

WRITTEN BY GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS IN COOPERATION  
WITH THE GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE OF TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE

# GULF COAST *Gardening*

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*You Might be a Master Gardener if: Visiting a garage sale you talk the homeowner into digging up a small division of an incredible purple iris in his front yard – You request plants that even the people at the garden center have never heard of – Anytime you have a new idea about what to do with your garden, you create a new board on Pinterest – You have pride in how bad your hands look – Running short on gardening space, you are considering converting the exterior walls of your home to a vertical garden – You receive weather alerts on your phone from Al Roker and five additional apps – Your garden Crocs are your statement shoes – You tend gardens on pieces of land that aren't yours – You would rather share your toothbrush than your hand pruners – You delight in the harvest of the first carrot; the \$25 and 20 hours of work to produce it seems irrelevant – In your will it states you want to be companion planted with your spouse in the garden!*

I have no idea where this year has gone in what seems like a blink! Here we are nearing the last quarter of the calendar year and I've barely begun my summer yard activities. My lawn and gardens are developing that late summer crispy look before late summer arrives. Surprisingly my roses, can-

Jan Brick fills us in on what the light requirement terms mean for successful plant growing. Learn about full sun, partial sun/shade, dappled sun and full shade on page 16. She also provides several choices of plants for these conditions. Learn about the Canna Lilly on page 12; it is again becoming a popular plant in our southern gardens. On page 32, Donna Ward organizes our gardening tasks as we get closer to fall. Enjoy meeting Master Gardener Briana Etie (page 19). John Jons tells us about a lovely rose garden, close to home, whose beauty can rival famous gardens he has visited around the world (page 20). He also provides a YouTube video for your enjoyment. Don't miss the Discovery Garden update on page 29 and also the story on page 18 featuring what's currently growing in the Discovery Garden. For a greenhouse staffed by volunteers, it's amazing what is going on there! **If you follow the weather**



by Camille Goodwin  
MG 2008



nas and salvias are blooming and I still have bees and butterflies visiting and lots of wildlife and birds. I'm starting to think about our upcoming October 20 plant sale (the bulbs order has been placed) along with a few other topics of interest at this time of the year.

This newsletter covers several issues of timely interest including some of the fall vegetables that will be available at the October plant sale (page 4), and Karolyn Gephart gives everyone a heads up on the plant sale and educational seminar on page 26. With our high humidity around this time each year, you might be seeing that elegant and magical "silken glove" made by the beneficial barklice insect (page 28), covering one of your trees. Our Interns continue to support the Discovery Garden in a major way, and have discovered Carpetweed (page 6), Spotted Pigweed (ugh!) (page 8) and Prostrate Spurge (page 10). In our continuing series on how our Master Gardeners came about their gardening talents, Michelle Thompson and Stewart McAdoo are featured (page 14).

**at the Discovery Garden using our Davis Weather station, please know that Davis has made a major update to the system's software and you'll now need to sign in differently.** Detailed instructions are on page 30. Several MGs have already implemented the change on their computers and phones using the instructions without problems. Help is available if you need it. Dr. Johnson reminds us that rain showers mean a greater possibility for mosquitoes in the Last Word on page 35.

If you have any comments or feedback about our newsletters or if you have gardening questions you need researched, please let Linda Steber know (steber8@msn.com). I think we have resolved our Mail Chimp issue and you should now be receiving electronic notifications when the newsletters are ready for viewing.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the plant sale! *We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost.*

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Angel Wing Begonia  
Photo courtesy GCMG Digital Library



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

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Thanks for your interest!



# Q&A ask a master gardener

## Can you tell me what vegetables will be sold at the MG Fall Plant Sale?



By Barbara Lyons  
MG 2014

In Galveston County we are fortunate to have a year-round growing season. Vegetable varieties to be sold at the fall plant sale are selected with particular attention to those which can be successfully grown in our area considering length of growing season and disease resistance, for example.

Come visit the vegetable section at the Fall Plant Sale on Saturday, October 20th to find great varieties of vegetables for your home garden. Let the vegetable committee Master Gardeners help you find an old favorite or something new to try. Exact varieties may vary slightly from those mentioned due to availability from our growers.



Photo courtesy of GCMGA Digital Library

**Broccoli** types which have been grown successfully in our area include Packman and Arcadia. Packman is a staple variety and a consistently good producing broccoli. Not only does it have a compact head but also grows side shoots after the main head is harvested to make it a producer all season long. Arcadia is a hybrid cultivar which has disease resistance to black rot, a fungal disease common when the winter is humid. Broccoli is tasty raw or cooked.



Photo courtesy of MG Herman Auer

**Cauliflower** - There will be five varieties of cauliflower at the sale, Snowball, Snow Crown, Romanesco or Green Veronica (green), Cheddar (orange) and Purple Graffiti (purple). Cauliflower makes just one head per plant. Romanesco is an interesting variety which grows in a head of turret-shaped florets. Cheddar looks like it is already smothered with cheese but is low in calories, as are all cauliflowers. Purple Graffiti makes beautiful heads of lavender-colored cauliflower. Quite a novelty! Cauliflower florets are tasty steamed, oven-roasted or pureed.



Photo courtesy of MG Herman Auer

**Cabbage** is a staple of the cool crops. Each plant makes one head and then the plant is done for the season. Varieties include Early Jersey Wakefield (green), Ruby Perfection (red), and Copenhagen Market (green). The red is a hybrid while the green types are old heirlooms which have produced well for over 100 years. All can be used in slaws, as a cooked side dish or as stuffed cabbage.



Photo courtesy of MG Mary Demeny

**Brussels** sprouts take the longest time of all of the Brassicas to form their offshoots. They can take up to 120 days and if not planted early enough may not form many sprouts before the weather turns warm. "Long Island" is a compact plant variety while "Jade Cross" is a tried and true variety, an All America Selection from 1959. Both are freeze tolerant and are said to have tastier sprouts after going through a freeze or two. Brussels sprouts are eaten raw, steamed, or roasted.



Photo courtesy of MG Herman Auer

**Collards** are popular with our plant sale clientele. When grown and harvested consistently, collards can last into the spring. Collards have a mild cabbage taste which is improved by a light frost. This year we will be selling the variety "Georgia." Harvest leaves as desired or the entire plant. Good steamed with a bit of ham or bacon.



Photo courtesy of MG Mary Demeny

**Kale** - Homegrown for its health benefits, kale is a good seller at the sale. Kale can be used as a sautéed vegetable, as a salad green, in smoothies or as baked kale chips. Types expected for the sale are Red Russian (large but tender leaves, 2-3 feet tall at maturity) White Russian (green in color and grows well in wet soils) and Vates Blue Curled (crinkled blue-collar green leaves). All are cold hardy with Russian types being more cold tolerant. Harvest as baby leaves or fully mature.



Photo courtesy of GCMGA Digital Library

**Pak choi** and other Chinese greens are quick growing and can be eaten raw in a salad, sautéed, or stir-fried. Matures earlier than other Brassicas freeing up space for other cool vegetables with a short growing season such as radishes. This year we will be selling "Mei Qing" which grows a loose head in just 45 days.



Photo courtesy of MG Herman Auer

**Beets** are an often maligned vegetable that are quite tasty when homegrown. In addition to the usual red beet varieties there are colors ranging from white to yellow, orange, white and pink/red striped. Usually grown by directly seeding method, our Master Gardeners have had success with transplanting small plants. This method allows them to be spaced for their final growth without the necessity of thinning seedlings. This year only Detroit red (red) will be sold.



Photo courtesy of GCMGA Digital Library

**Chard** - Sometimes called Swiss chard, this large green leafed vegetable that makes a colorful addition to a winter flower bed as well as a vegetable garden. 'Bright lights' has multicolored stems within the same plant and include ivory, pink, red, yellow and orange. 'Bali' has red stems and veins and a dark green leaf. Use chard leaves as a substitute for spinach in soups or quiche or sautéed or steam with a bit of olive oil, sweet onion and bacon bits for a tasty side vegetable. Remove the stem and lead vein prior to cooking or not. The choice is yours.



Photo courtesy of MG Herman Auer

**Lettuce** is a favorite among our customers. Several types including Black Seeded Simpson, Buttercrunch, Red Sails, and Romaine are all grow well in Galveston County. All are easy to grow and long-standing varieties. Notably Red Sails is red and while the others are green. All have delicate flavors and have good crunch. Lettuce are great as part of a winter salad or as a wrap for people cutting back on carbs.



# Carpetweed, *Mollugo verticillata*

## *What I learned in the Discovery Garden!*



By Pamela Hunter  
MG 2018

While pulling up the last of the tomatoes from the Class of 2018's Tomato Variety Performance Trials, fellow MG Intern Fran Brockington and I saw a weed we have all seen before but we did not know its name. There is always something new to learn in the Gardens so we asked Dr. Johnson the name of the weed...and here I am eagerly writing about it.

The common name for this weed is Carpetweed (botanical name: *Mollugo verticillata*). It is a rapidly spreading plant from tropical America. In eastern

North America, it is a common weed. Carpetweed forms a prostrate (stems growing horizontally or close to the ground) and circular mat (Fig. 1). Carpet weed has been reported from every state in the United States excluding Alaska, Hawaii and Utah.

The wide range of Carpetweed is apparent across North America, Brazil, Columbia, Mexico, West Indies, Central America, South America, Eurasia and Africa. Some studies show that Carpetweed originated from the New World tropics and spread into more temperate zones afterwards.

Archaeological evidence has shown that Carpetweed has been in North America for millennia. Carpetweed is sometimes referred to as "Indian Chickweed." It is still a mystery as to exactly when or how Carpetweed spread into North America. European movements were not the cause of the migration because carbon dating reveals that the plant was in the Little Tennessee River Valley region 3,000 years ago.

Carpetweed has narrow, whorled leaves with 3-to-8 leaves formed at each node (Fig. 2). Leaves are approximately 1-to-3 cm (slightly less than ½ inch to 1¼ inches) in length and are obovate-shaped. The flowers (are usually produced in clusters of 2-to-5, blooming from July through September. Flowers (Fig.3) are white or greenish white and, after pollination has taken place, egg-shaped seed pods are quickly produced. Each egg-shaped seedpod (known as a capsule, Fig. 4) contains orange-red to orange-brown, glossy, kidney-shaped seeds.

Carpetweed is an edible plant that has historically been utilized as a leafy vegetable and for medicinal benefits. Carpetweed belongs to the botanical family Molluginaceae and this plant/weed has been studied for its therapeutic characteristics to the production of flavonoids. Carpetweed and other weeds within Molluginaceae in general produce chemicals that have anti-fungal and anti-inflammatory properties.

### Carpetweed Control

Weeds are always a cause for frustration, but Carpetweed in lawns and gardens

can really be frustrating. Carpetweed can also be a weed issue in ornamental plant beds and in newly established or thinning turf.

You can achieve Carpetweed control by pulling the weeds when the infestation is light and the infested area is small. Carpetweed spreads by dropping seeds onto the soil, so it is important to remove or kill the plants before the flowers bloom. The proper use of mulch in ornamental plant areas also can effectively reduce populations of this weed.

The plants can root along the stems at any point where a node makes contact with soil. Removing Carpetweed plants manually is easiest when the soil is moist. A dandelion weeding tool will help you remove a larger portion of the taproot. Diligence is the key to controlling Carpetweed by this method.

The best defense against Carpetweed in lawns is a healthy, well-maintained turf. Choose a type of lawn grass that grows well in your area and maintain it according to the needs of the specific type of grass. Irrigate the lawn when there is less than 1.5 inches of rain in a week and fertilize properly.

If the soil is compacted, aerate in the fall. When the lawn is healthy, it can choke out the Carpetweed, but a sickly lawn can be easily overtaken by the Carpetweeds and other weed species.

In lawns where Carpetweed is problem, spray with an herbicide containing 2,4-D, dicamba and mecoprop as the active ingredients (such as Bayer Advanced Weed Killer for Lawns, Bonide Weed Beater Lawn Weed Killer, Fertilome Weed-Out Broadleaf Weed Control, Hi-Yield Lawn Weed Killer or Ortho Weed B Gon Lawn Weed Killer) for post-emergence control. Treat when the lawn grass is actively growing and day time temperatures are moderate (do not apply when daytime temperatures exceed 85 degrees F. as lawn grass may sustain herbicide injury).

It is best to control this summer annual broadleaf weed in late spring or early summer because it is easier to control at this time and the turf will have a greater chance of recovering the areas previously occupied by weeds.

There is at least one herbicide labelled for use on vegetable beds: Preen Garden Weed Preventer. Its active ingredient is trifluralin. Preen can also be effective for controlling a variety of weeds in ornamental beds. Instead of utilizing an herbicide in our tomato beds, we elected to practice weed control by hand-pulling and light cultivation.

We did manage to keep most of the weeds from getting a foothold in our two large tomato beds but we obviously missed a few near the end of the tomato study...hence we were afforded a few teachable moments on weed ID and I got the assignment to write this article!







# Redroot Pigweed, *Amaranthus retroflexus*

## *What I learned in the Discovery Garden!*



By Diane Schenke  
MG 2018

The Intern Class of 2018 assembled at the Discovery Garden on July 12 to conduct a final variety performance assessment on tomato plants grown in two vegetable beds. It was a HOT morning and the tomato stakes were hard to remove. So a group of us had moved to the nearby pergola for some shade, when Dr. Johnson approached, waving a weed, and asked why we had not been more diligent in our weeding because he had a terrible one in his hand.

Dr. Johnson waved the weed in front of us and asked what it was. We were all stumped. He wanted us to try to find the identification and he said he would return in 10 minutes for our finding! Dr. Johnson gave us a hint that the reddish or pinkish coloration near the base of the stem would be an important clue in seeking identification.

My cell phone had good reception in the garden, so I was able to identify the culprit: Redroot Pigweed. Redroot Pigweed and its pigweed cousins are major weeds for vegetable and row crop farmers from the southern US into Canada. Pigweeds thrive in hot weather, tolerate drought, respond to high levels of fertilization and are adapted to avoid shading through rapid stem growth. They compete aggressively against warm season crops and reproduce by prolific seed production.

So let's talk about how to recognize this particular weed, whether in the Discovery Garden or in your home garden. Figures 1 & 2 shows what a 4" tall plant looks like. The leaves on Redroot Pigweed are wider in the middle (ovate), thin and shiny.

Figure 2, as noted above, demonstrates the easiest method to identify the Redroot Pigweed—it has a thick basal stem that is decidedly red or pink in color.

Figure 4 shows flower spikes that develop at the terminus and is axillary as plant mature. The flower spike immediately identifies the plant as a member of the *Amaranthus* family.

While the taproot and lower stem of Redroot Pigweed are distinctly red or pink in color, this distinctive characteristic also occurs in some other closely related cousins including Smooth Pigweed and Powell Amaranth which sometimes exhibit similar colorations. For home gardeners, the general classification of pigweed serves as a sufficient identifier for this weed.

Now that we all know what to look for in deciding if the weed is Redroot Pigweed, why should we immediately go after that particular weed? Redroot Pigweed is a heat-loving summer annual emerging after the spring

frost date, grows rapidly, competes vigorously against warm-season crops, reproduces by seed, and dies with the fall frost. Pigweeds are major weeds of warm season vegetables. It is a successful weed for the following reasons:

- Each plant produces 100,000-600,000 seeds, and each plant bears thousands of flowers in small densely packed clusters (Fig. 4) in leaf axils at the tips of main stems and major branches.
- Seed production is encouraged by temperatures over 95 degrees F.
- These seeds are easily dispersed by floodwaters, manure, soil clinging to footwear and equipment, etc. Many Galveston County gardeners are dealing with new infestations of pigweed this year after the floods of Hurricane Harvey about one year ago.
- Pigweeds are shade intolerant but can grow rapidly to get beyond all other adjacent plants. One of our Master Gardener Interns had the unfortunate experience of having pigweed take over his berry patch after Hurricane Harvey—see photo below.
- There are records of Redroot Pigweed growing up to 7900 feet (2400 m) in the Central Valley of California!
- Pigweeds are a major threat to cotton crops in Texas. Professor Kerry Rathore at Texas A&M is developing a [genetically modified cotton](#) that will allow it to out-compete the pigweed.
- Pigweed seed can remain dormant in the soil for years and have multiple dormancy periods, allowing seeds produced in a given season to germinate at different times over the next several years.

### So how to control this weed pest?

- Timely action is important, because pigweeds rapidly become harder to kill once they grow taller than one inch and develop four or more true leaves (which can occur within two weeks after germination in hot climates).
- Seedlings are readily killed by uprooting. Emerging pigweed is also susceptible to shading by mulch.
- Pigweeds are very tasty to livestock (hence, the common name!). However, mature seeds pass through the animals' digestive tracts unharmed, making manure a source for future pigweed problems.

This article is based in large part on an excellent article on several [species of pigweed](#) by Dr. Mark Schonbeck, entitled "Pigweeds (*Amaranthus* spp.): Redroot Pigweed (*A. retroflexus*), Smooth Pigweed (*A. hybridus*), and Powell Amaranth (*A. powellii*). This is part of a series to assist organic farmers in recognition and control of weeds. Please feel free to consult for more information.

My own garden is highly dappled with shade, so I don't have pigweed in my own garden. However, since learning about this weed I am on the lookout for it throughout the Discovery Garden with its abundant sunshine. I also have taken to heart Dr. Johnson's challenge about weeding this prolific weed out of our garden!







# Spotted Spurge, *Euphorbia maculata*

## *What I learned in the Discovery Garden!*



By Kevin Lancon  
MG Intern 2018

When I joined the Master Gardener Intern Class of 2018, I did so primarily to learn more about vegetable and citrus gardening, which were my main areas of interest and comprised most of my historical gardening knowledge and experience. Since joining the Master Gardener program, I now have a broader understanding and appreciation for many overlooked horticultural aspects within our gardens.

A case in point is this spring's Tomato Variety Performance Trials conducted by members of the 2018 Intern Class. We were tasked with growing and evaluating 12 varieties of tomatoes. We not only learned a lot about growing tomatoes but we were challenged with learning about weed identification and management as well. On the last day of the field project, we were quizzed about the identification of some weeds growing in our two research beds. I got tagged with identifying a particular weed and writing an article on it for this newsletter!

The dictionary says that a weed is “a wild (not deliberately cultivated) plant growing where it is not wanted.” By this definition, that means virtually any plant that is growing where we do not want it to grow is a weed. Spotted Spurge certainly fits that definition. I would venture to say that everyone reading this article has Spotted Spurge somewhere within their garden and more than likely it is in a bare spot in the garden or growing from a crack or crevice within concrete somewhere.

Spotted Spurge is a warm season annual broadleaf weed found throughout the southeastern United States. It certainly has become one of the most common weeds that infest landscapes and gardens in Galveston County.

Spotted Spurge grows close to the ground and often forms a dense circular mat (Fig. 1). Its dark green leaves, which grow in pairs called “opposites,” are 1/8 to 1/2 inch long and about 1/8 inch wide (Fig. 2). Frequently a red spot will mark the leaf halfway down its center vein (Fig 2).

Flowering takes place from May through October. Tiny, inconspicuous flowers are grouped in small flowerlike cups and are surrounded by white to pink petal-like appendages. Flower clusters are found at the stem tips and along the length of the stem (Fig. 3), where one to two small flower clusters are produced where the stem and leaf stalk meet (leaf axil).

The scientific name for Spotted Spurge can be frustrating to research; most current references cite the scientific name to be *Euphorbia maculata* while other references cite a synonym name of *Chamaesyce maculata*. To add more confusion, Spotted Spurge is also known as Prostrate Spurge.

Spotted Spurge produces abundant seed that germinate throughout the summer and readily invade turf and ornamental plantings. A single plant can produce several thousand seeds, which are small and can remain dormant in the soil until conditions are suitable for germination (sprouting). The leaves are oval in shape, small, and opposite along the stem.

There is usually a red spot in the center of each leaf though not all plants exhibit this distinctive characteristic. Another distinct characteristic is the stem contains a milky sap that oozes when the stem is broken (Fig. 4). Spotted Spurge is poisonous and has been known to kill sheep grazing in pastures where it is the predominant weed and other suitable forage is not available (especially during extended periods of





drought). Sheep that consumed as little as 0.62% of their body weight of this plant have died within a few hours.

While killing Spotted Spurge is relatively easy, the hard part is keeping it from coming back. The tap root of this plant is very long and its seeds are very hardy. Due to the mat-like nature of this weed, hand-pulling is a good option for removing Spotted Spurge from the lawn or flower beds but be sure to wear gloves due to the irritating sap.

This weed can and will grow back from either broken pieces of stems or from seeds so it's critical that if you hand pull this weed you do so before it has a chance to develop seeds and make sure you get the tap root; otherwise, it will spread rapidly. Proper mulching is also an effective method of controlling spurge.

You can also use herbicides, but many herbicides will only work while the plants are young. Once they reach a mature size, they can resist many forms of weed killers. When using herbicides for killing spurge, it is best to use them in late spring or early summer, which is when spurge will first sprout.

Many post-emergent, broadleaf weed killers can be applied when weeds are actively growing. Look for a product with one or more of the following ingredients: 2-4-D, MCPP (mecoprop), Diacamba or Triclopyr. Do not spray herbicides containing Dicamba over the root zone of trees and shrubs. Roots can absorb the product possibly causing plant damage. Read the product label for precautions.

One of the few herbicides that will work on mature spurge is Round-up, but be careful, as Round-up will kill most plants it comes in contact with. Even with this, the spurge may still regrow from the roots, so check frequently for regrowth and treat the plant as soon as possible if you see it.

Pre-emergent sprays or granules can also be used for spurge control, but these will only be effective before the seeds have sprouted, which means that they need to be applied very early in the spring prior to seed germination.

Spotted Spurge can also be introduced into landscapes through plants purchased at nurseries. Be sure to inspect for Spotted Spurge (and other weeds as well) before planting.

My suggestion for next year's Intern Class: Be sure there is not a single weed growing in the research beds. Otherwise, you will probably get tagged with identifying it and writing an article! Though, it's not a bad thing as we get to learn something new in the Discovery Garden that can benefit all gardeners.



Photo courtesy of MG Intern Kevin Lancon

# Canna Lilies

## Regaining popularity



By Elayne Kouzounis  
MG 1998

Nothing quite says South more than Canna Lilies. Cannas were once an important ornamental in Southern Gardens and are currently enjoying a renewal of popularity. The flowers produce a continuous show of bold flowers with a tousled arrangement of petal-like stamens, called staminoes, whereas the true petals are greenish and small. The individual flowers are 3 to 5 inches long and are carried in terminal clusters that can reach one foot in length. Some flowers are sometimes

bi-colored and are carried on clumps of stiff, erect stems. The flowers look something like gladiolus blooms but exhibit a peculiar botanical structure. They traveled from the American tropics to England and Europe in the 16th century and reached their height of popularity in Victorian bedding schemes. They have thick, branching rhizomes.

Cannas have been in cultivation for some time; *C. indica*, was known as early as 1570 it was called Indian Shot because of their hard pea-like seeds—which colonial Spanish missionaries turned into Rosary beads. The work of breeding and improving this species was begun in the 1840s by a Frenchman, M. Ansee. He introduced the first hybrid, “Annei,” in 1847 or 1848. Cannas are among the easiest of perennials to grow and are available in a wide variety of flower colors and plant sizes.

The broad, bold foliage is banana-like and can be up to 24 inches long and the leaves vary in color from green to reddish purple, bronze and variegated. Bloom season can last from May until November in some areas. They grow in sun or part sun. You can mass these coarse-textured plants at the back of borders in casual groupings or formal patterns, or you can grow the dwarf cultivars as edgings or in patio containers.

Rhizomes purchased in early spring will bloom well the first year if planted in sunny locations and good soil. Space rhizomes 3 to 4 inches deep, and 12 to 18 inches apart. Soils should be well-drained and contain a high percent of organic matter. Keep your plants well-watered all season long. And while moist, well-drained soil is the norm for these plants, cannas also can be grown in containers set in water by keeping them moist and gradually increasing the water they receive. Either buy plants acclimated to

growing in water or acclimate your own. As flower stalks finish blooming, trim them back near the ground. Basal sprouts that develop will provide successive blooms. In colder climates, the rhizomes (bulbs) are dug and stored after frost and replanted the next spring.

Cannas respond to good growing conditions, but few plants can withstand more abuse. Removing spent flowers and seed pods induces repeat flowering as well as guaranteeing a neat appearance. Dividing established clumps every three or four years helps to prevent overcrowding, but is not essential.

Many varieties of cannas are available. *C. x generalis* (canna lily) - standard varieties grow 4-6 feet tall; ‘Black Knight’ has deep velvet red flowers and bronze foliage; ‘City of Portland’, rosy salmon flowers above green foliage; ‘Gaiety’, yellow flowers edged in orange; ‘Los Angeles’, coral pink blooms above green foliage; ‘The President’, bright red flowers and deep green leaves; ‘Red King Humbert’, red flowers above bronzy foliage on very tall stems; ‘Richard Wallace’, canary yellow blossoms and green foliage; ‘Rosamund Cole’, red-and-gold bicolored blossoms; ‘Stadt Fellbach’, peach flowers with yellow throats fading to pink; and

‘Wyoming’, rugged red-orange flowers and reddish bronze leaves. Among the most useful are the Pfitzer Dwarfs, which range in size from 2½-to-4’ tall and produce large heads of brightly colored flowers in yellow, pink, orange, salmon and red. ‘Ambrosia’ has pinky orange blossoms on 18-inch stems; ‘Brandywine’, scarlet flowers on 3-foot stems; ‘Pfitzer’s Chinese Coral’, rich coral pink blossoms; ‘Pfitzer’s Crimson Beauty’, bright red flowers on 18-inch stems; ‘Pfitzer’s Primrose Yellow’, soft yellow blooms; ‘Pfitzer’s Salmon’, unusually large salmon pink flowers; and ‘Pretoria’, yellow-orange flowers above deep green leaves striped with cream.

Cannas are usually propagated by division of mature clumps. New varieties are obtained from seed which should be soaked in warm water for about 48 hours before planting to loosen their tough outer coats, or have their seed coat nicked with a file before sowing (a process known as seed scarification).

A large, vigorous, tall-growing canna with long, tubular flowers and brilliant red coloring is sometimes found in old Southern gardens. This seems to be *C. x Iridiflora* ‘Rubra’, one of Ansee’s hybrids and a plant this pioneer introduced sometime around 1858.





Distributed under the name of 'Ehemannii,' this is a striking variety that seems to have some RESISTANCE to the caterpillars that cause leaf roll. The canna leafroller is the major pest of cannas. The adults are moths of varying types and the larvae are ½ inch to 1 inch long and range in color from green to gray and brown, depending on the species. The leafrollers strip the foliage and/or attach leaves together with silken threads to form protective housing.

To help control these pests you can use synthetic insecticides such as Malathion or Sevin or organic insecticides containing Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) such as Dipel, Thuricide or Safer's Caterpillar Killer. Do spray at the first signs of invasion, before the insects are protected within dried foliage. Or you can just cut the plant down to the ground which is what I suggest as Cannas are very fast growers. *C. iridiflora* is a tall species canna with attractive ginger-like foliage and pendant flowers in bright crimson. This is a beautiful addition to the back of the border and was once a winner of the Royal Horticulture Society Award of Merit. *C. x 'Striped Beauty'* is a more recent introduction with interesting green and cream, variegated foliage. This hybrid bears yellow flowers marked with creamy patches. It grows quickly and easily, though it remains relatively dwarf, not exceeding a height of 3' to 4'.

We grow "Gaity" and "Pfitzer's Salmon" cannas in full sun and they are always in bloom and bring smiles our way.

Be grateful to those who make us happy they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.



# Green Genes passed down to Master Gardeners



By Karolyn Gephart  
MG 2017

## Michelle Thompson

What's a girl from NW Chicago doing in a Discovery Garden like this?

Everything she can to learn more about gardening and life in Texas.

Michelle Thompson, MG 2017, moved from the Chicago area in 1992. While growing up she spent much time at her maternal grandparents' farm in

NW Illinois.

"Overall I got the impression that farm life was very hard, not very glamorous and rural life was kind of boring with not much to do compared to my life living in the busy suburbs," Michelle said.

A community garden was her first attempt at gardening.

"After I moved out of my parents' house and shared a townhouse with some roommates, my first try at growing a garden was in a community area in which you could rent small garden plots. I had to bring in my own water in milk jugs and the plot eventually became over run with weeds. It was discouraging but I didn't give up on gardening," Michelle said. "Once I got married and became a homeowner, that's where my true love of gardening began."

Before her two sons were born, Michelle worked as a Dietetic Technician, Nutritionist and Food Technologist. Once the two, now in college, arrived, Michelle became a stay at home mom who could spend more time in her yard.

Michelle and her husband relocated frequently with his job and although she worked hard at home landscapes, she felt she never had the chance to complete the look she was going for in her yard.

"I wanted to improve the appearance of the landscaping around our home. I grew all kinds of plants in any available space in my yard along with maintenance of the shrubs. I loved trimming and shaping shrubs and in our first house, I over did it and ended up with the poodle tail look as I call it. Trial and error were how I best learned about yard maintenance and gardening," she said.

They lived the longest period in Michigan, 10 years.

"Moving to Texas was the biggest gardening challenge. I chose to get help in understanding what I was doing wrong by joining a garden club. To increase my horticulture knowledge, I wanted to take the Master Gardener program. I could share my knowledge with my garden club friends and for other community projects I find myself getting involved in," Michelle said.

The growing season here is very different than the Zone 5 she had experienced. The time table for growing vegetables is also very different and she was able to make improvements in her gardens based on MG training, especially in tomato and citrus growing.

Michelle found the Master Gardener program to fit her needs.

"When I'm in the Discovery Garden, I'm a nomad helping out where needed. Last fall I spent most of my time working in the Greenhouse getting plants ready for the plant sale. I enjoy attending programs at the Extension Office and other sources to continue my knowledge of horticulture," she said.

Michelle attended the Texas Master Gardener Conference in College Station in April and was able to share what she had learned with members of her garden club, Heritage Gardeners of Friendswood. Thompson is the new president and will serve a 2018-2020 term.

She stays busy with the Friends of Downtown Friendswood and chairing their Scarecrow Contest and Scarecrow Walk as well as helping with the Heritage





Gardeners' Christmas Home Tour. She also works with MG Denny Noh to organize GCMG programs for the Friendswood Public Library to bring more horticulture opportunities to the community.

"Our combined GCMG and Heritage Gardener resources will help to get the word out for this new program location. The first program is September 8 on Backyard Citrus with MG Robert Marshall. I'm really excited to be a part of this joint venture," Michelle said.

Not all Master Gardeners enjoyed gardening while young.

### Stewart McAdoo

Stewart McAdoo (MG 2012) didn't like any element of the activity that his father loved so much.

"My dad received his horticulture degree from Texas A&M and worked hard in his vegetable gardens," Stewart said. "Once he retired from the USAF, he really began to garden even more."



Stewart was born in Abilene but as the child of an Air Force member, he moved frequently.

His father's idea of gardening was not pleasant to him as a young man.

"My father's idea of gardening was to get me up at 6:00 a.m. to pull weeds and it happened often," Stewart said. "I decided at that time that I would never have a garden. It was something I did not enjoy and thought I would never in my life do that again."

Stewart did not select horticulture for a career choice but instead became a rocket scientist as well as working in geophysical data management.

The strangest thing happened after retirement.

Stewart found himself thinking fondly of gardening and even considering having his own garden. Looking back now, the epiphany that happened is humorous to him today.

"Who would have thought that I would not only have a garden and work with plants but also enjoy doing it," Stewart said.

Stewart and his wife Gayle are both Master Gardeners and live in Taylor Lake Village. Gayle became a Master Gardener in 2005.

Stewart credits his wife as well as his father for being a big influence in getting him to be part of the MG program.

Stewart's impact is evident. He helped with constructing the greenhouse in the Discovery Garden and is the current team leader for the program.

Stewart found out that gardening may not be rocket science but it is a wonderful part of his life now and he and his wife can enjoy it together.



# On the Shady Side

## The Island Garden

Editor's Note: This is a reprint of Jan's article in the *Galveston Monthly* magazine



By Jan Brick  
MG 2001

Most plant nurseries and garden centers will include an identification and care label with each plant; this small plastic tab bears a multitude of information. It usually will tell you if the plant is an annual, a perennial, or seasonal variety; it may include information about the growing habit, if it grows upright or in a mounding shape. The tag may also tell you if the plant is deer resistant, drought tolerant, if it is hardy or delicate, as well as when it blooms, its probable height, spacing recommendations and

watering advice.

Unquestionably, most important is the plant's light requirement. Determining if a location meets your selection's sun requirements can be as confusing to beginning gardeners as it may be to the seasoned gardener. There are many definitions of sun levels and this is certainly not an exact science. Terms like part sun, full sun, part shade and full shade can make any gardener scratch his or her head in perplexed bewilderment. Fortunately, there are guidelines and standards for sun exposure.

- **Full Sun** indicates six full hours of direct sunlight. These hours can be at any time of the day even split between morning and afternoon equally.
- **Partial sun/partial shade** can be interchangeable terms with an understanding of sun intensity in the morning versus that of afternoon sun. Generally three to six hours of sunlight with plants needing relief from intense sun preferring some shade later in the day.
- **Dappled Sun** is similar to partial shade as plants get partial sun through branches of overhead trees.
- **Full Shade** means less than three hours of direct sunlight each day preferably in the morning but full shade can also be bright light or filtered sunlight.

The wise gardener knows his/her sun, shade and that in between. Now that we understand the variances, we can make knowledgeable decisions when selecting our shade plants. Even though full shade plants prefer less than three hours of direct sun a day or a dappled sun situation and prefer morning and evening sun to mid-day sun, full shade does not mean dark places. Every plant needs some sun even those that thrive in full shade.

"Gardening where the sign doesn't shine is not the easiest of tasks" as it requires patience, perseverance and trust that some plants will grow in the shadiest of places. Do not try to grow large showy flowers in shade but choose instead selections that are appropriate to a shady location.

Shady areas may be deprived of moisture as well as sun so paying attention to the moisture needs of your plants is important in soil preparation. Adding compost and other types of organic matter to the dry and or compacted soil as well as mulch will insure success by improving the moisture retention and increasing the nutrients for the roots of the new shade-loving plants. Less

maintenance is required in the shade garden if you have prepared the area well with your nutrient and water retention efforts...less watering, fewer weeds equal contented and flourishing plants.

Consider alternatives in your shady areas as well; container plants can add a spot of color and dimension and will flourish since the plant roots do not have to compete with tree roots. For low maintenance try a ground cover that will expand, filling the area like a living carpet or where nothing will grow create mulch or paver pathways adding visual interest while enriching the soil and covering unsightly bare spots.

Understand that dark shadows do not mean that your gardening days are ill-fated. There are numerous options of shade loving plants for creating eye-catching gardens that can transform your yard into a colorful retreat. A shade garden can utilize those spots under trees or beside buildings generating landscaping rewards of a new dimension with interesting foliage and distinctive color. Make that foliage a mainstay in your shade garden allowing colors and textures to complement one another like the broad leaves of caladiums against the frilly fronds of ferns. Maximize the power of color by using only one or two hues, plant tall growers in back with shorter plants in front and finish off with a ground cover for ultimate effect. A garden bench, a fountain, bird bath or a trio of large foliage-filled pots or urns will introduce plenty of texture, color and interest into that less-than-bright location.

Investigate the varieties of ferns available for a shade garden, focusing on the lush, cool, tropical character of the foliage. Whether you prefer a dainty, fragile look or large bold arching fronds on a plant that makes a statement by itself, there are ferns to suit every gardener's penchant. Ferns lend an air of relaxation and respite to a garden space while actually even seeming to lower the temperature around you.

**Australian Tree Fern** is a large, fast growing fern that can tolerate temperatures as low as thirty degrees. This fern needs plenty of space, morning sun or all day filtered light, it can produce three feet of trunk in three years... very dramatic.

**Bird Nest Fern** is a noble choice for a shade garden and adapts well to containers becoming that statement focal point. Many forms are available from crinkle leaf to dwarf; this fern prefers bright light but no direct afternoon sun.

**Holly Fern** has bold coarse-textured evergreen fronds that adds first-rate beauty year round with leaves as long as thirty inches, and prefers light to full shade. The easily divided large clumps lend themselves to the creation of large container specimens.

**Leatherleaf Fern** spreads by rhizomes, is tolerant of morning and afternoon sunlight, and is excellent for flower arrangements.

**Mother Fern** is another clumping fern that produces long fronds with new fronds being copper in color. Bright light but not hot sun will insure a delightfully pleasing specimen.







# What's Growing in the Discovery Garden Greenhouse



by Briana Etie  
MG 2017

During the hottest months of the summer, the greenhouse team is growing plants for our upcoming Fall Sale on October 20th. Under the direction of MG Mary Gonzalez, we grow most of the herbs for our Fall and Spring Sales.

With the temperatures in the greenhouse climbing above 90 degrees, growing herbs against their season to get them to a sellable size for the Fall Sale becomes a percentage rate. Not only seed germination success rates, propagating cuttings can have a percentage of failures and success as well. We are always learning about what will work best for some of the plants; however, sometimes it is just a percentage rate. Parsley, marjoram, chives, fennel, cilantro, basil and oregano are all germinating seeds in the greenhouse.

MG Glenn Diket is our Greenhouse tomato man. He started some great varieties of tomatoes that are perfect for fall. We have a Mini Greenhouse in the Discovery Garden Kitchen. It consists of a few shelves with grow lights on timers. We currently have his tomato seedlings under the lights for our Tomato and Basil Sale on September 6. We want them to bulk up. We like nice sturdy plants for the sale.

The Greenhouse team has a raised bed in front of our Greenhouse, we call the "Cutting Garden." We are growing thyme from cuttings from our Cutting Garden. Mary recently purchased lemon thyme and lemon verbena for cuttings. We will be offering both, in limited amounts at our Fall Sale. Mary explains, lemon verbena is the most strongly scented and intense of the lemon scented herbs. We also take cuttings of stevia, Mexican mint marigold (Texas tarragon), lemon balm, Cuban, Greek and hot 'n' spicy oregano, spearmint, peppermint, apple, mojito, and chocolate mint all from our Cutting Garden. Thyme seems to be the pickiest with our current temperatures. We have Rosemary Spice Island from cuttings. This variety is best for culinary uses with its milder flavor. It does not have the pungent piney flavors of some varieties. It displays beautiful blue flowers and an upright growth habit. We have also propagated a weeping rosemary variety, a trailing or prostrate rosemary that is a useful culinary herb, as well as an ornamental addition.

We contribute plants that are offered in our Master Gardener Grown section of our Plant Sales. We have cuttings of our native white Guara growing in our Cutting Garden prepared for our Master Gardener Grown section of our Fall Sale. This season we have propagated Evolution, Black and Blue, Mystic Spires and Purple Majesty Salvias. Purple Majesty grows 36 to 48 inches tall and is a brilliant purple. There is a beautiful bush growing in the Discovery Garden's Earth-Kind garden. MG Lisa Belcher has propagated Arabian Lilac from her shrub growing at home. This shrub has distinctive colored leaves with showy purple undersides and clusters of small purple flowers. Bat-faced Cuphea, Homestead Verbena, various Hibiscus and a white Althea will be offered at our Fall Sale in limited quantities.

MG Bronia Michejenko, one of our team members, propagated Zanzibar gem or ZZ plant. The ZZ plant is a gorgeous shiny houseplant. It tolerates low light and infrequent waterings. Bronia also propagated Plumeria from seed. The baby plants are adorable. Their color will be a mystery for some time until they are mature enough to bloom.

Two to three years ago, the Greenhouse Team propagated Amaryllis from seed. They are now beautiful little baby bulbs.

I have been most impressed with Hardy Red Gloxinia that we have propagated by cuttings in the greenhouse. It has a beautiful red-orange tubular bloom that attracts hummingbirds. Hardy Gloxinias are excellent for borders and rock gardens and can even be grown as a house plant. Look for them at our Galveston County Master Gardener Fall Sale in the Master Gardener Grown section. And come visit us in the greenhouse at the Discovery Garden, Thursdays from 9-11 a.m.



Photos courtesy of MG Briana Etie



# Meet a Master Gardener

## Briana Etie



By Barbara Canetti  
MG 2017

Briana Etie wanted to become a Master Gardener to learn more about plants. But, she says, after completing the program last year and volunteering in many diverse areas, she really has learned more about herself and other people.

"I wanted to become a Master Gardener because I didn't have any friends who were interested in gardening as I am. I wanted to make friends who shared my interests," said Briana. "In this program, I found that, but it is the people that has been so rewarding for me."

When it came time for her to select an area to specialize in, she chose two: the greenhouse and the aquaponics unit. Each is different and each requires lots of hands-on commitments, but she says that is fine with her. "I wanted to connect with the people here, not necessarily the spot to work in," she said. "It's all about the people."

Each Friday morning Briana goes to the Discovery Garden to water the tiny plants, readying them for the bi-annual plant sale. She assists MG Mary Gonzales, the Team Leader of the Greenhouse, in tending to the little plants, fertilizing, checking for pests and maintaining the seedlings.

Mary calls me her "Girl Friday," said Briana, noting that she is also at the garden on Tuesday, Thursday and some Sundays as well.

Briana grew up in nearby Hitchcock, playing in the high weeds with her brother on Diversionary Canal near Santa Fe. Both of her parents were organic gardeners, following the methods of Rodale Institute's organic gardening guidelines. There was always a compost pile for their garden and making good use of the chicken droppings and hay.



"It was our backyard and there was always something going on," she said.

She now lives in Dickinson and tries to garden there, too. Her husband, Adrian, is a shrimper and Briana helps with his business, the Lady Bre. She has four "children" – a 30-year-old stepson, a 21-year-old daughter, an 18-year-old son and a 7-year-old son. Her earlier career was in the food and beverage hospitality industry, working in Houston and Galveston, until she chose to stay at home and raise her children.

Her garden at home is full of weeds but she laughingly said she can see the plants in the weeds. Although she has about an acre of land, she has not been successful yet in organizing a garden. But as soon as the weather

cools off a bit, she will plant and ready her fall garden. She wants to try some fall tomatoes, peppers, peas, broccoli and greens (collards and Swiss chard). She may also attempt some beets.

The Master Gardener program had been on her radar for a while before she applied and was accepted into the 2017 class. She said she immediately bonded with many of her classmates and started volunteering for activities sponsored by the organization. She enjoyed the Herb Fair at Moody Gardens and in Kemah, the MG Hotline, newsletter as well as the greenhouse and aquaponics program.

"At home, I'm the boss but what I have learned here is I am part of a team," she said. "I've learned to work with others and be part of a group all wanting the same thing. I've learned to be a team player."

The aquaponics program has been a learning curve for all of the people involved: learning about the fish, the feedings, researching what plants grow best in the water provided from the fish and how to deal with heat during the summer at the Discovery Garden. She has been interested in experimenting with select seeds to see if they will grow in the garden successfully.

And, she noted, that other members of the teams she serves on treat her respectfully.

"I'm not 'just a girl' here and my opinions are not ignored," she said. "The other Master Gardeners are fair and they listen and that is important to me."



# A Garden Treasure in North East Texas: The City of Tyler's Municipal Rose Garden



By Jon Johns  
MG 2003

I tend to travel quite extensively and what I enjoy most about my travels is learning about the local culture, enjoying the local food and visiting local gardens. In particular, rose gardens. I typically schedule my travels when I anticipate that the roses will be in bloom and the gardens will be at their best. I have observed roses and rose gardens from Marrakesh (Morocco) to Moscow (Russia) and from Birmingham (England) to Beijing (China).

There is one rose garden that I have been visiting every couple of years over the last twenty years - and I do not have to travel far to see it - it is the city of Tyler's Rose Garden, located in Northeast Texas. I have also come to the conclusion that when it is at its best, it is equal to some of the best rose gardens that I have observed around the world, and we have it here in Texas.

**A bit of History:** The property for the garden was purchased by the city of Tyler in 1912 and was intended to be a park and a fairground. In 1938, at the urging of the American Rose Society's President, Dr. Horace McFarland, a successful application was made to the Work Project Administration (WPA) to fund the construction of a municipal rose garden. The development of the garden was suspended during WWII, and the garden was eventually opened in 1952.

As most of us know, typical of gardening in Texas, the land, and the soil had to be transformed to create gardens conducive for growing roses. The Tyler Garden's soil consisted mostly of red clay. So good topsoil and sand had to be brought in to build the rose beds.

The garden's first 3000 roses used in initial planting "...were donated by the local nurseries with the intent of creating a living catalog of roses produced by the Tyler rose industry."

**Back to the Garden:** When the garden's roses are full bloom, from the lookout area at the rear of the Rose Garden Center building you see a colorful palette of fourteen acres of 32,000 roses consisting of 660 different varieties.

Within the garden are distinct rose gardens. One garden features new cultivars that are being trialed for commercial consideration. A Maze area garden highlights hundreds of modern roses in many different colors. A David Austin garden features their English Roses. There is also a garden called the "Heritage Garden" that is designed to help educate the public about antique roses. This garden was established by the Lion's Club, adopted by the Gertrude Windsor Garden Club and is now maintained and improved by the Smith County Master Gardeners.

There are also gardens within the Tyler rose garden that do not feature roses. There is a demonstration garden that is maintained by the Smith County Master Gardeners with the intent to display under-used varieties of plants

that have the potential for East-Texas landscapes. There is a Camellia Garden that was established by the former Tyler Camellia Society. There is a shade-garden that is a joint project between the Smith County Master Gardeners and the Tyler Men's Garden Club that has over twenty-five Japanese Maples. There is a cottage garden that consists primarily of plants in shades of yellow and white. Next to the cottage garden is a garden with more than seventy varieties of daylilies that grow well in Northeast Texas that is maintained by the East-Texas Daylily Society.

Among all the roses and other plants are architectural features that include antique fountains, a WPA archway, three ponds with Koi fish and an Amish bridge.

As I noted earlier, the ideal time to visit this rose garden is "when it is at its best." As most Texas gardeners know, due to our Texas weather, roses tend to be at their best in the spring and the fall. I would suggest that if you plan to visit this garden that you give them a call to ensure that you catch the roses "at their best." If you would like to see additional pictures of the Tyler Rose Garden's "roses at their best" I suggest that you consider watching my YouTube video called "A visit to the Tyler, Texas Municipal Rose Garden" (<https://youtu.be/UI1mlvVEUjs>) which is a compilation of photos that I have taken on my many visits to this garden.



White Climbing Rose

Photos courtesy MG John Jones ©







# easy recipes Seasonal Bites



By Sandra Gervais  
MG 2011

The end of summer is in sight! Cooler weather will hopefully bring us more energy. With that in mind, we can plan to work more in the garden and start all those jobs that it's just been too hot to even contemplate. So we begin thinking about heartier food, friends and even football. To help, here are two simple recipes that are tasty, quick and easy to make.

The first is an oldie but goodie from "Dear Abby," the columnist we all grew up with. The second is a simple dessert that always looks good and goes down well with everyone.

## "Dear Abby" Meatloaf



### Ingredients (Preheat oven to 350°)

- 2 lb. ground beef (mixed ground round and chuck are tasty)
- 1 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup water
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 3/4 teaspoon salt (adjust to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 4 strips bacon (optional)

Mix all ingredients by hand in a large bowl until combined.

On a large, rimmed baking sheet, shape mixture into two loaves next to each other. If using bacon, drape strips across the top of each. Cover each loaf with meatloaf sauce. (See below recipe.)

### Meatloaf Sauce

- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon of a prepared mustard (or yellow mustard)
- 1/4 cup water
- Pinch of salt

Mix all together and slather on both meat loaves.

Bake for about 1 hour at 350 degrees.

## Easy Blueberry Cheesecake (no bake)



### Crust

- 3 cups finely ground graham crackers
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup sugar

Combine well. (Can use food processor to make.) Transfer to 9 x 13 baking dish. Spread evenly in the dish and press down firmly to make a crust. Bake at 350° degrees until edges are golden brown, about 10-12 minutes. Set aside to cool.

### Cheesecake Filling

- 16 ounces of cream cheese, softened. (You can use Neufchatel cheese, the 1/3 less fat variety)
- 1 cup icing sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 8 ounces frozen whipped topping (Cool Whip)

With electric mixer, beat together the cream cheese, icing sugar and vanilla until well mixed. With a spoon, gently fold in whipped topping until fully combined. Spread mixture over cooled crust.

### Topping

1 – 21oz can of blueberry pie filling. (Other fruit toppings, such as cherry pie filling or even fresh fruit, can be used instead.)

With a knife or spatula, gently spread the blueberry filling evenly over cheesecake filling. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for a few hours, or preferably overnight.

Note: 3 cups of homemade whipped cream can be used instead of the frozen (Cool Whip) whipped topping to make it even richer. Also, if you do use the Cool Whip taste a spoonful of the Cool Whip frozen. It's amazing.





## REMEMBER

In order to maintain your status as a certified Texas Master Gardener, each year you must complete a minimum of 6 hours continuing education, as well as 12 service hours. Additionally, those hours must be reported through the online Volunteer Management System or other approved means. Contact MG Wayne Elliott at [gcmghours@gmail.com](mailto:gcmghours@gmail.com) for more information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Name of Program</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>MG CEU's</b>
1/6/18	Growing Avocado and Papaya	Jerry Hurlbert	2.75
1/6/18	Growing Peaches in Galveston County	Herman Auer	2.50
1/11/18	Collection and Storage of Budwood for Grafting	Sue Jeffco	1.25
1/13/18	Growing Great Tomatoes	Ira Gervais	2.00
1/13/18	Kitchen Gardening	Mary Demeny	2.00
1/18/18	Wedge Grafting	Sue Jeffco	1.00
1/20/18	Successful Spring Vegetable Gardening	Herman Auer	2.50
1/20/18	Small Yards, Small Trees	Sandra Devall	1.50
1/23/18	Garden Tool Talk	Tim Jahnke & Henry Harrison III	1.75
1/25/18	Grape Pruning	David Cooper	1.25
1/25/18	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Community Beds	Bobbie Ivey & Clyde Holt	0.25
1/27/18	Growing & Using Herbs	Tricia Bradbury	2.00
1/27/18	Texas Tuff Plants	Sandra Devall	1.25
1/30/18	Anyone Can Grow Roses	John Jons	1.00
2/3/18	Simply Succulents	Paula Spletter	2.50
2/3/18	Growing Backyard Citrus	Robert Marshall	2.00
2/8/18	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Hops & Weeds	John Jons	0.50
2/10/18	Planting Fruit Trees	Herman Auer	2.00
2/15/18	MG Class - Botany	Jayla Fry	4.00
2/20/18	MG Class - Plant Pathology	Dr. David Appel	4.00
2/22/18	Rose Pruning	John Jons	1.00
2/22/18	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Butterfly Garden	Judy Anderson	0.25
2/24/18	Growing Blueberries	Dr. David Cohen	1.50
2/24/18	How to Grow Native Milkweed	Barbara Keller-Willy	2.00
3/1/18	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - WeatherLink	Gene Speller & Ken Goodwin	0.50
3/1/18	MG Class - Plant Hybridization & Weed Management	John Jons	3.00
3/6/18	MG Class - Insect Identification & Management	Dr. Robert Puckett	4.25
3/8/18	Discovery Garden Lunch & Learn - Garden History	Jim Edwards	0.50
3/9/18	MG Class - Vegetables	Tom LeRoy	4.00
3/13/18	MG Class - Soils	Dr. Sam Feagley	4.00
3/15/18	MG Class - Fruit & Citrus	Herman Auer	3.50
3/17/18	Tomato Stress Management	Ira Gervais	2.25
3/17/18	Composting	Jim Gilliam	2.00
3/22/18	Fig Tree Pruning & Propagation	Terry Cuclis	1.25
3/20/18	MG Class - Urban Pesticide	Dr. Don Renchie	3.50
3/22/18	MG Class - Plant Ecology & Environmental Stewardship	Dr. Barron Rector	4.00
3/27/18	MG Class - Organic Gardening	Robert 'Skip' Richter	3.00
3/29/18	MG Class - Urban Forestry	Lanny Dressen	4.00
4/10/18	MG Class - Perennials & Roses	Dr. Bill Welch	3.00
4/11/18	MG Class - Propagation	Tom LeRoy	3.75
4/12/18	MG Class - Earth-Kind	Dr. Don Wilkerson	3.50
4/17/18	MG Class - Intern Presentation	MG Interns	3.50
4/19/18	MG Class - Year Round Care & Beneficials in the Garden	Dr. William M. Johnson	2.00
4/28/18	Growing Curubits	Herman Auer	1.50
5/5/18	What is an Orchid	Joyce McMillan & Clyde Holt	2.00
5/5/18	Beneficials in the Garden	Dr. William M. Johnson	1.75
5/19/18	Turning Dirt into Soil	Jim Gilliam	2.25
6/2/18	Successful Vegetable Gardening	Herman Auer	2.00
6/2/18	A Passion for Plumeria	Loretta Osteen	2.00
6/13/18	Irises for the Gulf Coast Garden - MG Only Presentation	Monica Martens	2.00
6/16/18	Soil Health	Jim Gilliam	2.25
7/10/18	Best Practices for Watering	Karolyn Gephart	0.75
7/14/18	Irises for the Gulf Coast Garden	Monica Martens	2.00
7/17/18	Homeowner's Guide to Weed Control	John Jons	1.25
7/28/18	Arranging Fresh & Artificial Flowers	Jackie Auer	2.00
8/18/18	Bonsai	Clyde Holt	2.00
8/18/18	Urban Small Backyard Gardening	Herman Auer	1.25
8/18/18	Propagating Tomato Plants using Cuttings	Nancy Langston-Noh	0.50
8/21/18	Gardening by the Square Foot	John Jons	1.50
<b>2018 Recertification Hours for MG's</b>		<b>Total CEU's (Hours)</b>	<b>125.75</b>

# June 2018 Meeting Minutes



By Bernice Shirey  
MG 2002

## JUNE 12, 2018

The Galveston County Master Gardener Association certified 22 new Master Gardeners in ceremonies on the evening of Tuesday, June 12, 2018. The monthly meeting and annual Graduation and Awards event took place in the lovely backyard garden of Galvestonians Mikey and Allen Isbell.

Dr. William Johnson presented Texas Master Gardener Certificates to the graduating members of the MG Intern Class of 2017. Members of the class (below) contributed 3,399.5 hours of volunteer service in their first year as interns.

Charlotte Avant  
Theresa Blackwell  
Nancy Clark  
Billy Decker  
Gerald Emelife  
Briana Etie  
Mary Jane Fortney  
Barry Gatlin  
Karolyn Gephart  
Erhard Goerlitz  
Nancy Greenfield

Phil Haught  
Stephanie Hendrickson  
Marie Leal  
John Lemmel  
Kathy Maines  
Brenda Parsons  
Stacey Phillips  
Michelle Thompson  
Crystal Truitt  
Louis Wilson  
Terri Winter

Members of the incoming 2018 Master Gardener Intern Class were introduced and recognized for contributing 989.75 service hours to date, with ten of the twenty-two Interns having already met and exceeded the minimum required 50 volunteer service hours.

Master Gardeners were recognized for achieving volunteer milestones for the year. Thirty-nine MGs were recognized for contributions of 200-499 volunteer hours in 2017. Additionally, six MGs - Sharon Zaal, Briana Etie, Mary Gonzalez, Herman Auer, Carol Jean Mulrain, and Glenn Diket - contributing 500-999 hours, and four MGs - Ira Gervais, Mary Lou Kelso, Robin Collins, and Clyde Holt - contributing over 1,000 hours, were recognized for their volunteer service.

Dr. Johnson introduced 1982 Master Gardener Jerlee Jones, recognizing her 36 years of service and awarding her with the honorary title of Emeritus Member Status. Jerlee recently attended the 2018 Texas Master Gardener Conference at Texas A&M, where she was recognized as the attendee with the most years of service.

Several Master Gardeners were awarded with Making a Difference plaques for their noteworthy contributions during the calendar year 2017. Those recognized were:

**Karolyn Gephart** – Plant Sale Seminar Presentation

**Ira Gervais** – Top Salesman

**Gayle McAdoo** – Junior Master Gardener Program

**Nita Caskey** – Get the Word Out Award

**Denny & Nancy Noh** – 2017 Seminars

(48 seminars, 83 hours, 1419 attendees)

Herman Auer – MG Ambassador

**John Jons** – Rosarian Exemplar

**Marie Leal** – Discovery Garden Entrance

**Phil Haught, Kathy Maines, & Rachel Montemayor** –  
Intern Class Bell

**Briana Etie** – Tomato Trials,

2017 Article Author & 2018 Intern Class Mentor

**Kevin Lancon & Ronnie Corley** – Get'er Done Award

Newsletter Team Leader, Linda Steber, along with her team members, and Tomato Trials Mentor, Briana Etie, together with the 2017 Intern Class, were recognized for their activities earning the organization two 1st place awards at the 2018 Texas Master Gardener Conference, held at Texas A&M, College Station, in April. Galveston County Master Gardeners were recipients of the following state awards:

### Gulf Coast Gardening Newsletter

#### 1st Place Written Education, Extra Large Counties

### 2017 Interns Tomato Variety Performance Trials

#### 1st Place Research, Extra Large Counties

Additional Helping Hands Awards were presented to recognize MG family members who made significant contributions to the organization, volunteering their skills and time. Recipients were Larry Brizendine, Brian Harris, Eddie Morgan, and Tom Zaal.

Stephanie Balasubramanian, representing the 2018 MG Intern Class, acknowledged and thanked Peggy Budny and her team of Master Gardener volunteers for their efforts and support throughout their Intern classes.

Thanks and appreciation were extended to hosts, Mikey and Allen Isbell for their hospitality. Clyde Holt gave the blessing invocation and thanks for the celebratory occasion, bountiful dinner, and fellowship shared by attendees.



# July 2018 Meeting Minutes



By JSharon Zaal  
MG 2015

## JULY 10, 2018

The monthly Master Gardener Association meeting was held at the AgriLife Extension Office on July 10.

MG Clyde Holt provided a blessing of the meal before the covered dish dinner was served.

After the attendees finished eating, an informative PowerPoint presentation entitled "Best Watering Practices" was provided by MG Carolyn Gephart. Carolyn's presentation was dosed with good humor and was well-received by Master Gardeners.

MG Ira Gervais provided an update on the progress of the upcoming MG Fall Plant Sale on October 20, 2018. Ira noted that the bulbs and vegetables have been ordered and orders for the citrus are in progress.

The county is still working on bids for construction of the outdoor restroom to be located west of the Discovery Garden.

## JUNE meeting



# County Master Gardener to host **HUGE** Fall Plant Sale!



By Karolyn Gephart  
MG 2017

Fall planting will be happening soon and Galveston County has its challenges when it comes to gardening, landscaping, and horticulture in general. But help is on the way as Galveston County Master Gardeners plan and execute their fall plant sale to meet the needs required for yards and property in the area. Galveston County Master Gardeners will host their Fall Plant Sale, Seminar and Craft Sale on Saturday, October 20, 2018, at the Galveston County Fairgrounds on Hwy. 6 in Hitchcock. The large arena in such a way shoppers can easily pick and choose from several varieties.

Galveston County has both clay and sandy soils as one travels from north to south within the area. Knowing what to successfully plant in the particular soil and fall temperatures is helpful to residents as they plan their fall gardens and yards.

Plants are ordered for the sale to be the type and variety that flourishes in the area. Many varieties are unique to the sale as they cannot be purchased at big box stores. Many plants at such stores are not varieties that work best in the area. Master Gardeners who order plants for the sale live in Galveston County and they know what plants will thrive for buyers.

An educational seminar showing what plants are being offered at the sale is given in the Youth Building at 8 am. Many find the seminar helpful in organizing their lists on what is available and what they choose to purchase. The sale will begin at 9 am and run through 1 pm in the Rodeo Arena.

Hundreds of plants from Texas Tough perennials to bulbs and succulents, citrus trees to herbs, landscape trees to shrubs, fruit trees and vegetable transplants to ornamental and tropicals will be offered. The seminar not only shows the plants but also offers valuable information for the buyers.

Garden art will also be available at the popular fall sale event. The items are all sizes and generally meant to spruce up yards and gardens with whimsical as well as useful creative items.

What makes this plant sale different from others is that all areas of the sale will be staffed by Master Gardeners to answer any questions buyers might have regarding the plants. The Master Gardeners each man areas they feel most comfortable to provide information. Buyers can get comparison facts as well as instruction on what to do when their new plants get to their new homes.

Also for sale are several books/booklets written by County Master Gardeners. These affordable publications are full of information on such items as herb gardens, tropicals, butterfly gardens and more. The books serve as helpful references for year-round information on a wide variety of topics.

As shoppers enter the fairgrounds, they will see, weather permitting, a display of antique tractors outside the gate. The tractors belong to members of the Bluebonnet Antique Tractor Club who enjoy setting up at the sale. For a preview of the sale offering a complete list of plants is available, visit ([www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/Galveston/index.html](http://www.aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/Galveston/index.html)).

The Master Gardeners program in Galveston County is part of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.





# 2018 FALL PLANT SALE Seminar & Craft Sale

**Saturday, October 20, 2018**

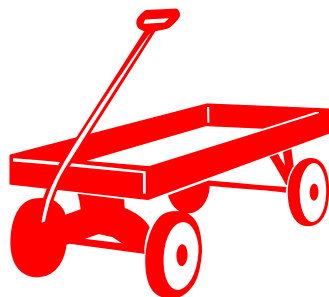
Galveston County Fairgrounds | Hwy 6 | Hitchcock, TX  
Galveston County Master Gardeners

**Fall Vegetables, "Texas Tough" Perennials,  
Bulbs, Citrus & Fruit Trees, and more!**

For a complete list of plants visit [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

**Limited Wagons  
Available,**

You Are Welcome  
To Bring Your Own



**8:00 am Educational Seminar**

Ed Pickett Hall

**9:00 am Plant Sale**

Rodeo Arena

**1:00 pm Close**

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION



Find us on  
**facebook**  
Galveston County  
Master Gardeners

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE | GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE  
4102-B Main Street (FM 519) | La Marque, Texas 77568 | 281-309-5065 | [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/index.html)

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# Q&A ask a master gardener

## *What is the webbing on my tree?*



**By Dr. Margaret Canavan**  
**MG 2003**

I was standing in my front yard admiring the silky white cobwebs on the bark of my big live oak tree when I got a cell phone call from Dr. J., who had a “small” request. As it turns out, I was staring at the object of his request. It wasn’t the tree; it was the cobwebs. Dr. Johnson said that we have been getting quite a few calls on the Hotline and asked if I would write an article on the subject. It also happens to be my favorite beneficial. That would be bark lice, of course, *Archipsocus nomas*.

I have been fascinated by these critters since my first days on the Master Gardener Hotline. Without fail, in summer we would get calls from worried folks wondering what awful things were on the bark of their trees. Webworms? Tent caterpillars? It was a pleasure to reassure them that the webs are a good thing, a sign that Mother Nature’s cleanup crew is at work devouring lichens, fungi, molds, and other debris found on the bark. Sometimes the most difficult thing to do was convince them that they needed to do nothing. I am a proponent of low pesticide use, so I enjoyed telling our public there was no need to run out and get one.

There is another reason I enjoy these tiny critters so much: I am an ardent fan of trees. After Hurricane Ike’s destruction of 40,000+ trees on Galveston Island, I became part of a group promoting tree replacement, the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy (<http://galvestonislandtreeconservancy.org/>). We have worked consistently since that time to celebrate trees, plant trees, educate people about trees, and raise money to plant more trees. I began writing a “Tree Story” article for the Galveston County Daily News as a way to raise awareness of the fabulousness of our trees. Because of that, some locals believe I know everything about trees (which of course I do not); so even though I don’t answer the Hotline these days, I still get the questions.

As you probably know, barklice seem to cause no damage to the trees and no control is recommended. The tiny insects creating these webs are probably present most years, but we notice them when their populations are high and the greater amount of webbing is more visible. The webbing is thin and fragile and wears off as the season progresses. Heavy infestations seem to be associated with our relatively long periods of high humidity. During late summer we sometimes see heavy infestations which may result in the webs covering the main trunk, branches, and even exposed roots. There is an excellent article on this beneficial on the GCMGA website, at

[https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-21\\_barklice.htm](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-21_barklice.htm)

**Most of the webs are gone from my oak now. I look forward to seeing them again next year when it’s cleanup time.**



Photo courtesy of MG Margaret Canavan



# The Discovery Garden Update



By Tom Fountain  
MG 2008

Summer so far has been Hot-Hot-HOT! Although temperatures have been just a little above normal, triple digit heat indexes have prompted days and days of excessive heat advisories. Spotty showers and thunderstorms kept rainfall totals near normal although a few areas of the county were much above normal. So, rainfall has been enough to keep us out of drought conditions.

The extended outlook continues to indicate temperatures to be a little above normal into fall and rainfall is expected to continue slightly below normal. That being said, hurricane season continues through November even though the tropics are quiet for now.

The hot weather may have slowed gardening activities with workers needing to take frequent breaks and stay hydrated; however, the garden continues to be a busy place. Figure 1 shows David, Bob, Julie and Tim taking a well-deserved break from the orchard. The hot weather has also affected the Aquaponics Garden. The warmer temperatures triggered a depletion of oxygen in some of the growing beds, resulting in the chemical balance getting out of whack.

The crew (Robin, Briana, and Gene) had to pull out plants and clean the beds to keep from losing fish. They have also been busy installing an emergency backup system, an auto-fill system for the water tank, and an online notification system to notify several of the team members in the event of a power failure. Figure 2 shows Robin and Briana cleaning a bed.

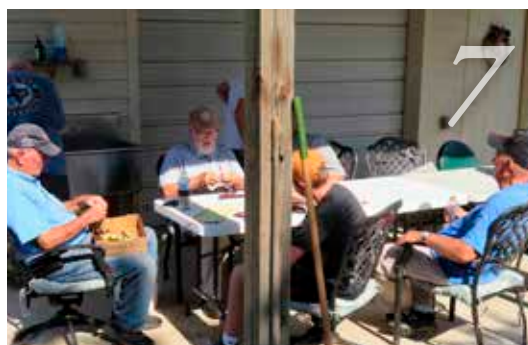
The greenhouse crew has ramped up and is growing plants to support our Fall Plant Sale on October 20. The greenhouse is full of newly started plants and the hoop house has plants that have been replanted and are being hardened off (Fig. 3). Pictured in Figure 4 are Mary and Denny sanitizing trays for the greenhouse (Fig. 4).

The Serenity Garden has been given a facelift. The bamboo screen at the north end of the garden had started to fall apart, so Tish recruited Sharon for help. Pictured in Figure 5 are Sharon, Tim, Susan, and Kevin replacing the bamboo screens. Remember that once beautiful agave plant in the low water garden? It died and has been removed by Tim, Judy, and Joseph (Fig. 6). I have taken pictures of that area from the time the agave was planted, so I will miss it.

Jim, Clyde, Jenny and Wes may appear to be seated and twiddling their thumbs in Figure 7, but, in reality, they are shelling purple hull peas that were just picked from the garden for lunch that day. Yes, the peas were very good (Fig. 8).

Come on out, get your hands dirty, enjoy the garden, and have some fun. Until then;

*"Happy Gardening to you until we meet again!"*



Photos courtesy of MG Tom Fountain

# GCMGA Weather Station Change



By Ken Goodwin  
MG 2017

Davis Instruments has made a major update and changed the method (now called WeatherLink 2.0) to access the GCMGA Discovery Garden weather station data. There are now two different methods to access the data – one is to simply use a bookmark (URL) that provides the key GCMGA weather data. The GCMGA bookmark/shortcut is the easiest and displays the key weather data at the Discovery Garden. The other method requires one to create a free WeatherLink 2.0 account. Having a WeatherLink account will provide all of the GCMGA weather station data including the WeatherLink stations around the world.

Here are the “no account required” bookmarks/shortcuts to the now updated GCMGA weather station. The only difference in the three bookmarks/shortcuts is just the format (size). Just copy one of the links and create a shortcut on your desktop or bookmark it in your Internet browser. I would suggest the **Wide Format [560x480]** link. You can also use any one of these links on your smartphone.

## Wide Format [560x480]

<https://www.weatherlink.com/embeddablePage/show/269c8db099654c0fa522d3420104b173/wide>

## Slim Format [338x500]

<https://www.weatherlink.com/embeddablePage/show/269c8db099654c0fa522d3420104b173/slim>

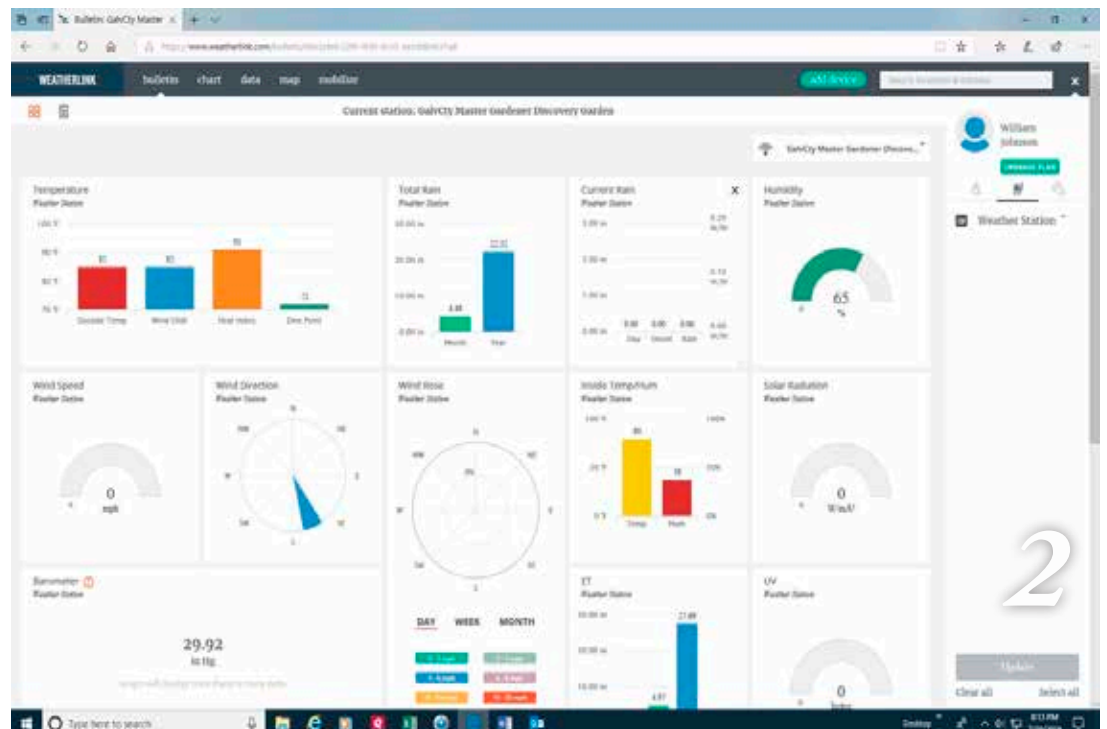
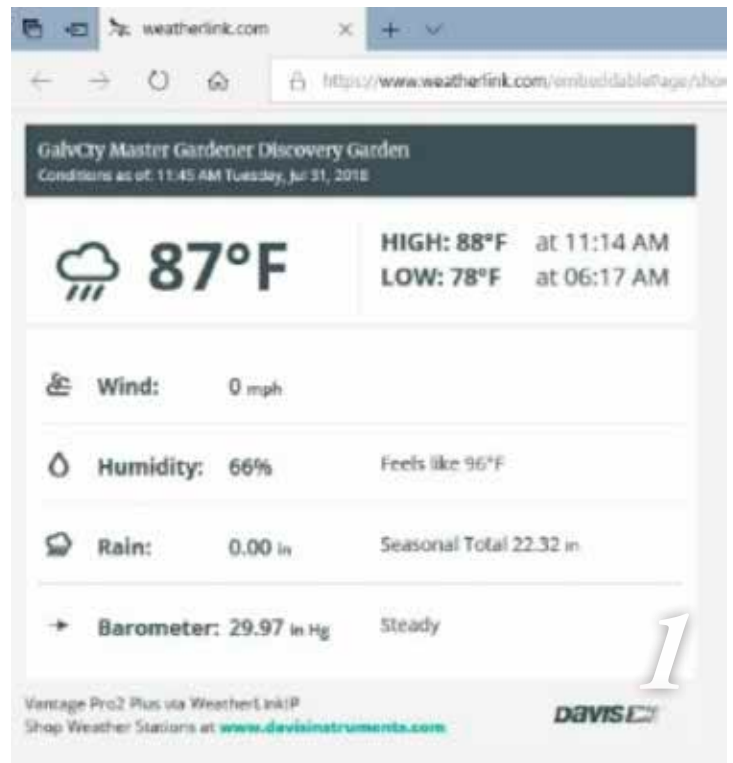
## Signature Format [200x760]

<https://www.weatherlink.com/embeddablePage/show/269c8db099654c0fa522d3420104b173/signature>

The direct access / “no account required” example of wide format GCMGA display is shown in Figure 1.

All of the GCMGA weather data can be accessed by creating one's own personal free WeatherLink account. How? Start by clicking on the following URL

<http://www.weatherlink.com/>





which will bring up the WeatherLink login screen. At the bottom of this screen on the right is the Sign Up link. Use this to create your own personal account starting with your email address and sign up for free.

You will be asked to create a username/password and checking the box that indicates you are not a robot. Select WeatherLink Basic – free since the upgraded Pro account for \$3.95 per month will not provide any benefit unless you personally own a Davis weather station. Currently only the GCMGA master account can provide historical weather data.

When you sign into your account (checking Keep Me Logged In should keep your browser from asking you for the username/password each time) you will need to access the GCMGA weather station location using the MAP link at the top of the screen. You will need to drill down (using the + function at the lower right of the display) to the La Marque/Hitchcock location, click on the GalvCty Master Gardener Discovery Garden circle and then click on bulletin for the full data display.

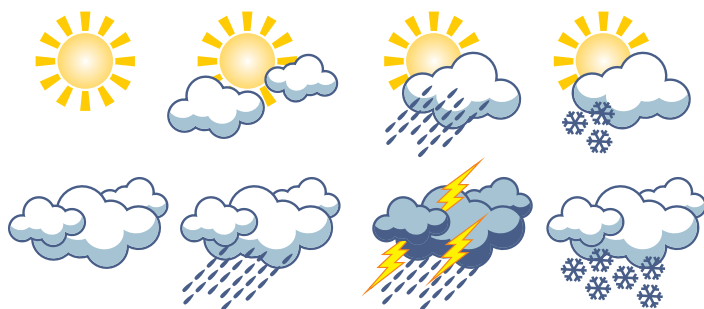
Example of the bulletin data from the GCMGA Weather Station accessed by creating a WeatherLink 2.0 account (Figure 2). This display can be rearranged as desired (it is your account). If you sign out at this point, your Internet browser should return to the same display the next time you sign in.

Another more direct way of getting to the GCMGA weather station once you've signed in to your account is to use the following bookmark by pasting it into the top of the Internet browser display:

<https://www.weatherlink.com/bulletin/08b2cfe0-23f0-4fd5-8c33-ae5ddb4557a9>

If you have any questions or run into a problem, email me at [krgoodwin@comcast.net](mailto:krgoodwin@comcast.net)

Editor's Note: Ken Goodwin is the spouse of MG Camille Goodwin, he is a strong supporter of our Master Gardener program. Ken installed and maintains our Davis Weather Station in our Discovery Garden.



# 2019 Texas Master Gardener Conference



Mark your calendars to Join us in  
**Victoria, Texas on April 25-27th, 2019!**  
Registration begins in December, 2018.  
Frequently visit the website for more details!  
<http://2019tmgaconference.com/>

## Texas Master Gardener Association



### August Directors Meeting

The nominees for the 2019 Executive Committee, L-R;  
Nicky Maddams - Past President, Louie McDaniel - 1st VP,  
Duddly Hargrove - President, Robin Collins - 2nd VP and  
Judy Ratzlaff - Treasurer.

# Trowels and 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.



By Donna Ward  
MG 1996

Thank goodness it's over - It is over isn't it? Tell me summer is on its way out. I've had all I can take. Watering my container plants every day became intolerable, even to a dedicated gardener twice a day is unacceptable. Finally, the last week of July, I'd had it! Picked every last one of the jalapenos (of which there were many) and turned them into pepper jelly. And in one last defiant action, I pulled it up by its roots and threw it on the compost pile! Now I won't have to water that #\$\$%&\* plant again. As usual, the squirrels would eat half of a green tomato and leave the other half on the deck just to show me that they are in control. A friend in a neighborhood with a low squirrel population supplied me with a few tasty tomatoes, so I guess the question is: Which do I prefer - the ability to grow tomatoes or a woodland neighborhood with plenty of trees, shade and squirrels?

September's days almost feel comfortable compared to what we experienced during the summer months, but this month does tend to be a bit on the dry side. You might want to add a layer of mulch to those azalea and camellias in your landscape, as their roots are close to the surface and they dry out quickly. Keep them well watered.

Speaking of water, A&M says your lawn needs about one inch of water a week in September, whether it comes from rain or irrigation - or both, to maintain a stress-free St. Augustine lawn. Mow St. Augustine at 3 to 4 inches high so grass blades can shade the soil and conserve soil moisture. This is also the time to apply a winterizer fertilizer if you're so inclined. Winterizer formulas contain more potassium and less nitrogen, which is important in cold winter locations, but that's not us. My personal preference is just a very light 15-5-10 application.

Some perennials like penta (fig. 1), buddleia, lantana and salvia may be looking a bit leggy by now. Prune them back by one-third, water, fertilize, and get ready for a good fall performance.

Hurry up and sprinkle out some wildflower seeds this month. You might want to scatter a light layer of straw over them to keep them from becoming bird seed. You may have your own bluebonnet trail come spring.

As long as you're in the planting mood, put in perennials and some hardy shrubs. Toss a few bulbs around your newly-planted shrubs. Notice I said "toss," and plant where they land. Mother Nature will frown on your landscape if you plant anything in rows like little toy soldiers.

Your favorite nursery is packed with new arrivals. Fall and winter is the most favorable time for putting in flowering perennials, new trees and shrubbery. Our mild winters give them plenty of time to develop a healthy root system

before spring makes any demands to leaf out or bloom, and they'll be ready to withstand our sizzling Gulf Coast summers.

I know you don't, but many folks put away the garden hose thinking there's no need to water in winter - wrong!! Those tender developing roots need a moist environment in which to become established.

Start cuttings of your favorite softwood plants such as impatiens and begonias. I've also had luck with rose cuttings this time of year.

If you're looking to harvest some veggies fresh out of the south forty this fall and winter, now is the time to plant cabbage, cauliflower, collards, Brussels sprouts, spinach, leeks, green onions, beets, collards, lettuce, radish and maybe a few herbs such as dill, parsley and cilantro. Just don't give your squirrels my address.











# bulletin board



## Volunteer Opportunities

For the **Master Gardener Hotline** contact Ginger Benson by email at [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com) or call the office at 281-309-5065.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Tideway is a program of the Transitional Learning Center

Dr. Johnson has approved Tideway Transitional Learning Center (644 Central City Blvd., Galveston, Texas 77551) as a location where Master Gardener service hours may be earned. Plans to prepare the gardens at Tideway for spring planting are ready and volunteers are needed. Volunteers can contact Jennifer Pinard at [jpinard@tlc-tideway.org](mailto:jpinard@tlc-tideway.org). The focus is on the long-term needs of individuals with an acquired brain injury. The program offers accessible horticultural experiences, through which individuals with a brain injury can improve sensory awareness, motor skills, range of motion, endurance and flexibility as well as regain confidence, and learn new skills. This provides the opportunity for our residents to develop the necessary skills to gain and maintain a productive lifestyle whether it is on site or volunteering in the community. The residents at Tideway are very much "hands on" in building the different garden beds, in fact some of the residents came up with the designs.

And they have chickens!

## Volunteer Opportunities

**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/libbie-s-place-senior-day>. A crew is needed to maintain and upgrade the garden as needed with your time spent counting towards MG volunteer hours. MG Pam Windus 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, email [DrPGilbert@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Advanced Training Greenhouse Management

October 18-20  
Hosted by Tarrant County, Ft. Worth, TX  
<https://txmg.org/events/specialist-training-greenhouse-management-3/>

### Composter

December 5-7  
Hosted by Fort Bend County,  
Rosenburg, TX <https://txmg.org/events/specialist-training-composter/>

Click on each class for further details

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Tour Guides for Thursday Public Access and Tour of our Discovery Garden

Our Demonstration Garden is open for touring by the general public on each Thursday from 9:00 - 11:00 am. MGs are needed to serve as tour guides for our Discovery Garden.

Contact MG Denny Noh at 281.723.2830 or [dnoh@aol.com](mailto:dnoh@aol.com) to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed to develop and deliver presentations on various horticulture topics of interest to the public in our surrounding communities and our Master Gardeners. Classes are given at the Extension Office on Tuesday evenings and on Saturday. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute, develop and use skills from life experiences as well as contribute to one of the main GCMG missions of Education. We have experienced GCMG Mentors and Specialist available to guide and support. Please contact if you have any questions and so we can get you scheduled to present a class. Volunteers are also needed to help with the Saturday programs and the Tuesday evening programs. If you can help, please contact

Denny Noh @ 281-723-2830 or [dnoh@aol.com](mailto:dnoh@aol.com)  
Nancy Langston Noh @ 832-289-7087 or [nancylnoh@aol.com](mailto:nancylnoh@aol.com)

### AgriLife Extension Office Discovery Garden needs volunteers!

The gardens around the AgriLife Extension Office are maintained by Master Gardeners under the team leadership of MG Ginger Benson. 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 Ginger at 281-309-5065, email [galvcountrymgs@gmail.com](mailto:galvcountrymgs@gmail.com) to find out the schedule and join her team.

## SPECIALIST AND OTHER MG RELATED TRAINING

Please see the Texas Master Gardeners Website for details. By visiting the website you can find up-to-date information on Specialist Programs that were added in between editions of the newsletter. [txmg.org](http://txmg.org). You may download the application forms from that website. **Note** all applications for the Specialist Training courses must be approved and signed by Dr. William M. Johnson. **Note** fees do not include lodging or food unless specified otherwise.



Here is a great way to support our GCMGA. Amazon will donate 0.5% of our personal purchases to Galveston County Master Gardener Association. All you have to do is: Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) - Choose Galveston County Master Gardener Association as your charity. Save [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to your favorites. - Always start from this site to do your Amazon shopping. - You should see your chosen charity in the top bar on Amazon's website. - If you have any problems, search smile on Amazon's website





# Rain Showers Mean Greater Possibility for Mosquitoes

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



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Most areas of the county have received multiple rounds of showers and heavy rainfall over the past several days. That was the good news. The not-so-good news is that the rains provided attractive breeding sites for several species of mosquitoes and that mosquito populations typically start to significantly increase 7-10 days after a heavy rain.

Mosquitoes that serve as vectors of the Zika virus are on people's minds nowadays. My colleague, Sonja Swiger, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension entomologist at Stephenville, noted that, "While

people enjoy outdoor activities and travel, it's important to remember that our first line of defense against Zika is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. The *Aedes aegypti* and *A. albopictus* mosquitoes that transmit Zika occur commonly in our backyards where their eggs are laid and larvae live



Homeowners should inspect trees for cavities which can retain water that can serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes. Tree holes near ground level are especially attractive to the *Aedes* mosquitoes that may spread Zika virus.

Photo courtesy of Dr. William Johnson

in standing water. Like other mosquito species, they are active at sunrise and sunset, but commonly bite throughout the day as well."

Concerns about mosquito-borne diseases this summer are prompting many of us to learn what to do to reduce the chances of mosquito bites in our own backyards and gardens. Fortunately, there are good ways to manage mosquitoes around your home at reasonable cost.

Homeowners should be aware that persistent pockets of stagnant water are more likely to become mosquito breeding grounds after heavy rains. Homeowners will likely be surprised at how many mosquitoes are home-grown in their own backyard and their neighbors' backyards as mosquitoes typically do not travel far from their "birth place." The Asian Tiger Mosquito, which is a dominant species in our area, has a very limited flight range of about 300 feet.

Even though we look to the local mosquito control unit to provide widespread control of mosquito populations, area residents can have a significant impact on mosquito populations by checking for persistent pockets of stagnant water in their landscape.

## More information

It would be well worth the effort to make regular inspections of your property for likely mosquito breeding sites and keep in mind the following guidelines:

- Overturn or empty objects that have collected rainwater including standing water in saucers under potted plants.
- Clear gutters and down spouts of debris so that rainwater drains properly.
- Remove water that collects on sagging tarpaulins or other covers on your house or property.
- Eliminate standing water in tires, buckets, trash cans, etc. Dr. Swiger also cautions homeowners to inspect trees for cavities which can retain water that can serve as breeding sites for mosquitoes. Tree cavities should be sealed with expanding foam.
- Empty and clean birdbaths weekly.
- Larger water-filled objects, such as water gardens that do not contain fish, can be treated with an insecticide containing the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), which does not harm fish, birds or mammals (including people). Mosquito Dunks is the most commonly available brand name of this insecticide. Mosquito Dunks look like small donuts complete with a hole in the middle. One Mosquito Dunk will effectively treat 100 square feet of surface water for 30 days or more.

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# 2018 GCMGA Monthly Meetings



By Judy Anderson  
MG 2012

## October

As we get close to the Fall Plant Sale, look for the announcement of the MG sale presentation by Karolyn Gephart. Karolyn will have all the details about the great selection of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs, bulbs, ornamentals and the Master Gardener Grown plants. Not only will this qualify for educational hours, but it will help you be better informed to help the customers during the plant sale. Karolyn will have photos, growing habits and plant needs to help us make better plant selections for our gardens. When Karolyn starts talking about plants in the sale, she puts the petal to the metal and doesn't stop until the last page of the catalog.

- October 9      Plant Sale Presentation
- November 13    Annual Meeting at the Extension Office
- December 11    Holiday Meeting at the home of  
Mikey and Allen Isbell

MG Judy Anderson thanks MGs for hosting backyard meetings. You may contact Judy at [jande10198@aol.com](mailto:jande10198@aol.com) for information.



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