

THE GALVESTON COUNTY Master Gardeners

Issue 185 - June/July 2013

Cardoon - A Striking Architectural Looking Plant

the culinary value lies in its stems- page 5



2013 MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

President
Jim Edwards

VP for Programs
Chris Anastas, Penny Bessire, Robert Marshall

VP for Projects
Julie Cartmill, Clyde Holt, Bobbie Ivey & Tish Reustle

VP for Volunteer Development
Peggy Budny & Laurel Stine

VP for Media Relations
Ira Gervais

Secretary
**Cindy Croft
Mary Lou Kelso**

Treasurer
Wes Ruzek

Newsletter Editor
Linda Steber

Master IT Specialist
Gregory Werth

Demonstration Gardens Team Leaders
**Peggy Budny; Jackie Auer,
Bobbie Ivey, Julie Cartmill, Clyde Holt & Tish Reustle**

MG Intern Course Committee
**Peggy Budny, Bob & Jo McPherson,
Yvonne Enos & Lizette Gaudin**

Hospitality Coordinators
**Lori & Keith Boydston, Dr. Carroll
& Marsha Lassiter & Donna Ward**

Speakers Bureau Coordinator
Cindy Croft

MG Volunteers Hour Recorder
**Wayne Elliott, Denice Franke &
Dr. Margaret Canavan**

Jr. Master Gardener Programs Liaison
Barbara White

Earth-Kind Study Coordinator
John Jons

Photography Team Leaders
Herman Auer & Deborah Repasz

Videographers
Barbara Hankins

Image Seekers Coordinator
Scott Buclel & Helle Brown

State Association Delegates
Terry & Velda Cuchis

State Association Delegate Alternates
Julie Cartmill & Jim Edwards

Grants & Inkind Support Coordinator
Frank Jackson

Webmaster
Laura Bellmore

Advisor
Dr. William M. Johnson

Board of Directors
**John Jons
Camille Goodwin
Dick Carter
Frank Resch
Ken Steblein**

*"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June."
- Al Bernstein*



*By Camille Goodwin
MG 2008*

I was recently thinking how lucky we'd gotten this past spring with the relatively nice temperatures in our region. Then my husband and I took a (too) short vacation to Italy and returned home to the hot, humid Gulf Coast that I so know and love—ugh! As soon as you hit the exit door of the airplane you know you're in the Gulf Coast region—where the Gulf sometimes comes to you! In my travels, I saw many lovely terraced and formal gardens, vineyards, farms and olive and peach trees in the Tuscan landscape, but I really missed my own gardens while I was away. They must have missed me too, as they seem to have conspired to turn into an overgrown jungle while I was gone.

Everything looked lush like it does in late summer but not late spring. However, my daylilies, coreopsis, roses, agapanthus, hibiscus, cannas, verbena, copper canyon daisy, whirling butterflies, jasmine and salvias are bursting with colorful blooms; and nothing says summer is almost here like the smell of gardenias and magnolias coming from my backyard. This is also the first year that I have peaches on a Tropic Snow peach tree that I purchased at one of our GCMG fruit tree sales several years ago and I may get some blueberries if the squirrels and birds are nice to me.

It's refreshing and peaceful to be greeted by the potential and promise in my gardens at this time of year. It makes me happy to walk through my yard (except for the trimming, mowing and particularly, removing the debris, necessities calling to me). It seems like I just finished cleaning up the gardens from winter.

This edition of our newsletter brings several educational articles to help us get ready for summer. The Q&As this month (pages 4 & 5) offer tips for maintaining healthy turf grasses popular in our area and describes the Cardoon, a plant you might want to add to your garden. Chris LaChance, WaterSmart Program Coordinator, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, tells us ways to water more efficiently to retain moisture and limit runoff in our landscapes (page 6).

Pat Forke has written a great article on the Monarch butterfly that we all love and need to protect. Learn something new about their migration on page 7. On page 8 Donna Ward tells us of the acorn calamity in her yard and offers additional advice on preparing for the coming heat of summer. Jan Brick shares some tips on a topic whose time has come (I think), on how to add more chocolate to our landscapes—you can never have enough chocolate! See some options you may not have thought about on page 9. I can see this idea as a theme garden in my yard.

Our Best Shots piece this month provides thoughts and photos on those plants that we love and hate (pages 10-11). Please enjoy Sandra Devall's article on gardening mistakes on page 12. Anna Wygrys' article on page 13, gives some ideas to help us control weeds in our landscapes, a perpetual job that is never done. Dr. Johnson remembers MG Sam Scarcella (Class of 1986) on page 14.

Don't miss the Tom Fountain's Carbide Park update on page 16, where there is always a lot happening. The Seasonal Bites Recipe, page 15, from Gloria Johnson features a Tropical Fruit Salsa, that can be used in many ways. Links to our monthly calendar video appear on page 14.

As usual, remember to check the calendars, bulletin boards and upcoming events sections for updates to events and volunteer needs in our area.



Copper Canyon Daisy by MG Linda Steber

Inside This Issue...

- 2 *Intro* by Camille Goodwin
- 3 *How to Reach Us*
- 4 *Ask a Master Gardener Q&A: Turf Grass Mowing Heights* by Kaye Corey
- 5 *Ask a Master Gardener Q&A: The Cardoon* by Karen Cureton
- 6 *Keeping the Water Where It Falls* by Chris LaChance
- 7 *Flight of the Butterflies* by Pat Forke
- 8 *Trowels and Tribulations* by Donna Ward
- 9 *The Island Garden - Mm, Mm Chocolate* by Jan Brick
- 10 *MG Best Shots & Narrative - Plants We Love and Hate* by Sandra Devall
- 12 *Learning from my Gardening Mistakes* by Sandra Devall
- 13 *Ten Commandments for Smart Weed Control* by Anna Wygrys
- 14 *Gardening Calendar - June-July* by Jenifer Leonpacher & Gregory Werth
- 14 *In Memoriam - MG Sam Scarcella* by Dr. William M. Johnson
- 15 *Seasonal Bites* - by Karen Cureton
- 15 *Upcoming Events* by Karen Cureton
- 16 *Project: Demonstration Gardens* by Tom Fountain
- 17 *Meeting Minutes - MGA Meeting* by Mary Lou Kelso
- 17 *Upcoming Conferences* by Karen Cureton
- 18 *Who Ate my Tomato & Pepper Plants* by John Jons
- 19 *Recertification Hours for MGs* - by Laura Bellmore
- 20 *Bulletin Board* by Karen Cureton
- 21 *The Last Word* by Dr. William M. Johnson
- 22 *2013 Monthly Meetings*



Check out pages 5 to learn more about the cardoon.

Front Cover Photo by MG Karen Cureton



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Galveston-County-Master-Gardeners/220088841395231>

How to Reach Us



Extension Office:

Phone. . . . 281-534-3413, ext. 1-2

E-Mail.galv3@wt.net

To Submit Newsletter Articles:

Contact Linda Steber

Phone281-534-6695

E-Mail . . .steber8@msn.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

Phone 281-332-9501

E-Mail

garden.speakers@gmail.com



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 A&M AgriLife Extension is implied.



To Subscribe to our Newsletter - just click on the subscribe button above

Interested in gardening in Galveston County? To receive a free subscription to the Galveston County Master Gardeners' Magazine, please enter your e-mail address after clicking on the "Subscribe to our NEWSLETTER" button above. You will automatically receive an e-mail message when each issue is posted. Your e-mail address will not be used for any other purpose other than sending the e-newsletter. We will not send any commercial mail to the address provided nor will the newsletter itself contain any advertisements . . . *we are all about the joy of gardening.* Thanks for your interest!

ask a master gardener...



By Kaye Corey
MG 2002

Q&A

Hot Line Topics

turf grass mowing guidelines

Question: How high or low should I mow my lawn and what do I do with the clippings?

A neatly trimmed and healthy lawn can be achieved by mowing the turf at the proper height. Proper mowing heights are the most basic turf grass maintenance practices. Heights vary based on the type of grass, time of year and growing conditions. Grass is usually mowed higher in the summer and lower during the spring and fall.

The "one-third rule" of mowing will help maintain maximum turf root growth. This means never remove more than one-third of the grass surface at any one mowing. Simply determine the best height for your type of grass. Let it grow one-third higher, then mow it.

This practice may require mowing every four to five days when the growth is rapid during periods of ample rainfall and warm temperatures; however, turf grass is adapted to frequent mowing. If you continually remove more than one-third of the grass blades, over time the roots may not have a chance to fully develop and the plants will be more susceptible to environmental stress and disease.

Mowing too short will reduce the plant's ability to manufacture food. Taller grass has deeper roots, enabling it to better absorb water and nutrients, especially during drought conditions. Taller grass also shades the soil, which helps to reduce water loss

and to reduce weed infestations. Grasses most recommended for the Gulf Coast are St. Augustine, Bermudagrass and Zoysia. St. Augustine does best in full sun, but will tolerate some shade. Common Bermudagrass prefers a sunny location with a mowing height of 1 to 3 inches. (Common Bermudagrass is the predominant type of Bermudagrass grown in Galveston County lawns.)

Zoysia grass is a recent introduction to the Gulf Coast and is gaining popularity. Native to southeast Asia, it grows well along the coast, adapting well to sand, salt and clay soils. It is drought tolerant but may require more care than Bermudagrass. Mowing height ranges from 3/4 inch to 2.5 inches (depending on variety)—every 5 to 7 days is recommended.

What should you do with the clippings? The best answer is to return lawn clippings back to your lawn instead of bagging them. Lawn clippings can supply up to 25% of your lawn's fertilizer needs. The leaves contain mostly water and break down rapidly,

releasing nutrients back into the system. Nitrogen can be reduced by as much as 1 pound per 1,000 square feet per year.

Mulching mowers are recommended. They make smaller clippings and blow them down into the grass where they can quickly turn into fertilizer. It is a misconception that returning clippings to the lawn contributes to thatch. Many gardeners use grass clippings as mulch. Caution is required if weed control products have been applied recently. Dried grass clippings make a good compost material and add nitrogen to the compost.

The key to a quality mowing cut is the use of a sharp mower blade. Dull blades tear grass leaves rather than giving them a clean cut. Jagged-cut leaves invite disease and give the lawn a frayed, brownish look. Keeping two blades and changing out the mower blade when dull.

For more information check out this link: <http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/answers4you/mowing.html>



Photo by MG Herman Auer

Other Mowing Suggestions

- Mow when grass is dry.
- Mowing during the cooler part of the day is easier on the mower.
- Mow in alternating patterns and directions to avoid creating ruts and compacted soil.
- Mow with a sharp blade.

Mowing Height for Galveston County Lawn Grasses

Variety	Mowing Height Range	Optimal Mowing Height (Assumes Correct Frequency)
Buffalograss	2 to 4 inches	2.5 inches
Centipedegrass	1.5 to 2.5 inches	2 inches
Common Bermudagrass	1 to 3 inches	1.5 inches
Hybrid Bermudagrass	0.75 to 2 inches	1 inch
Kentucky Bluegrass	1.5 to 3 inches	2 inches
St. Augustinegrass	2.5 to 4 inches	2.5 inches
Tall Fescue	2 to 4 inches	2.5 inches
Texas Bluegrass (Reveille)	1.5 to 3 inches	2 inches
Zoysia japonica (coarse bladed zoysia)	1 to 2.5 inches	1.5 inches
Zoysia matrella (fine bladed zoysia)	0.75 to 2.5 inches	1 inch



By Karen Cureton
MG 2008

A STRIKING ARCHITECTURAL LOOKING PLANT

the culinary value lies in its stems

Question: What is that plant?



The Plant



The Leaves



The Stem

Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*) is a large grey-green somewhat silvery plant that many people are unfamiliar with. It belongs to the Family Asteraceae. It is related to the globe artichoke. However, the artichoke is valued for its flower head whereas the cardoon's culinary value lies in its stems. The leaves are serrated-appearing and some of the cultivars have small spines that may imbed in the skin. It is a striking architectural looking landscape plant that may grow to 5 1/2 - 8 ft tall in our area. It takes full sun, average water needs, blooms in late spring to early summer, soil in the pH range of 6.6-7.8, and blooms best if given cool nights. In hot climates, the bitter tasting compound cynarin becomes more pronounced. The flower bud of the cardoon resembles an artichoke, but is smaller. The flower is purple, and unless you want an invasive plant it would be well to deadhead before seed dispersal.

Birds like the seeds and the bloom is attractive to bees and butterflies. It is a thistle-like perennial and the seeds disperse like a thistle. It is thought to have originated in North Africa and then spread by the Greeks and Romans, who favored it for its culinary virtues, to Southern Europe. It is thought to have been brought to America in the 1790's. There are some cultivars available that are better suited for vegetable gardeners. 'Tenderheart' and 'Gigante' are two of these. If the specific cultivar is not noted, then look for the words 'smooth' and 'spineless'.

Two of the sources I found for seeds were Baker Creek Heirlooms and Gourmet Seed. There are also seed exchanges or for-sale sites such as Dave's Garden. You might also get seeds from someone who grows the plant. Seeds are started indoors in December or January. Plant the transplants after the last frost date or be prepared to protect young plants from frosts and freezes. When mature the plant is hardy in our usual winter climate. If you are growing it for food then treat the young leaves as you would celery. Bind them upwards and protect from light in order to "blanch" them which purportedly makes them more tender. Harvest approximately 120 -150 days after planting. Remember—it is the stem you eat, not the leaf. There are websites that go into more detail about binding them and there are recipes readily available on the Internet. If you are not growing it for culinary reasons, then I think it makes a beautiful landscape plant. Just remember it gets big.



Photos by MG Karen Cureton

The Bloom



By Chris LaChance
MG 2000

time, to prepare for the next drought Keeping the Water Where it Falls

As the saying goes, “You don’t know the value of water till the well is running dry.” As you walk across your parched lawn, praying under your breath for rain, think about what will happen when we do get that blessed rain. Chances are we’ll get a six-inch deluge all at once. But with our soils so dry and compacted—more like cement than soil—just how much of that rain will we actually keep in our landscapes? It may not be more than half an inch. Keeping rainfall or irrigation water where it falls does take some forethought. Despite our tendency for short memories once an emergency is passed, we can resolve, this time, to prepare for the next drought.

Houston, once a tall grass coastal prairie able to naturally absorb, retain and filter rainfall, adds more impervious, or solid surfaces each year—more roof tops, parking lots, roads, compacted soils caused by heavy equipment during development—that create an enormous amount of rainwater (usually referred to as stormwater) runoff. In a natural setting, before development, surface runoff can be a little as .3%; however, with urbanization, runoff can reach 30% or more. Typically, a residential area would be 40-50% impervious. The remaining area is seldom able to absorb much rainfall. But we can literally start from the ground up to help improve the scenario.

First, let’s talk compost, also known as “gardener’s gold.” It is a way to turn organic matter like old plants, leaves, kitchen waste, into a nutrient-rich soil amendment. The organic matter is broken down into smaller particles by beneficial bacteria, fungi and other microorganisms. When added to soil, whether it is sandy, mostly clay or something in between, compost improves soil structure by creating more spaces to hold air and water—picture a natural sponge. It also provides a nutrient reserve that plants can use when needed. Best of all, if you make it yourself, it’s free. Adding just one percent compost to existing soil can reduce the amount of stormwater runoff to 1.4 inches during a 2.5 inch rainfall. Increase the compost to four percent and reduce the runoff to .6 inches.

For new gardens, four to six inches of finished compost can be tilled into the soil while two to four inches can be worked into existing gardens. For trees and shrubs, add a one inch layer six inches from the trunk to a bit past the drip line. Just a quarter-inch to half-inch of finely screened compost can be applied on lawns once or twice a year, adding the microorganisms that help break up compacted soils.

Secondly, adding two to three inches of mulch to garden beds, shrubs and trees retains moisture and keeps soil temperatures more even to protect root systems. Keep mulch away from the crown or stem of the plant to reduce rot problems. Mulch should never be piled up against tree trunks—the dreaded mulch volcanoes. The flare, the base of the tree that begins to curve outward, should always be visible.

Next, the way we design our landscapes can dramatically help us keep the water we (will) get. Think about reducing the size of your lawn. Areas planted in trees, shrubs and bedding plants retain and

slow runoff far better with their deeper root systems. Very often the soil beneath the turf is too compacted or the soil depth is not adequate.

A rain garden is a beautifully designed landscape feature that is bowl-shaped and serves to capture rainwater from impervious surfaces—roofs, sidewalks, parking lots or compacted lawn areas. As rainwater or water from irrigation is directed into the rain garden, it is retained for a short time allowing the water to slowly percolate into the soil, recharging groundwater and acting as a passive rainwater harvesting system. Read basic rain garden information at www.raingardens.org.

Finally, think about installing a rainwater harvesting system. Rain barrels have been used for several thousand years but seem to be more popular now than ever. Even a simple system can collect a substantial amount of water, enough to irrigate gardens or container plants and provide water for wildlife. Cisterns, on the other hand, can supply water for an entire household. Think of the savings in water and your wallet. More information on both rain gardens and rainwater harvesting can be found at the Texas A&M University site: <http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu> or watch for local class listings.

For all we know, “if we build them, it [rain] will come.”

Chris LaChance is WaterSmart Coordinator for Texas AgriLife Extension and Texas Sea Grant, part of the Texas A&M University System. WaterSmart is funded by a grant from Houston Endowment, Inc. Contact Chris at c-lachance@tamu.edu.



Lawn Reduction - Photo by Chris LaChance

survival may be threatened

Flight of the Butterflies

Butterflies are beautiful, flying insects with large scaly wings. Like all insects, they have six jointed legs, 3 body parts, a pair of antennae, compound eyes, and an exoskeleton. The three body parts are the head, thorax (the chest), and abdomen (the tail end). The four wings and the six legs of the butterfly are attached to the thorax. The thorax contains the muscles that make the legs and wings move. One of the most beautiful of the butterflies is the monarch (*Danaus plexippus*). The monarch is a common butterfly that eats poisonous milkweed in its larval stage and lays its eggs on the milkweed plant. Monarchs have a wingspan of 3 3/8 - 4 7/8 inches (8.6 - 12.4 cm).

Monarch butterflies are known for the incredible mass migration that brings millions of them to California and Mexico each winter. North American monarchs are the only butterflies that make such a massive journey—up to 3,000 miles. The insects must begin this journey each fall ahead of cold weather, which will kill them if they wait too long.

Monarch butterflies begin life as eggs that hatch into larvae that eat their eggshells and, subsequently, the milkweed plants on which they were placed. (Monarchs are dependent on milkweed plants, which larvae eat nearly exclusively.) For more information about the life cycle of the monarch, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AUeM8Mbalk>

Fattening larvae become juicy, colorful caterpillars. They then create a hard protective case around themselves as they enter the pupa stage. They emerge as beautifully colored,

black-orange-and-white adults. The colorful pattern makes monarchs easy to identify—and that is the idea. The distinctive pattern warns predators that the insects are foul tasting and poisonous.

Butterflies that emerge from chrysalides (pupa state) in late summer and early fall are different from those that do so during the longer days and warmer weather of summer. These monarchs are born to fly, and know because of the changing weather that they must prepare for their lengthy journey.

Only monarchs born in late summer or early fall make the migration, and they make only one round trip. By the time next year's winter migration begins, several summer generations will have lived and died and it will be last year's migrants' great grandchildren that make the trip. Yet somehow these new generations know the way, and follow the same routes their ancestors took—sometimes even returning to the same tree. Moody Gardens is currently hosting a beautiful film on this migration and the discovery of the winter home of the monarchs. Click on http://moodygardens.com/conservation/monarch_butterflies/

Each fall, hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States and Canada to overwintering areas in Mexico and California where they wait out the winter until conditions favor a return flight in the spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world's greatest natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss in North America—at the overwintering sites and throughout the spring and summer breeding range as well.

One of the reasons that monarch butterflies are important

has to do with their migration. Monarchs make a huge migration every year and when doing so pass over some areas where pollination is an issue. Monarchs are pollinators and help pollinate these areas. Without the Monarch some of the plant life in these areas (such as some deserts) may suffer.

Many scientists are concerned about the eastern population of monarchs, which summer east of the Rocky Mountains. This group is occurring in ever smaller numbers, and its survival may be threatened by a series of natural disasters in the Mexican wintering grounds, as well as by reduced acreage of milkweed plants in their summer home. Milkweeds and nectar sources are declining due to development and the widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures and roadsides. Because 90% of all milkweed/monarch habitats occur within the agricultural landscape, farm practices have the potential to strongly influence monarch populations.

It is critically important that we create, conserve and protect milkweed/monarch habitats. If you do not already have milkweed in your landscape, consider adding this very important plant. You will be rewarded as you watch these beautiful monarchs flutter around your landscape. Be sure when you make your butterfly garden that you eliminate the use of insecticides, mulch around the base of plants to reduce the growth of weeds and retain water, remove invasive species from the site and use natural compost for fertilization. Consider making your butterfly garden a Monarch Way Station. For more information, see <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/>



By Pat Forke
MG 2010

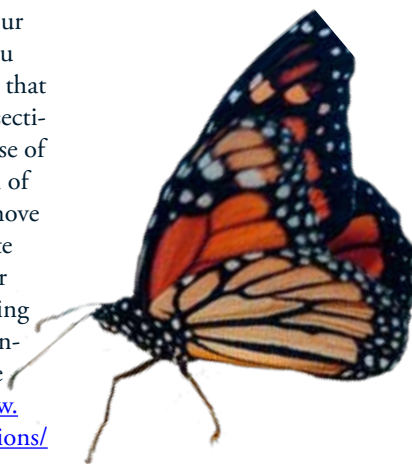
MILKWEED

Mexican Milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*)
Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
Swamp Milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)

GENERAL NECTAR PLANTS

Indian Blanket (*Gaillardia pulchella*)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Joe Pye Weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*)
Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*)
Tithonia Torch, Mexican Sunflower (*Tithonia*)
Zinnia, Dahlia Mix (*Zinnia elegans*)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_\(butterfly\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarch_(butterfly))
<http://monarchwatch.org/index.html>
<http://animals.national-geographic.com/animals/bugs/monarch-butterfly/>
<http://www.monarch-butterfly.com/>





By Donna J. Ward
MG 1996

summer temps can be lethal

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.)

How many zeros does it take to write a 'gazillion'? You don't know either? Guess I'll just have to stick with letters to tell you that my prediction was correct—a gazillion acorns fell in my back yard which is a Texas Certified Wildscape, Backyard Wildlife Habitat (no mowing going on in this 'natural' garden)—and as I predicted, half a gazillion of them sprouted thanks to Mother Nature's semi-generous gift of rain this spring. Fortunately the soft soil releases them with a moderate tug, but they are coming up everywhere. They seem to be especially fond of mulched areas and have shown no restraint even when it comes to sprouting alongside container growing specimens.

The Savannah holly also got the drought's subliminal message. A plant has one job only, and that is to ensure the survival of its species—the holly thought it was going to die so it took the message literally. Red berries numbering in the gazillions along its branches where the squirrels are scurrying, eating as they go.

Prior to moving here from

the Midwest many years ago, I was told that the Texas Gulf Coast has four seasons—summer, summer, summer and Christmas—and I didn't believe it—silly me. Summer officially arrives this month and it's the season of maintenance in our gardens.

Summer temps can be lethal to those prized azaleas and camellias. Their roots are close to the surface and they can easily dry out if we're not careful. Deep watering twice a week during dry weather isn't overdoing it, and sometimes it may be necessary to do it more often. If you haven't given them a soil acidifier this spring, now would be a good time to do so. Use a hose-end container attachment and spray the foliage. The solution will spill off of the leaves and seep into the soil where it can be taken up by the roots. This promotes deep green leaves and larger blossoms when bloom time rolls around next spring. That beautiful southern magnolia would also benefit from this same treatment.

My coleus seem to be doing well, I think it's the ample rain we've received. I try to keep the centers pinched to force

side growth, giving them a more bushy configuration. This method also works with copper plants which have a tendency to grow tall and slender as well.

Keep your St. Augustine lawn watered, and set your mower to 'High.' Taller blades of grass keep the stolons shaded and lessen moisture evaporation. Hot and dry conditions invite chinch bugs, so don't make it easy for them set up housekeeping in your lawn. A feeding of a 15-5-10 formulation would be appreciated now, and remember that a healthy lawn will choke out weeds.

I think I mentioned last month that impatiens are one of my favorite plants for shade, but begonias are one of the most underused in the shady garden. Forget those tuberous types, although the flowers are gorgeous they won't take our Gulf Coast summers. But the cane-type Angel Wings in a semi-protected and well-mulched location will be perennial. I have several growing under trees that have been there for years. Every spring they are cut back to two or three nodes and they branch out beautifully and bloom all summer long.

If you're planning on a trip this summer, don't fertilize anything before you leave town. No point in stimulating new growth that will need regular watering at first—unless of course you've hired that kid down the block and you are absolutely confident that he'll stay on top of the situation.

Hopefully you are enjoying the fruits of your early spring planting. Isn't that sweet corn better than what is offered at your local grocery produce counter? I'll bet the neighbors are pulling down their shades and not answering the door when they see you approaching—your arms laden with zucchini. Pick those tomatoes when they show the first rosy blush and ripen at room temperature. They will be just as tasty and fewer will be lost to birds than those left to completely ripen on the vine.

Nothing left to plant in the veggie garden this month except okra. It won't even think about germinating until the soil temp is warm. Now if I could only find a way to keep the acorns from thinking about it.....



Coleus Photo by Donna Ward



Angel Wing Begonia Photo by Donna Ward

THE ISLAND GARDEN

Mm, Mm Chocolate!

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

Recently, as I was browsing through the herb selections at a local plant nursery, I chanced to brush the foliage of the chocolate mint...Mm, Mm I thought, an article for next month! Let's take a look at several chocolate scented, flavored or colored varieties that may spice up or sweeten your garden.

The Chocolate Daisy: (edible)

The chocolate daisy is an unassuming wildflower with an unbelievable fragrance of chocolate and foliage that resembles dandelion leaves. An attribute of the chocolate daisy is its exceptional blooming period from spring until frost. The bright yellow flowers in the familiar ray shape have green eyes and a distinct scent of chocolate that is especially strong in the morning. Freely gathering bouquets of the blooms will release more of the aroma—place it close to garden paths where you can not only enjoy the blooms themselves but where you can also “catch a whiff of chocolate.”

The chocolate daisy is a perennial, classified as an herb, and can garnish your salads as well as your bouquets. It is an important nectar plant that will attract butterflies and bees to your garden. Drought tolerant and needing less fertilizer, less water, pest and disease resistant, the chocolate daisy is what I like to call a “user-friendly” plant.

Deadhead your plants with garden shears to encourage re-blooming—even consider replacing a small area of sod with

chocolate daisy plants—mow right over them and they will grow back!

Chocolate Mint: (edible)

Chocolate mint is a perennial herb with leaves having a delightful minty chocolate flavor, much like Girl Scout cookies. It prefers full sun to part shade and fertile moist soil. Stems tend to run, so plant it in a container to prevent it from becoming invasive; cut the plant back in summer and fall to keep it neat. Bees, butterflies and birds are attracted to mint and will frequent your plants often.

The leaves can be used fresh, dried or frozen in water. Crush fresh leaves into a glass of iced water for a refreshing beverage, or add to tea or coffee. You can also dry the leaves for flavoring desserts, like ice cream, meringues, or cakes. Pick leaves frequently. Lavender blooms will appear in late summer.

Himalayan Honeysuckle (Leycesteria formosa) (edible berries):

The Himalayan Honeysuckle is a shrub with slender, gracefully arching cane-like stems. “Its overall shape is that of a vase, narrow near the ground and flaring upwards, then dipping down with the branch ends terminated by dangling flowers and berry clusters.” Blooming in midsummer, the creamy-white flowers are attractively backed by burgundy bracts. Deep brown, soft, juicy berries of rich chocolate-caramel flavor follow flowering.

It will grow in a wide variety of soil in sun or partial shade—is pest and disease free and essentially evergreen, though winter cold forces some leaves to drop. In average soil, with little or no watering, Himalaya Honeysuckle grows four to six feet tall; the addition of humus will encourage growth to eight feet or more.

Himalaya Honeysuckle is handsome—easily grown—tasty—and rare enough to be a conversation piece in your garden.

Chocolate Cosmos (not edible)

The chocolate cosmos is a tuberous-rooted perennial, native to Mexico and the southwestern United States. Although its fragrance isn't overpowering, it is immediately identifiable—it smells like chocolate. Although the scent is unmistakable, the color of its daisy-like, single blossoms is more of an oxblood red than chocolate brown. Plant in full sun, water regularly but not excessively; the addition of soil amended with organic compost is recommended. It is not vulnerable to pest or disease.

The chocolate cosmos may remain dormant until late spring but will grow quickly and bear flowers from June through September. Carefully divide the tuberous roots before growth begins in very early spring.

Do you love chocolate—the color—the smell—the taste? Then consider planting some chocolate in your garden!



By Jan Brick
MG 2001

more chocolate

The Peanut Butter Shrub (Clerodendrum trichotomum)

If you are a fan of a little peanut butter with your chocolate, this may be the plant for you. When crushed, the leaves emit the distinctive aroma of peanut butter. Also called the harlequin glory-bower, this shrub is native to China and Japan. The peanut butter shrub is a deciduous plant that can be grown successfully in zones 7-10. It prefers moist well-drained soil and full sun but will tolerate some shade. The white tubular flowers that bloom in summer and through the fall months are followed by a bright blue berry-like fruit that is unfortunately not edible. With no serious insect or disease problems, the peanut butter shrub would be a unique addition to any garden!

Mm, Mm More Chocolate!

Chocolate Hibiscus:

“Chocolate High”—red and brown bloom with a white center

“Crème Brulee”—brown bloom with gold highlights

“Crème de Cacao”—chocolate colored blooms

“Hot Buttered Rum”—brown and red blooms with gold spots

Chocolate Iris:

“Death by chocolate”—maroon (purple-brown) blooms with brown/bronze accents (attractive to bees, butterflies and birds—flowers are fragrant)

Chocolate Daylily:

“Chocolate Dreams”—mahogany blooms with chocolate brown veining and ruffled edges



Chocolate Mint Photo by MG Linda Steber

MG BEST SHOTS

Spiderwort by Linda Steber



Pink Salvia by Linda Garren McKillip



Passionflower by Herman Auer



MacCartney Rose by Wayne Elliott



Inland Sea Oats by Anna Wygrys



Wood Violet by Kathleen Crabb



...and Narrative

plants we love and hate

"Best Shots" this month are of plants that are hardy and beautiful, which is why we called them "the plants we love and hate." Although we have mentioned the disruptions that they cause in a pristine garden, we also include their strengths.

Many of them would be the perfect plant for a beginning gardener. *Salvia*

greggii was one of my first plants to try and I was so proud of myself. I even have some now, as well as some spiderwort. Wood violets serve as a ground cover in a bed that is shady and away from everything else and a passion vine draws so many butterflies that I just have to suffer with it. Of course, most of these are planted in areas where nothing else will grow. Not to leave out sea oats, they are used to amend the soil, especially in vegetable beds. Treat these plants just like your kids; if you have them, find out what they do best!

SPIDERWORT (*TRADESCANTIA*) – BY LINDA STEBER – MG 1991

There was a time in my life when I felt I needed one of everything in my garden. Here's some good advice—you might want to think twice before buying Spiderwort, a.k.a. "cow slobber." It is one of the native wildflowers that has made its way into the nursery trade, but this delicate-looking blue flower, which only lasts a couple of days, is commonly considered an invasive weed, and if left unchecked, can become a very intrusive plant which can take over your yard in just a few seasons. When breaking the tip off a leaf, sap will appear and can be stretched, thus resembling spiders silk. The gooey quality of the sap definitely explains its familiar nickname of "cow slobber"!

I usually say that my area of expertise is "weeding", but this plant really exhausts my talent. Although tedious work, manually digging up Spiderworts may be your best chance of getting rid of them. Be especially sure to remove them when the flowers have just faded, as leaving them unchecked will allow the seed heads to drop their seeds, ensuring a new batch of MORE spiderworts.

PINK SALVIA, (*SALVIA GREGGII*) LINDA GARREN MCKILLIP – MG 2003

How could anyone hate a plant loved by bees, birds, and butterflies? Do you still love it when that plant pops up everywhere? One day I was looking for a nectarine I had planted in a container. It took some time before I found the nectarine amid standing waves of salvia. In my yard, pink salvia is just at home in the ground as in a container. Heck, it loves a good crack in the sidewalk. It adjusts to a wide range of water availability and reseeds itself freely. I have complained to fellow gardeners about pink salvia and its rambunctious growth habit. Oddly, most everyone has a kind word for its sweet blooms that pop up in unexpected places especially when the summer sun is bearing down. Pink salvia bravely endures hot and dry conditions and invites a hummingbird for a drink.

PASSIONFLOWER OR PASSION VINE (*PASSIFLORA CAERULEA*) BY KAYE COREY – MG 2002

Passion Vines are rampant growing herbaceous vines with large complex blooms lasting only one day. Plant this vine in the sun with ample moisture. A container with a sturdy trellis is suggested for control of invasive off shoots and vigorous growth. The Passion Vine is the host plant for the Gulf Fritillary Butterfly. The Passion Vine is chemically protected to prevent most other insects from feeding on it. You can witness this love to hate vigorous vine on YouTube Passion Vine Tutorial <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7BUfkuZ2Bw>

MACCARTNEY ROSE (*ROSA BRACTEATA*) BY SANDRA DEVALL – MG 1998

I always enjoyed the rose on the arch of a cottage home in Baycliff, and I commented on it to the owners. One year, they presented me with a cutting, and I immediately planted it to grow over the top of a "shed" in my backyard. It did grow, and grow and grow. This year, we spent many days cutting it down; getting it out of everywhere it had covered and rooted. It was a MacCartney Rose. If you like to see them, they are now blooming along fence rows and in pastures all over our country. No one who has them on their property appreciates them because they are overtaking everything, decreasing needed grasses and native wildlife. Originally brought here to serve as fence rows, they have joined the ranks of our imported Chinese Tallows as they were also imported from Asia.

INLAND SEA OATS (*CHASMANTHIUM LATIFOLIUM*) BY DONNA WARD – MG 1996

I cannot say I was not forewarned—but did I pay attention? Nooooo. I was intent on putting some motion in my garden. What lends itself to swaying and dancing in the breeze more than grasses? Inland Sea Oats is a clumping native grass that self-sows with free abandon. Showy seed heads dangle from tall arched stems—green in spring turning to a purplish bronze in fall. It loves a semi-shady woodland location, but not in a formal flower bed or you will be sorry! Its seeds germinate with no encouragement whatsoever—anywhere they fall! If you want to control the proliferation of this grass and enhance your home's décor at the same time, cut the stems and allow them to dry. They'll add height and texture to that dried arrangement on your coffee table.

WOOD VIOLET (*VIOLA SORORIA*) LINDA GARREN MCKILLIP – MG 2003

My relationship with the wood violet began in the fall of 2003. I was taking the MG class and loved how all the Master Gardeners brought in plants to share with the Interns. We felt blessed to take home whatever they brought to us. My first sweet little wood violet came in a pot of something else that I have long since forgotten. Come spring, after finding wood violets in countless pots and literally coming up in the middle of the yard, I decided its true name should have been Trojan Horse, for where there was just one—now there were 100's! It is such a lovely harbinger of spring, and shortly, when the heat comes on, it will disappear until the weather cools off. I just recently read in Merriwether's *Guide to Edible Wild Plants of Texas* that the leaves and flowers of this viola species are great raw in salads and in tea made from its flowers which are very rich in Vitamin A and C. Who knew?



by Sandra Devall
MG 1998



by Kaye Corey
MG 2002



by Linda Garren
McKillip
MG 2003



by Linda Steber
MG 1991



by Donna Ward
MG 1996



by Sandra Devall
MG 1998

plants that come in quart containers don't stay that size

Learning From My Gardening Mistakes

I hope that no one has misunderstood the title of this article. It does not mean that I have somehow learned from my mistakes and in my wisdom can share them with you, never to repeat them again.

Just today, I came home from the nursery with a carload of plants. It was a planned return visit, from a carefully created list that followed the information I have included in this article. But then, I saw plants that I did not see last week and bought them also. Now I must calm myself down and read this article for my own advice, skipping the section on planning.

SOIL AND RAISED BEDS

When I first started gardening in Galveston County, after the first year, my plants became smaller and less vibrant. They were planted in our native soil. They also had trouble with the heavy rains and hot summers.

Plant in amended soil in a raised bed. Galveston County has a broad range of soils, from the sandy soil of Galveston to the clay soil of the mainland. Most plants do not like either soil. Because of the variety of soils, find a local nursery rep to help you purchase a mix that matches your needs. The best way to find one is to locate a nice garden in your neighborhood and find out where they get their soil.

When we use the term "raised bed" we are referring to beds that are 9-12 inches above the clay or sand. Against a house, this is usually mound shaped so that the front does not require the same height as the back. For separate beds, do a search on-line for "raised beds Texas Extension" or come by the Extension Office for a copy.

PLANNING

Plants that come in one quart containers don't stay that size. Let's say the tag says that it is a 6 ft. wide x 20 ft. tall plant. That may not happen this year, but unless you kill it, you will look at it one day and it will be crowding out and ruining other valuable plants. Once you have read the tag to find out the size and whether it needs sun, shade or semi-shade, draw out the shape and size of the bed, and add circles that match the anticipated size of the plants.

A word of caution. Although there are many reputable plant nurseries that you can use to order plants, use your own research on the plant if the catalog does not include the botanical name. There is a chance that it will not be the plant that you had wanted or that it is not a plant for our zone. We are Zone 9 on the mainland and Zone 9B on the island.

Many of our Galveston County Master Gardeners had to replace all their plants after Hurricane Ike in 2008. MG Gail Ayers followed her planning with a second drawing with the height and textures included in the new garden. We were able to say that one benefit of the hurricane was the chance to do it better the second time.

RECORD KEEPING

The first step to record keeping is to save the plant tag. You may not have time to read it right after the plant is purchased, but keep it in a drawer or jar where you can locate it later. If this is as far as you get with recordkeeping, it will still come in handy.

The next best kind of record keeping is a chart. You can store

information such as common name, botanical name, full grown size, water requirements, and sun requirements, how it did or who gave it to you. The chart is not listed alphabetically but by areas of the garden. Included you will find a chart that may give you a few ideas of how to make your chart.

Additionally, try a photo record. Divide your garden into the same reference areas as you did on your chart. Once you discover the best time of day to photograph your garden, take a photo of each area by seasons or every month. A quick look at this will tell you what works, what is getting crowded, and if you have bloomers each season.

I enjoy laughing at some of my early mistakes, and laughing that I still buy a plant impulsively, I think it is part of having a passion for plants. Most of all, I love the view from my French doors and also love that I have photographs of it for the last 15 years.

Hedgerow-right									
wooded Ligustrum	Ligustrum lucidum	x	best selection	avg. water	best	small white like in May followed by black-blue berries			
St. Joseph's aster	Hesperis matronalis	bulb				Palm Shrub; old-fashion from early 1980's; red blooms April			
black-eyed Susan vine	Rubus	vine annual	same sh			golden/cream hardy bloomer; propagate from seedlings; fragrant			
climbing rose		rose, same sh		drainage		Palm Shrub; old-fashion full-size red cluster blooms in			
negundo, barberry	Cydonia oblonga	perennial	same		summer	Palm Shrub; small red like, ground cover blooms March through summer			
small-leaved rose		vine; annual	same			white blooms at night; very fragrant; propagate from seedlings			
tree lily	Phlox paniculata	bulb	same/sh	moist, drainage	hardly, summer	small, perennials, bright colored shrubs like, long bloomer June; fragrant			
negundo clematis	Quercus indica	vine; perennial	same			Aster C. heavy bloomer May; cut back old stems in early spring; fragrant			
negundo	Tronoea stans	perennial	same	moist soil		hardy yellow daisy like May in summer; stem up to 18-22" in Feb.			
Hedgerow-left									
bleeding heart	Chlorodendron thymocoma	vine; perennial	high branching; hot summers			white+fragrant like April, May, June; root cutting			
cardinalis jamaica	Trachelospermum jasminoides	vine; x	same/sh	lay		yellow blooms April; slow grower; fragrant			
red aster	Anemone hepatica	bulb	same	all soils		Palm Shrub; heritage from early 1980's; plant high; red blooms in spring			
negundo	Malva sylvestris	annual	same		summer	June, yellow heavy bloomer May all early fall			
negundo		rose	same			June, old-fashion small red cluster; shrubs; propagate easily from seedlings; common			
negundo						June, red, blooms			
negundo						Palm Shrub; pink bushy green; native			
negundo		perennial				K. Cardinale			
yellow daisy, low		perennial	same sh	moist		Anemone hepatica; propagate in Oct. by stem rooting			
negundo						Anemone hepatica; yellow; hardy			
Wild Area Entrance									
Lot 100; barberry green	Prunella angustifolia x Florida	grass	same/sh			MG; smallest grass--more to succumb to half size in winter			
american barberry green	Salix americana	x	same/sh	x	barbly	soft texture; large flower summer; stem to half size in winter			
small barberry green	Salix americana	x	same	x	barbly	soft texture; large flower summer; stem to half size in winter			
copper clematis daisy	Daylily loma	barb	full sun	x	barbly	MG; golden flower, hardy winter bloomer; stem to half size in winter			
small lot like right		x	same/sh	x, avg. water		Palm Shrub; double, deep orange May-June; common; divide sides			

Sample Record Keeping Chart



Photo by MG Sandra Devall

View From My French Doors

Ten Commandments for Smart Weed Control

The best moisture for a garden is your sweat, and the best weed control is your hand. Then, may all the weeds that grow in your garden be wildflowers - Anna



By Anna Wygrys
MG 1993



Add Topsoil



Bring in New Plants



Don't Just Dig & Plant



Bare Ground is Invitation to Weeds



Get Them While They're Young

I. Adding topsoil? Watch for weeds! Most gardeners need to do this on occasion. BUT... where did that garden soil mix come from? A visit to a soil yard can be well worth the time and effort. If a soil yard already has an impressive crop of weeds in residence—beware about purchasing soil from that soil yard. Even a high-quality soil mix can be expected have its own blend of weed seeds mixed in so you might get some weeds you never saw before. Just be sure to keep a vigilant watch for what comes up in it and to get rid of it as soon as you can—before it spreads to the rest of your landscape.

II. Bringing in new plants. Watch for weeds! Gardeners may be surprised to know that an important source for weed problems can be that beautiful ornamental plant brought into the landscape. The ornamental plant itself isn't the source of the weed invasion, it's the soil in the container. A weed that has been rapidly gaining ground in local landscapes is mulberry weed (*Fatoua villosa*). It is being rapidly spread in the southeastern United States through containerized ornamentals. Always be sure to inspect containerized ornamentals for noticeable weeds. Remember, it only takes one weed going to seed to produce future crops of weeds. If used, it's a good idea to gently remove the weed and top ½ inch of media before potting—and keep a watchful eye for subsequent weed problems.

III. Don't just dig and plant! We are always in a hurry to get things planted. Whoa, wait a minute; when the ground is turned over, dormant weed seeds are exposed to the sun and moisture. Hold off and clean the planting area thoroughly. Once worked, let the soil rest for four days or so, and then work it again. Repeat the procedure three or four times or as long as patience and time permits. This serves to disturb weed seeds that have started to germinate and young weed seedlings, which makes them non-viable as well. This allows time to take care of many weed problems before planting your flower or vegetable seeds. Remember, just clearing the plants on the surface of the ground is only half the problem.

IV. Bare ground is an invitation to weeds. A nice, clean open area looks so neat and tidy through the winter. But bare ground is an open invitation to a major invasion of weeds. Either plant or mulch to keep the ground covered.

V. Get 'em while they're young. Remove weeds during early growth. It is hard to miss a four-foot tall weed, but learning to recognize the seedling stage is the best time to get it. At this stage, it is far easier to remove the offender and it will not cause a major disturbance to the roots of your desirable plants.

VI. One year of weeds means seven years of seeds. Weed seeds can remain viable for several years. Maybe that

dandelion is the only bloom in the yard, but waiting until weeds bloom and set seed is asking for a yard full of dandelions.

VII. Not enough time to the weed?—Then pull the seed. When times are too busy to pull or hoe out weeds out by their roots, at least pull off their flowers, and/or their seed heads, until you have time to do more. This will help to curb new seed populations. No flowers means no seeds. No seeds means no weeds. (Of course, some plants multiply by rhizomes, bulbs, etc.)

VIII. Mulch is a first line of defense. Mulching time is not the time to get stingy. Practice weed control before weeds have an opportunity to germinate by mulching areas where the soil is exposed to light. An inch of mulch will not deter weeds. At least three-to-four inches of shredded plant material will not only keep many weed seeds from germinating, it also helps to retain soil moisture and moderate soil temperatures as an added bonus.

IX. Mow frequently. A shaggy lawn is not the newest gardening trend. Frequent mowing will help to control many grassy weeds. The best defense against weeds in a lawn, is maintaining a healthy, vigorous lawn.

X. Yes to composting and no to recycling weed seeds. Be prudent about use of weeds for composting. Never place weeds that have flowered or already set seed in the compost. Composting is certainly a good thing but it takes a hot compost pile of approximately 150-160 degrees to kill weed seeds. If you cold compost, do not put weeds in it.



Mulch, Mulch, Mulch



Mow Frequently

June-July "Things To Do" Gardening Calendar Video



by Jenifer Leonpacher
MG 2010



by Gregory Werth
MG 2012



Click on the "Play Video" icon at top right to see what a "group effort" can do (by the aforementioned Master Gardeners) to prepare an exceptional "Things to Do" Calendar.



In Memoriam - Sam Scarcella

Even when one knows the end is near for a friend, it is still hard to learn the news of his passing. Sam Scarcella, Galveston County Master Gardener Class of 1986, passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday evening, May 4, after a good day of being surrounded and loved by his family.

Funeral mass was held on Thursday, May 9, at 2:00 p.m. at the Queen of Peace Church in La Marque. LaVerne, Sam's spouse, was gratified that so many Master Gardeners attended Sam's funeral mass to bid their fair well.

I met Sam soon after arriving here in 1989. Sam played an instrumental role in "growing" the Master Gardener Program in Galveston County.

For that and his friendship over the years, I am indebted. Sam was a primary organizer of the Galveston County Master Gardener Association which is the oldest association in the State of Texas.

We enjoyed his presence at many of the Thursday work days at the Demonstration Garden. Sam was one-of-a-kind, always happy to be sharing his knowledge of growing tomatoes, onions, and garlic, as well as stories of his Italian heritage.

Television has a Dog Whisperer show, there is even a movie entitled Horse Whisperer. I consider Sam to be the Tomato Whisperer.

I still recall our last visit at his home in La Marque shortly before he passed and we fondly reminisced about many of our shared experiences with the Master Gardener Program. He stated that he never imagined that our county MG program would become what it is now. I totally agreed with his assessment as the MG Program was still in its infancy at the time.

Sam will certainly be missed.



a bright & festive salsa

Seasonal Bites



It is summer time and many people are entertaining. Here is a bright and festive salsa that readily adapts to many uses. Cut the fruit small and serve with chips. Cut the fruit a little bigger and use it as a condiment with chicken or fish. I tried pureeing it to make it really saucy and used it as a marinade for shrimp. I can even envision it as a tropical cold soup to serve as an appetizer. This recipe makes a substantial amount, so adjust the amounts in the recipe according to your needs. If you cannot find fresh peaches, try to add more of your favorite fruit. I added some avocado to mine and used the resulting tropical salsa as a condiment for fish. Feel the tropical breeze with this one. Many thanks to Gloria Johnston, MG 2008 for sharing this recipe.



*By Karen Cureton
MG 2008*

Tropical Fruit Salsa

Ingredients

1 large Mango (peeled and seeded)
1 small papaya (peeled and seeded)
1/2 of a pineapple (peeled and cored)
4-5 peaches (peeled and seeded)

1 jalapeno pepper (chopped, seeded & deveined if you do not want a lot of heat)
1 small red onion - diced
1 bunch of cilantro - wash, dry, stem and chop
1/3 bottle Taste of Asia mild sweet chili sauce

Season to your taste with salt, pepper if desired, and lime juice if desired. (Not in original recipe)

Cut your fruits into small pieces. Add the jalapeno and red onion. Add in the chili sauce. Finish with the cilantro and mix well. Serve with tortilla chips or plantain chips.



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. The following Master Gardener Programs are free to the public.

Location: Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park

4102 Main Street (FM 519), La Marque Texas 77568

For course reservations, call 281-534-3413, ext. 12 or email GALV3@wt.net

Tuesday Night & Saturday Seminars

Turning Dirt into Soil—Creating an Ideal Garden Soil

Saturday - June 29, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Presentation by MG Jim Gilliam. This program will cover soil structure and characteristics of soil including pH, nutrients, sources and strategies for amending soil, soil testing and cultural practices. The emphasis will be on how to improve your existing soil.

A Homeowner's Guide To Weed Control

Saturday - July 13, 2013 - 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Do you have a bumper crop of something growing in your yard that you did not plant? Is your lawn more weeds than grass? What can you do about the problem weeds that are taking over your yard and garden? Presentation by Galveston County Master Gardener Anna Wygrys, Anna will include common species identification, integrated weed management plus chemical options, and practical solutions for controlling weeds in the home landscape.

Speakers Bureau

June 22 - 10:00 a.m. at Galveston's Rosenberg Library: Jan Brick will present "The User-Friendly Garden" with new book signing.

July 27 - 10:00 a.m. at Galveston's Rosenberg Library: Ken Steblein is presenting "Edible Landscapes."

August 10 - 10:30 a.m. at Galveston's Rosenberg Library: Marilyn Simmons is presenting "Introduction to Food Preservation."

Project: Demonstration Gardens

Carbide Park



By Tom Fountain
MG 2008



May's severe weather played havoc with the production of fruit at the garden. We lost lots of blooms, small fruit, and an Anna apple tree. However, the rains and the mild weather during the past few months have made the garden a nice green color, and revived the veggies that looked almost lost. The peaches that survived the hail storm here are beginning to ripen and lend color to the orchard.



Sam Scarcella - Missed by All

One of the benefits of being a Master Gardener and working in our garden is that you meet and get to know a nice group of people. Sam Scarcella was just such a person and will be missed by all of us at the garden.

Over the past month harvesting of onions, cabbage, lettuces, carrots, and radishes has taken place. Large quantities of this produce will be given to community centers around Galveston County.

On May 17, our Master Gardeners gave tours to a group of 64 home school students and adults. This was the largest school group we have had on a garden tour. The children and adults seemed to get a lot out of their visit and were happy when they left. Thanks to our gardeners and tour crew for a job well done.



After a few design changes, the greenhouse has started taking shape and could be finished this fall. The "low water use" garden is nearing completion and is looking good. Come by to lend a hand or just visit and see the wonderful things that are taking place in the garden.

Photos by MG Tom Fountain

BARBARA & GARY HANKINS HOSTED THE MAY 14, 2013 MG BACKYARD MEETING

Thanks to Barbara & Gary for extending their gorgeous home to Master Gardeners for the May Backyard Meeting. MGs enjoyed conversation with friends and delectable food, while relishing the scenic Galveston Bay from the back of the house and the wetlands from the front of the house and ending the evening with a gorgeous picturesque sunset.



By Mary Lou Kelso
MG 2000



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Texas Master Gardener Conference 2013!

"Blooms, Birds & Butterflies" The conference will be held October 17 - 19, 2013 in McAllen, TX. It is hosted by the Cameron and Hidalgo Counties Master Gardener Assoc. and will be held at the McAllen Conference Center. The Texas Master Gardener

Association website has information including tour information, and speakers which includes our own GCMG Clyde Holt who will be speaking on Bonsai. Hotel Reservations and registration for conferences and tours can be accessed on the website. Registration costs \$160.00. Tours for MG's are \$45.00 and spouse tours are \$35.00. Workshop costs range from \$15.00 - \$40.00. The Conference Headquarter Hotel is the Renaissance Casa de Palma Hotel by Marriott which is located 2.4 miles from the convention center. Phone # 956-631-1101. Room costs range from \$109.00 - \$119.00 per the website. Please verify all costs. Other hotels include the Hampton Inn which is 3.3 miles from the convention center. Phone#

956-661-1100. Room cost per website is \$99.00 - \$109.00. Drury Hotels which is 3.3 miles from the convention center. Phone# 956-687-5100. Room costs per website are \$69.99 - \$74.99. Spring Hill Suites is 1.0 mile from the convention center. Phone# 956-682-6336. Room cost per website is \$104.00. There are other lodging possibilities that you could explore including bed and breakfasts if you cannot find a room at any of the convention hotel/motels. Please verify all costs. This looks to be a terrific conference. I advise you to check the TMGA website frequently for details. <http://2013tmgaconference.org/Home.aspx>



2013 International Master Gardener Conference

It may not seem like it, but summer is quickly coming and temperatures will be rising. September 2013 you could be cooler and having fun with fellow



MG's at the 2013 International Master Gardener Conference, aptly being called "Alaska; Flowers, Fjords, and Friends", on the Holland America Cruise Ship Westerdam. The conference will run from 9/7/2013 - 9/14/2013. The cruise ship will depart Seattle on the 7th and the ports of call will be Juneau; Glacier Bay; Sitka; Ketchikan; Victoria, British Columbia; and return to Seattle. The sponsor of the conference is the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture, Research and Extension. They have planned a full slate of keynote speakers and seminars (all to be given when the ship is at sea) on subjects ranging from ornamentals to vegetables, wildlife to conservation of water resources, native plants to herbs. It looks to be a fabulous conference and if you have never cruised before get ready for a beautiful and luxurious experience. Room costs range from \$899.00 - \$2749.00 and are per person and based on double occupancy. That does not include certain fees and taxes. There will also be a conference registration fee. Please see the website specific details <http://www.uaex.edu/imgc2013/>.



mystery solved

Who ate my tomato and pepper plants?

by John Jons
MG 2003

Early this year I planted my pepper and tomato seedlings in the garden and watched them grow in anticipation of a bumper crop. The tomato plants wound their way up the tomato cages with lots of yellow flowers and the pepper plants grew so fast they required stakes to hold their large leaves and white flowers upright.

Then one morning I noticed somebody had been eating one of my pepper plants. Some of the eaten pepper plants had only the stems left. This “somebody” had eaten every green leaf and flower on the plant. In fact, so much of the plant was eaten I was thinking there must have been multiple “somebodies.” Over the next couple of days, several more pepper plants were eaten to the bare stems and even the ends of the stems were eaten. Then, I noticed some of my tomato plants were also being eaten in the same manner. So much of these plants were being consumed, at such a rapid rate, that I was thinking it must be a squirrel, or a rabbit or even my dog. I really did not want to spray any “...cides” on the peppers or tomatoes, as I did not know who or what was dining in my garden. So, I constructed little collars around the eaten, half eaten and un-eaten plants. This seemed to work and the eaten plants started to grow leaves again.

Then one morning, I happened to notice another tomato plant had been eaten-up. As I looked closer I saw the individual who had been eating my crops, he also saw me and started sneaking off, but before he could jump off the tomato plant and run away, I captured him. He was a big green caterpillar—the dreaded Tobacco Hornworm (has a red horn) who looks like another pepper and tomato plant consuming hornworm, the Tomato Hornworm (has a blue or black horn). The horn looks scary but is only there to frighten people and predators. These pepper and tomato eating machines are hard to find during the day as they hide from the sun and heat and only party at night. These “worms” which are actually caterpillars are known for their ability to defoliate plants during their night time feeding frenzies. They do have one redeeming point—in their moth stage they are pollinators.

It is suggested that you “dispose” of these crop-damaging eating machine caterpillars and spray your plants with Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) to prevent other caterpillars from eating your peppers and tomatoes. I did not have the spray and I could not bring myself to “dispose” of him, so I released him in the middle of Clear City Lake Blvd to let him find someone else’s pepper and tomato plants to eat.



Defoliated Pepper Plant



Defoliated Ends of A Tomato Plant



The Culprit - A Tobacco Hornworm

2013 MG Re-certification (Continuing Education) Hours Available Through the AgriLife Extension Office

Date	Event	Name of Program	Speaker	CEUs for MGs
1/5/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Growing Avocados	Jerry Hurlbert	2.5
1/5/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Homegrown Peppers	Gene Speller	2
1/10/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Stone Fruit Grafting Hands-On Demo/Workshop	Herman Auer	1.5
1/12/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Grow Great Tomatoes	Sam Scarcella	3
1/12/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Gardening by the Square Foot	John Jons	2
1/15/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Successfully Growing Peaches	Herman Auer	2
1/17/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Stone Fruit Grafting Hands-On Demo/Workshop	Herman Auer	1.5
1/17/2013	MG Monthly Meeting	Fruit & Citrus Trees for the Gulf Coast	Heidi Sheesley	2
1/22/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Growing Citrus in the Home Landscape	Herman Auer	2
1/24/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Grafting Hands-On Demonstration/Workshop	Herman Auer	1.5
1/26/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Spring Vegetable Gardening	Luke Stripling	2.5
1/26/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Anyone Can Grow Roses	John Jons	1.5
1/29/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Blueberries in the Backyard	David Cohen	1.5
2/7/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Tomato Planting Demo/Hands-On Workshop	Sam Scarcella	1
2/9/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Tomato Stress Management	Sam Scarcella	2.5
2/9/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Kitchen Gardening	Mary Demeny	2.5
2/12/2013	MG Monthly Meeting	Hummingbirds for MGs only	Elayne Kouzounis	1.5
2/14/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Fig Pruning for the Home Orchard	Terry Cudlis	1.5
2/14/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Grape Pruning Hands-On Demo/Workshop	Robert Marshall	2
2/16/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Hummingbirds - The Jewels of the Garden	Elayne Kouzounis	2
2/16/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Honey Bees Around the Garden	Stewart McAdoo	1.5
3/5/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	50 Ways to Live a Greener Life	Ken Steblein	1.5
3/12/2013	MG Monthly Meeting	Herbs for the Gulf Coast for MGs only	Cindy Croft	1
3/16/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Grafting Your Own Fruit Trees	Herman Auer	2.5
3/19/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Vermiculture - Worm Castings for Your Garden	Linda Brown	1.5
3/26/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Drip Irrigation - Easy & Efficient	Susan Roth	1
4/6/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Preserving the Harvest - Water Bath Canning	Marilyn Simmons	3
4/13/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	The Culture & Care of Palms	O. J. Miller	2.5
4/16/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	The Joy of Daylilies	Nell Shimek	1.5
4/19/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Pilot Program	Rainwater Harvesting (for MGs only)	Tim Jahnke	2
4/20/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	The ABCs of Composting	Ken Steblein	2
4/22/2013	Spring Pecan Field Day	Pecan tree grafting workshop/demonstration	Jim Hall	1.5
4/30/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Rainwater Harvesting	Tim Jahnke	1.5
5/4/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Herbs for the Gulf Coast	Cindy Croft	2.5
5/18/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Preserving the Harvest - Pressure Canning	Marilyn Simmons	3
6/4/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	The Fabulous Fragrant Frangipani	Loretta Osteen	1.5
6/6/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Peach & Plum Tree Pruning Demonstration (1)	Herman Auer	1.25
6/6/2013	Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar	Peach & Plum Tree Pruning Demonstration (2)	Herman Auer	1.25
Summary				
2013 Recertification Hours for MGs		23 speakers = 38 Educational Programs	Total CEUs (Hours)	71.00
Last updated: 6 June 2013				

bulletin board

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

To volunteer for the **MG Phone Desk** contact Laura Bellmore by e-mail at galv3@wt.net or by calling the office at 281-534- 3413, ext 1.

Libbie's Place Adult Day Care has been designated as a Demonstration Garden for the Master Gardener Association. It is located at 5402 Avenue U in Galveston and is part of Moody Methodist Church outreach ministries (<http://www.moody.org/libbies-place-senior-day-program>). A crew is needed to maintain and upgrade the garden as needed with your time spent counting towards MG volunteer hours. MG Pam Gilbert is heading up the crew and will determine the day, time and frequency of the work days. If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact Pam at 409-771-5620 or by email at DrPGilbert@aol.com to let her know the day/times (AM/PM) that would work best for you. Thank you for your time and consideration in this great new endeavor for the Master Gardeners.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tour Guides for "First-Thursday-in-a-Month" Public Access & Tour of our Demonstration Garden

Long-winded title but it says what we will be doing. Our Demonstration Garden will be open for touring by the general public on the first Thursday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. MGs are needed to serve as tour guides for our demonstration garden. Contact MG Julie Cartmill at 281-932-8896 or email evergreentreesinc@gmail.com or MG Bobbie Ivey at 713-748-8564 or email at blivey@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Master Gardener Digital Photo Library Committee

Do not be alarmed/dissuaded with the name of "committee!" If you like to organize things—join our newest volunteer endeavor known as the Master Gardener Digital Photo Library Committee. The current weekly time schedule for this activity is every Thursday from 10 a.m.-12 noon. MG Sandra Devall will be providing leadership for this. Volunteers will be adding photographers' names to digital photos for cataloging/sorting, sorting photos, or looking up botanical names. If any of those tasks fit your interest—just show up and get with Sandra (281-534-3413, Ext. 17 or sandra.devall@co.galveston.tx.us)! The Photo Library has been the primary source for photos used in PowerPoint programs, website, publications, newsletters, etc.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Saturday programs and the Tuesday evening programs. If you can help please contact Christine Anastas (281) 468-3787 or Robert Marshall e-mail rbrtm01@att.net

AgriLife Extension Office Demonstration Garden needs volunteers! The gardens around the AgriLife Extension Office are maintained by Master Gardeners under the team leadership of MG Peggy Budny. This is an opportunity to make a good impression on the many visitors to the AgriLife Extension Office. Come out and have a good time while learning more about ornamentals. Please contact Peggy at 281-334-7997 or by email at fmbmab@verizon.net to find out the schedule and join her team.

The Fabulous Front Gate Garden—Have you ever noticed the landscape beds as you enter into the park from FM 519? That space is maintained by MG Solveig Cornille. She is in need of two committed volunteers to train and to assist her in the upkeep of this focal-point garden. Please contact Solveig at 281-534-7469 or sc726@comcast.net to volunteer.

SPECIALIST & OTHER MG RELATED TRAINING

Please see the Texas Master Gardeners Website for details. Please note that if you go to the website you can find up-to-date information on Specialist Programs that were added in between editions of the newsletter. <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 and signed by Dr. William Johnson. Note that fees do not include lodging or food unless specified otherwise.

Composter Training Class 4 – Specialist Training – Bexar County - June 12–14, 2013; 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

555 Funston Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209-6635

Applications are received on first come basis and limited to 24 positions for this class.

To provide training whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in areas that support or expand designed programs of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in their counties. In an effort to provide training, the Master Gardener Specialist-Composter Training was created as an intensive multi-day training that will empower Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service efforts in Earth-Kind® educational programs. The class focuses on composting for the home gardener with insight to commercial compost production and recycling. MGs who fulfill specified training and volunteer requirements will be recognized as Master Gardener Specialist in the specified field of Composting.

JMG 2013 Specialist Training - Williamson County - July 23-25, 2013; Williamson County Extension Office - 3151 SE Inner Loop Road, Georgetown, Tx.

An intensive 3-day JMG Specialist Training Program will be held July 23-25, 2013. This program is designed to assist those coordinating or supporting JMG programs at the local and regional level. Upon completion of the JMG Specialist Training Conference you will receive certification as a JMG Specialist by the National Junior Master Gardener Program office and a host of invaluable resources that will help grow JMG and youth gardening programs in your area. Registration includes a comprehensive JMG Specialist training manual, access to JMG training presentations, including PowerPoint presentations, sample training agendas and handout materials, your choice of one complimentary JMG curriculum publication.

Conference Information:

Registration Cost: \$275 (\$300 after July 2, 2013)

Only two registrants per county association please

Accepted forms of payment: Check or Money Order

Airport: Austin Bergstrom Airport is 40 miles south. There is no local air service.

VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGS

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

the last word . . .

HURRICANE PREPARATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE LANDSCAPE

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



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

Hurricane season started June 1, and meteorologists and emergency operation center managers have three words of advice—prepare, prepare, prepare.

We all know that there are lots of things we need to do well in advance of a hurricane heading in our direction, from having adequate food and water on hand to getting important papers together for evacuation.

You have a family disaster plan for what you would do in case a hurricane strikes. You checked your disaster supply kit and obtained and/or replaced any needed items.

Our landscapes also require some attention and thought when it comes to preparing for and dealing with the aftermath of the high winds and heavy rains that hurricanes bring.

Do not wait for a major storm to form in or enter the Gulf before you carefully check large shade trees on your property to make sure they are in good shape and structurally sound.

Trees should be examined periodically for health and potential hazards.

In particular, look for any large dead branches in the trees. These should be removed, especially if they pose a threat to the house.

Also, look for branches that hang over the house near the roof. The high winds of hurricanes can cause trees to bend somewhat and branches to flail around considerably. These branches can cause extensive damage to the roof and generally should be removed.

Look for abnormal or unusual growth on tree trunks or limbs. If you see fungal growths that look like mushrooms (known as conks) on a tree trunk, then the trunk likely has heart rot or decay. The presence of this fungus is particularly serious if several conks are present.

To determine if the tree is unsafe, you need to know how extensive the decay is. Call a certified arborist immediately if you see conks growing around the trunk of a tree.

Cavities and hollows in trunks and branches are typically the result of decay that followed injury. The injury often occurred many years ago. If a tree has a cavity or hollow, have it checked by a competent arborist.

Hollow trees are not always at risk of falling down, so each situation must be carefully assessed.

A tree cavity is similar to a cavity in your tooth. Without proper treatment, the situation will only get worse.

Trees that are one-sided or leaning should be pruned to balance out the canopy. After the prolonged rain associated with many hurricanes, the soil may be so soft that trees can topple over if the weight is not properly distributed.

Look at the overall condition of the trees in your landscape. A tree that is sickly or low in vigor and shows significant signs of rotten or decayed areas in the trunk or termite damage should be cut down if it poses a threat to buildings.

If it's a large tree, you also should consider how it might affect neighboring properties.

It is best to have this kind of work done by professional, licensed arborists. Arborists are trained individuals who make a career of caring for the urban forest.

It's a good idea to contact more than one company and get estimates before you have the work done. And make it a point to be present when the work crew is there so you can make sure what is done is what you wanted.

Well before a hurricane threatens, if you are the organized sort, make a list of things outside that need to be brought inside and where to put them. Also make a list of things that need to be tied down.

Buy the necessary equipment, including anchors. Estimate how long it will take to secure things. You can make these lists part of your family's emergency plan.

Should a hurricane head our way, it's important to secure loose objects in your landscape. Look around your grounds for container plants, hanging baskets, tools, lawn furniture, porch swings, toys, bicycles, bird feeders, wind chimes, barbecue grills, playhouses and doghouses.

These items can become destructive missiles during high winds and should be stored indoors, in garages or sheds or anchored securely in place.

If you have removed the stakes from young trees planted within the past one to three years, consider re-staking them just before a hurricane to prevent them from blowing over. Make sure the stakes are driven deeply and securely into the ground.

Don't wait for a tree to let you know it is sick or dangerous. Be proactive. Look over your trees. If you see something suspicious, call a certified arborist. A healthy tree is a safe tree.

Now is the time to take care of these tree issues; do not delay.



Do not wait for a major storm to form in or enter the Gulf before you carefully check large shade trees on your property to make sure they are in good shape and structurally sound. Cavities and hollows in trunks and branches are typically the result of decay that followed injury. A tree cavity is similar to a cavity in your tooth. Without proper treatment, the situation will only get worse.

MG Judy Anderson is asking for volunteers to host backyard meetings. You may contact Judy at jande10198@aol.com if you would like to volunteer.

2013 MGA MONTHLY MEETINGS

January 17, 2013

Heidi Sheesley - TreeSearch Farms
Pre-Fruit Tree Sale Presentation
1:30 pm - Extension Office
Carbide Park - La Marque

February 12, 2013

Elayne Kouzounis - Hummingbirds
6:30 pm - Extension Office
Carbide Park - La Marque

March 12, 2013

Cindy Croft - Herbs
6:30 pm - Extension Office
Carbide Park - La Marque

April 9, 2013

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

May 14, 2013

Barbara & Gary Hankins - Backyard Meeting
5:30 pm - 12030 Sportsman Road
Galveston Island

June 11, 2013

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

July 9 2013

Pat Forke & Cheryl Armstrong
7:00 pm Extension Office
Greenhouses
Carbide Park - La Marque

August 13, 2013

Moody Gardens
Galveston Island (updates on costs and tours
will be provided as available)

September 10, 2013 - Details TBA

Annual & Perennial Pre-Sale Meeting

October 8, 2013

Rose Marie & Charlie Smith - Backyard Meeting
5:30 pm - 11 Lakeview Drive
Galveston Island

November 12, 2013

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

December 10, 2013

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



*By Judy Anderson
MG 2012*

GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION

June 11, 2013

June is a month of celebrations and the Galveston County Master Gardeners have a lot to celebrate. Individuals and groups of Master Gardeners will be recognized and the 2012 class will receive their Master Gardener certificates. Mikey and Allen Isbell will host the festive event in the garden of their beautiful historic home in Galveston. Tables and chairs will be set up in the garden; the food and desserts will be in the garden house, and the beverages will be available in a claw-foot bathtub on the patio; a short garden walk will lead you to appetizers and more liquid refreshments. Mikey said the garden house has been used as a greenhouse and church, but these days it is used frequently as the "food station." Mark your calendar for the Second Tuesday in June for this joyful occasion. Bring a pot luck dish along with your spouse or guest for a June evening in Galveston.

July 9, 2013

The July meeting will be held the AgriLife Extension Office in La Marque. Many people have requested a presentation about greenhouses and with the greenhouse under construction at the demo garden, it seems like a good time to add a greenhouse program for Master Gardeners. Pat Forke and Cheryl Armstrong attended a certification program for Greenhouse Management and were agreeable to making a presentation to the Galveston County Master Gardeners. Before the presentation, you are invited to a pot luck dinner. Bring a dish for a summer supper; soft drinks will be provided.

