

THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN ISSUE

# GULF COAST *Gardening*

ISSUE 245 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024



TEXAS

MASTER GARDENER

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Galveston County

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

## Plants: Important to a Landscape



MG Kevin Lancon

This month's newsletter is focused on landscape design. A landscape is defined as the visible features of an area of land, its landforms, and how they integrate with natural and human-made features, according to Wikipedia. Plants are one of the most important parts of the landscape, therefore understanding particulars about a plant, and whether or not it's a good selection for a specific area is critical when making landscape decisions.

If you are considering some landscape ideas, whether minor changes or major additions, we invite you to visit our demonstration garden inside La Marque's Carbide Park, the Discovery Garden, where you will see Texas Superstar® plants featured throughout. Recently, a project was conducted identifying and highlighting Texas Superstars® in the garden and Galveston County, an article of which is in the last newsletter. Texas Superstars® are inclusive of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and fruits and vegetables.

For additional help with plant selection, we also have many native Texas plants growing in our Earth-Kind® garden and Pollinator Habitat, which also thrive in our county. Be sure to put a notation on your to-do gardening calendar to visit our upcoming online Summer Sundown in September

and attend our in-person Fall Festival in October in the Discovery Garden. We will have many Texas Superstars®, Texas natives, and other beautiful plants for your landscape and suitable for our Upper Gulf Coast growing conditions.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our newsletter, and invite you to visit our website at <https://txmg.org/galveston> and also our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/galvcountrymg/> for more information of upcoming events and activities. Thank you for your support in the Galveston County Master Gardeners; we look forward to see you soon.



The bluebonnet is a Texas Superstars® plant. Grace Blasingame

*Kevin Lancon*

Discovery Garden Coordinator

## New Season Begins, Gardeners Get Busy



MG Karolyn Gephart

It's FALL Y'ALL even if the temperature is not cooperating. Just having fall arrive makes garden ideas pop into one's mind as nurseries and plant sales have so much to offer for fall landscapes.

This issue covers landscape design. The writers have taken advanced training and were happy to share what they have learned. The beautifully landscaped Bryan Museum in Galveston has its own landscaper for maintenance and seasonal changes. Learn more about her from MG Barbara Canetti. Several MGs have been involved in the renovation and expansion of two areas in the Discovery Garden, the Pollinator and the Herb Gardens. Read the steps they took to get to the finished design. Prepare to be amazed at the upcoming Dr. William McCray Johnson Outdoor Classroom for the Discovery Garden designed in partnership with The University of Houston Architecture Department Graduate students.

Travel to the Berkshire Botanical Garden and The Mount in Massachusetts with MG Barbara Lyons and to Singapore with MG John Jons. Both travel writers take readers with them vicariously through descriptions and beautiful photos.

Enjoy the wonderful photographs by MG photographer Linda Crowston and try two delicious recipes

for picante sauce and tomato preserves by MG Gene Speller and MG Intern May Casagrande.

From recipes to projects completed, principles and elements of design, maintenance tips and more, writers in this issue share what they enjoy: gardening.

MG Bettye Vogler shared a favorite quotation by Marcel Proust with me and I want to share it with you: *"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."*

I think you are going to enjoy this issue. It was created just for YOU!

*Karolyn Gephart*



Landscaping at a home is not only around the home itself but also by an entrance to make a statement. MG Karolyn Gephart

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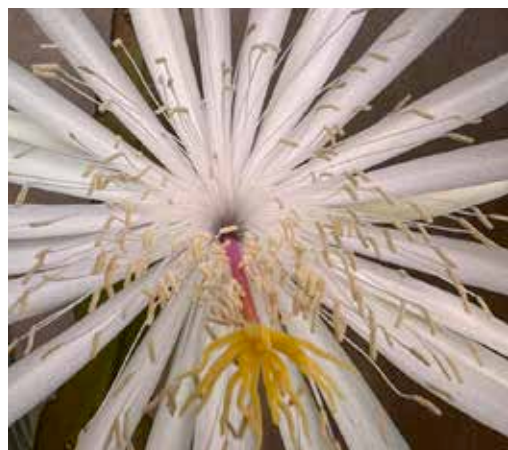
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ON COVER: The Pollinator Garden in the Discovery Garden. MG Sue Bain



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# Exploring Landscape Design Principles



Judy Anderson  
GCMG 2012

I have a confession! I love visiting gardens. If I am on a road trip or vacation, it is fun to take some time to visit a unique and creative garden. Many years ago, when HGTV had gardening programs, included in the schedule was a program called the Gardener's Diary. The host would visit phenomenal gardens; she would walk with the gardener talking about what was growing and how it began. It wasn't as much about how to garden, as it was about personal experiences. I miss that program. As a Master Gardener, I get to share that experience with visitors to the Discovery Garden when we talk about Earth-Kind Landscaping.

A recent visit to the Houston Botanical Garden, established on the site of an abandoned golf course, illustrated how challenging it is to landscape a garden. It is both art and science. Many things need to be done right before any of the creative process begins such as decisions regarding property lines, water issues, drainage, exposures, light, maintenance and storage. Sometimes the biggest decision is deciding how to use the yard. Are children and pets' part of the family? Are there any features that need to receive consideration? Maybe there are areas to be hidden? Or what plants to use? These questions are for a different discussion. The Botanical Garden was a reminder that every tree, plant, rock, and path were placed with intent. The garden is designed with purpose and uses the principles of landscaping. These principles are found in gardens from centuries ago as well as those newly designed.

Smith County Extension Agent and author Greg Grant is often quoted as saying, "Planting a bunch of flowers and expecting a garden is like putting a bunch of ingredients into the oven and expecting a pie to jump out." That is what many of us are doing with our gardens. With a little thought and planning we can do much better.

Balance is an important principle in landscaping; for centuries balance was achieved by using classical design. A design was copied from one side to the other giving it a mirror image. During the past century, the trend has been towards asymmetrical design where a smaller area may be balanced with a larger area using plants, art, or hardscaping. Many homes today are not classical in design and use asymmetrical design. Keeping things balanced does not mean boring, but it does mean planning. Straight lines are more classical and curving lines are more natural. If you think about the changes in society during the past century, the automobile is a big reason classical design does not meet the needs of today's homeown-

ers. Considerations for garages and parking are a priority.

Repetition is another significant principle used in creating a memorable garden. Repetition may be achieved using trees, plants or color. If red is a favorite color, it could easily be repeated with planting material throughout the garden and complemented with accessories. With the abundance of green plants, the repetition of color grabs attention. Repetition can also be achieved by using plants; an example is the beautiful Oak Alley in Louisiana. <https://oakalleyplantation.org>



Contrast of color and texture



Dominance and repetition



Asymmetrical balance

## “Keep it simple, eliminate any confusion...”

Scale in the garden is always based on the human form. Think of the huge Adirondack chairs sometimes seen around beach communities. A normal person would not use such a thing, but a chair scaled to the human form will be gladly appreciated at any time of the year. Considerations of the size of the yard would also require thought to the size of plants to use as well as the size of the plant at maturity. Scale is about considering an object in relationship to the surrounding. In small spaces, visibility will only see what is in that space, anything larger cannot be appreciated. Whereas, a large tree can be fully appreciated from a distance, while a smaller plant would disappear. In small areas, fragrant plants can be experienced. Large areas can be divided into smaller areas to create more intimate settings or serve a specific purpose, such as a dining area or a children’s garden.

Where plants and trees are featured, seeing something man-made gets attention as a dominant feature. It could be a bird bath, a bench or a piece of art like the Tree of Life in the Global Collection Garden at the Houston Botanical Garden. The Tree of Life is big and illustrates the many creatures living together in the garden. A plant may be dominant, but it must be unique from all the others. A dominant feature should let its presence be felt without competition. This may be hard for many of us to accept, but beauty is found in restraint.

Professor, author and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Landscape Horticulturist, Dr. William C. Welch wrote in *Heirloom Gardening in the South*, “Greg Grant and I agree it is impossible to create good landscape design without using the landscape principles of balance, repetition, scale (proportion), and dominance.”

How should you plan your garden? Where are cars parked? How do people move from place to place? Is there a space to have a conversation with friends? It is your space, and it should reflect your interests and resolve your needs. Keep it simple and eliminate any confusion. It should function as an outdoor living space for you and your family, but it should also be pleasing to the senses. Remember to use the right plants in the right location; plan for water conservation, waste reduction, minimal use of chemicals, and reducing the turf. These are good Earth-Kind Principles.

Look at the photos from the Houston Botanical Garden or better yet, take a tour. See what inspiring design elements catch your eye. Gardens are evergreen and ready for change. *All photos by MG Judy Anderson.*

### References:

*Heirloom Gardening in the South.* William C. Welch and Greg Grant

*Stewards of the Land: A Survey of Landscape Architecture and Design in America.* Edited by Marilyn K. Alaimo



Balance and contrast



Tree of Life (dominance)

# Site Considerations in Landscape Design: Key Factors for Successful Planting

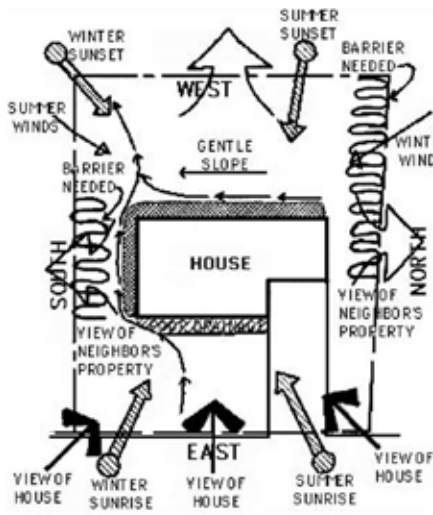


Nancy Greenfield  
GCMG 2017

Landscape design is an art that blends aesthetics with practicality, turning outdoor spaces into harmonious environments. Central to this process is the thorough evaluation of the site itself. From understanding sunlight patterns to assessing soil quality and legal restrictions, each aspect plays a pivotal role in determining the success and longevity of your landscape project.

In this article, we explore the essential considerations that landscape designers and homeowners should consider when creating thriving and sustainable outdoor spaces.

## 1. Evaluating a Site for Appearance and Sun Exposure



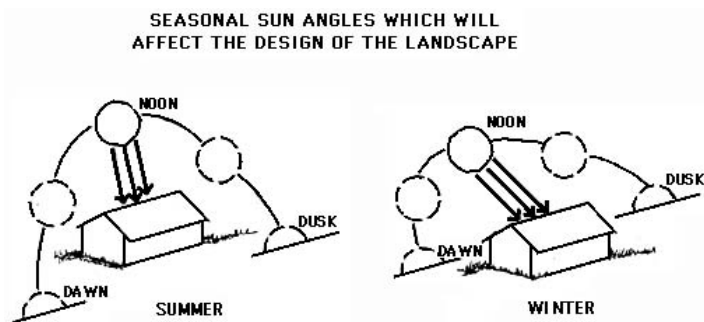
TAMU Landscape Design

The first step in any landscape design project is to evaluate the view of the site from various points within the site as well as from a distance. Understanding how the landscape will be viewed from various angles helps in strategic placement of plants and structure. For example, a residential native flower garden could

be viewed by the homeowner from a window as well as the street to create maximum appreciation.

### Sunlight Exposure Categories:

- **Full Sun:** Sites that receive direct sunlight for at least six hours a day, including midday. These areas are ideal for



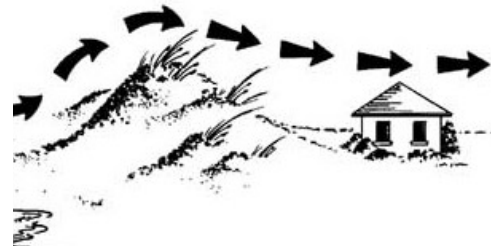
TAMU Earth-Kind®

sun-loving plants and vegetables.

- **Part Sun/Part Shade:** Areas with four to six hours of direct sunlight, typically in the morning, or filtered through trees or buildings in the afternoon.
- **Shade:** Less than four hours of direct sunlight, often under mature trees, or shaded by buildings. Shade is suitable for more shade-tolerant plants, such as ferns.

Observing sunlight availability throughout the year is crucial. Changes in sunlight angles during different seasons can affect plant growth and sustainability. Check out the attached illustration on existing site conditions.

## 2. Climate and Microclimate Considerations



Landscaped berm or dune redirects and slows wind.

Microclimates are created when tall structures, trees, or buildings alter the sunlight, wind velocity, and ambient temperatures when compared to the climate in the adjacent area. Microclimates play significant roles in determining plant suitability and success. Local temperature extremes, including frost pockets or heat traps, must be considered. While conditions for microclimates can be constructed, they are often discovered within your current landscape. For example, a flower bed which is protected by a building and/or fence may not be less affected by freezes and wind when compared to the surrounding landscape which is not protected. Voila! A protected microclimate.

Microclimates are especially important with our erratic weather patterns. A north facing windbreak during Galveston County's recent freezes can create a warmer microclimate suitable for cold sensitive plants such as citrus, and tropical plants such as gingers and plumeria. In coastal areas a windbreak can be placed strategically to minimize the effect of excessive salt spray. Protection from the north winds or salt spray can greatly impact fruit production as well as plant survival.

## 3. Soil and Drainage Assessment

The health of plants depends largely on soil quality and drainage. Before planting, conduct a thorough soil analysis to determine pH levels, nutrient content, and drainage capabilities. Different plants have specific soil requirements, and adjusting soil conditions can greatly enhance their growth.

# “Create thriving and sustainable outdoor spaces”

- **Soil Drainage:** Test soil for poor drainage which can be addressed through grading, or by creating rain gardens that absorb excess water and filter runoff. To test soil drainage, dig a hole that is 12 inches wide by 12 inches deep. Fill the hole with water & let it sit overnight to moisten the surrounding area. Fill the hole again the next morning. Measure the depth of the drainage every hour or two until the hole is completely drained. Calculate the average inches per hour the soil drained. If it drains in less than 10 minutes, it's drought prone & better suited for drought tolerant plants.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Services Soil Testing Laboratory in College Station soil tests and nondrinking water analysis are available at <https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>. Texas A&M recommends soil testing every three years.

## 4. Above and Below the Ground Considerations

Above-ground elements such as buildings, trees, and utilities can impact landscape design and maintenance. Considerations include:

- **Building Eaves and Paved Areas:** These can limit or reflect sunlight and this will affect plant growth beneath or adjacent to them. Eaves can also minimize rain.
- **Utilities:** Locate and respect underground utilities to avoid damage during landscaping activities. Call 811 or contact <https://texas811.org> to have underground lines marked prior to digging. Always keep in mind that all landscapes near utilities are considered dangerous and especially in landscapes designed for children.
- **Existing Landscaping:** Assess the impact of mature trees and existing plants on the site. They can provide shade, wind protection, or compete for resources with new plantings.

## 5. Legal and Regulatory Considerations

Compliance with local regulations is essential when planning a landscape design. Considerations include property boundaries, zoning rules, and any restrictions on planting near easements or protected areas.

**Protected Plants:** Some regions may have restrictions on planting or removing certain plants due to environmental or historical significance. Familiarize yourself with local ordinances to avoid legal issues. The City of Galveston has ordinances “that preserve existing trees and stands of trees that are considered ‘significant.’ A significant tree has a diameter

at breast height (DBH) of 10 inches or greater. A significant tree stand is a group of trees with interconnected canopies that cover a total of at least 10,000 square feet of ground area. The removal of significant trees or tree stands must be permitted, approved, and mitigated by the City of Galveston.”

## 6. Existing Plant Material Considerations

- Before implementing a new landscape design, inventory existing plants and assess their condition. Determine if any invasive species need removal and consider incorporating native plants that require less water and maintenance. Check out this database for more information: [https://texasinvasives.org/plant\\_database/](https://texasinvasives.org/plant_database/)
- **Lawn vs. Ground Covers:** Evaluate the need for traditional turfgrass versus ground covers in areas where grass struggles to thrive.
- **Native Plants:** Native plants are adapted to local conditions and support local wildlife. They can reduce water usage and maintenance while enhancing biodiversity. The Native Plant Society of Texas Houston Chapter has excellent resources at the following: <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/houston/native-plant-info/>

## Conclusion

Successful landscape planting begins with thorough research and site evaluation. By understanding sunlight exposure, climate conditions, soil quality, and legal considerations, landscape designers and homeowners can create sustainable and visually appealing outdoor spaces. Each site is unique, requiring tailored solutions to ensure plant health and longevity. By integrating these considerations into your landscape design process, you can transform your outdoor space into a thriving ecosystem that enhances both property value and quality of life.

## References:

[https://texasinvasives.org/plant\\_database/](https://texasinvasives.org/plant_database/)

<https://www.npsot.org/chapters/houston/native-plant-info/native-plant-guide/>

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Soil Testing Laboratory, <https://soiltesting.tamu.edu/>

<https://texas811.org>

[RainwaterRebates@stpete.org](mailto:RainwaterRebates@stpete.org)

[stpete.org/WaterPrograms](http://stpete.org/WaterPrograms)

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/>

<https://library.municode.com/tx/galveston>

# The Elements of Landscape Design



Carol Jean  
Mulrain  
GCMG 2004

Texas A&M, College Station offers a series of courses on Landscape Design. The topic of one of these is The Elements of Landscape Design which includes: Line, Form, Texture, Color, Pattern, Mass, Void and Space, Light and Shadow, and Proportion. Below are some insights into each.

## LINE

Lines guide the viewer's eyes and give a sense of movement. They can be horizontal, vertical, zigzag, curved or diagonal. They help in establishing patterns, defining spaces and in directing movement. Straight lines evoke a sense of formality and guide the eye to a focal point. Curved lines on the other hand, evoke an informal, calm, relaxed response. They invite the viewer to leisurely explore the area. A vertical line is used to give a sense of upward movement and it encourages the eye to look in that direction. Horizontal lines are often used to make areas appear larger. They evoke a lateral movement of the eye. Lines are often used to define a transition between contrasting materials. An example would be moving from the green grass to a brick patio. Lines can also delineate the area of the design. An example would be a white picket fence around an English garden. Lines are the key element to define the visual flow of the area.

## FORM

Form is determined by line, direction and the arrangement of plants, trees, hardscape and such. Form can be blending or contrasting. Form also refers to an item's overall shape often called the silhouette. It refers to the structure and its components, for example the branches of a tree. A tree might be a



Texture

V-shape which directs the eye downward to the space below the tree. Pyramid shapes direct the eye upward. Weeping shapes move the eye upward then back down. Form helps establish style and atmosphere. It could be formal with highly structured shapes and straight lines. It could be informal with curved lines and a soft, natural look. Form helps determine the visual appeal, which makes the area interesting.

## TEXTURE

Texture plays a very important role in the creation of an appealing design. Texture is used to create a sense of structure and depth. Plants can have a coarse texture whether it is by the surface feel or the size of its leaves. Rough bark is another example of coarse texture. Fine texture can be smooth to the touch and such plants have delicate foliage and complex details. The goal of a good design is to vary texture without losing harmony. Texture should be visual as well as tactile. It is important to consider hardscape textures in the design. Fine textures, like smooth stones can be a strong contrast to rough wood elements like bark. Both should enhance the plant and tree selections. Other examples include hard features such as railroad ties and uneven large rocks; soft foliage such as lamb's ear and fennel leaves; and rough foliage such as raspberry bushes and yucca.

## COLOR

Color is one of the best known and dramatic components of a design. Whether a shade contrasts or blends, it is imperative that it results in harmony with an aesthetic appeal. When utilized well, there is visual appeal. As colors are being considered, be aware of any hues in fixed hardscape structures such as a house, barn or shed. Bold, warm colors such as red, oranges and yellows are vibrant. Cool, calming blues and purples bring forth a feeling of peace and serenity. Color can also help define a space. Warm colors pop, making large spaces appear smaller. Cool colors recede, allowing small spaces to appear larger. Choose colors that are cohesive, visually stunning and which enhance the overall design.



Color



# “Insights into 10 design elements...”

## PATTERN

Repetition of materials and how they are displayed produces patterns. This repetition and the resulting patterns create rhythm and movement. Care should be taken to not overuse patterns since this will result in monotony. Using overly intricate patterns should be avoided since they can result in confusion and an unsettling emotional response. The goal is to create an interesting, rhythmic design that will not overwhelm.

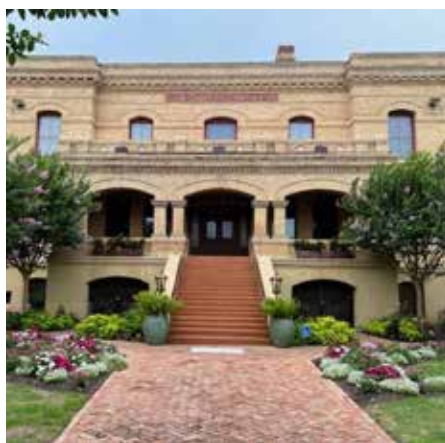
## MASS

Quite simply, mass is defined as the visual size of an object or a group of objects. Consideration should always be given to how the masses harmonize with surroundings. There should be a balance between open and filled spaces. Open spaces produce a sense of visual mass while filled spaces create a physical mass. When choosing plants and shrubbery consider size and shape which create mass not only at the planting stage but at all the stages through growth.

## VOID AND SPACE

Reference was made to void and open spaces under the mass section. Open spaces should enhance the eye flow and accentuate the plantings and hardscape. Space between plants allows for air movement. This helps reduce ideal conditions for

pests and disease. Too much space results in a sense of choppiness and lack of flow. Too little space results in a sense of clutter and does not allow for the appreciation of individual plantings. Harmony and balance will guide the utilization of voids and spacing in your design.



Void and Space



Pattern

## LIGHT AND SHADOW

It is essential that a design consider light and shadow at different times during the day. These considerations should be evaluated when choosing the type of plant to use. Light and shadow can change the appearance of not only plants, but they also come into play when considering hardscape.

## PROPORTION

Proportion considers the size of an object in relation to the other objects in the design. This could be other plants, structures, or walls. The goal is to produce a harmonic blend that evokes feelings of invitation. Objects should not overwhelm nor underwhelm, but they should be just right. Proportion, or scale, considers many of the above elements. *All photos by MG Carol Jean Mulrain.*

### Reference:

Landscape Design Course, Texas A&M, Principles and Elements of Design Landscaping, Dr. Gerald S. Burger



Proportion



Mass

# Accessories in Landscape Design



Bettye Vogler  
GCMG 2020

It is questionable when my gardening stopped being just a healthy pastime and became an all-consuming passion. One day I was fertilizing tomato plants, and the next day I was at every thrift shop and junkyard within a fifty-mile radius looking for landscape accessories to elevate the allure of my outdoor haven.

Garden accessories can be furniture and appliances, fountains and statuary, ponds and streams, antiques, fairy gardens, yard art, structures, and other decor such as subtle lights that will infuse your garden and reflect your individual taste and personality. I keep a watchful eye for watering cans, plants and pots, string, yarn, barrels, small containers, colored and unusual dishes, solar lights, and bird baths.

Fountains, ponds and streams add the sound and beauty of water in a garden. If this is a DIY project, research and plan before you begin. A Master Gardener friend of mine decided to make a fountain with a large container. After creating what she thought was perfect, she realized there was no electricity at the site. She then opted for a solar pump, but again had problems with a base that deteriorated. After more research and planning, she determined river rocks would be the perfect base. Lesson learned, research and planning before you begin will save you time and money.



Designed for Vines by MG Bettye Vogler



Water Feature by MG Bettye Vogler

A trellis will make a beautiful accessory in any garden. Often crafted from wood, wire, or wrought iron, it is a terrific structure on which to train plants to grow in a certain direction. Using wire panels bound together with zip ties, I constructed a unique six-foot-tall trellis in my garden. Be creative.

Besides patio furniture and plants, garden designs offer very few opportunities to express ourselves through decor, so when a chance comes along to accessorize, take it. An archway is always a compelling piece in the garden. Place one over a path and you will always want to pass under it. A beautiful archway can be created



Spinning art by MG Bettye Vogler

From arches and trellises to wood pergola structures and more, an arbor gate makes for a grand entrance that creates a mystic yet cozy secret-garden feel to any landscape. A tall entryway adds dimension and structural beauty, while a gate provides privacy and security.

way can be created from unstained timber, painted wood, resin lattice, twigs, branches, and an array of metals, as well as any other material that will hold its shape.



Bird Feeder by MG Bettye Vogler

For me, the entrance to a garden is a magical place that brings about a calming welcome, especially at the end of the day. A beautiful outdoor space can be essential to our mental health, and nothing entices people more to enter a garden than an enchanting passageway.

From high-end to budget makeovers, it is easy to create an entrance that is always a pleasure to pass through for both you and your visitors. The entrance to my garden is under a bower of foliage that I found particularly pleasing and that set the scene for other planting features that extend beyond the entry point. However, I soon learned what “what not to do in the garden landscape” really means. It began as a project to create an all-natural entrance to my garden that quickly turned

## “Create an enchanting atmosphere...”

into an overgrown and overcrowded pathway, leading to redoing the entire area. In my haste to transform my garden into an awe-inspiring showpiece, I forgot to plan for the size of plants when fully grown and failed to give each plant room to breathe. What an invaluable learning experience, not to even mention the cost and labor involved in removing, rebuilding, and replacing plants.

Garden gates are a perfect example of accessories you can customize. From a picket fence to a rock wall to homemade structures, a gate sets the tone of a garden and will make visitors curious about what is to come if they venture beyond the gate. Like the front door to your home, the gate to your garden should be warm and welcoming, as in the words of Susan C. Walkinshaw-Kelly, “How I love my little garden, where I sit and contemplate. My perfect piece of paradise inside my garden gate.”

Gardeners around the world are utilizing different walls in landscapes as accessories for security purposes, protection of an area from flooding, a way to ward off wandering animals and wildlife and the transformation of a garden view. One example of a transformative design is known as a Ha-Ha. It is a wall built into a decline that it is not visible from surface level

unless up close. This allows for a continuous sweeping view that will transform a large garden area into a cutting-edge and innovative space.

Another great accessory in the landscape might be a corner, a hidden nook, or an area surrounded by hedges or fences that feels secluded and private. Add a table and chairs, cushions for comfort. Blossoming plants, and those contributing an array of distinctive eye-catching foliage, including ferns and ornamental grasses, will add texture and visual appeal to your garden.

All of these tips come together to help you create a secret and enchanting atmosphere that will provide an escape while decreasing stress levels and increasing overall life satisfaction. Whether you are aiming for elegance, whimsy, or functionality, there is a garden accessory to suit your style.

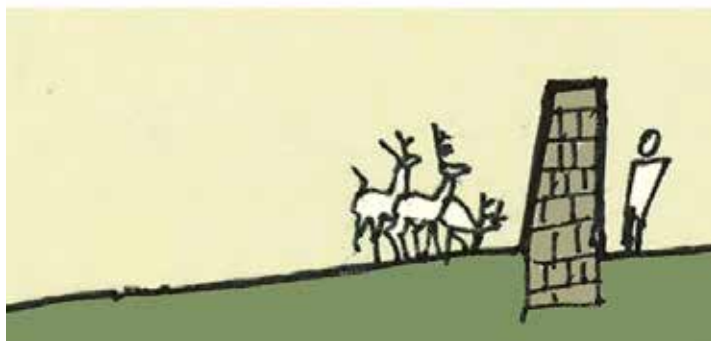
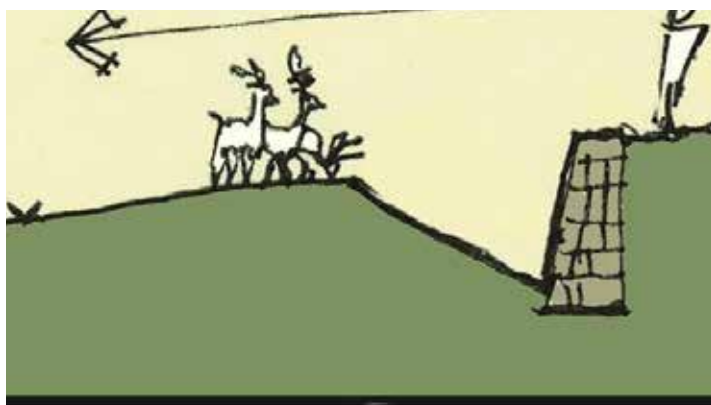
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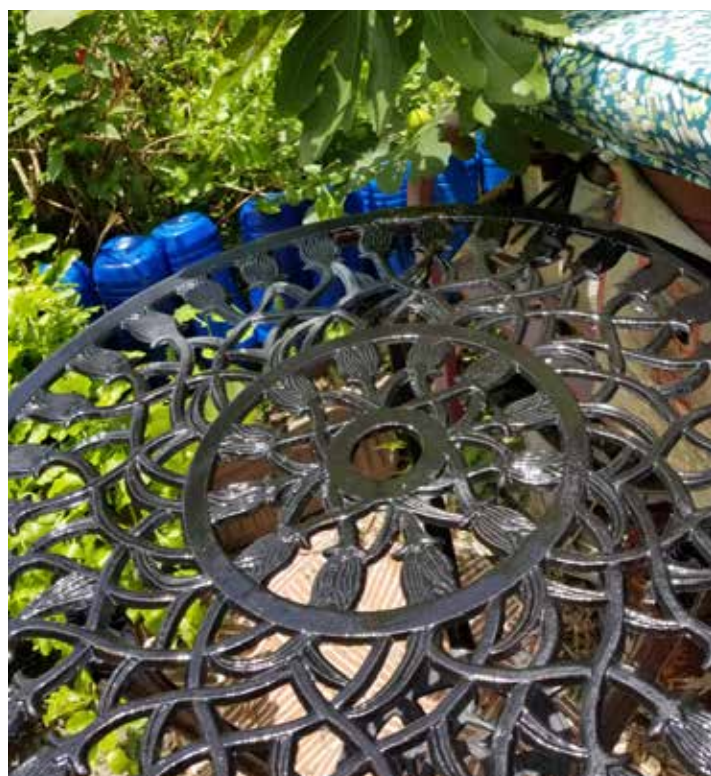
Ha-Ha Wall <https://en.wikipedia.org>

University of Minnesota <https://arb.umn.edu>

Benefits of Gardening for Mental Health <https://minnetonkaorchards.com>



Ha-ha wall compared to a regular wall. The Ha-ha wall does not block the view.  
Courtesy of CC BY-SA 3.0



Wrought iron table by MG Bettye Vogler

# The Pollinator Habitat Expansion 2024



Sue Bain  
GCMG 2018

The Butterfly Garden in the Discovery Garden at Carbide Park was designed by Tish Reustle and Alissa Rasmussen (MGs 2008), and Judy Anderson (MG 2012) coordinated the initial planting in 2013. It evolved from that time through others until, in 2020, Sue Bain, Vickie Blythe, and Hedy Wolpa (MGs 2018) began its transformation after observing more pollinators than just butterflies. The name was changed to the Pollinator Habitat Garden (PH) the following year. More natives were planted in the original bed and it was soon realized that expansion was needed to accommodate the plants and provide more area for new varieties of nectar and larval host plants. In 2023, the expansion was approved and the process began.

Other than being accommodated with additional space, the intention to expand was to help increase the diversity of insect activity and sustain the life cycles of insects attracted to the habitat as well as to supply a constant source for education about pollinators. The PH team planned, researched, photographed, and methodically developed the expanded garden for a year with the help and reliance of other Master Gardeners, and with grant funding from the Native Plant Society of Texas, Clear Lake Chapter. The expansion of the PH has certainly provided the opportunity to add more native plants and demonstrate how they provide food for adult pollinators and their larvae, safe shelter from predators, areas to mate, and opportunities to reproduce. The PH has progressed to be a true habitat that broadly welcomes a variety of pollinating animals and an educational site for the public to learn about how to select and maintain native plants that thrive in our local climate and soil conditions.

A pollinator habitat interpretive sign has been added to the original area to provide information about the purpose of the garden. Plants are labeled with common and scientific names throughout the original and expanded areas. The expansion area and the original bed have inner and outer edges so that plants can be positioned by height and width, by water need, and by type of bloom, bloom color, and bolt times. This “gardening with intention,” means that the selected placement of native plants helps develop a year-round array of attractive color, food, and shelter. One area in the expanded PH is dedicated exclusively to native milkweed varieties to help increase the Monarch butterfly population. A Life Cycle of the Monarch interpretive sign has been added in this area. Join us and follow the progression of our efforts to make the expansion a reality. *All photos by the PH Team*



During the summer of 2023, cardboard was laid to prep the bed area. By November, it was ready for edging stones. Here, Sue Bain and Hazel Lampton measured the width of one side of the bed.



In December, the border was completed and soil was added to both sides of the bed. It almost looks like a butterfly.



The edging stones were purchased and delivered. The outer edges of the beds were etched.



Crushed granite was added to the etched border. Here, Nemo Jackson is leveling an edging stone using the string as a guide.

*“...to increase diversity of insect activity...”*



Sue Bain, Hedy Wolpa, Vicki Blythe and Hazel Lampton placed weed barrier cloth to the walkway.



The team filled the walkway with crushed granite delivered by John Ely.



Hedy Wolpa, Hazel Lampton and Sue Bain are proud to receive a Native Pollinator Garden sign from the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) Clear Lake. By applying for a grant, NPSOT Clear Lake awarded us \$500 that was used to buy native plants for the garden.



In the original bed, a new interpretive sign describes what to do to increase the population of pollinators, how pollinators pollinate, examples of plants and names of pollinators.

“...a constant source for education....”



By March 2024, all native plants were planted in the expansion area and a few were planted in the original bed.



In June, 2024, the expanded Pollinator Habitat Garden exploded with color and growth.

The following are the pollinators that were planted in the new expanded areas.

#### E Section

Milkweed

Aquatic Milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*)

Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*)

Common Milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

Narrow Leaf Milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*)

#### F Section

Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*)

Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Cowpen Daisy (*Verbesina enclioides*)

Bitter Sneezeweed (*Helenium amarum*)

Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*)

Heartleaf Skullcap (*Scutellaria ovata*)

Damianita (*Chrysactinia mexicana* A. Gray)

Pavonia Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)

Winecup, Purple Poppy Mallow (*Callirhoe involucrate*)

Golden Tickseed (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)

#### G Section

Fall Aster (*Symphyotrichum oblongifolium*)

Blackfoot Daisies (*Melampodium leucanthum*)

Gregg's Mistflower (*Conoclinium greggii*)

Mistflower Fragrant (*Chromolaena odorata*)

Snake Herb (*Dyschoriste linearis*)

Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*)

Drummond Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*)

Shrubby Purple Skullcap (*Scutellaria wrightii*)

Barbara's Buttons (*Marshallia caespitosa*)

Ivyleaf Thoroughwort (*Chromolaena ivifolia*)

#### H Section

Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*)

Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*)

Malvaviscus Turkscap (*Malvaviscus aboreus*)

Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)

Inland Sea Oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*)

Gulf Coast Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*)

Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)

## For the love of herbs



Vickie Hall  
GCMG 2023

I love herbs. One day on my way to a meeting, I walked by an area with rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*). The scent was intoxicating, so I grabbed a sprig, crushed it between my palms and placed my hands over my nose. I immediately felt calmer and ready to take on the day. That's when I knew there was something special about herbs. Now there is always rosemary in my garden.

Herbs are the perfect starter plants for both new and established gardeners. A variety of herbs add flavor to foods, have beautiful foliage and flowers, provide aromatherapy, and are pollinators for gardens and host plants for many butterflies. They don't require too much space, sunlight, or care. Gardening in Galveston County's heavy and wet clay soil is not optimal. Herbs typically originate in the Mediterranean area so a raised garden provides better soil for herbs to grow. Amending the soil with aged compost or worm castings and having six to eight hours of sunlight is great for growing herbs in our area. Before choosing plants, get to know herbs and understand their needs. Plant families are important to placement of herbs such as the Lamiaceae family which includes rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*), thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), sage (*Salvia officinalis*), and oregano (*Origanum vulgare*). These plants have the same needs and benefit by being planted together.

It is also important to buy herbs from reputable sources. Some herbs are best started from seed. These include cilantro, parsley, dill, and basil. Other herbs are better to purchase from a local nursery or grower or to propagate from a neighbor or friend's cutting.

It's important to look at an area and assess how each plant will look not only when planted but as it matures. Note height and spread, color, shape, sun and water requirements so that the bed is not overcrowded, and each plant is allowed to grow to its natural shape and size. Another benefit to planning placement is the ease of harvesting seeds, berries, and leaves.

Recently, a completely renovated herb garden was created in the Galveston County Master Gardener Discovery Garden in Carbide Park in La Marque. Master Gardener (Class of 2023) Donna Merritt's love of herbs was brought to light when she was given the lead for the herb garden bed renovation.

The original Discovery Garden herb bed was unkempt and needed work. Enter Donna. She created an herb team and together they made the new garden a showstopper. The team consisted of Donna as the lead and members Christie Mc-

Grath, Sven Bors-Koefoed, Joseph Davis, Briana Etie, Tina Fincher, Ralinda Fenton, Mary Gordon, Vickie Hall, Nancy Hiefner, Becky Jaschek, John Mitchiner, Pat Saenz, and The completed Herb Bed.



The existing round raised bed worked perfectly to continue as the site for the herb garden. The first step was to clear the bed and ready it for its new look.



Workers removed the old border and cleaned up the bed. They turned and amended the soil.



The team then had to ensure the water source was working correctly.

*“...a completely renovated herb garden...”*



A plan was put together after studying which herbs should be planted and when, their heights at maturity and their possible use by the kitchen staff. The plan was drawn to show the team where each herb was to be placed.



Harvesting seeds and herbs for the kitchen



Most of the herbs they planted were grown in the Discovery Garden greenhouse.



It takes a teamwork for the renovation.





*“There is something special about herbs...”*



The Herb Team



Gorizia Rosemary, also referred to as Barbeque Skewers (*Salvia rosmarinus* 'Gorizia')  
Note: recently reclassified, previously named *Rosmarinus officinalis*  
Texas Superstar Plant MG Donna Merritt



The completed Herb Bed



Bees on Calendula, (*Calendula officinalis*) MG Vickie Hall  
All photos by the Herb Team.

## Guess What's Coming to the Discovery Garden



Hedy Wolpa  
GCMG 2018

The Galveston County Master Gardeners Association (GCMGA) formed a Legacy Committee in 2021, to consider an appropriate tribute to honor Dr. William M. Johnson, who died unexpectedly on February 12, 2021, after 32 years as Galveston County AgriLife Extension Horticulture agent. The committee, after numerous discussions, envisioned an outdoor

classroom in the Discovery Garden, constructed and named for Dr. Johnson, who was an inspirational leader, mentor, and educator for the GCMGA. Legacy Committee members included Sharon Zaal (MG 2015), Kathy Maines (MG 2017), Linda Steber (MG 1991), Linda Barnett (MG 2015), Julie Massey (MG 1996), Ginger Benson (MG 2015), Robin Collins (MG 2016), and AgriLife Extension agents Phoenix Rogers and Brittany Allen. Fundraising efforts started in March of 2021, with contributions from friends and colleagues as well as donations received at the 2022 Fall Festival in the Discovery Garden.

The following year, Galveston County Master Gardener president, Kathy Maines, applied for and successfully received a grant from INEOS Group to be used for horticultural education activities for the greater public community in Galveston County. Fatefully, and realizing that this project would surely succeed, Sharon Zaal, former GCMGA president and project manager for the outdoor classroom, began researching local projects that featured outdoor space dedicated to teaching. She discovered the Graduate Design/Build Studio program at the Gerald D. Hines University of Houston College of Architecture. She spoke with Professor Patrick Peters, who instructs graduate level architecture students and guides them through a semester-long project to design and construct a small-scale job that simulates a real-world architecture experience. Professor Peters visited the Discovery Garden on November 16, 2023, and determined that the outdoor classroom, its purpose for education in Greater Galveston County, and the man for whom the project would honor, Dr. Johnson, would indeed be worthy of the efforts of his students.

Master of Architecture students in the Graduate Design/Build Studio program find site-specific solutions for non-profit organizations with a need for a climate-influenced structure. In Spring 2024, 10 talented students with diverse undergraduate degrees and experiences and Professor Peters met with GCMGA's outdoor classroom committee members to discuss and present options for a structure that meets specific requirements for teaching in an outdoor environment, as well as architectur-

ally-sound principles of aesthetic design and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, all of this while withstanding our region's climate extremes. Committee members provided a profile of Dr. Johnson's experiences in horticulture, his dedication to Galveston County and Extension work, and most importantly, his famous motto "Knowledge not shared is knowledge lost" to ensure that the outdoor classroom would fulfill its purpose to promote public education for people of all ages and capabilities. Several design models were presented and critiqued, and, from these, one final design was created that met the criteria of the committee and the aspirations of the enthusiastic graduate students. The Outdoor Classroom Committee members are Sharon Zaal, project manager; Kathy Maines, GCMGA President; Kevin Lancon (MG 2018) GCMGA Vice-President; Debbie Brizendine (MG 2015) GCMGA Treasurer; Larry Brizendine (MG 2023); Hedy Wolpa (MG 2018); Karolyn Gephart (MG 2017) and Robin Collins (MG 2016). Gephart and Collins are co-editors of the GCMGA's award-winning Gulf Coast Gardener newsletter.

The Design/Build program dictates that the students not only design the site-specific project, but also optimize the final design, estimate the construction costs, and build the project all within the time frame of the students' course dates. Professor Peters is using his contacts at the University of Houston, local businesses, and commercial and industrial construction companies to support the students with in-kind donations of materials, equipment, and labor. Examples of this include the



UH Architecture Department students designed the classroom GCMG Database

## *“Knowledge not shared is knowledge lost”*

equipment, labor, and consultation of experts and professionals to obtain soil samples, seal the architectural drawings, and provide steel framework, roofing materials, and other components that are crucial to the successful completion of the project. The funds that have been donated by Master Gardeners, community members, colleagues, friends, and the INEOS Group grant are all needed to offset the cost of the entire project. Galveston County will also provide funds to construct a pathway from the Pergola area through the Orchard to the new outdoor classroom. Many components will be pre-fabricated by the students in the Design/Build workshop located on the UH main campus and transported to the Discovery Garden for installation. The open-air structure will be located toward the north end of the garden, near the mid-back area of the orchard. Professor Peters stated that the outdoor classroom project in Discovery Garden is the largest square-footage, at 1,050 square feet, that students have designed and constructed over the 30-plus years that he has taught the Design/Build Studio program.

Highlights of the aesthetics of the Dr. William McCray Johnson Outdoor Classroom:

- Standing seam metal roof matches other buildings in the Discovery Garden
- Steel frame structure to withstand hurricane force winds, braced with trusses and lateral framing
- Seating for up to 30 children or 20 adults; ample room for added seating
- Teaching table with tribute panel for Dr. Johnson
- Movable perforated steel shade panels will help control air flow and light
- ADA ramp access
- Designed for minimal maintenance
- Construction materials sourced for efficacy, efficiency, minimal waste

Linda Steber, who consulted and collaborated with Dr. Johnson during her years as editor of the Gulf Coast Gardening newsletter that she and Dr. Johnson started in 1996, said, “Dr. Johnson’s passion for educating the public was not just a profession but a calling. He believed that knowledge should be accessible to all, and he diligently worked to make it so.”

A ribbon cutting event will be planned in mid-fall to celebrate the completion of this exciting addition to the Discovery Garden. We hope to see all of you there!



Courtesy of the Gerald D. Hines University of Houston College of Architecture



Courtesy of the Gerald D. Hines University of Houston College of Architecture



Boring into the ground GCMG Database

## Resident horticulturist transforms museum gardens



Barbara Canetti  
GCMG 2016

Mitzy Mills-Barringer considers herself lucky: she loves her job, and her daily commute is about five seconds. Mitzy is the resident horticulturist at The Bryan Museum in Galveston, and she lives on the majestic property, 1315 21st St. It's an all-day, every-day task tending to the 1.25-acre property, a jewel in Galveston's historic district.

The manicured grounds at The Bryan Museum now are lush and feature a butterfly garden, a Texas wildflower section, a gazebo laced with star jasmine, a scattering of edibles and colorful flowers everywhere, and stately trees anchoring the full-city block lot.

These are mostly new additions to the property, which long served as the 1896 Galveston Orphans Home, which was rebuilt two years after the 1900 Storm. It ceased being an orphanage in 1984 when various agencies merged to become The Children's Center, a child welfare organization.

In 2013, Houston oilman and renowned Texas historian J.P. Bryan Jr. acquired the property to house his vast collection of documents, artifacts, and works of fine art exemplifying the history of Texas and the Southwest. He opened the museum in June 2015.

When Bryan bought the property, the plot was overgrown with oleanders, weeds, and camphor trees. While crews renovated the interior of the building, landscaper James Mansfield worked with Mitzy to beautify the outside grounds.

They tackled the job in two sections. The first step was controlling those 30-foot-high oleanders and other flora in front of the building. It took months to clear away all the remains.



The manicured grounds have colorful flowers everywhere

Later, they attacked the mess behind the building, which was a chaotic clutter of debris. An adjacent building had to be demolished.

"Mitzy's work in our garden has been truly transformative," Bryan said. "She brought beauty and order to the grounds that had suffered from years of neglect and chaos. It is her attention to all the details of the garden that bestowed it with a warm and appealing countenance. She has a portfolio of horticultural expertise joined with the unique ability to combine plants in a fashionable art form that is soft to the eye and refreshing to the soul."

Using rounded beds has softened the sharp edges of the building's exterior, Bryan said. An extensive sprinkler system had to be installed because it was impractical to hand water the entire grounds.

"I could not water all these areas with a hose," she said. "No way."

Every day is weeding day. As she strolls around the property, followed by her faithful dog Tezy, a 9-year-old rescue, Mitzy stops in front of a small garden and pulls some stray weeds in between the plants.

"I keep my hands dirty and green," she said. "Every day is weed pulling or moving something from one place to another."

Mitzy moved to the island from Houston, where she had lived for 13 years, when Bryan hired her. She is from Alabama and worked for decades as a horticultural therapist, a field where trained horticulturists work with patients in gardens and gardening activities to achieve specific therapeutic treatment goals. She worked for the Alabama Department of Mental Health at large campuses in Birmingham and then Tuscaloosa with disabled clients, assisting in both mental and physical therapy in the garden.

Her love for gardening started early in her life. Both sets of grandparents were farmers and she marveled over putting something in the ground, growing it, and then eating it, she said. She attended college, majoring in horticulture, and freelanced as a landscape designer for several years while working for the state.

Each morning at The Bryan Museum, she writes her agenda for the day on a small board. She meets with her team of two groundskeepers, and they plan their tasks. She doesn't pressure them to hurry in their work, unless there's a big event coming up at the museum. Then, it's all hands-on deck.

## “Mitzy’s work...truly transformative”

“What she and her able staff have demonstrated is what can be created when the ideas of perfection meet with efforts of those seeking perfection,” Bryan said. “Hers is a masterful performance in a job that changes and grows in its demand each and every day.”

Her job entails replacing wilting plants, rotating seasonal flowers, and ensuring aggressive hedges and bushes remain in control. She carefully makes her selections based on the Gulf Coast climate, but more importantly and specifically, she chooses plants for precise locations on the property based on the season and sun exposure.

“We like boxwoods, but when I put them in a sunny location, they don’t do well,” she said. “So, I am always moving things around and putting them where they will do better.”

To brighten the back area of the museum around the glass-enclosed conservatory, where many weddings and special events are held, she chose purple petunias to fill eight large terracotta containers around the patio. Small palms are also potted, giving the space a tropical feel, while evergreen selections camouflage the perimeter fences. The colorful pansies that lined the paths all winter and spring soon were replaced, she said, because pansies don’t do well in the heat.

“We have lots of ‘wait and see’ plants and lots of surprises, too,” she said, referring to unhappy plants that need more sun, more water, more space, or less heat. “That’s why we are constantly moving things around.”

She also is steward of the century-old oaks and decades-old palms on the grounds. “These trees are still standing, despite years of storms, hurricanes, and abuse,” she said. “They really are beautiful.” Museum attendees can continue to enjoy

the trees as well as the landscaped areas every day under the watchful eye of Mitzy Mills-Barringer.

View her landscaping as well as an immense collection of Texas History at the Bryan Museum. The museum is open daily Wednesday through Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. For upcoming exhibitions, events and more visit their website at [thebryanmuseum.org](http://thebryanmuseum.org).

*All photos by Barbara Canetti.*



Rounded corners soften the building’s edges



The outside grounds



Mitzy and her dog assistant Tezy

# Discovery Garden hit by Hurricane Beryl



Kevin Lancon  
GCMG 2018

Hurricane Beryl brought extreme winds and heavy rain to Galveston County July 8, 2024. This caused damage in the Discovery Garden in Carbide Park. Numerous large tree branches, particularly in the pecan orchard, were scattered throughout the garden. The bamboo area in the serenity garden was hit hard but by far the biggest issue was that much of the roofing on the greenhouse. It was torn apart and must be repaired or replaced. In addition, many of the outdoor ceiling fans were damaged or blown apart and the awning over the compost area was demolished. A call for cleanup crews brought out many Master Gardeners who worked together to clean up the destruction and put the Discovery Garden areas back in an orderly place. *All photos by MGs Judy Anderson and Hedy Wolpa.*



Bamboo was impacted by the wind.



The roof was pulled off the greenhouse.



Many branches were torn away from trees.



Large branches blocked pathways.



The compost's awning was destroyed.

*“MGs worked together to clean up...”*



Some of the workers were Santos and Rachel Montemayor, Lucy Brown, and Hedy Wolpa with Michael Reed on the tractor.



The bamboo area was cleaned up through the support of the orchard team, the north end team and interns working together.



Clean up underway



Piles continued to rise.

## *Clostridium tetani*: An Unseen Danger



Marilyn Haupt  
GCMG 2019

As a gardener, I know that the health of my plants reflects the health of my soil. I work diligently to improve the fertility of my soil by utilizing various composts containing manure from cows, horses, rabbits, and chickens. While these are excellent sources of plant nutrients, they may also introduce microbes harmful to humans. One such microbe is the bacteria, *Clostridium tetani* (*C. tetani*), it being the causative microorganism that can lead to tetanus, also known as lockjaw. It produces spores that are distributed in the soil and can live for years and withstand high heat and even several disinfectant agents. They can also be found on items in the garden such as tools, posts, and tomato cages.

These spores may enter the human body from the garden through openings in the skin such as cuts, punctures, and insect bites. Deep wounds, those contaminated with soil or foreign material, increase the risk for introduction of spores into the body. Once in the body, spores will germinate *C. tetani* which will release a toxin that damages cells of the nervous system; it affects critical neurotransmitters resulting in tetanus. The incubation period for tetanus can range from three to 21 days with the average time of onset of symptoms being eight days after inoculation with the bacterial spores. The typical first sign of infection are spasms of the jaw. The effect on the jaw is the reason for the symptom being commonly referred to as lockjaw. Additional symptoms may include headache, difficulty with swallowing, stiffness or rigidity of the muscles of the neck. Fever and general symptoms of infection may also be experienced early in the disease process. As the disease progresses, instability of the heart rate and blood pressure are present. In addition, muscle spasms begin in the neck, back, abdomen, and the extremities. The spasms will then be replaced by rigidity of all the muscles throughout the body. In more severe cases, seizures may be present. The most dangerous affects are the spasms of the throat and the respiratory system that leads to respiratory failure. Individuals at this level of illness require the use of a ventilator to breathe for them.



Wear gloves when gardening. Pixabay.com

At this severity of illness, the mortality rate is near 100 percent. The earlier the symptoms begin, the higher the negative prognosis for the individual.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that symptoms of tetanus require immediate medical treatment and those experiencing signs and symptoms of this disease should contact their healthcare provider.

Individuals at all ages are at risk for developing tetanus. People who are over the age of 70, those who have a pre-existing condition such as diabetes, and those who have a weak immune system are at a greater risk for developing this disease.

The CDC recommends two ways to reduce the risk for developing tetanus: First, thoroughly wash all wounds to remove soil and potential contaminants. Second, adults should receive a tetanus booster shot every ten years. In addition, if a wound occurs after five years since the last booster, another booster shot is recommended. It is important to maintain your immunization record for reference. Wearing protective clothing and gloves may also reduce the risk for these puncture injuries.

Despite the availability of tetanus vaccinations in the United States, CDC statistics continue to show approximately 50 cases of tetanus in the United States every year. Many of these cases are seen in individuals who have not kept up their tetanus vaccinations every ten years or received a soil contaminated wound and failed to receive a booster vaccination, or in those who have never received a vaccination.

Good habits will help everyone avoid contracting tetanus. Maintain tetanus boosters, keep wounds clean when gardening or using outdoor utensils and wear gloves to work in soil. A publication from Colorado State University titled Safe Food Facts for Community Gardens has further suggestions to help keep you and your garden tetanus-free.

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## Photo Gallery: Linda Crowston



Linda Crowston  
GCMG 2022

Linda is a Master Gardener who enjoys photography and has provided photos for Gulf Coast Gardening as well as the GCMG database. She has a keen photographic eye and while in the Discovery Garden when a photo op is there, she takes action. She shares some favorites here that show how well she captures her subject.



## Plant of the Month: Ligularia



Pam Hunter  
GCMG 2018

Shady or part shaded areas are the perfect spots for ligularia (*Farfugium japonicum var. giganteum*). It thrives in shade, part shade, and also filtered light. It does not do well in full sun as leaves will wilt. It is sometimes referred to as leopard plant and, due to its appearance, the tractor seat plant. Ligularia offers large rounded dark green leaves. It can be grown in the ground or in containers and has attractive daisy-like yellow flowers on tall spikes once or twice a year. The blooms attract butterflies and bees, and the plant is deer resistant. The plants are almost pest and disease free with only slugs and snails being drawn to them. Once established, ligularia needs very little care. An occasional boost with compost will keep it healthy and green throughout the year. Our Master Gardeners report that their ligularia did not suffer after major hurricanes nor did it die after a three day freeze several years ago. The plant did not look great after the freeze but came back. It can be pruned back in late fall. Another great attribute of the ligularia is that this plant works in damp areas, but it should also be cautioned that it is not necessarily a bog plant. The large round leaves add texture and shape to the landscape.



Blooming in December MG Karolyn Gephart



Great plant for the landscape MG Karolyn Gephart

**Common Names:** leopard plant, ragwort, golden groundsel, tractor seat plant, and bigleaf golden ray

**USDA Hardiness Zone(s):** 4-9

### Plant Characteristics

Plant form: Rounded/mounded

Propagation: Division

Plant type: Perennial

Duration: Late summer to fall

Family: Asteraceae

Height: Up to two to four feet

### Bloom Information

Bloom color: Orange, bright yellow

Bloom time: Late spring to early autumn

### Culture

Light exposure: Prefers full shade, dappled light

Soil moisture: Moist

Soil description: Well drained, rich soil

Native habitat: China, Eastern Asia

### References:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Randy Lemon-GardenLine <https://randylemmon.com/?s=ligularia>

Orange County Master Gardeners [Perennials for Shady Gardens Zone 9 - Orange County Master Gardeners \(txmg.org\)](#)

Fairfax Master Gardeners <https://fairfaxgardening.org/ligularia/>



Buds MG Karolyn Gephart

## Travel: The Cloud Forest Dome & Flower Dome in Singapore



John Jons  
MG 2003

While visiting Singapore, I was encouraged to visit the Gardens by the Bay to see the Cloud Forest Dome and the Flower Dome exhibits.

The Gardens by the Bay is a Singaporean National Garden and Horticultural attraction. It is a 250-acre park located in the central region of Singapore. It cost over one billion dollars to build. The park consists of three well landscaped scenic gardens and two large, cooled conservatory complex domes (greenhouses). Within the park are more than 1.5 million plants from more than 5,000 species. With visiting time limited, I only had time on this trip to visit the two conservatory complex domes.

The first dome was called the Cloud Forest Dome, covering two acres under glass. The controlled climate within this dome is designed to replicate cool, moist conditions at elevations between 1,000 and 9,800 feet, found in tropical mountains in South-East Asia, Central, and South America. The temperature within the dome ranges from 71-73 degrees, with 80-90 percent humidity. In the dome's center is a 138 foot "cloud mountain" that has a 115-foot waterfall, the world's biggest indoor waterfall. There are seven gardens called "discovery zones." There is a Cloud Walk, a Crystal Mountain, a Treetop Walk, a +5 Degrees Walk, a Lost World Garden, Earth Check Garden, and a Secret Garden.

When you enter the dome, you can take an elevator to the seventh floor and then follow a circular slightly sloped descending walkway called the "cloud walk" that takes you down through seven levels of intense gardens to ground level. Along the walk [.] you can look up at the plant covered mountain, the waterfall, and the ground level below you. The walkway crosses under the waterfall multiple times.



Cloud Forest Dome MG John Jons

The "cloud mountain" and its surrounding garden area are densely covered in orchids, ferns, lichens, mosses, and bromeliads. There are over 7,000 plants from more than 135 species, plus hybrids. One unique feature is you get to see orchids that are so small you can only view them with the exhibit's magnifying glass. Each level of the walkway is pristinely landscaped with plants representing the different themes. To see more pictures of the Cloud Forest Dome go to YouTube and see my video "A Visit to the Cloud Forest Dome at Gardens by the Bay in Singapore." <https://youtu.be/eEls-f2r4mk>

We then visited the Flower Dome located via a walkway next to the Cloud Forest Dome. The Flower Dome, the largest greenhouse in the world, covers three acres under glass. The climatic condition within this dome is designed to replicate the cool, dry Mediterranean climate and features showing plants and exotic flowers common to the Mediterranean and the semi-arid regions from five different continents. The temperature within this dome is maintained around 71-77 degrees, with humidity around 60-80 percent.

There are eight gardens within the Flower dome including a Succulent Garden, an Australian Garden, a South African Garden, a South American Garden, an Olive Grove, a California Garden, a Mediterranean Garden, and a changing display garden. In the Flower Dome, there are over 32,000 plants from over 160 species. While we were visiting, the display garden featured dahlias. To see more pictures of the Flower Dome go to YouTube and see my video "A Visit to the Flower Dome at Gardens by the Bay in Singapore." <https://youtu.be/0jFmwSn-WpR4>

As both these domes are covered in clear glass, you can see the rest of the Gardens by the Bay Park, the marina, and the skyline of Singapore.



Flower Dome MG John Jons

## Travel: Visiting New England in the Fall Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge, Massachusetts



Barbara Lyons  
GCMG 2014

In October 2022, I made a pilgrimage to my childhood hometown in Upstate NY to attend my 50th high school reunion. It was the perfect opportunity to visit some local gardens on the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program or RAP. Growing up in the area, our family rarely made the trip to nearby Massachusetts even though it was only 30 minutes away. That made Western Massachusetts the perfect place to visit as its location was nearby and it was a place I have never explored. The town of Lenox and contiguous Stockbridge (of the James Taylor song\*) are typical early American New England towns with the old brick buildings and many large deciduous and evergreen trees.

Stockbridge is the home of the Berkshire Botanical Garden (BBG). (5 W Stockbridge Rd, Stockbridge MA 01262). Fall is the perfect time to view autumnal leaf colors in trees and other smaller plants. As with many gardens in the northern climates, the garden is open for visits during April 29-October 31 only. The gardens encompass 24 acres of plants, art, and buildings on either side of Route 102 at the intersection with 183. One docent-led tour per day leaves the visitor center at 11 am during the summer months only. Otherwise, it is an easy self-guided tour using their convenient map.



Planted linden walkway of The Mount

Originally founded in 1934 as Berkshire Garden Center, it is one of the oldest display gardens in the Northeast US and contains over 3,000 species of plants. Sections of the garden include a cottage garden, a Martha Stewart-designed Garden shed with a roof covered with several types of sedums, an inner-child-pleasing topiary garden called Lucy's Garden, a vegetable raised bed demonstration area, a massive indoor plant wall, the herb garden with over 100 herb varieties, and an arts center displaying art forms inspired by nature, among others.

Fall plants which were in bloom at the time include many hydrangeas, asters, and chrysanthemums. On our visit, fall was emerging and displays of pumpkin and other fall decor were in progress. It was a real fall delight- the sights, the smells, and the sweater-worthy cool temperatures all awakened positive autumnal memories of my youth. I was reminded that autumn is much more than what we experience in our neck of the woods in Galveston County where it is linked with the end of 90 plus degree temperatures.

As with many gardens open to the public, The Berkshire Botanical Garden is run by a non-profit which runs the garden property in addition to several events which add to the understanding of horticulture, and a facility for art display, the Leonhardt Galleries.



Shed with living roof designed by Martha Stewart



Topiary garden

## “...garden influences from European sojourns”

On this day we also visited The Mount, home and gardens of author Edith Wharton (1862-1937). It is a National Historic Landmark. The 113-acre property features were designed in detail by the multi-talented author. (2 Plunkett St, Lenox, MA [edithwharton.org](http://edithwharton.org)). It is a magnificent display mansion with garden influences from the author's European sojourns. Originally built in 1902, the home and garden were designed to be in harmony with the rolling hills of the area and include formal gardens restored to their original designs. In 1978, a foundation was formed to purchase, preserve, and restore the property, saving it from threatened commercial development. Restoration activities are on-going. Today, The Mount also serves as a cultural center, hosting year-round literary and artistic endeavors. The home tour is open by admission only, however the gardens and grounds are open daily dawn to dusk, unless otherwise posted, and free of charge.

The formal gardens are like rooms and are distinctly separated in style one from the other. They include a Renaissance-styled Italian garden and French flower garden around a rectangular



View of The Mount



Pink hydrangeas in bloom

water feature. The two main gardens are connected by a gravel esplanade lined with pleached linden trees forming a walled walkway between them. Pleaching is defined as a single trunked tree or shrub with branches trained along a structure rendering the branches both horizontal and intertwined with adjacent plants of the same species. It is different from the process of espalier where the horizontal branches are forced along a structure at a specific interval.

A feature I had not observed before is an impressive green hill including steps covered in grass transitioning from one of the mansion porches down to the French garden. I could just imagine a beautiful wedding portrait or entrance using this interesting space. The property is available as a wedding venue, however, is booked well into the future. During wedding rentals, visitation is limited to the wedding party and guests.

Admission to the mansion includes a tour of the home either by docent, recorded tour, or self-guided tour. It is not part of the RAP program but well worth the ticket price. There is also a restaurant, the Terrace Cafe, (open for lunch only) on one of the back porches, and a bookstore doubling as a gift shop on the lowest level. Both are accessible without paying an entrance fee. The walkway from the admissions building, formerly a gatehouse, and parking lot to the mansion is along a woodsy 1/4-mile paved driveway. Sculptures of many styles and sizes are displayed along the way making the stroll even more enjoyable.

A bonus for travelers is that these two sites are a mere 12 minutes apart and can easily be visited in a day. While in the immediate area, also visit the Norman Rockwell Museum (9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA 01262 [www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org) 413-298-4100) a 36-acre site which is just around the corner from BBG.

I am glad to have added garden visiting to our retirement travels to catch up on some places I have missed and to relive what is attractive about a four-season location. *All photos by MGs Barbara Lyons & Ed Beazley*

### References:

[www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)

[www.nrm.org](http://www.nrm.org)

\*James Taylor classic *Sweet Baby James* has the following lyrics: “Now the first of December was covered with snow. And so was the turnpike from Stockbridge to Boston. Lord, the Berkshires seemed dream-like on account of that frostin’. With ten miles behind me and ten thousand more to go ....”

## Meet a Master Gardener: Jim Waligora



Trish McDaniel  
GCMG 2001

Jim Waligora, Galveston County Master Gardener (Class of 1998), lives in League City with Yvonne, his bride of 59 years. She and Jim met at an apartment complex where they both happened to be living, during a neighbor's get-together in 1963. Yvonne was also a 1998 MG graduate, now retired, and dedicates her time to their three daughters and five grandchildren.

Jim grew up in the Midwestern town of LaSalle, Illinois. Regarding his path to gardening, Jim recounts that his mother and father always had a summer garden of tomatoes, rhubarb, and various vegetables and flowers. Jim remembers helping his parents with the garden by transplanting violets from a nearby vacant lot.

As a young boy, Jim was keenly interested in anything to do with science. Unfortunately, grade school at that time offered little for a curious scientific mind. This led Jim to become a regular at his public library, where he checked out scientific books from the kid's stacks — books concerning space and the planets being especially high on his list.

Jim's boyhood studies, including his excitement for the heady Russian and American satellite flights, influenced his attraction to chemistry and physics in high school. He particularly loved physics, which in high school was the "Classical" version of the 18th and 19th century. Then came junior college, where Jim chose physics as his major. By this time, physics had taken the transformative leap to "Modern" physics, which required a serious upshift into mathematics. After one calamitous class in calculus, Jim's advisor kindly suggested he consider biology as an alternative. Although Jim never took biology in high school, he found himself hooked.

With ambition of becoming a field zoologist, Jim went on to earn his bachelors in zoology at the University of Illinois in 1961. For his graduate program, Jim applied for both zoology and physiology, requiring the highest-grade point average. After qualifying for both, he made the surprising choice to pursue a master's in physiology, specializing in environmental physiology, which he attained in 1963. In his words, "If I had made the other choice, I might have studied bears or gorillas somewhere, or worked in a gas station."

Upon graduation, his college advisor sent a recommendation to someone he knew at NASA. Jim applied to NASA and certain NASA contractors which had life science programs. After a subsequent call from the head of the environmental physiology section at the Johnson Space Center, lasting only a



Yvonne and Jim Waligora



Earlier days working at NASA

## “Jim worked keeping people safe in space...”

few minutes, Jim was hired and moved to Houston two weeks later. Clearly, Jim’s stars were in perfect alignment.

During his tenure at NASA, Jim worked, over-simply put, to develop equipment and protocols for keeping people safe in space, which he did until his retirement in 1997.

My attempt to interview Jim was laughable. I soon realized that trying to take notes about the questions I was asking required the skills of a professional scientific writer, not me. I’m just happy to pass on that sitting and talking with Jim was a delight. He is one unassuming, soft-spoken, and laid-back fellow. Hearing him describe being present for historic events such as the celebration inside Mission Control on the return of Apollo 13, and the final mission of Apollo 17, was a glimpse into history to be treasured. Learning about Jim’s work put a new perspective on Neil Armstrong’s quote, “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.” It was just one more day at the office for a physiologist.

In 2020, the 50th International Conference on Environmental Sciences, canceled due to COVID, presented Jim with the Jeffries Aerospace Medicine and Life Sciences Research Award. The award being “for pioneering human performance studies and engineered countermeasures critical for safe and productive extravehicular activity on programs spanning Apollo to the International Space Station.” This special ceremony was celebrated at his home with his family.

Back on Earth, while visiting Jim’s lovely backyard, he mentioned that I had first contacted him for an interview 20 years prior. At that time, he declined as they had just moved in their home and the yard was “a mess.” But the day I was there, pre-Hurricane Beryl, the yard and garden were splendid.



Jim's beautiful backyard MG Trish McDaniel

Beginning with the inviting shaded patio that Jim built, we took a turn around the garden beds that line the property. Filling the beds were healthy stands of eggplants and tomatoes. Fluffy plumbago (*Plumbago auriculata*), a stunning angel wing begonia (*Begonia coccinea*), and the various types of salvia were abuzz with worker bees. A portion of the garden was reserved for Yvonne’s favorite flower — hydrangeas. A handsome raised bed beside a bird bath and garden sculpture creates a welcoming island in the middle of the yard.

Besides gardening, Jim enjoys a range of activities including reading fiction/nonfiction books on history, and taking on-line courses on numerous topics. Refinishing furniture and beer-making are also in his repertoire. Together, Jim and Yvonne enjoy taking trips in their travel trailer and are devoted fans of the Houston Astros.

During his 26 years as a Master Gardener, Jim has been a steadfast volunteer from the early days of the Extension Office in Dickinson, to helping develop and maintain the Discovery Garden in La Marque, where he currently supervises the compost program.



Jim with the Jeffries Aerospace Medicine and Life Sciences Research Award



Jim discusses composting at the 2023 MG Fish Fry MG Karolyn Gephart

# MG Fish Fry

The July meeting with the fish fry was postponed due to Hurricane Beryl and was held August 13, 2024 at the Extension Building a Carbide Park. The Plant Swap was set up outside and following the dinner, a presentation on hibiscus was given by Greg and Marti Graves of Manvel.

During the evening MG Herman Auer was recognized for 40 years of service as a certified Master Gardener. MGs Hazel Lampton and Debbie Espinoza presented him with a Grafting Guru shirt. *All photos by Linda Crowston and Karolyn Gephart.*



Fish fry chefs



Plant Swap



Fish and all the fixings



Kay Sandor and Lynn Shook



A great crowd



*Herman Auer was honored for 40 service years...*



MGs Bill Cummins, Patsy Jewell and Sandy Klaud



Boone Holladay presents certificate to Herman Auer



MG Hazel Lampton



Speaker Marti Graves



Herman received a Grafting Guru shirt from MGs

# Seasonal Bites: All About Tomatoes



## Picante Sauce

*This picante sauce won first place in the Salsa Contest at the 2024 Intern's Tomato Tasting in June in the Discovery Garden.*

### Ingredients:

Tomatoes - approximately 36 ripe, medium size, fresh ripe tomatoes (homegrown are best). \*\*  
Onion - 2 cups, chopped.

Sweet peppers - 1 cup, chopped (Red or orange bell are best. Green bell okay).  
Hot peppers - 1/2 cup to 2 cups, chopped depending on variety and desired pungency. \*\*\*  
Cilantro - 1/2 cup of fresh chopped leaves. (Remove stems before chopping.)  
Basil - (sweet basil) 1/2 cup of fresh chopped leaves.  
Salt - 2 tablespoons  
Sugar - 2 tablespoons

### Process:

- (1) Core and peel tomatoes (dip in hot, then ice cold water first).
- (2) Chop tomatoes in blender to desired consistency. \*\*
- (3) Combine ingredients in large pot and stew for 30 minutes.
- (4) Place contents in canning jars, pints or quarts.
- (5) Process for another 20 minutes in the jars, using standard canning procedures for canning tomatoes.\*

Enjoy the sauce! (This makes 12 pints) It goes well with tortilla chips, fish, eggs, rice, and whatever suits your taste buds.

### Notes:

\* When canning (Step No. 5), it's more practical to process in large batches (> 12 pints). Canned products are generally good for a year or longer. If not canning, skip Step No. 5. Smaller batches (2 or 3 pints) may be more practical for eating fresh. Refrigerator shelf life is good for 1 or 2 weeks.

\*\* The salsa can be thickened by (A) using Roma/salad/paste type tomatoes and/or by (B) straining the tomatoes and separating the juice from the pulp (after chopping in blender) before adding the other ingredients. The fresh tomato juice is excellent!

\*\*\* Jalapenos and serranos have the best flavor, but they do not retain their heat value when processed in the sauce and canned. Habaneros retain heat value but are not as flavorful as Serrano peppers. It is best to mix these peppers to suit your taste and desired pungency.

A word of caution when handling hot peppers: **Use rubber gloves!**



MG Gene Speller



## Tomato Preserves

*Tomato preserves were a huge hit at the June Tomato Tasting in the Discovery Garden. May Casagrand made the following recipe and she shares it with GCG.*

### Ingredients:

1 tbsp. Ball Mixed Pickling Spice or Bernardin Mixed Pickling Spice  
1 1/2 inch piece peeled gingerroot

- 4 cups granulated sugar  
2 medium lemons (unpeeled), seeded and thinly sliced  
3/4 cup water  
6 cups peeled small yellow, green or red tomatoes
- To peel tomatoes, place them in a pot of boiling water for 30 to 60 seconds or until the skins start to crack. Immediately dip in cold water. The skin will slip off easily.
1. Tie pickling spice and gingerroot in a square of cheesecloth, creating a spice bag.
  2. In a large, deep stainless steel saucepan, combine sugar, lemon slices, water and spice bag. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring to dissolve sugar. Reduce heat and boil gently, stirring occasionally for 15 minutes. Add tomatoes and boil gently, stirring frequently, until tomatoes are transparent. Remove from heat, cover and let stand in a cool place (70-75 degrees) for 12 to 18 hours.
  3. Prepare canner, jars and lids.
  4. Using a slotted spoon, transfer tomatoes and lemon slices to a glass or stainless steel bowl and set aside. Discard spice bag. Bring syrup to a boil over high heat, stirring constantly. Boil hard, stirring constantly, until thickened, about 3 minutes. Add reserved tomatoes and lemons. Bring back to a boil and boil hard, stirring constantly, for 1 minute. Remove from heat and skim off foam.
  5. Ladle preserves into hot jars, leaving 1/4 inch headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace, if necessary, by adding hot preserves. Wipe rim. Center lid on jar. Screw band down until resistance is met, then increase to fingertip-tight.
  6. Place jars in canner, ensuring they are completely covered with water. Bring to a boil and process for 20 minutes. Remove canner lid. Wait 5 minutes, then remove jars, cool and store.

Makes about six 8-ounce jars.

I used regular size red tomatoes from my garden and McCormick Pickling Spice



MG Karolyn Gephart

to make my preserves. The recipe is from Ball *Complete Book of Home Preserving* edited by Judi Kingry and Lauren Devine (ROBERT ROSE, Inc., 2020, pg. 70)

*The book had this note at the bottom of the recipe: "Botanically, tomatoes are a fruit (a berry, the edible, seed-containing part of a plant). Legally, however, tomatoes are vegetables, thanks to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that favored their 'common use' over their botanical origin."*

## Book Review: *Orchard House*



Lisa Belcher  
GCMG 2014

The GCMGA Green Thumb Book Club read and discussed Tara Austen Weaver's *Orchard House: How a Neglected Garden Taught One Family to Grow*, a gardening memoir, in part. Set in Seattle and San Francisco, *Orchard House* tells the story of a single mother, Eileen raising two small children.

Tara was two years old when her father left and soon thereafter her mother found out she was pregnant. Early in their childhood, Tara and her younger brother were taught the love of gardening, and both have memories tending a garden with their mother, eating fresh tomatoes picked fresh off the vine, and ripe, delicious strawberries. With a jump in time, we see Tara's brother getting married and having children, and Tara's estranged relationship with her mother.

Wanting to be closer to her son, his family and Tara, Eileen purchases a house with a half-acre garden. Her mother had big dreams of growing various amounts of vegetables and even planting an orchard, something Tara could not wrap her head around as the intended area was either sloping or too much in the shade.

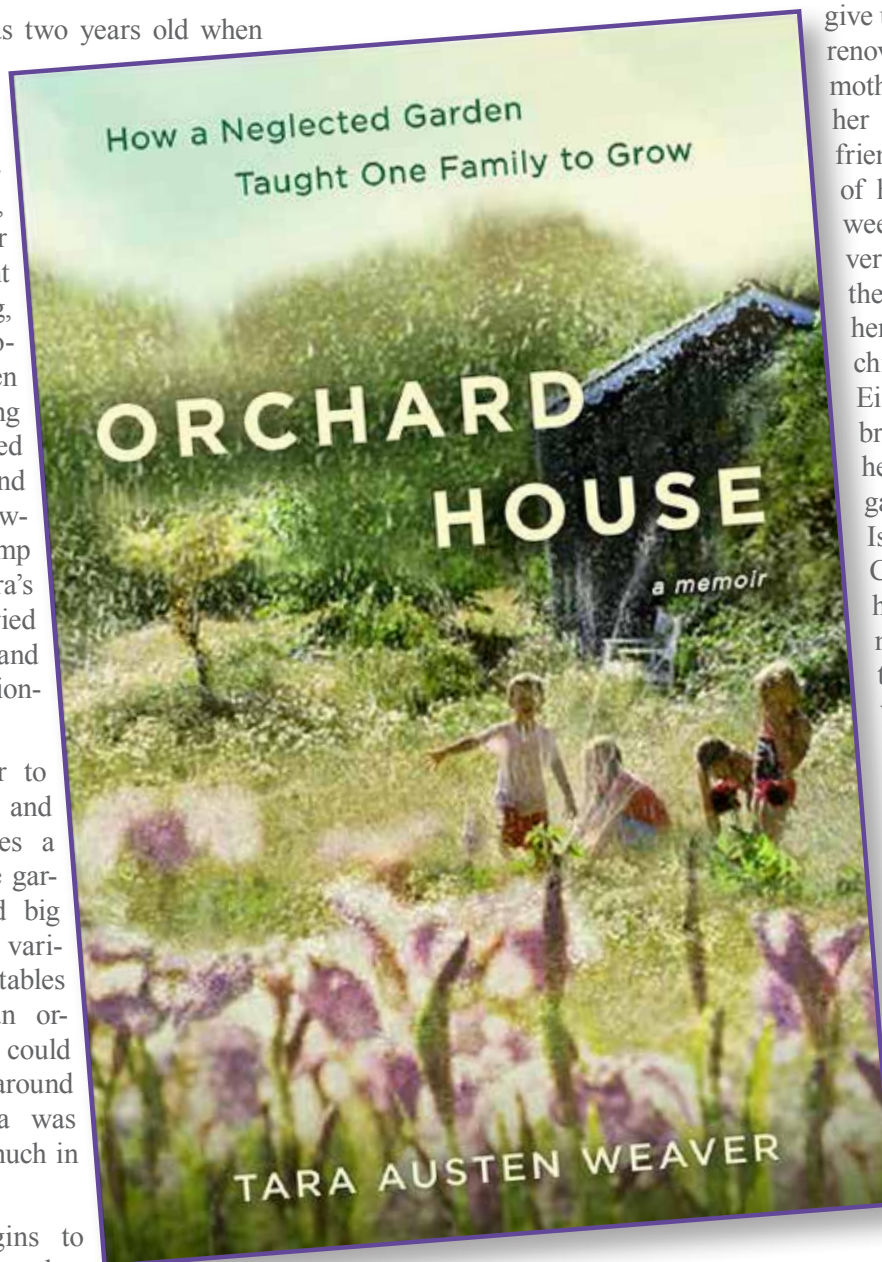
Slowly, as Tara begins to help her mother bring bag after bag of soil, compost and mulch to start the garden, we begin to hear the story of Tara's growing up, college years and the distance that grew between

she and her mother, something she longs to understand and heal. The reader can sense Tara's anxiety of trying over and over to become closer to her mother in a way she feels is a harmonious reconciliation. Eileen, however, is sometimes bewildered where all this anxiety comes from and why Tara feels there is such a rift and alienation because there certainly isn't one with her brother and his family. Frustrated, but not one to

give up, Tara continues to help renovate the garden with her mother. One summer, while her mother is away visiting friends, Tara, with the help of her nieces and nephews, weeds, waters and works very diligently to plant all the vegetables and herbs her mother grew during her childhood. Upon returning, Eileen shares the news she broke her back, her friends helped her heal, and the garden looks "nice." Nice? Is that all she could say? Completely angry and hurt, Tara realizes that the neglected garden was like the neglected relationship with her mother and she was putting the work and effort in only half. It is here that Tara learns to accept that you can't change what is, but appreciate what you have, and learn to live, love and tend a garden with her mother, allowing time to heal.

The remaining books the Green Thumb Book Club will be reading include the following: *Murder*

*at the Flower Show* by Neal Sanders and *The Jewel Garden* by Monty Don. The 2025 book selections will be announced in the November/December edition of the Gulf Coast Gardening Newsletter.



Galveston County Master Gardener  
3rd Annual

# Fall Festival and Plant Sale

TEXAS

MASTER GARDENER

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

Galveston County

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024**

**9am until 2 pm**

**Early access at 8:30 am for seminar attendance**

**8:30 am Festival Overview**

**9:30 am Fall Vegetables**

**10:30 am Herbs!**

**11:30 am Harvesting & Storing Produce**

**12:30 pm Plumeria**

## Guided Garden Tours

**10:00 am**

**11:00 am**

**12:00 pm**

**1:00 pm**

- Master Gardener grown plants
- Fall vegetables
- Crafts
- Herbs
- Bulbs
- Snaptinis
- Plumeria
- Seminars
- Food
- Garden tours
- Children's activities

*If you need special accommodations, please contact the Extension Office no later than seven days before the program so we can consider your request. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University System, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.*

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE | GALVESTON COUNTY OFFICE  
4102-B Main Street (FM 519) | La Marque, Texas 77568 | 281-309-5065 | <https://txmg.org/galveston/>



# Horticulture

## September/October Events

### T-Bud Grafting

09/14/24 9:00am - 11:00am

#### Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar

Hands-on workshop for t-bud grafting. Explore methods used on peach, plum, pear, apple and other fruit trees. Limited to 20 persons.

To register, visit: <https://galveston.agrilife.org/events/>



### Plumeria Care In Winter

10/05/24 1:00pm - 3:00pm

#### Gulf Coast Gardening Seminar

Best techniques on how to cultivate and winterize your plumeria trees for successful growth.

To register, visit: <https://galveston.agrilife.org/events/>

### 3rd Annual Fall Festival & Plant Sale

10/12/24 9:00am - 2:00pm

#### Discovery Garden in Carbide Park

Fun, food & discovery. Offering garden tours & seminars, program booths, Master Gardener grown plants & more!

For details, visit: <https://galveston.agrilife.org/events/>



Galveston County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
4102-B Main Street (FM 519) La Marque, TX 77568  
<https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/> 281-309-5065



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# 2024 Master Gardener Recertification Hours

Browse online to the members only webpage to review all hours: <https://txmg.org/galveston/membersonly/>

Date	Name of Program	Speaker	MG CEUs
1/6/2024	Wedge Grafting	Hazel Lampton, Debbie Espinosa	2.00
1/6/2024	Growing Peaches in Galveston County	Herman Auer	2.00
1/9/2024	January Mtg. - The Year Ahead 2024	Kevin Lancon, Frank Resch, Stephen B.	1.00
1/11/2024	L&L - Pesticides	CEA Phoenix Rogers	1.00
1/20/2024	Planting Fruit Trees	Herman Auer	3.00
1/20/2024	Growing Great Tomatoes, Pt. 2	Ira Gervais	2.00
2/1/2024	L&L - Ken Clark Foundation update	Samuel Clark	0.25
2/10/2024	Tree Selection for the Home	Briana Etie & CEA Stephen Brueggerhoff	2.00
2/10/2024	Spring Vegetables	Kevin Lancon	2.00
2/13/2024	February Mtg - Plants in Space & Space Crop Production	Dr. Gioia D. Massa	1.00
2/17/2024	Fig Tree Pruning & Propagation	Barbara Canetti	2.00
2/17/2024	Irish Potatoes	Kevin Lancon & CEA Ginger Benson	2.00
3/9/2024	Peppers	Gene Speller	2.00
3/12/2024	March Mtg. - Impacts of Severe Weather	Dr. Mike Arnold	1.00
3/14/2024	Lunch & Learn - Sweet Potato Trial Overview	Michael Reed	0.50
3/16/2024	Growing Avocados	Hazel Lampton	1.00
3/16/2024	Fairy Garden Workshop	Pat Saenz, Briana Etie	2.00
3/23/2024	Tomato Stress Mgmt., Pt 3	Ira Gervais	2.50
3/23/2024	Cucumbers, Squash & Melons	Kevin Lancon	2.00
4/9/2024	April Mtg. -Mars Desert Research Station	Dr. Kay Sandor	1.00
4/13/2024	Louisiana Irises	Monica Martens	2.00
4/16/2024	"Pilot Seminar" - MGs Only - Texas Superstars®	Sue Bain, Karen Nelson	2.00
4/20/2024	Beneficial Insects	Hedy Wolpa	2.00
4/20/2024	Texas Superstars®	Sue Bain, Karen Nelson	2.00
5/4/2024	Patio Citrus	CEA Stephen Brueggerhoff, TDA Janis Teas	2.00
5/4/2024	Plumeria	Loretta Osteen	2.00
5/29/2024	"Pilot Seminar" - MGs Only - Blackberries & Blueberries	Monica Martens	1.00
5/30/2024	Tomato Tasting in the Gardens	2024 GCMG Intern Class	1.00
6/8/2024	Blackberries & Blueberries for Small Yards	Monica Martens	2.00
6/13/2024	Lunch & Learn - Cucumbers	Kevin Lancon, Bobbie Ivey	0.50
6/27/2024	Lunch & Learn - Tomato Trial Recap	Jim Bridgett	0.25
7/13/2024	Succulents	Patricia Martin	1.50
7/18/2024	Lunch & Learn - Squash	John Mitchiner & Michael Reed	0.50
7/25/2024	Lunch & Learn - Pesticides	Brock Sanford	0.75
8/1/2024	Lunch & Learn - Seed Propagation	Briana Etie	1.00
8/8/2024	Lunch & Learn - Strawberry Trials	Michael Reed	0.50
<b>2024 Recertification Hours for MGs</b>		<b>Total CEUs (Hours)</b>	<b>53.25</b>

Last Updated: August 9, 2024

**Reminder: 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 means.**

# GCMGs: Get Active!

This new page which will appear in each issue offers opportunities for GCMGs to explore.

## Continuing Education Opportunities:

- **Sept. 5, 2024:** I Can? You Can. We Can! Modern Methods of Canning with Extension Agent Ginger Benson by Heritage Gardeners, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. 9:30 am. GCMGs & public welcome.
- **Sept. 11, 2024:** Container Gardening with GCMG Karolyn Gephart with the Texas City Garden Club at the Nessler Center 1700 5th Ave. N. at 10 am.
- **Oct. 3, 2024:** The Joy of Bulbs with GCMG Fran Brockington by Heritage Gardeners, 112 W. Spreading Oaks, Friendswood. 9:30 am. GCMGs & public welcome.
- **Oct. 9, 2024:** Earth-Kind® Lawn Care with GCMG Steve Holliday by League City Garden Club, 144 Park Ave., League City. 10 am. GCMGs are welcome.

## Organizational Needs:

- **Social Media....** We are looking for MGs interested in social media activities such as posting on Facebook, creating an Instagram presence and possibly initiating some short YouTube educational videos. Experience in any social media platform would be great. See Kevin Lancon.
- **Discovery Garden Research Beds ....** We need to some additional volunteers who are interested in assisting with vegetable research projects. We have three beds currently dedicated to these projects and need assistance with planting and maintenance, harvesting, collecting and documenting harvest data and other pertinent information, writing research summary reports and creating short PowerPoint presentations. See John Mitchiner or Michael Reed.

- **Discovery Garden Vegetable Beds....** We need some additional volunteers who are interested in assisting with growing vegetables, which are earmarked for the food banks within Galveston County. In past years we have donated over 3000 lbs. of fresh vegetables to people in need. This is such an impactful and worthwhile cause and we could use some additional assistance. Activities include garden prep, planting and maintenance, harvesting and collections for delivery to various food banks within the county. See John Ely or Wendy Baldwin.
- **Plant Sale leads....** We are always looking for more volunteers who have an interest in becoming a lead for any of the plant sale activities. See Kevin Lancon or Sue Bain.

## Public Outreach:

### Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Libbie's Place:** Libbie's Place Green Thumb Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. The Beautification Bunch works in a beautiful handicapped accessible garden for the clients of Libbie's Place to enjoy. Contact Mary Leonard for dates and times at [leonardmc324@gmail.com](mailto:leonardmc324@gmail.com) Location is 5402 Avenue U, Galveston.
- **Tour Guide** for Tuesday, October 15, 2024 - Discovery Garden Tour for OLLI Group. To volunteer contact [gcmg.speakersbureau@gmail.com](mailto:gcmg.speakersbureau@gmail.com).

## GCG Writers and Photographers:

- March/April Gulf Coast Gardening focus is on **TREES**. May/June is on **PROPAGATION**. Any GCMGs interested in writing on a topic or taking photos, contact Karolyn Gephart.



MG Intern Megan McKay welcomes attendees to an event MG Intern Jim Bridgett



MG Patricia Martin discusses succulents MG Intern Jim Bridgett

# Judy's Corner: Galveston County Monthly Meetings



Judy Anderson  
GCMG 2012

## September

Plan on a beautiful evening in Galveston when the Galveston County Master Gardeners are hosted by Trish (2001) and Mike McDaniel at their Denver Court home. Trish loves native plants, and she has landscaped her yard with a mix of native and tropical plants. You may recognize Trish as an author of Meet a Master Gardener in this publication. She has requested that the Master Gardeners bring a small bouquet from their garden for an evening display. Trish is a fan of mermaids so you may see a few trying to crash the party.

Bring a side dish for the buffet and chairs for you and your guest. Enjoy a balmy Galveston evening while visiting with your MG friends.



Trish McDaniel  
GCMG 2001

The McDaniel's front yard

## October

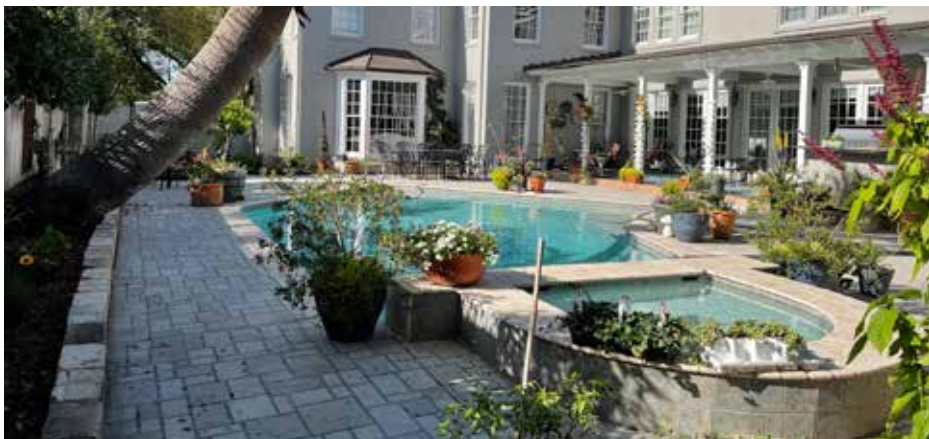
Summer is coming to a close and we are going to take advantage of the last few days by visiting Nancy (2017) and Darryl Greenfield at their home on the bay at Pirates Beach. They will be providing fried chicken and the Master Gardeners can bring the "fixins." There will be plenty of places to sit so no chairs are necessary. They have created a beautiful landscape around their bayfront home. The food will be served on the lower level, but there are several decks with stairs. All of your needs can be met on the lower level, but you may want to check out the different views.

Look for friendly hospitality team members to help with parking in designated places. A beautiful sunset has been reserved for the occasion.

*All photos by MG Judy Anderson.*



Landscaped beds by the Greenfields



The McDaniel's backyard



Nancy and Darryl Greenfield

September	October	November	December
GCMG Backyard Meeting Trish McDaniel	GCMG Backyard Meeting Nancy Greenfield	Annual Meeting	Holiday Party - Mikey Isbell