring months. It is a durable flowering plant that requires very little maintenance as a potted plant in the home. It has dark green, thick waxy leaves with scalloped-edges and clusters of brightly colored blooms

These plants are cultivated as ornamental houseplants but are often used in rock gardens or succulent gardens. Known to the Chinese as "thousands and millions of red and purple" it is a popular plant purchased during the Chinese New Year for decorative accents much like Poinsettias at Christmas in the U.S. Flowering kalanchoes are available in red, pink, yellow, or white. They are not difficult to grow and the flowering varieties are highly rewarding for their colorful and long-lasting flowers. Some people may discard the plants after the bloom is over, but it is recommended that one simply cut off the flowering head and reduce the amount of watering and patiently enjoy the foliage itself. The kalanchoe should flower again naturally in late winter or early spring especially in a mild winter season. Water moderately throughout the summer and reduce watering in the winter. Let the soil surface dry out between waterings; in the winter months, the plant can almost dry out. Use any ordinary potting soil mix when re-potting. Plant diseases are rarely a problem. Too much or too little water and insects are the main problems. Root rot usually results from a soil mix that does not drain quickly or from overly frequent watering. Do not let plants sit in water.

#### Kalanchoe blossfeldiana:

Blooms during winter with small single or double flower clusters in bright shades of white, red, orange, pink and yellow...waxy dark green leaves... grows best in bright light and is tolerant of direct

sunlight; it grows weak and leggy in areas of shade...sensitive to cold.

#### Kalanchoe lucky bells:

Grows to a height of about two feet with elongated serrated foliage and long flower stems...clusters of small, orange-red flowers...grows best in a well-lit area or with full sun...flowers every six to eight weeks...let soil dry between watering.

#### Kalanchoe tomentosa:

Grows to a mature height of about one and a half feet with a dense coating of "felt" on its foliage and brown notched tips...blooms rarely with greenish-white flowers...grows best in indirect, bright light...plant in well-drained soil.

### CALADIUMS

The caladium comes to us originally from Central and South America but has been in cultivation in Europe since the late 18th century. However, it is estimated that nearly ninety-eight percent of all caladium bulbs sold in the U.S. come from Florida. The caladium that is most popular among home gardeners is called "fancy-leaved," the traditional caladium with heart-shaped leaves marked in varying patterns in white, pink, and red. Caladiums prefer moderate watering...damp but not soggy. Most varieties of caladiums prefer partial to full shade, although there are several sun-resistant varieties being marketed as well. Although there are no flowers of any significance, the foliage of the caladium puts on a dazzling show!

#### Fancy-leaved Caladium Cultivars

- Aaron - White with green margins, some sun tolerance
- Caladium - White with green veins
- Carolyn Whorton - Pink with red veins and green margin, some sun tolerance
- Fannie Munson - Pink with rose-colored veins traced with light green
- Fire Chief - Dark pink, limited sun tolerance
- Florida Fantasy - White with red veins
- Freida Hemple - Deep red (lighter than Postman Joyner) with green margins, not sun tolerant
- Gypsy Rose - Pink veins with green blotches
- June Bride - White with green margins
- Kathleen - Pale salmon with green margins
- Marie Moir - Whitish green with red spots
- Pink Beauty - Pink with dark pink veins and green margins, lighter than Fannie Munson
- Pink Cloud - Pink with green margins, some sun tolerance
- Postman Joyner - Dark red with green margins
- Red Flash - Dark red with fuchsia spots and green margins, good sun tolerance
- Rosebud - Red with green margins
- White Queen - White with red and green veins, some sun tolerance



Kalanchoe

Caladium



# MG BEST SHOTS

Pineapple by Margie Jenke



Blushing Bromeliad by Margie Jenke



Ionantha Ball by Billy Jenke



Guzmania Zamora by Laurel Stine



Bromeliad by Laurel Stine



Bromeliad by Sara Thompson





# ...and Narrative

## Bromeliads



By Pat Forke  
MG 2010

**B**romeliads are members of a plant family known as Bromeliaceae. This family contains over 3000 species in approximately 56 genera. The most well known bromeliad is the pineapple. Spanish moss is also a member of the bromeliad family. There are many other members in this family that resemble neither the pineapple or the Spanish moss. Generally their foliage is the most attractive part of the plant. Some bromeliads have several bands or variegations on their leaves which exhibit different color patterns. All bromeliads are composed of a spiral arrangement of leaves sometimes called a rosette. The plant grows in a flattened configuration with its leaves lined up in a single plane. The bases of the leaves in the rosette may overlap tightly to form a water reservoir. With few exceptions the flower stalk is produced from the center of the rosette. The stalk may be long with the flowers held far away from the plant or the scape may be short with the flowers nestled in the rosette. The scape may produce a single flower or many individual flowers. Strong light is needed for the bromeliad to grow well and produce flowers. With rare exceptions, bromeliads only flower a single time – once the plant stops producing leaves and produces its flower, it will not start making leaves again. It will produce new plantlets called offsets or pups which will feed off the mother plant until they are large enough to survive as a separate plant. Some bromeliads may take as long as ten years to flower. Bromeliads can also be propagated from seeds placed in a shallow pan with good drainage. Placed in a sunny location, these seeds should germinate within a week.

To view an extension photo collection of the many varieties of bromeliads from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, click here: <http://fcbs.org/pictures.htm>

Bromeliads are either terrestrials, saxicolous or epiphytes. The terrestrials will grow in the ground and take their nutrients from the soil. To encourage bloom production during the summer, fertilizer applied at half strength through misting will be beneficial to the bromeliad. Bromeliads can also be fertilized every three or four weeks with a half-strength mixture of all-purpose soluble fertilizer. This weak fertilizer can be placed directly in the receptacle cups. Roots do not need to be fertilized as frequently. They will survive outside but must be protected from a frosty night. They can be brought inside for the winter and would benefit from a weekly misting of the leaves. They prefer rain water but a substitute of one teaspoon of Epsom salts to a gallon of tap water is a good substitute. The natural water reservoir formed in the rosette will provide the plant with a source of water. It is important not to over water your bromeliad.

The epiphytes bromeliads use their roots to hold on to wood or plant. And, the saxicolous species are found growing on rocks. These two species draw their nutrients from the air absorbing water and nutrients through tiny scales on their thick leaves. As with the terrestrials, the epiphytes and saxicolous can be placed outside, preferably in a protected location, but should be brought indoors when the temperatures dip during the winter months. A misting would be required when brought indoors. One can be creative when choosing a base for these plants. Consider an old log, dried grape vines or a piece of weathered driftwood. Attach the air plant with wire (but not copper wire), fishing line, twine, or clear craft epoxy. Use sphagnum moss to cover the attachment. Make sure water can drain quickly from the attached area. Air plants can also be attached to a long chain and hung from a tree or under a porch. Then to water, the entire chain can be dipped into a bucket of water.

One of the leading causes of death in bromeliads is root rot. Soil should be allowed to dry between watering. Insects are rarely a problem. Occasionally black pea scale appears and aphids sometimes attack the blooms. For scale, scrape off infected plants and wipe leaves with a cotton swab soaked in rubbing alcohol. For aphids, spray the flowers with insecticidal soap. Repeat as needed.

All bromeliads share a common characteristic: tiny scales on their leaves called trichomes. These scales serve as an efficient absorption system. In species found in desert regions where the air is hot and dry and the sun beats down, these scales also help the plant to reduce water loss and shield the plants from the solar radiation. These plants are so covered with scales that they appear silvery-white and feel fuzzy. On many species, especially in more humid areas, the scales are smaller and less noticeable. Sometimes the scales form patterns and banding on the leaves that add to the plant's beauty.

The pineapple is one of the more interesting bromeliads; not only because of the plant itself but also because of its social history and the symbol it has created throughout the human history of the Americas. For more information about the significance of the pineapple, check out this link: <http://www.levins.com/pineapple.html>

The following tips were provided from Jim Woolsey, owner of Jimbo's Nursery in Santa Fe, Texas, from *Creating the Tropical Look*, produced by Galveston County Master Gardeners.

### **JIM'S TIPS FOR GROWING BROMELIADS** - "They are the easiest plants in the nursery."

1. Bromeliads are easy to grow and do well in hanging pots or in pots on benches or plant stands.
2. Bromeliads planted in the ground require good air circulation to prevent scale and enough room to grow and develop pups.
3. Bromeliads do not grow well as house plants. Because they are found in the jungle, they will not survive with the low humidity indoors.
4. Feed with a 13-13-13, a slow-release fertilizer. Over fertilizing will brown the leaf edges.
5. Propagate with pups about 1/3 the size of the mother plant. Propagate small plants by pulling or cutting some of the lower leaves with a sharp knife dipped in insecticide. The insecticide helps moving scale from one plant to another.
6. Newly potted neoregelias will enjoy a burst of fertilizer in their new pots. Half a teaspoon per pup will produce lots of leaves and strong colors.
7. Petroleum-based products will kill bromeliads.

For the complete interview with Jim and more information about bromeliads and other tropicals, click here:

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/publications/Creating-the-Tropical-Look.pdf>

For more information about bromeliads and the Bromeliad Society International, click here: <http://www.bsi.org/>

# what is apiculture for bee-ginners?



By Deborah Rankin  
MG 2007

**It can be defined as the care & breeding of bees . . .**



If you are interested in biology, agriculture, entomology, or just plain spending time outdoors enjoying nature, beekeeping may be for you. Beekeeping a fascinating and rewarding hobby or career; beekeepers along with their colonies of honey bees serve an important role in agriculture.

There are many, many plants on Earth that require pollination to reproduce or be fruitful. Although honey bees are certainly not the only pollinators, they are the best known and most widely managed pollinators. Washington State University entomologist, Walter S. Sheppard, has called honey bees, “the most economically important insect in the world”.

Honey bees help produce one in every 3 bites of food we take by pollinating the plants that produce many of our fruits, nuts, vegetables, legumes, and livestock forages, as well as seed plants. Without the honey bees much of the food available to us currently would be greatly reduced in variety, numbers, and much more expensive to purchase in the supermarket.

Additionally, the honey bee hive is a smorgasbord of health products; it is the world's only source of honey and beeswax, and serves as a source of propolis, royal jelly, harvested pollen, and bee venom. Many of these products are being employed in the areas of wound care and a variety of other human ailments. For more information on this subject, check out - [www.apitherapy.com](http://www.apitherapy.com)

## SUCCESSFUL BEEKEEPING

Beekeeping can be approached in several different ways – as a hobby, a sideline, or on a commercial basis. Beekeeping attracts people from all walks of life from children to senior citizens. For the hobbyist, beekeeping can be a venture into natural science, which includes the reward of a hive or two of honey for the family table along with robustly producing gardens and fruit trees. Beekeeping can be an enjoyable experience for the entire family.

As a sideline, beekeeping can be an additional source of income from the sale of honey, other hive products, and pollination services. And a few of the more hard working individuals decide to make beekeeping a full-time career.

Like many hobbies or careers, individuals venturing into beekeeping have a “learning curve” to overcome. Beekeeping is a skill; it requires knowledge of honey bee biology, honey bee behavior, and hive management practices. How quickly you become proficient in beekeeping is directly related to the amount of time you are willing to dedicate to education. The successful beekeeper dedicates time to a combination of reading books, Internet resources, and magazines relating to beekeeping combined with “hands on” time working with the bees and extracting honey.

## GETTING STARTED

Understand the Fundamentals - Many people venture into beekeeping only to find it was not at all what they expected, so take some

time to understand the fundamentals required of successful beekeeping and then decide if beekeeping is for you.

For bee-ginners reading is an essential part of learning. There are many excellent beekeeping books and industry magazines on the market; each offers a wealth of information about honey bee breeds, honey bee society, beekeeping equipment and tools, protective clothing, supplemental feeding, honey bee pests and diseases, basics of the honey extraction process, etc.

## BASIC EQUIPMENT

Start with two hives, not one. Once you have gained knowledge and proficiency in beekeeping expanding the number of hives in your apiary beyond initial startup, if desired, will be much more successful.

Why two? Although it is certainly possible to start with one hive, two hives allows comparison between the productivity of the hives and provides resources to supplement brood and honey between the hives, if one is more productive than the other. After all, it is not as if you can run to the local market and buy frames of bee brood.

It is advisable to use natural components for your hives – woodenware and beeswax foundation. While there are other choices available beekeepers have reported mixed success with non-natural components, so, it is prudent to employ proven standards initially. There are also different styles of hives, but for the bee-ginner the Langstroth-style hive is the “gold standard”.

### IF EMPLOYING LANGSTROTH HIVES, EACH HIVE REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING:

- 1 hive stand or platform to keep the bottom board from coming in contact with the ground
- A bottom board (screened bottom boards provide more versatility and are particularly desirable in areas with hot summers)
- 2 deep hive bodies (10 frames each) with beeswax foundation (there are also 8 frame hives available, if weight is a problem for you consider the 8-frame hive body in lieu of the 10 frame hive)
- 1 queen excluder
- 1 inner cover
- 1 outer cover (with metal top)
- 1 entrance reducer
- 1 feeder (top feeders are more versatile)
- 2 shallow supers (10 frames each or 8 frames each) with beeswax foundation)

It is possible to purchase used hive components; however, UNLESS the equipment has been inspected and approved by the state Apiary Inspection Service to eliminate the possibility of disease transmission used equipment is not recommended for the bee-ginner.

As you become adept in beekeeping, and have a flair for carpentry, you may want to build your own beekeeping equipment from scratch.



## ... and is also known as "beekeeping".



### NON-HIVE ITEMS REQUIRED FOR THE BEEKEEPER:

- 1 bee brush
- 1 hive tool
- 1 frame grip (optional, but helpful)
- 1 bee smoker with smoker fuel
- 1 pair bee gloves
- 1 bee veil (or overalls with veil included)

Note: This does not include equipment you will require for honey extraction or beeswax processing. It is possible to mitigate extraction costs, if you can share equipment through membership in a local beekeepers association or through another beekeeper. If not you will need to purchase harvesting equipment.

### DECIDING WHERE TO LOCATE YOUR HIVES

Do not forget to check on any local or state regulations regarding keeping bees in your selected location. Otherwise, you may find yourself on the nasty end of a legal battle.

For bees to survive, much less make honey, they need pollen, nectar, and water. If there is not sufficient flora in variety, number, and different bloom periods in the area surrounding their hive (generally not more than a 2 mile radius), it will be difficult for your bees to survive much less make extra honey for the beekeeper.

Bees must have easy access to water. They use a lot of water for drinking, curing honey, and for cooling the hive during hot weather. The closer they are to a source of water, the less time they will spend transporting water rather than nectar and pollen.

Remember, no food, no water – no honey – NO bees!

For more information, read "[Locating and Setting Your Hive in Place](#)" in a future issue of the GCMG Magazine.

### ACQUIRING YOUR BEES

There are a number of methods to acquire bees for startup and I have listed them in order as to ease of startup for the bee-ginner:

Purchase an entire colony from a local beekeeper ( contains a queen, drones, workers, frames of honeycomb with brood, and some amount of honey stores for bees)

Purchase a "Nuc" also known as a hive nucleus (contains a queen, and several frames of foundation and accompanying worker bees – usually 3 to 5 frames)

Purchase a package of honey bees from a bee breeder (contains a queen and 3 lbs of worker bees only)

Catch your own swarm of honey bees or acquire one through a local beekeeper (contains a queen and some amount of worker bees)

While swarms are an option, keep in mind swarms are unknown entities – especially in areas known to be "Africanized". Swarms may carry diseases and/or pests that the bee-ginner may have difficulty dealing with effectively. It is wiser to acquire your bees from a breeder; the breeder should guarantee the health and quality of the

bees you purchase. Save catching and managing "feral bee swarms" for after you have gained some beekeeping experience.

### STARTUP TIME

The best time of year to begin new colonies (hives) is in the spring – April or May. If you plan to order bees from a commercial breeder, plan to do so in the fall of the year for startup the following spring to ensure you can get the bees. Otherwise, you run the risk of not being able to find available packages, nucs or colonies for sale when you need them.

Purchasing bees later than June adds the risk of your hives not having time to build up sufficiently to survive the winter – a loss for both you and the bees!

### IDENTIFY THE COSTS

With this basic understanding, proceed to the Internet and research the costs involved, so you can prepare a budget for your initial startup. Startup costs can range from \$600.00 to \$1,000.00 for one to two hives depending on the quality of equipment and bees purchased. This does not count harvesting equipment.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

For the first year, do not expect a return on your investment. It takes time for a colony to build in size and strength. Unless, you purchase an entire colony, year one is for colony "buildup" – honeycomb and brood.

Not all beekeeping ventures are successful in year one – do not be hesitant to try again if things do not go well in the first year. Every day in beekeeping provides learning opportunities.

Join a Beekeeping Association

No matter how many books you read on a subject, there is no substitute for "hands-on" experience. Once you have done your research, the next step is to join a good beekeeping association, so you will have access to on-going education, mentoring and networking with experienced beekeepers – all worth their weight in honey!

Joining an association may also provide the opportunity for you to work with an experienced beekeeper on his/her hives before you make the final decision to become a beekeeper yourself.





By Trish McDaniel  
MG 2001

## In Memoriam remembering a master gardener

*In memoriam to Donya's passing last month, we are republishing her interview from October 2006 as a tribute to her memory. We will always remember her enthusiasm and passion for entomology. As most of you know, her impressive entomology collection is well over 1,300 specimens. Donya will certainly be missed.*

### Donya Camp

*Donya Camp, MG Class 2005 - interviewed  
October 3, 2006*

Some gardeners save their magic for the back yard and some, like Donya Camp, MG Class of 2005, turn it loose at the curb, as was revealed after a short ride down Delany Road from Highway 6. Donya's passion for gardening is freely expressed in full sun and under tall oak and pecan trees where choice vignettes of color and texture surround the home and adjacent lot.

A circular bed in the front yard features a profusion of yellow purslane overflowing from the sides of a retired wheelbarrow. I pass through the white picket gate skirted with two Peruvian pavonia and step up under the awning of the arched front door. Donya and her four-legged crew welcomed me in from the incessant morning heat—another autumn day still owned by summer. While Donya fetches lemonade, the pups make sure I feel at home before finding their places around the easy chair in the living room.

Donya is a delight to behold. Throughout the interview she sits on the edge of her seat. Watching her bright eyes and big smile framed in the natural brilliance of her wild curly top is like looking at a sunburst. This tempered by her soft, rhythmic voice and talking hands, expresses perfectly her love of gardening. She speaks of her new passion, entomology, and of her deep respect and appreciation for Dr. Johnson and the MG program. And most exciting—she tells of her intention to enter the four-year entomology program at Texas A&M.

In methodical fashion, Donya shares well-worn reference books, the complete archives of her every purchase from the MG plant sale since 1998 and a peek at her petite though efficient entomology workstation. To her great pleasure, she has been given the responsibility to restore and expand the existing entomology collection at the Galveston County Extension Office and it's from here that new specimens are prepared and mounted. Donya tells me that sweeping for insects has become a part of her daily routine and to date she has collected over 500 species.

Donya was born in Port Arthur, soon after moving to the Kountze-Silsbee area, where she attended school, later moving to Beaumont, where she worked in retail management. It was there she met Dean. They were best friends for the first few years. This arrangement changed, however, (despite the ardent crush she had on his cousin, Donya laughs) after a home cooked spaghetti dinner paired with a bottle of Asti Spumante, upon Dean's return from the Marine Corp Reserve training in California.

Following their marriage in July 1987, Donya and Dean lived in Longview two years where Dean couldn't use his engineering degree and Donya missed the beach. They moved to Texas City in 1989, and bought their home in Hitchcock in July 1994. Dean, an engineer with Jacobs-Sverdrup and whose projects include the mechanical arm for the space shuttle, is also a terrific help in the garden according to Donya.

Donya, also enthused with her cottage-style home, speaks of pending home improvement projects. The charming house has a fairytale quality and undoubtedly served as inspiration for the surrounding gardens. Inside, unique built-in details are revealed in windows, doorways and cabinets. The theme carries on outdoors where handmade creations and found objects are discovered like Easter eggs throughout the numerous garden beds. It's fun to learn that this vibrant garden—which earned the Hitchcock's 2001 Yard of the Month—was created on a clean slate of property occupied by only four mature trees and a wild climbing lantana.

Donya's back yard is a lively composition of firecracker plants, dianthus, orange and yellow bulbine, lantana, Mexican heather, chenille, African baubins, purple cone flowers and chocolate plants. Nandina, black-eyed Susan and tropical cannas provide height in the flowerbeds. Towering angel trumpet and rose mallow grow by the garden gate. Stepping-stones make a path between the swing and water fountain. An antique stove now serving as an herb garden sits conveniently near the kitchen door. A marble slate-top table provides a sunny place to loll for Donya's cats when not busy



weaving about us as we troll the rest of the garden.

To the north of the house is a vast shade dappled lot. Here, Donya's creations of freeform beds float independent of one another like islands—a perfect showcase for her weakness of the unusual and unique. I especially enjoy her large selection of variegated specimens which include lantana, hydrangeas, treed-up pittosporum, hibiscus and abutilons. Bromeliad varieties from Arnold Ross's nestle in deep shady spots. An impressive assortment of ginger include white butterfly, pinecone and dancing lady. A small thicket of Cashmere Bouquet clerodendron towers over bridal wreath spirea.

The picture of Donya standing at the garden gate under a trestle of coral vine and giant red Mexican turks cap is taken at the south entrance of her garden. This moment turns out to be a serendipitous event with special significance to Donya. She explains that her family has similar compositions of her great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother and now this image shall be added to make a generational collection—a fitting tribute to love of family and gardening.

I thoroughly enjoyed the visit, and though short it was clear that Donya is a joyous, gifted soul who takes life as it presents itself—embracing what makes her happy and countering hardships with her valiant spirit.



# salad garden - edible theme gardening fun by the square foot - *fourth in series*

(Editor's Note: This graphic is republished with permission of The Greer Education Foundation)



By Camille Goodwin  
MG 2008

## Salad Garden

Vegetables, fruits and even edible flowers are grown in this colorful salad garden!

With the heat of summer upon us, salads provide light refreshing meals and relief from cooking repasts that heat up our kitchens. Many of us plant various types of vegetables in boxes and rows. The Square Foot Gardening technique offers a compact and orderly way to replace harvested crops with new plantings for continuous reaping. Our Gulf Coast region allows for vegetable gardens virtually year-round. This month's salad design theme plan provides tips and ideas for types of salad vegetables to plant along with edible flowers and melons. If you like spicy salads add a hot pepper plant or two.

To keep your salad garden going in the hot days ahead, side dress with compost, water deeply, provide a deep layer of mulch and provide shade during the hottest part of the day. An old sheet strung on poles will help keep the blistering sun off the garden. When your summer garden has concluded, begin planning your cool season square foot salad garden!

### Gardening Tips:

Cool crops, such as lettuce, radish and beets, enjoy shaded areas while fruits and fruiting vegetables (i.e. melon and tomatoes) require a lot of sunshine. Be sure to include a trellis behind your cucumber plants – they are vining vegetables that require vertical support.

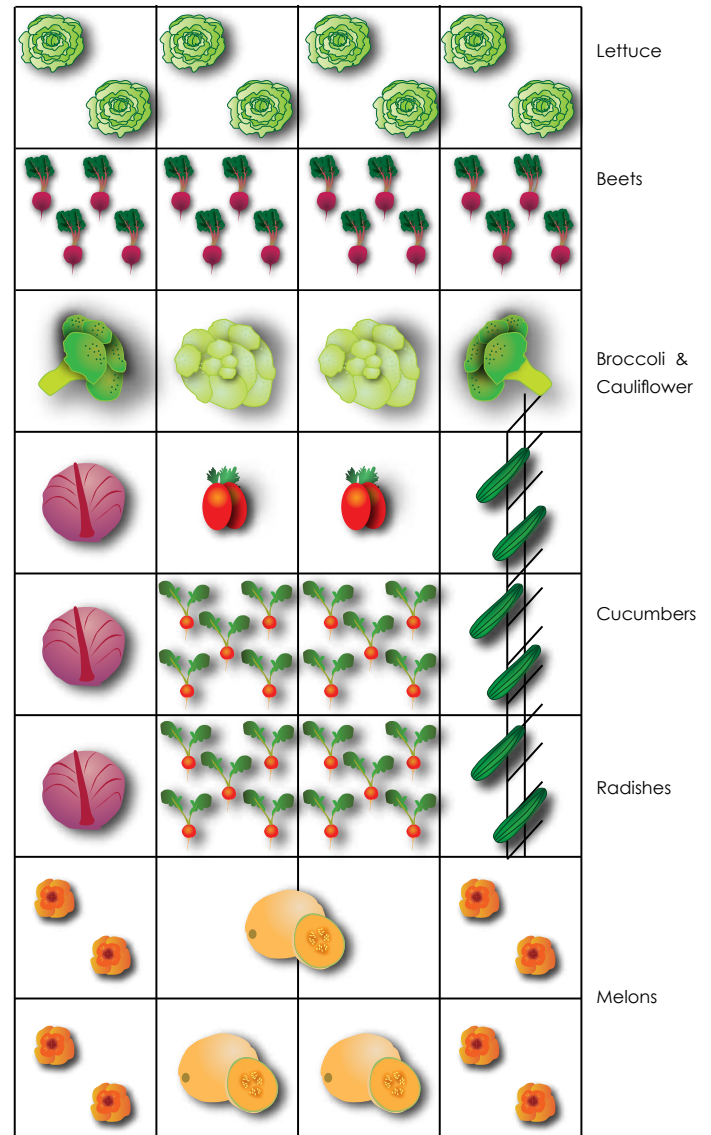
### Plant List:

- 8 lettuce (seed)
- 16 beets (seed)
- 2 broccoli (transplant)
- 2 cauliflower (transplant)
- 2 cherry tomato (transplant)
- 3 red cabbage (transplant)
- 3 zucchini (transplant)
- 20 radish (seed)
- 8 nasturtium (seed)
- 4 melons (transplant)

Red Cabbage

Cherry Tomatoes

Nasturtium



Key: 1 inch square = 1 foot



## How to grow those great big healthy roses: What you should be doing in June



Carefree Beauty

by John Jons  
MG 2003

*Throughout the year I get questions on "what should I be doing to my roses, now?" So, to help answer these questions, I have drafted a collection of monthly articles for our newsletter that will highlight what you should be doing to your roses over the coming month.*

**T**he summer has started to arrive. Most roses should be on their second flush of blooms. The increasing heat will start to cause the roses to slow down in producing blooms and the blooms will start to be smaller. Roses that flower only once a year will probably have finished their bloom cycle by now and you will just have a green thorny bush. Here is a list of things you should be doing in June.

**Fungicide and Insecticide Spray Program:** If you have problems use a curative product. If you do not have problems, use a preventative product. Due to the warm humid days, black spot has now started to appear. If the particular rose variety is highly susceptible to black spot or you have it planted in a location that has limited air movement and sun, and you do not spray, the black spot could defoliate your rose. Most roses will recover and grow leaves and put on blooms again. If the cycle of disease continues it may eventually kill the rose. Every rose is susceptible to black spot – some are more susceptible than others. High humidity and rain may cause heavily-petalled roses to experience Botrytis damage. Botrytis turns the bloom brown, often preventing them from opening. The bloom will eventually rot and fall off the plant and be replaced with new blooms. Only spray for insects if it's a problem that you cannot tolerate.

**Fertilizing:** Use a good granular fertilizer. Also consider using organics - they are slow acting but effective. Water after fertilizing. You can fertilize roses with a granular every month and a good quality rose will reward you with growth and blooms but be careful not to over-fertilize.

**Water:** Water per your roses' needs. Container roses need extra care during the summer months as they are more likely to dry out. You can help conserve water by having a mulch 3-4" deep.

### Rose Display Garden Update

This bed displays different types and varieties of roses. We are experimenting with a no-spray approach and testing the impact of different rootstocks.

We had some blackspot damage to the more susceptible roses. The Earth-Kind™ roses were relatively unaffected. All the multi-petalled roses suffered from varying degrees from Botrytis. There is no noticeable insect damage on the roses. Most of the roses are beginning or experiencing their second flush of blooms.

### UTMB at Galveston

#### Earth Day Celebration - April, 2012 by Mary Lou Kelso

UTMB Earth Day was chaired by UTMB employee and MG Ken Steblein. It was held on April 26, 2012 on the campus by Moody Medical Library. The Galveston County Master Gardeners again lent their support with an information booth and also giving out sunflower seedlings.

Preparation for this event actually began on the first day of the new Master Gardener Intern Class when over 2/3 of the 2012 interns signed up to volunteer for this event!

Since the Interns took on the responsibility of planting the sunflower seedlings for Ken, we met a few hours before class around the end of March on the backporch of the Extension Office.

Astonishing to say with all the enthusiasm of the Intern class, we were through within 45 minutes potting up 500 cups. They were then ready to go home with the respective Interns to take charge of getting them to grow! There was a little adversity with many of the seedling not growing well but the Interns did not waiver with many going out to buy new seeds, etc., etc. This 2012 Intern class handled this project so positively in spite of "those difficult to grow sunflower seeds!"

Along with the Interns, at least six senior Master Gardeners helped and we all had a great day with answering questions and handing out client information sheets...along with the sunflower seedlings. UTMB provided a fun-filled day for us with different programs taking place like the noontime UTMB women fashion show where several made outfits out of recycling items...namely, print cartridges, recycling bags, etc. There were many zany outfits constructed by the models!

We all enjoyed the cool treats of fruit bars, fresh fruit, popcorn, etc. that UTMB provided.



By Mary Lou Kelso  
MG 2000





# Seasonal Bites



By Karen Cureton  
MG 2008

**A**re you harvesting squash, peppers, tomatoes, and storing those onions you grew. Here is a recipe that is a snap to put together and tastes delicious.



Veggies Before

### SQUASH GRATINEE



Veggies After

4 medium yellow squash sliced thinly  
3 medium zucchini squash sliced thinly  
1 onion sliced medium  
1 small red onion sliced thin  
peppers to equal 1/2 cup (any variety you like) sliced thin  
olive oil (approx. 2 Tbsp)

1 clove of garlic minced  
2 tomatoes sliced medium  
salt and pepper to taste  
1/3 cup finely grated parmesan or gruyere cheese  
2 tsp of Italian seasoning  
fresh basil

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spray casserole dish with cooking spray.

Heat sauté pan with 1 Tbsp of oil. Sauté onions and garlic until lightly browned. Layer the squash, peppers and onions in the casserole sprinkling with the herbs, cheese, salt and pepper as you go. Top with the tomatoes. Drizzle some olive oil over the top. Sprinkle additional herbs, some peppers, and the cheese on top. Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes until tender. Uncover and bake until lightly browned on top. Top with fresh basil and serve.

## Upcoming Events

(Please be sure to register for the programs you want to attend. Accurate attendance counts are needed so that program materials may be on hand for attendees.)

### Saturday Seminars

June 9, 2012	"Tomato & Pepper Eval.& Tasting" - MG Terry Cuculis & Gene Speller	9:00 - 1:30 - Extension Office
Various varieties of homegrown and heirloom tomatoes, sweet and hot peppers, grown and provided by Master Gardeners will be made available for tasting, comparing, and evaluating. Come taste and share information about this year's season and harvest. Note that the general public is also invited to bring in their peppers and tomatoes for taste comparisons as well.		
Aug 11, 2012	"Fall Vegetable Gardening" - MG Luke Stripling	9:00 - 11:00 am - Extension Office
Aug 25, 2012	"Growing Onions and Garlic" - MG Sam Scarcella	9:00 - 11:00 am - Extension Office
Sep 15, 2012	"Square Foot Gardening" - MG John Jons	9:00 - Noon - Extension Office
Sep 15, 2012	"Kitchen Gardening" - MG Mary Demeny	1:00 - 3:00 pm - Extension Office
Sep 22, 2012	"T-Bud Grafting" - MG Herman Auer	9:00 - 11:00 am - Extension Office



by Sandra Devall  
MG 1998

**Q**uestion: I enjoy doing volunteer work for Master Gardeners, but what a bother to write down my hours!

*First of all, come on now, how hard it is to do anyway?* There is a crew of people to help you. They will take care of them if you want to handwrite them, work with you if you can't open your file, save it or send it, give you some ideas on simple ways to keep up with it and all this because Galveston County Master Gardeners give more hours to this community than any of the big counties, including Harris County.

*All that said, there is a practical reason.* When Dr. Johnson turns in the yearly report to the state this information is on the first page and it is important. If you think this is about politics, you are right.

*Things have change for Master Gardener groups across the United States in the last five years.* There are some groups (one of the first MG groups in the US, as a matter of fact) that no longer exists. County governments and land grant colleges funding is decreasing. Both support MG programs. From the 'County' side that means a building, computers, copy room and mailings, some salaries, electricity and water to name a few. As far as the 'college' side goes, they fund the rest of the salaries, send us valued people for our trainings, for some of our programs and serve as the 'source' for valid answers to horticulture.

*Now when do they check the totals.* Well, we have never had an audit, but I have also never had an audit on my income taxes, but that doesn't mean I don't try to keep every record that I can find! Those totals are sent into both agencies on a regular basis and are sometimes requested at a moment's notice.

**Q**uestion: Is there an easy way to keep my hours?

- Find a partner who does the same things that you do and talk them into keeping their log and you can just change the name on it and make a few changes (add or subtract a few entries)
- Fill it out every time you receive a Monthly Magazine. The monthly meetings are listed on the last page of the magazine and the educational classes are listed inside.
- Keep it Simple. If you are trying to write too much on each entry, Wayne will get bogged down trying to read them all! Remember all we need to know is where this took place: as in 'Office', Garden – when it is at Carbide Park or Galveston, Houston – when it is at another location; what it was: as it gardening, presentation (and it's name and the organization it is supporting)
- Use "Copy/Paste". If there is a favorite thing that you do all the time, copy and paste it down your sheet, then all you have to do is sit down with a calendar and find the dates.
- Fill it out quarterly. You will always get an interesting email from Margaret Canavan at the end of each quarter – don't throw it away till you fill out your log!
- Go to the convention. One time at the convention will take care of all your requirements, but you do have to turn it in.
- Work at two plant sales and its presentation. You can easily get your 12 work hours from the plant sale and the presentation already gives you two educational hours.
- Write it in your calendar. Whether you keep a sophisticated on-line calendar or one of those pocket ones from the Dollar Tree ---Write it down --- you know you're not going to remember it.
- Keep your log on a handwritten form. Did you know that [mghours@wt.net](mailto:mghours@wt.net) can mail you a set of logs for handwriting. So if you write legibly, you can just total each page yourself and bring it in.
- Harass those who are not keeping a log. You know who they are.

## MEETING MINUTES MAY MGA MEETING (2012)



**T**he May 8, 2012 meeting of the GCMGA was called to order by President, Jim Edwards. Jim thanked Karen and Tom Martin for graciously using their home and garden.

Clyde Holt stated that there was two raised beds available at the Demonstration Garden and if anyone was interested to contact him.

The 2013 State MG meeting will be held in McAllen, TX and Jim commented that perhaps a chartered bus would be used.

Electricity is now available at the Demonstration Gardens at Carbide Park.

Alyssa Rasmussen gave the blessing and dinner was enjoyed in spite of a steady light rain.



By Mary Lou Kelso  
MG 2000

# Project: Demonstration Gardens

## Carbide Park



By Sandra Gervias  
MG Intern 2011

Photos by Ira Gervias, & Tom Fountain

Thanks to the mild winter, spring has already come and gone at Carbide Park. The ground warmed up quickly and some of the seeds and plants that were bursting to get going are already being harvested.

Fresh tomatoes are being enjoyed, especially those from beds that used Sam Scarcella's special fertilizer mix. These include well-known tomato varieties such as "Celebrity", "Early Girl" and "Big Boy."

Other veggies showing up at the Master Gardeners lunch for the workers include different varieties of onions, cucumbers and green beans. New ideas being tried include planting potatoes on the sides of the rows and then burying the stems as they grew. This should allow the plant to form more potatoes along the longer root system. Time will tell.

The various squash varieties are climbing up the pretty double ladder trellises, adding another architectural touch to the lush green beds. They partner well with the details of the central pergola which is still showcasing a wide variety of blooming roses, both climbers such as "Don Juan" and shrubs such as "Carefree Beauty." And fruit trees and bushes are getting heavy with fruit after giving a glorious show of blooms a few weeks earlier. The "Tropic Snow" peach variety once again is proving how happy it is to be in Galveston County.

While the gardens show off, work continues. The pole barn is getting closer to completion, and the Master Gardeners building now has electricity. Skilled carpenter Henry Har-

rison is leading the work on redoing the individual beds that have rotted.

Master Gardeners manned the orchards at Carbide Park and other orchards for the annual public tour in mid-May.

But there were other visitors to Carbide Park, some more welcome than others. Peter Rabbit decided he liked the Carbide all-you-can-eat buffet. Hopefully he'll end up outside the fence before he ends up in a stew!

More welcome were the visitors from the Fort Bend County Master Gardener Program on May 17. About thirteen members came and toured the gardens, visited, asked questions and then had a barbeque lunch with those working the beds at Carbide Park that day. A tip of the spatula to "Chef Ira" for making sure that everyone had enough to eat and enjoyed the chance to visit.



New Raised Beds



Sam Scarcella's Tomatoes



Pole Barn Closer to Completion



Ladder Trellises



Another Typical Work Day



Tropic Snow Peaches



Peter Rabbit enjoying the buffet



Chef Ira



Luke Stripling with Ft. Bend County Master Gardener Coordinator Margo McDowell



Overview of the Gardens



Happy Birthday Wes



## other local & state gardening events

**H**ey everybody! Did you know there are lots of other opportunities to learn? Here are some of the non-Master Gardener events coming up. There is something for everyone.



by Yvonne Enos  
MG 2008

**Gardeners by the Bay Garden Club** hold monthly meetings. Members of this association strive to meet the challenges of successful gardening on the Upper Texas Gulf Coast while also focusing on environmental conservation and recycling. <http://gbtb.org/>

**Arborgate Nursery** showcases the best in perennials, herbs, roses and native plants. They have many great programs each Saturday. Only 6 more through August. Check their website for more information <http://www.arborgate.com/classes.php>

**Native Plant Society** or NPSOT has been established to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and plant habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example. Their annual Fall Symposium will be in Kerrville on October 5 – 7. Headquarters will be the historic YO Ranch Motel and the theme will be the changing landscape of the Hill Country. More details will be coming soon. Go to <http://npsot.org/>

**Galveston Orchid Society** strives to stimulate interest and educate the public in orchids, their cultivation, conservation and culture through the presentation of lectures, exhibits, workshops and similar study groups. The GOS currently holds a show every 18 months at the Nessler Community Center and their next monthly meeting is in the Alamo room. See their link <http://www.galvestonorchidsociety.org/>

Bonsai is a rewarding and fulfilling pursuit that can provide many years of artistic expression, a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, camaraderie with other practitioners, and can teach patience, love of nature, and calmness of mind. **The Houston Bonsai Society** meets regularly in the Houston Garden Center on Herman Drive. If any of you are interested see <http://www.houstonbonsai.com/>

**Houston Cactus and Succulent Society** is a group of people interested in the study, cultivation, conservation, and just plain enjoyment of desert plants. Monthly meetings are located at the Houston Garden Center on Herman Drive. For more, please see <http://www.hcsstex.org/>

**Houston Rose Society**, a local chapter of the American Rose Society, exists to promote the culture and appreciation of the rose, through education and research, to members, to local rose societies and their members, and to the public. They hold a regular monthly

meeting in the Garden Center in Hermann Park. Admission is free. For more information go to <http://www.houstonrose.org/>

If you are interested in knowing more about the **Gulf Coast Fruit Study Group**, check them out. It is a chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers. The membership includes fruit enthusiasts from around the world, with collective experience growing everything from familiar fruits to the exotic and rare. Their regular meetings are located at the Texas Agrilife Extension Service building located in Bear Creek. On June 21, Dr. Bob Randall will present a program on figs. Their website address is <http://gcfsg.weebly.com>

**Mercer Arboretum** holds several popular events and programs annually. They will hold their Summer Symposium Saturday, July 28, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This symposium and sale, held the fourth Saturday in July, features speakers throughout the day and various plant groups each year such as tropicals, ginger orchids, ferns, and other local favorite plants that thrive with heat and humidity. For more information see <http://www.hcp4.net/mercercp4.net/programs/index.htm>

The **African Violet Society of America** is a worldwide organization dedicated to the distribution of information, and stimulating interest with African Violets. For more information see <http://www.avsa.org/events/spring-branch-african-violet-club>.

**Houston Hemerocallis & Houston Area Daylily Society** - You will find friends in the local clubs who share your enthusiasm for daylilies and who will probably share some daylilies with you when they divide. They have a great group of people who are anxious to help newcomers learn more about their favorite flower. North Texas Daylily society will hold their flower show at the Fort Worth Arboretum on June 2, the Daylily Growers of Dallas will hold their flower show on June 3 at the Dallas Arboretum, and Johnson County Iris & Daylily Society will have their Educational Daylily Display located at the McGregor House Cleburne, Texas on June 9. <http://www.ahsregion6.org/calendar.htm>

**Dickinson Backyard Garden Tour** Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 10AM to 4PM. Tickets are available at the Dickinson Railroad Depot, 218 FM 517, West in Dickinson.

## Galveston's "Top Ten" by John Jons

**W**hat are the ten best - you name it - plants (tomatoes, palms, roses, onions, vegetables, citrus, hibiscus, peaches, landscape plants, trees, shrubs, ...) for growing in Galveston County? Other than in the presentations of some Galveston Master Gardeners, no listings exist. If a Galveston resident was to ask one of us - "what are the (ten) best plants (tomatoes, palms, roses, onions, vegetables, citrus, ...)?" We would probably have to track down the local Galveston Master Gardener expert on that particular plant variety to try to get this info (and they may not have a list). So what I am going to try to do, is to compile a listing of Galveston's "ten best" plant listings. There may not be ten best for some plant varieties. I need your help. If you have a suggested "ten best" listing would you please email it to me at 4015w@att.net? I will compile the listing and work with Linda to publish these plant "ten best" listings in our newsletter and make them available to the public.

# bulletin board

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Phone Lines:** Master Gardeners are always needed to answer the public's questions. This is done at the Extension Office and time slots are available for every day of the week. Contact Laura Bellmore at <galv3@wt.net> or 281-534-3413, ext 1-2, or Laurel Stine, ext 1-6 or <gcmgs@wt.net>. See your last e-Dirt newsletter for more details regarding volunteer opportunities.

Program VPs Yvonne Enos and Herman Auer are asking for volunteers to host backyard meetings. You may contact Yvonne at VJEnos@comcast.net or Herman Auer at hauersrmga@comcast.net. Please volunteer.

## IMAGE SEEKERS

**Image Seekers** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Extension Office at Carbide Park. This photography group is open to all Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists for fun, learning and practice of photography. Pictures are submitted to the MG/MN database for use in publications and lectures.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**The International Master Gardener Conference** will be held September 7-14 on board a Holland America Cruise Ship. It will depart from Seattle and sail to places like Glacier Bay, Sitka, Ketchikan, and Vancouver. It will return to Seattle on the 14th of September. See the Texas Master Gardener Website under future events for information on this.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGS

To report volunteer hours send your log sheets to <mghours@wt.net>.

## GARDEN TEAM SCHEDULE

The gardens around the Extension Office are maintained under the team leadership of Peggy Budny who may be contacted at 281-334-7997 or e-mail her at <fmbmab@verizon.net>.

Come out and have a good time while learning more about ornamentals. Peggy's team meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month at 9:00 a.m.

Volunteer at the Demonstration and Research Garden at Carbide Park at 4102 Main St., La Marque. This can involve planning, planting, weeding, construction, and orchard upkeep. Contacts are James C. Edwards <jcejwe@msn.com>, Clyde Holt (vegetable beds) <cmholt11@comcast.net> and Julie Cartmill (orchards) <pcartmill@comcast.net>. The Work Teams meet every Thursday morning. Go out and lend a hand.

## SPECIALIST & OTHER MG RELATED TRAINING

Please see the Texas Master Gardeners Website for details. <http://www.texasmastergardeners.com>. You may download the application forms from that website. Note that all applications for the Specialist Training courses must be approved by Dr. William Johnson. **Note that fees do not include lodging or food unless specified otherwise.**

**MG Specialist-Composter Training.** Class III. Date: June 13, 2012- June 15, 2012. Place: San Antonio Botanical Gardens at 555 Funston Place in San Antonio, TX 78209. Ph# 210-467-6575. Fee is \$225.00. Form may be downloaded from the TMGA website.

**MG Specialist-FireWise Landscape Specialist - Fayette County.** Date June 29-30, 2012. Place Fayette County Agriculture Bldg., 255 Svoboda Lane, La Grange, TX 78945. Ph# 979-968-5831. Registration Fee is \$150.00 and must be received by June 11, 2012. Contact Carol Daniels with any questions at 979-247-4260 or e-mail her at bmgavolunteer@gmail.com.

**MG Specialist-FireWise Landscape Specialist - Kerr County.** Date June 22-23, 2012. Place: Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Kerr County, Kerrville, TX. Fee is \$180.00 and should be received by them by June 11, 2012.

**Rain Water Harvesting.** Date July 19-20, 2012. Place: W.J. Bill Rankin Agricultural Complex at Blinn College. 1409 Old Mill Creek Rd., Brenham, TX. Ph# 979-732-2082. Registration fee is \$225.00 due by June 15, 2012. For more information contact Kara Matheney at 970-932-2082 or by e-mail at kmatheney@ag.tamu.edu.

**EARTH-KIND TRAINING FOR MASTER GARDENERS** — Texas Master Gardeners may select on-line modules to obtain up to 3 hours of re-certification education credits in a calendar year. Each module is worth 1 hour of credit. Master Gardeners are not encouraged to seek re-certification credit for training modules they have completed in previous years.

**LANDSCAPE DESIGN STUDY COURSES** — These courses provide an opportunity for more in-depth training in landscape design than is normally included in the Master Gardener curriculum. Each course is typically approved by local Master Gardener chapters to qualify for 12 hours of continuing education toward maintaining certification for Master Gardeners. Please see the TMGA website under training for more information. The next course will be held September 26-27, 2012. They are generally 6 months apart.

**MGTV-TEXAS** — The goal of MGTV Texas is to train MG volunteers in the use of these tools to assist in supporting County, Regional and State Extension educational programs. As the number of trained volunteers increases, we will soon have a network of web communicators, sharing information on key programs and activities throughout Texas and beyond.

**CENTRA** — To see a listing of public events available for video playback on AgriLife Extension's Centra Symposium, on the Centra page select "Public Events" (top left) and in the search box type "Master Gardener".

# the last word . . .

## FLOWER COLOR INFLUENCES HUMAN MOOD

*(Editor's Note: This article is a reprint of Dr. Johnson's Weekly Gardening Column in The Galveston County Daily News)*

*Photo by GCMGA*



*By Dr. William M. Johnson  
CEA-HORT & MG  
Program Coordinator*

I had the opportunity to visit some delightful Galveston gardens during last weekend's annual Backyard Garden Tour. While I was interested in the landscape plants, I was particularly interested in observing how other visitors were drawn to certain color beds.

I later remembered reading a study conducted by Dr. Roger Ulrich, a professor of landscape architecture at Texas A&M University. His research was the first to scientifically document the stress-reducing and health-related benefits for hospital patients of viewing nature. Ulrich's studies showed that when flowers were visible to hospital patients, their need for pain medication decreased, their stress levels dropped and their stay in the hospital was marked with increased optimism.

While my professional training is in the plant sciences, I find it intriguing how different colors and textures of flowers and plants also can influence the human mood and perception. Most people like a bright, colorful landscape, but did you know that you can use the colors of flowers and plants to create a mood, shorten or lengthen the look of a garden or really call attention to a special feature? It's possible because of the way we perceive colors.

### Hey Look Me Over!

Red and yellow are two colors that immediately capture our attention. Behavioral scientists tell us we actually see these two colors faster than others. Our eyes are drawn to displays

of red or yellow, so they are excellent choices to put around a fountain or to plant in a key area that you want people to see.

Likewise, if you have something in your garden you don't want people to look at, plant bright yellow flowers opposite that area to draw attention away from it. Ideally, they will look at the yellow flowers and turn their backs on whatever eyesore it is you want to hide.

If you have steps leading to your garden or in your garden, consider planting a border of yellow flowers next to them. The yellow will catch people's eyes and alert them in an attractive way that there are steps, and they should be careful.

Is your garden area long and narrow, and would you like to square it off a little with minimal effort? Plant lots of bright red flowers at the far end, and this will visually pull that end in closer and it won't seem so long and narrow. This can be done with anything you want to bring closer, because red "advances" visually.

Masses of red or yellow are guaranteed attention-getters and will not go unnoticed. And, by the way, men tend to favor yellow-based reds (like scarlet), while women tend to favor blue-based reds (like burgundy). If you and your spouse don't agree on what "red" to plant, this could be why.

### Crisp And Clean

If you are the type of person who likes things neat, tidy and precise, white is the color for you. We think of doctors in their white coats and labora-

tories with white walls and equipment because we associate this color in our environment with cleanliness, orderliness and precision.

Crisp flower beds or border plantings of white will give your garden a well-planned and orderly look. But don't expect the color alone to do all the work — you still will need to tend to your garden.

Masses of white can be hard on the eyes, so you might want to include areas of other colors as well.

White is also the last color to fade from sight as darkness falls so it's a good choice for areas you want to look at in the evening and also a good choice for bordering pathways since you can follow your way easier even as it gets dark.

### Keeping Your Cool

When our field of vision is filled with blue, our bodies actually slow down, and we begin to get calmer. You can use this attribute of blue to create a feeling of coolness even in a full-sun garden by planting lots

of blue flowers (lighter blues are better than dark blues).

Even if it's 95 degrees, you'll feel cooler in the blue area of your garden.

### Let The Good Times Roll

What if you like lots of different colors mixed in among each other? That's great. Mixes of bright colors give a happy festive look to an area.

Mix different flowers, different colors and different textures to your heart's delight, but just be careful not to overdo it. Too much mixing can look more disorganized than festive, so using three or four colors again and again can help tie the look together.

If you haven't thought about the psychological effects of color before, these tips might give you a starting point for creating not only the look you want in your garden but also the feel you want as well.





Program VPs Yvonne Enos and Herman Auer are asking for volunteers to [host backyard meetings](#). You may contact Yvonne at [VJEnos@comcast.net](mailto:VJEnos@comcast.net) or Herman Auer at [hauersrmga@comcast.net](mailto:hauersrmga@comcast.net). Please volunteer.

# 2012 MGA MONTHLY MEETINGS

## January 28, 2012 (Saturday)

Heidi Sheesley - TreeSearch Farms  
Pre-Fruit Tree Sale Presentation  
9:00 am - Extension Office  
La Marque

## February 10, 2012

Landscape Design by MG Karen Lehr  
Friday - 9:30 am - 12 Noon - Extension Office  
La Marque

## March 13, 2012

A combined March & April meeting  
will be held. See April Meeting Date

## April 10, 2012

Pam & Mile Gilbert - Backyard Meeting  
1601 Ball Street  
Galveston Island

## May 8, 2012

Karen & Tom Morris - Backyard Meeting  
5:30 pm - 2910 Bayshore  
Bacliff

## June 12, 2011

Graduation at Mikey and Allen Isbell's  
7:00 pm - 1715 - 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Galveston Island

## July 10, 2012

Meeting at Extension Office  
4:00 pm - 4102 B Main St  
Carbode Park - La Marque

## August 21, 2012 NOTICE CHANGE IN DATE

Moody Gardens  
Time TBA  
Galveston Island

## September 11, 2012

TBA

## October 9, 2012

B.J. Logan - Backyard Meeting  
Jamaica Beach

## November 13, 2012

Annual Meeting, Election of GCMGA Officers  
7:00 pm - Extension Office at Carbide Park  
La Marque

## December 11, 2012

Holiday Meeting - Mikey and Allen Isbell  
6:00 pm - 1715 - 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Galveston Island



## 2012 Master Gardener

Graduation, Certification & Recognition  
Program and MG Reunion  
Tuesday, June 12

**Arrival Time** 7:00 pm  
**Program** starts at 7:30 pm  
in the home and garden of  
**Mikey & Allen Isbell**

**1715 - 35th Street**  
**Galveston Island**

**Bring**  
Pot Luck Dish  
Spouse and/or Guests  
Dress is casual

**Directions** Take I-45 South to Galveston Island, which turns into Broadway soon after 61st.  
Turn right on 35th Street - house on right between Avenue O and O-1/2.