

NATIVE PLANT • HOLIDAY ISSUE

# GULF COAST *Gardening*

ISSUE 228 • NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2021



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



## Growing native . . . big leap or baby steps?



Gardening usually makes you happy, but frustration for most gardeners is when a showy but persnickety plant dies in spite of the diligent care and pampering it received. Fiddlesticks!

Rather than despair, why not fill that spot with a native plant. The “growing native” gardening trend is here and strong.

For myself, a lazy gardener, there are advantages: native plants are beautiful and less fussy, need less water, less fertilizer, less pruning and little to no pesticide. They are good for the environment and can transform urban backyards into pockets of living wildscape, unique to our area. Native plant choices can nurture and sustain populations of birds, insects, and other wildlife. What’s not to like?

Now I’m not one to throw out perfectly good plants in my garden, as long as they are well behaved, and not too demanding . . . so I’ll take no

big “growing native only” leap. Over time and with baby steps, plant choices I’ve incorporated for the very same reasons (well behaved, not too demanding) have included regional natives—Hibiscus, Turk’s Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*), rain lilies, and Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). These natives continue to shine prominently in my garden.

Whether you are ready to leap, or you simply want to include more native plants over time, don’t miss the valuable information in this newsletter. “Growing native” is sure to reward you with a low-maintenance garden, teeming with wildlife and natural beauty.

*Sharon Zaal*  
Sharon Zaal  
GCMG President

## Happy Holidays to all!



Galveston County Master Gardeners welcome Stephen Brueggerhoff as our new Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent in Horticulture for Galveston County. He is now working with a new bunch of great gardeners, outgoing personalities, creative minds, outstanding presenters, amazing multitaskers, diligent weed pullers, fun loving folks known as Master Gardeners of Galveston County.

Join us in this issue as we explore native plants. In Zone 9 we can grow a wide variety of beautiful native plants who behave well with others and make little to no demands.

We also put in some holiday items including great gifts for gardeners on your holiday list.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & here comes another NEW YEAR!

*Karolyn Gephart*

Karolyn Gephart  
Editor



Eastern Purple Coneflower  
Photo by Michelle Thompson



Stephen Brueggerhoff during Floral Friday video.



Photo by Vivki Blythe

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Cover photo by  
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# Popularity of Native, Heirloom, Adaptive Plants



Judy Anderson  
GCMG 2012

Thinking of native plants reminds me of the time that my friend and I stopped to visit with a homeowner to ask about her garden being on the local garden walk event. We knocked and a lady answered, we introduced ourselves and said we would like to talk about her garden. She seemed concerned and was about to close the door when we quickly said that we wanted to talk with her about being on the tour, explaining we loved her native plants and thought her garden would be a beautiful addition to the annual event hosted by the League City Garden Club.

Suddenly, she was transformed! She originally thought we were from the Home Owners Association (HOA) and were after her to tame her landscape. We shared how much we loved her salvia, Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and coreopsis. Along with these beautiful native plants, she had adaptive palm trees, hibiscus, ferns and herbs. She maintained a lovely postage stamp sized lawn in her front yard, and we speculated that she was able to attract butterflies and bees by including a diverse planting of native and adaptive plants.



I suspect that people may resist using native plants in their landscapes because of persistent myths that they are messy, the density is ugly, and the plants attract unwanted critters. Including native plants into the home landscape for their beauty and quality to attract pollinators is supported through education from environmental organizations, non-profit initiatives and popularization of wild-scaping design principles. Municipi-

palities and HOAs are encouraged to include native plants as approved vegetation with passage of \*Senate Bill 198 in 2013, legislature allowing homeowners that live in a neighborhood with an HOA to implement natural resource conservation features and efficiency systems (rain barrels, irrigation, composting, installing drought-resistant landscaping).

I have seen commercial and public areas using more native plants in landscaping. Programs like Monarch Watch's Monarch Waystation and National Wildlife Federation's Wildlife Habitat® programs are helping families attract pollinators into their yards. Each organization's websites define program rules, and goals are to enhance habitat and to attract more pollinators into the garden. With habitat loss many of the species are experiencing, it is important to add food sources and protected areas for pollinators.

## Native and Appropriate Adaptive Plants

Before any Europeans walked along the Texas Gulf Coast, native wildflowers, prairie grasses, and bog plants were here supporting birds and pollinators. Think of native coastal plants as the "old timers" that have evolved in a particular area for thousands of years. Heirloom plants include non-native plants that may have originally been brought to the "new world" with immigrants. For example, seeds were sewn into hems of dresses to be planted in new gardens. Many of these introduced plants adapted and adjusted to their new environment.

Non-native heirloom plants also include bulbs, rhizomes and tubers, many becoming naturalized and shared with neighbors. Two beloved heirlooms are the tuber Cemetery White Iris (*Iris albicans*) and Paperwhite (*Narcissus tazetta*) bulbs. The scent of the paperwhites are heavenly, the pure beauty of the iris is stunning and both will return year after year bringing beauty and fragrance to the garden.

Native and heirloom plants have been cultivated to improve varieties. The Texas Superstar® program offers outstanding performing plants by a list developed through special partnerships with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and Texas Department of Agriculture. The Texas Superstar® program is a registered trademark of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Texas A&M System. The Superstars are tested at four Texas A&M research stations: Lubbock, Tyler, College Station and San Antonio. The goal is to develop plants that grow successfully in different climates with no soil amendments, minimal watering, and limited use of pesticides and herbicides. A Texas Superstar® plant must also be a good-looking candidate, have a nice appearance and behave well with others.

## *“Think of native coastal plants as the “old timers”*”

Two designated Texas Superstar® plants are cultivated from state flower Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*), varieties Lady Bird Johnson Royal Blue and maroon-colored Alamo Fire. Peppermint Flare Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) is a highlight in the Superstar collection with showy, large disc-shaped bright pink and white colored flowers. The plant proves to be a drought tolerant, disease resistant selection that can also recover from the brutal abuse of cold temperatures.

Earth-Kind® Plants are identified by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service based on the Earth-Kind® Landscaping principles of water conservation, reduced use of pesticides, reduction of yard waste, as well as preserving natural resources for future generations. Earth-Kind® also offers an easy to use online Plant Selector ([ekps.tamu.edu](http://ekps.tamu.edu)) that helps choose the right plant for the right place in your garden.

Gardens are unique to each homeowner, whether looking to improve home value through landscape beautification with water features or whimsical art, or creating pollinator habitat with native plants, Texas tough plants can be adapted to most any landscape design. If you are thinking about the future and the shortage of water much of Texas is now experiencing, please consider native plants, select heirloom plants, Texas Superstar®, and Earth-Kind® plants. They are all Texas winners!

*If you want to be inspired, visit someone else's garden.* Erica Glaser, *A Gardener's Diary*

### Sources

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension:

Aggie Horticulture - <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>

Texas Superstar® - <https://texassuperstar.com>

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

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas – Austin [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

Monarch Watch Monarch Waystation  
<https://monarchwatch.org/waystations>

National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat®  
<https://nwf.org/CertifiedWildlifeHabitat>

Native Plant Society of Texas <http://npsot.org>

Senate Bill 198 (2013)

<https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/83R/billtext/html/SB00198F.htm>



Photos by Judy Anderson



# Native Plants for the Upper Gulf Coast



Brian Ette  
GCMG 2017

The landscape of our coastal area is very diverse, made up of salt marshes, slow draining prairies, and swampy woodlands with numerous creeks and bayous, creating a unique and recognizable landscape and supporting a diversity of animals, insects and birds. When gardening with native plants, we can mimic this naturally occurring landscape by using plants

choices that will complement our home landscape. By using select native plants in an appropriate garden location, we can do without having to add natural resources such as soil amendments and use less-water, thus saving us money. Native plants attract and feed native insects, pollinators, and birds, lessening the use of insecticides and improving habitat.

You will be more successful gardening with native plants if you choose the right placement in your yard. Keep in mind that while some of the Texas native plants listed do not occur in our ecoregion, they are appropriate to use under the right local conditions. For example, if you notice a low spot in your yard with periodic saturated soil or have created a rain garden, select moisture tolerant plants.

## Shrubs and tall woody perennials

Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

Indigo bush (*Amorpha fruticosa*)

Eastern Coral Bean (*Erythrina herbacea*)

Scarlet Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus laevis*)

Marshmallow Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*)

Salt Marsh Mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*)

Cream Wild Indigo (*Baptisia bracteata* var. *leucophaea*)

Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*)

Dwarf Palmetto (*Sabal minor*)

Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus americanus*)

Wax Myrtle (*Morella cerifera*)

Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)

Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)

Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*)

Ti-Ti ("tye-tye") or Leatherwood (*Cyrilla parvifolia*)

## Perennials

Obedient Plant (*Physostegia angustifolia*, *P. virginiana*)

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*) and Lyreleaf sage (*S. lyrata*)

Beebalm (*Monarda citriodora*, *M. fistulosa*, *M. punctata*, *M. lindheimeri*)

Swamp Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) and Maximillain Sunflower (*H. maximiliani*),

Milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*, *A. viridis*, *A. perennis*)

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*, *A. chrysantha* var. *hinckleyana*)

Gulf Coast Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*)

Gayfeather (*Liatris* sp.)

Standing Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*)

Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia* spp.)

Blue Mist Flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

Carolina Spiderlily (*Hymenocallis occidentalis* var. *occidentalis*)

Giant Coneflower (*Rudbeckia maxima*)

Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*)

Hairy Wild Petunia (*Ruellia humilis*)



Beautyberry



Blue Mist



Cardinal Flower



Coneflower

“...attract and feed native insects, pollinators and birds.”

### Grasses and grass-like

Woodoats  
(*Chasmanthium latifolium*, *C. laxum*)  
Virginia Wildrye (*Elymus virginicus*)  
Gulf Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)  
Eastern Gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*)  
Cherokee Sedge (*Carex cherokeensis*)  
Blue-eyed Grass  
(*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, *S. campestre*)

### Vines

Coral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)  
Crossvine (*Bignonia capreolata*)  
Trumpet Creeper (*Campsis radicans*)  
Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*)  
Yellow Passionflower (*Passiflora lutea*)  
Maypop Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*)

### Drought tolerant plants

Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
St. Andrew's Cross  
(*Hypericum hypericoides* ssp. *hypericoides*)  
Yaupon Holly (*Ilex vomitoria*)  
Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*)  
Mealy Blue Sage or Blue Salvia (*Salvia farinacea*)  
Gulf Coast Laurel or Yellow Sophora (*Sophora tomentosa*)  
Rock Rose (*Pavonia lasiopetala*)  
Blue Sage (*Salvia azurea*)  
Carolina Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*)  
Cupleaf Penstemon (*Penstemon murrayanus*)  
False Foxglove (*Penstemon cobaea*)

### Plants for partial shade

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)  
Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*)  
Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*)  
Horseherb (*Calypocarpus vialis*)  
Chile Pequin (*Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*)  
Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)  
Rusty Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum rufidulum*)  
Coralbean (*Erythrina herbacea*)

### Plants for Ponds

Aquatic Milkweed (*Asclepias perennis*)  
Carolina Water-hyssop (*Bacopa caroliniana*)  
Swamp Marigold (*Bidens aristosa*)  
Swamp Lily (*Crinum americanum*)  
Titi, Leatherwood (*Cyrilla parvifolia*)  
White Top Sedge (*Rhynchospora colorata*)  
Blue Mud Plantain (*Heteranthera limosa*)  
Blue Water Leaf (*Hydrolea ovata*)  
Southern Blue Flag Iris (*Iris virginica*)  
Obedient Plant (*Physostegia angustifolia*, *P. virginiana*)  
Possumhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum nudum*)  
Meadow Beauty (*Rhexia lutea*, *R. mariana*, *R. virginica*)

### Ferns (most ferns do well in damp areas)

Southern Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*)  
Ebony Spleenwort (*Asplenium platyneuron*)  
Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)  
Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*)  
Southern Wood Fern (*Dryopteris ludoviciana*)  
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
Cinnamon Fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) and  
Royal Fern (*O. regalis*)  
Netted Chain Fern (*Woodwardia areolata*)

Sources: Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT), *Native Texas Plants Landscaping Region by Region* by Sally and Andy Wasowski



Gayfeather



Monarda



Turk's Cap



Virginai Sweetspire (bottom right)



## New Look, New Name



Sue Bain  
GCMG 2018

There's a new look and a new name for one of the gardens in the north end of the Discovery Garden. Some may say it looks disheveled by its appearance with plants that most people would deadhead or prune. There are other plants that have holes in the leaves due to hungry insects on which most people would use insecticides to remedy the situation. But in this

garden, all plants are welcome because it has been designed with the intention to provide food and shelter to all pollinators. This garden is now known as the Pollinator Habitat Garden.

As you sit on one of the benches, you understand the garden's intention of "being present in the moment" by seeing and hearing the fluttering of butterflies and buzzing of the bees. If you more closely observe, you may find other insects such as spiders, wasps, caterpillars, moths and beetles. The majority of the garden includes a mix of native plants to attract a diversity of pollinators. The majority of the garden includes a mix of native plants to attract a diversity of pollinators. The goal is to have 85 percent native.

The generalist insects will find a variety of plants such as salvias, Stokes Aster (*Stokesia laevis*), Black-Eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Blue Mistflowers (*Conoclinium coelestinum*), sunflowers, Partridge Pea (*Chamaecrista fasciculata*), Prairie Gayfeather (*Liatris* sp.), Wholeleaf Rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*), Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Maypop Purple Passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*), Red Passionflower (*Passiflora coccinea*), Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*), Ivyleaf Thoroughwort (*Chromolaena ivifolia*), Gulf Coast Penstemon (*Penstemon tenuis*), Frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*) and Lyreleaf Sage (*S. lyrata*), Seaside Goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) to name a few. The specialist insects such as Monarch Butterflies will find Zizotes Milkweed (*Asclepias oenotheroides*)

and Aquatic Milkweed (*A. perennis*), and the Pipevine Swallowtail will find the non-native Dutchman's Pipe Vine (*Aristolochia fimbriata*).

The Pollinator Habitat Garden is designed with intention. Plants have been selected, planted by seed or by transplant according to height and width, color, water needs (low or high moisture), and type of bloom providing nectar for adult insects or leaf surface for larvae. Plant height is important, as low plants help provide shelter for larvae and young insects, and the taller blooming plants attract adults to feed and breed. The two trellises hold vining plants, and they also provide the vertical supports for two bee houses. The garden has a variety of plants that bloom continually to satisfy the needs of many kinds of pollinators year-round. There are several puddling dishes in the garden to ensure that water and nutrients are available for visiting insects. The Pollinator Habitat garden proudly displays our special designations as Certified Monarch Waystation ([monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org)) and Certified Wildlife Habitat (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) on one of the trellises.

So why did the name change from the Butterfly Garden to the Pollinator Habitat Garden? The intention of this garden is to grow mostly native plants and to provide shelter, food, and water to a variety of pollinators. Refraining from dead-heading flowers helps feed insects and birds into winter, and it helps with reseeding new spring plants. The hesitance of cleaning out leaves and branches provides places for pollinators to live in the winter and places for butterfly caterpillars to form chrysalises. It's a holistic garden designed to aesthetically please the pollinators while providing essentials for their future needs. The purpose of the Pollinator Habitat Garden is to educate and encourage the public to help our ecosystem and attract pollinators in their own yards and in their communities.



Goldenrod



Milkweed



*“The goal is to have 85 percent native.”*



Beebalm



Salvia 'Evolution'



Penstemon



Red Passionflower



Salvia



Yarrow

## Favorite Natives in MG Gardens



Karen Nelson  
GCMG 2020

What makes a plant native? What are Earth-Kind® plants? What is the difference? I discovered that the two terms seem almost interchangeable, and some plants included in Earth-Kind lists are not native to Texas.

Earth-Kind® plants are plants and trees identified for a specific region's soil and climate, which makes them particularly adaptable in that specific environment. Texas is blessed with an abundance of beautiful naturally adapted native plants. Most have lower water demands, fewer pest problems, and less fertilizer needs. Native plants are host plants to caterpillars and butterflies, provide food and shelter for backyard wildlife, require less water and maintenance thus reducing the need for fertilizer and pesticides, and provide biodiversity with insects, pollinators, and birds, allowing the gardener to plant with a purpose.

Texas Superstar® plants have been well-adapted to Texas environments, with emphasis on reliability so that any gardener can plant them with success. Planting with Earth-Kind®, native and Texas Superstar® plants allows the gardener to plant with a purpose and be successful.

Developing a pollinator garden was my purpose for planting natives. My favorite this year is the Purple Passion Vine (*Pasiflora incarnata*). It survived the freeze last February and has attracted a new butterfly to my backyard, the Gulf Fritillary. Larvae of the Gulf Fritillary use the vegetation for food, and nectar producing flowers attract the butterfly. This Passion Vine produces a large orange-yellow edible fruit measuring the size of an egg. It is found in southern United States from Texas to Florida. Roman Catholic priests in the late 1500's

named it for the Passion (suffering and death) of Jesus Christ. They believed that several parts of the plant, including the petals, rays, and sepals, symbolized features of the Passion. (<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/flow-ers/passionflr.html>)

I asked other MGs their favorite natives.

Vicki Blythe was hesitant to choose just one favorite plant. Among her favorites are the Superstar Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*) and the Hummingbird Bush, also called Flame Acanthus (*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *wrightii*). She enjoys taking photographs of birds and butterflies and is very knowledgeable and passionate about butterflies and their host plants.

Alysha Davila's favorite native plants are rambling yellow lantanas and morning glory vine. They attract pollinators, are very easy to grow in poor soil, plus they are heat and drought tolerant. Texas Lantana (*Lantana urticoides*) are native from East Texas to southern Arizona to Mexico. The morning glory (*Ipomoea pubescens*) is a perennial vine that trails and twines, requiring a trellis or fence. Per USDA, it is native to Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona.

Although Debie Lambson would rather grow vegetables, her favorite native plant is Carolina Jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*). She enjoys the fragrance of the showy yellow flowers and evergreen vine that looks good all year long. It is native from Virginia to Florida, reaching the southern United States to Texas. It has a high heat tolerance and can be grown not only as a trained vine but as a groundcover as well.

Maria Luisa Abad's favorite plant is the Texas Superstar® Vitex (*Vitex agnus-castus*) for its resilience and showy pur-



Photo by GCMGA Files

Carolina Jessamine



Coral Vine



## *“Texas is blessed with...adaptive native plants.”*

ple spikes. Texas A&M developed a variety to be more desirable and marketable. Texas Department of Transportation has used them along highways. Although native to China and India, it has become naturalized throughout the United States. Records indicate that Vitex, (Texas Lilac Vitex) have been cultivated in the United States since 1670.

Briana Etie’s favorite native plants are in the new Discovery Garden’s Rain Garden and at her home. Obedient Plant (*Physostegia virginiana*) is an herbaceous plant that likes water and blooms in the fall with spiky white, pink to lavender flowers. It is a native plant to Texas and has snapdragon-like blooms. It is also named False Dragonhead. It is called Obedient Plant because the individual florets stay in place after repositioning. Another favorite is the Texas Star Hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*). It is sometimes called Swamp Hibiscus or Rose Mallow. It loves drainage ditches, and other swampy, marshy habitats. The large showy five-point red star is proud to have Texas as part of its name but is not considered a native by some sources.

I talked to Jan Fountain in the Discovery Garden greenhouse where she was repotting some non-native Coral Vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) for the MG plant sale. She loves the heart-shaped leaves with blooms that are great for pollinators. It requires full-sun, is hardy, and can be invasive if not kept in check. Her Coral Vine plant is over 15 years old. It is actually native to Mexico but widely cultivated in Texas for the lacy pink, rose or white flowers. It is also called Heavenly Vine and Rose of Montana.

David Eskins is very passionate about his Mustang Grape Vine (*Vitis mustangensis*). It is listed in the Texas Native Plants Database and grows wild without much effort from a gardener it produces a tart, acidic grape that is sweetened in the process of making jelly, pie filling, grape juice and wine.’ Records show it was used to make wine during the Civil War. Positive points are adaptation to its environment with few diseases, less need for pesticides and tolerance to most soils. Negative factors include the grape clusters are small so harvest is labor intensive. It has an extremely high acidic content, so protective gloves and clothing must be worn to prevent blisters.



Passionflower



Lantana



Morning Glory



Mustang Grapes



Obedient Plant

# Monarch Garden for Artist Boat



Kathy Maines  
GCMG 2017

In June 2020 GCMGA received a request from Artist Boat to help plant a butterfly garden. They received a Native Plant Society grant for a Monarch Butterfly Garden at their Coastal Heritage Preserve. Their goals are to increase Monarch Butterfly conservation and education and to promote the use of Texas native plants. The Monarch Garden was planned to be adjacent to their outdoor classroom where they serve approximately 4,000 students each year in their Eco-Art Adventure program. The butterfly garden would be used to demonstrate the use of native plants and water conservation and teach students plant, butterfly and insect relationships. They would combine the native garden with smart water usage to serve as a model for sustainable gardening. They asked Galveston County Master Gardeners to help with the planting of the native plants.

Dr. Johnson gave his approval with the following stipulations: we had to be outside, we had to practice social distancing and there could not be more than 10 participants. Due to it being the middle of summer, we decided the project would be best completed in two days. The first date we would prepare the area and the second date would be planting. Greg Hall, Habitat and Stewardship Coordinator for Artist Boat, marked off the area for the garden. He mowed and removed tall grass from the area, placed a weed barrier, had soil and mulch delivered and ran the faucet for irrigation. The garden would be 600 square feet with six 10 x 10 grids. He also helped us with the project.

Nine workers arrived June 29, 2020 with wheelbarrows, shovels, sun screen, hats, mosquito spray and lots of water. After three and a half hours of shoveling and pushing wheelbarrows,

we had all the soil in place. We would come back to plant another day. On July 10, 2020, we were back again with supplies and 10 workers. We planted Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridis*), Butterfly Milkweed (*A. tuberosa*), Texas Milkweed (*A. texana*), Texas Gayfeather (*Liatris punctata* var. *mucronate*), Gulf Muhly Grass (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), Mexican Hat (*Ratibida columnifera*), Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and Purple Passion Vine (*Passiflora murcronata*). We then cut and arranged cardboard around each plant and used wheelbarrows and shovels to apply the mulch.

A year later on July 20, 2021, we were invited back to the Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve Butterfly Garden to see how it had grown. Many of the plants were blooming and the butterflies were in abundance. It looked great! It was wonderful to see how our hard work and sweat had paid off. One of the first things you learn among our members is how passionate we all are about being Texas Master Gardeners. The second thing is that we all love to eat. So after we reviewed our work a year later, we then went out for dinner.

Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns involved in this project include Judy Anderson, Sue Bain, Vicki Blythe, Barbara Canetti, Michelle Gauthier, Nancy Greenfield, Debie Lambson, Kathy Maines, Roxanne Rosson, Debbie Valdez and Danna Wolchak along with Greenfield's husband Darryl and Greg Hall.

Artist Boat is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to promote awareness and preservation of coastal margins and the marine environment. They are preserving and restoring 1,400 contiguous acres from beach to bay with the Coastal Heritage Preserve on West Galveston Island.



Ready to plant



After



# Copycats



Lisa Belcher  
GCMG 2014

In the gardening world, there are many plants that look so similar that even a long-time gardener might mistake a plant for another at a quick glance. At a distance, snapdragons might be confused for an angelonia. Perhaps you love lavender but after years of trying to grow many varieties in Galveston County, only to fail due to our high humidity, you give up.

This is where a “copycat” plant is your new best friend. We can’t change our climate zone, but we can substitute a look-alike plant best suited for our plant hardiness zone. Mealycup Sage looks very similar to lavender and is both drought and pest resistant.

Here are just a few examples of how similar flowers are often mistaken. Can you correctly name the plants? See correct answers below.

## Row one left to right

*Nepeta x faassenii* ‘Purrsian Blue’,  
common name Catmint

*Salvia farinacea* ‘Victoria Blue’,  
common name Mealycup Sage

*Lavandula angustifolia* ‘Munstead’,  
common name English Lavender

## Row two

L: *Consolida ajacis*,  
common name Giant Larkspur

R: *Delphinium elatum*,  
common name Delphinium

## Row three

L: *Paeonia lactiflora* ‘Etched Salmon’,  
common name Peony

R: *Ranunculus asiaticus* ‘Tomer Pink’,  
common name Persian buttercup

## Row four

L: *Calibrachoa x hybrida* ‘Superbells® Pink Calibrachoa’,  
common name: Million Bells

R: *Petunia x hybrida* ‘Petunia Wave Pink’

## Row five

L: *Papaver orientale* ‘Mrs. Perry’,  
common name Oriental Poppy

R: *Anemone coronaria* ‘Sylphide’,  
common name Anemone

## Row Six

L: *Brachyscome iberidifolia* ‘Purple Daisy’, common name  
Swan River daisy

R: *Symphotrichum* sp. ‘Wood’s Blue’,  
common name Aster

## Sources

Waysidegardens.com, Onalee.com, Highcountrygardens.com, edenbrothers.com, swallowtailgardenseeds.com, longfieldgardens.com, garden-crossings.com, plantworksnursery.com, brecks.com, dutchflowerbulbs.com, Seedville USA.com, gardengoodsdirect.com



Catmint



Mealycup Sage



English Lavender



Giant Larkspur



Delphinium



Peony



After



Million Bells



Petunia Wave Pink



Oriental Poppy



Anemone



Swan River Daisy



Aster

# Similar Symptoms Need Closer Look



Laurel Stine  
GCMG 2002

Galveston County, with its year-round growing season, can find gardeners dealing with some interesting weather events that may affect plant growth. Some of the most frustrating problems can occur with warm-to-cool, then cool-to-warm fluctuations in our weather.

It is not impossible for a susceptible plant to be affected by cold weather followed by a warm weather event that may leave its mark. Add to that human activity and the list of culprits grows larger.

Here is where a good hand lens (also called a loupe) can be your best friend to properly diagnose the problem. What may seem to be similar symptoms to the naked eye can take on a whole different appearance when viewed closely. Penn State Extension offers a website with more information about hand lenses: <https://extension.psu.edu/a-brief-guide-to-hand-lenses>

Below are photos comparing symptomatic damage from environmental, pathogenic and chemical agents that can easily be mistaken for each other.

## Downy Mildew vs. Frost Damage Broccoli



Broccoli Downy Mildew. Photo courtesy: Virginia Tech Learning Resources Center, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Bugwood.org

## Cauliflower



Cauliflower: Interveinal Chlorosis from Frost Damage. Photo courtesy: University of California – Agriculture and Natural Resources. Source: Smith, R. *Frost Damage on Vegetables*, 3/2/2018, [ucanr.edu/blogs/UCDWeedScience](https://ucanr.edu/blogs/UCDWeedScience)

## Broccoli



Sporulation of the downy mildew pathogen on the underside of a broccoli leaf. Photo courtesy: North Carolina State University, NCSU PDIC. Source: *Downy Mildew on Brassica Crops*, [content.ces.ncsu.edu/](https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/)

To confirm Downy Mildew--Look closely at the underside to see the sporulation within the lesion

## Tomato



Hail Damaged Tomato Leaf. Photo courtesy: Milli Sorensen, Alpine, UT, Utah State University Extension. Source: *Recent Weather Effects on Vegetables*, 6/17/2020, [pestadvisories.usu.edu/](https://pestadvisories.usu.edu/)

## Hail Damage



Tan spots on tomato transplants caused by cold, variable spring weather. Photo courtesy: University of Maryland Extension. Source: *Vegetable Problems Caused by Nonliving Factors: Whitened Leaves of Vegetables*, [extension.umd.edu](https://extension.umd.edu)

## Hail Cold and/or Variable Weather

None of these lesions were caused by disease. Be aware that they can be openings for disease to occur.



*“A gardener who is alert...stands the best chance.”*

## Oleander



Oleander Cold Damage. Photo courtesy: Joey Williamson, 2015, HGIC, Clemson Cooperative Extension, [hgic.clemson.edu](http://hgic.clemson.edu)

## Cold Damage



Oleander Leaf Scorch. Photo courtesy: D. Boscia, CNR – Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection (IT). Source: (2019). PM 7/24 (4) *Xylella fastidiosa*. EPPO Bulletin, 49: 175– 227, <https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.12575>

## Oleander Leaf Scorch caused by *Xylella fastidiosa*

With Oleander Leaf Scorch, newly infected plants typically have one terminal branch that is infected first, followed by subsequent twig and branch dieback.

In the case of cold damage, first symptoms may appear more abundantly and where the influence of cold temperature was most felt. If the plant cannot withstand damage from cold, there may also be subsequent dieback as well.

## Tomato



Tomato Leaf Curling due to environmental conditions. Photo courtesy: Eleanor Sather, Ogden, UT, Utah State University Extension. Source: Recent Weather Effects on Vegetables, 6/17/2020, [pestadvisories.usu.edu/](http://pestadvisories.usu.edu/)

## Leaf Curl from Environmental Conditions

High winds, blowing dust and low humidity can damage the leaves and stems on tomato plants.



Tomato Herbicide Damage. Photo courtesy: University of California – Agriculture and Natural Resources. Source: [ucanr.edu/blogs/UCDWeedScience](http://ucanr.edu/blogs/UCDWeedScience)

## Growth Regulator Herbicide Damage

Vapor from these products can easily drift to desirable plants, so they must be applied carefully. Be aware that air currents can rise from the warmer area near the ground (especially on sunny days) up to where vapor can be moved horizontally.

Since symptomatic damage from environmental, pathogenic and chemical agents can seem so similar, it is the gardener who is alert to what is happening in the vicinity of their landscape and who promptly investigates symptoms who stands the best chance of making the best diagnosis.

## Wicked Weeds: Henbit



Mary Jane Fortney  
GCMG 2017

Starting in November, we begin to experience fall weather with temperatures cooling down tremendously. The wonderful weather makes outdoor gardening a pleasure! Grass mowing season is almost over. We replant with cool-season plants to carry our gardens through the winter. And with the welcomed cool-season comes a new set of weeds. A weed is a plant that is growing where it is not wanted.

Henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*) is a cool season, annual broadleaf weed. Cool season broadleaf weeds are a major problem throughout Texas where mild temperatures stimulate lush growth during the winter and spring. Henbit emerges in early spring when warm season turf grasses are dormant. Henbit can dominate turf grasses in spring throughout Texas southern region like Galveston County. Henbit is also known as common henbit, deadnettle, giraffe head, and henbit deadnettle. Henbit came from Asia and North Africa, estimated to have arrived in North America in the 1700s and possibly from ship ballast and livestock feed. Even though it can be a pest, it is used as an herb that can be eaten raw or cooked and for tea. It is identified as a member of the mint plant family (Lamiaceae).

This annual plant germinates, grows, blooms, goes to seed, and then dies all within one growing season. The seed germinates in the fall and grows very little until late winter to early spring. Henbit grows from a soil depth of one inch or less, and emergence can also occur from two and a half inch soil depth. It develops fibrous shallow roots, thrives in rich fertile soils and will also grow in light sandy soils. Henbit grows upright and can root at stem nodes. It has rounded serrate leaf margins, square stems and will bear purple flowers in the spring.

Henbit produces a number of stems that can grow to be six to eight inches long and sprawl over more desirable plants or lawns. Although Henbit may be controlled by pre-emergent herbicides that are applied the previous fall, getting rid of young plants with a hoe is probably the fastest method. They are easier to remove when they are seedlings. Henbit may be pulled easily, especially right after a rain when the soil is moist. In landscaped beds, one can simply pull Henbit and suppress its growth with mulch and ground covers. In established turf, prevent Henbit by maintaining turf density and health. A thicker lawn will compete well with weeds.

When considering the use of herbicides, always choose a product with active ingredients that are rated for specific weeds, and always explicitly follow product label application directions to protect you and your environment.

Pre-emergent herbicides containing active ingredient pro-diamine are used for control of Henbit in the yard. If you are in Galveston County, pre-emergent granular herbicides should be used during the first part of October before the germination of seeds. Post-emergent broadleaf herbicides containing active ingredients 2-4 D, dicamba, and mecoprop should be applied before flowering. Be aware that use of these post-emergent herbicides can lightly or severely damage St. Augustinegrass. See *A Homeowner's Guide to Herbicide Selection for Warm-Season Turfgrass Lawns* publication from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension's Aggie Turf website for more information: [aggieturf.tamu.edu/publications/](http://aggieturf.tamu.edu/publications/).

While weeds like Henbit can show up even in the best maintained lawn and garden, we can achieve a goal of disrupting the weed's life cycle without damaging the environment. Always choose the least toxic option.



Flowering Henbit



Henbit



# Gardeners Tasks



Patricia Martin  
GCMG 1998

## November

- Plant English peas or snap beans, turnips, radish, spinach and mustard all this month. Last call to plant parsley, lettuce, and beets.
- Set out pansy and viola transplants. Add a little blood meal mixed into the soil when planting. Plant transplants of dianthus, stock, candytuft, calendula, and alyssum.

- Plant the following bulbs outside: alliums, amaryllis, crocus, daffodils, freesias, snowflakes (*Leucojum* sp.), muscari, and rain lilies. Chill tulip bulbs for six to eight weeks. For indoor enjoyment, plant these bulbs in pebbles or suspend in water—paper white narcissus, hyacinths, and crocus.
- As chrysanthemums and other perennials finish blooming, cut the flowering stalks to the ground to encourage root growth. Pinch off the tops of calendulas, delphiniums, snapdragons, and stock to promote bushy growth.
- This is an excellent time to plant trees. Transplanting during the winter months allows the root system of the plants to become established prior to spring growth and summer heat.
- Don't fertilize newly planted trees or shrubs. Wait until next spring after the plants have put on new growth.
- Prune oaks and other shade trees now through the end of January.
- Prior to bringing houseplants inside for the winter, check them for signs of scale, mealy bugs, and spider mites.
- Keep leaves raked for a healthier lawn and to reduce fungal leaf spot problems of trees.

## December



Amaryllis. Photo by Margie Jenke



Pansies. Photo by GCMGA files



Ghost dianthus. Photo by Pam Hunter



Rain Lilies. Photo by GCMGA files

- Plant bulb onion sets. Sow seeds for English, snow, and sugar snap peas. Start tomatoes and peppers indoors from seed.
- Keep indoor poinsettias in bright light and cool temperatures. Poinsettias may cause moderate to severe gastrointestinal disturbances when ingested in sufficient quantity. Be sure to keep poinsettias out of reach of small children and pets.
- Tulip bulbs which have received the necessary chilled treatment should be planted in late December or by the first week in January. Tulip bulbs must be planted immediately upon removal from cold storage. Experimental evidence indicates that exposing bulbs to 10 to 14 days of room temperature (72 degrees F) after removing from cold storage negates benefits gained from induced dormancy.
- Move azaleas and camellias if necessary.
- Sow seeds for larkspur and Drummond's Phlox (*Phlox drummondii*).
- Sow seeds for sweet peas during the first half of this month.
- Plant snapdragons, dianthus, delphiniums, pansies, primroses, and ornamental cabbage.
- Snip shrubs like holly with berries as well as boxwood, cedar, pine, juniper, and magnolia leaves for holiday decorations.
- Houseplant potting soils can dry out more quickly in the winter than during the summer with home heating systems. Check soil moisture level more often and water accordingly. Reduce the fertilization of indoor plants from now to mid-March.
- Make sure plants are well-watered before a freeze. Use mulch, newspaper, or cloth for covering tender plants.
- Inspect holly, camellias, citrus, and other plants for scale insects. Apply dormant oil now or in January.
- Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) and oxalis are making a cool-season comeback. Weed and mulch.
- Late December through early February is usually the best time to prune woody plants.



Narcissus. Photo by Dr. William Johnson

### Sources:

*Spade to Spoon* by GCMGA

*A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast* by River Oaks Garden Club, fifth edition

# Poinsettia Provides Welcome Holiday Color



Stephen Brueggerhoff  
Extension Agent - Horticulture  
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension  
Service Galveston County

Cheerful and bright colors play an important part in our social lives at this time of year, which we instinctively use to enhance our indoor environment through plants or artificial decoration. Silver and gold colors offer effervescent qualities that appear to brighten up even the darkest corner. Greenery through wreaths, bowers or container plantings brings a sense of ongoing life at a time when plants shed their leaves through winter dormancy. Then there is red, a seasonal fall phenomenon we rarely see through falling leaves in our part of the Upper Gulf Coast. A popular plant that we value as indoor plantings for their unique and bold red color is Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*).

Poinsettia is a very interesting species because of their showy vegetation. They are native from southern Mexico to Guatemala in tropical, deciduous forests. The plant common name in Mexico is Nochebuena or Flor de Nochebuena, attributed to seasonal Christmas celebrations. The common name given through markets in the states is attributed to the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Joel Robert Poinsett, who introduced the species in 1825. There is a related species native to Texas called Fire on the Mountain (*Euphorbia cyathophora*). This species produces a blotchy and non-uniform red color at the base of each leaf in the fall.

What we think of as showy flowers are modified leaves called bracts that surround clusters of small urn-shaped, yellow colored flowers. In their natural habitat, Poinsettia can grow into a shrub reaching 10 to 15-feet tall. They are temperate tropical plants and perform best at temps that average 70-F during the day and

60-F at night. They will lose their vegetation if exposed to temperatures below 50-F and may exhibit signs of stress at temps above 80-F. Because of this sensitivity, it is best to grow Poinsettia in containers for relocation during cold winter and blistering hot summer months. Container media should be well draining, as Poinsettia is susceptible to root and stem rot if kept in saturated soil. Even though the plants thrive with more light exposure, provide afternoon shade during hot summer months.

Poinsettia are members of the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae), with plants known for expressing a sticky milky sap when cutting stems or leaves. This sap can cause skin irritation for some people susceptible to skin allergies and may cause symptoms such as mild irritation to nausea and diarrhea if ingested by pets. While the plant is not considered poisonous,

always use common sense when placing plants in proximity to pet traffic and habit.

Let's talk color: there is estimated to be more than 100 varieties hybridized to produce colors that range from deep red to salmon, apricot to yellow, and cream to white. There are also a few that exhibit white speckled variegation to attract our wandering eyes. Nurserymen use natural phenomenon of less sunlight exposure in the fall to initiate flowering and produce this change in bract color. Poinsettia are considered short-day plants, meaning that flower buds form when the plants are kept in 14 hours of total darkness out of every day for a four-week period. This activity is best started in late September or early October to get the bracts to change color in time for our holiday celebration.



Consider the beauty and diversity of color that Poinsettia provides during your holiday festivities and celebration.



# Christmas Cactus Brings Indoor Cheer



Stephen Brueggerhoff  
Extension Agent - Horticulture  
Texas A&M Agrilife Extension  
Service Galveston County

Nothing brings indoor cheer to my household more than a Christmas cactus in bloom. This group of cactus are easy to care for and unique in the plant world, and I would like to share their origin, offer tips to identify two popular species and give you the gift of simple care tips.

There are three out of seven of this cactus species that are sold in the popular market: Christmas cactus (*Schlumbergera x buckleyi*), Thanksgiving cactus (*Schlumbergera truncata*) and Easter cactus (*Hatiora gaertneri*). Thanksgiving cactus has been in cultivation in England since the early 1800s. These cacti grow as epiphytes (non-parasitic, growing in leaf litter on tree branches or rock crevices), species originating in the Organ Mountain range just north of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Individual species are reported endangered or threatened with extinction in their native habitat due to residential development and population fragmentation.

When we look at the plants, what we naturally call “leaves” is gracefully arching, dark-green photosynthetic flattened stem segments. The beauty of these plants lie in their architecture and their blooms: these unique cactus seasonally produce vibrantly colored tubular flowers, hybridized to elicit colors ranging from eye-popping fuchsia, deep red, translucent peach to snow white.

You may have a species that blooms completely out of season and is sold as Christmas cactus, making it a little tricky to tell the species apart. Under the right growing conditions, Thanksgiving cactus (*S. truncata*) will naturally bloom earlier in the fall and looks a little different, producing toothed margins at each segment. Christmas cactus (*S. x buckleyi*) blooms around this time of year and has rounded margins. The key to flower production is related to photoperiod; each species initiates blooms when daylight periods shorten between 8 to 10 hours and longer nights. Skilled florists and hobbyists can initiate blooms out of season by modifying exposure to light. They will also bloom when combined with cooler nighttime temps between 50 to 55-F, typical of our fall season and will not initiate bloom at nighttime temps above 65-F.

The cacti make great hanging basket and container plants, are fairly easy to care for and typically decline from overwatering. Use a well-draining medium high in organic matter for potting. Let the soil dry slightly between watering to keep the plant from getting waterlogged. They can be kept near a window indoors year round, and under cover of a patio as weath-

er temperature permits. These holiday cacti can continue to bring joy during this season with just a little bit of care and knowledge.

Many blessings and happy holidays to you and your family.



# How To Force Holiday Bulbs



Lisa Davis  
GCMG 2018

The term “forcing” is a bit of a misnomer as the act of forcing a bulb to bloom requires very little work. Forcing refers to modifying the bulbs environment to bloom out of season. Knowing how long it will take the bulbs to bloom and how long they need to chill during dormancy enables you to have blooms when you want them. Decide when the bulbs should

bloom, count backwards from the time they take to bloom and required chill time (if any), and you will find the ideal planting time.

For the Christmas holidays, plant paperwhites and amaryllis in mid-November. Plant the same bulbs in mid-December for Valentine’s Day blooms.

Bulb	Type Required Chilling Time (in weeks)	Time Until first bloom (in weeks)
Amaryllis	none	5-8
<i>Anemone coronaria</i>	6	6-8
Daffodil	12-15	2-3
Crocus	8-14	2-3
Hyacinth	10-13	2-3
Muscari	13-15	2-3
Paperwhite	none	5-6
<i>Scilla siberica</i>	6	2-3
Tulip	14-16	2-3

## Types of Bulbs

There are two bulb types: warm climate (tropical) and hardy bulbs. Warm climate bulbs such as amaryllis and paperwhites (*Narcissus* sp.) do not require a chilling period prior to planting and are the easiest bulbs to force indoors. They can also be transplanted once they have bloomed and allowed to acclimate. Hardy bulbs such as tulips, scilla, hyacinths, anemone, muscari and crocus each require a chilling time before planting. Many of the hardy bulbs, such as tulips and hyacinths, do not do well when planted in landscapes along the Gulf Coast so enjoy their blooms indoors before adding the spent bulbs to your compost pile.

## Selecting Bulbs

Bulbs for forcing are plentiful now at nurseries and via mail

order. Choosing large, plump bulbs will provide the biggest blooms. Select bulbs that feel heavy and are firm to the touch and dry as those with soft spots will rot. If the bulbs are boxed, open and inspect the bulbs. Do not purchase bulbs that have sprouted as the stems will likely be misshapen, produce unsightly foliage and have poor flowering.

## Storing Bulbs

It is best to plant bulbs immediately after buying. If that isn’t possible, transfer the bulbs to paper or mesh bags. Never store in plastic as moisture in the bags leads to bulb rot. Place warm climate bulbs like amaryllis and paperwhites in a cool, dry, dark location. All other (hardy) bulbs should be put into the refrigerator and chilled.

## Chill

An ideal storage spot would be a refrigerator drawer with the temperature between 35 degrees and 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Do not store fruit in the same refrigerator drawer at the same time. Ripening fruit gives off ethylene gas that can suppress bulb development.

## Planting

There are three methods for planting bulbs: water, rocks and soil. All three methods are easy and effective. Placing the bulb suspended above water or with rocks in a clear container will give you a view of the bulb and roots. Planting in soil provides a more stable growing environment and makes it easier to save the bulbs for the next season.

## Water Method

To plant using water, use a forcing vase. They are wide at the top and bottom, separated with a narrow neck 2 to 3 inches from the top of the vase. The neck suspends the bulb over the water source. They are readily available on the internet (new and vintage) and at thrift stores. To use a forcing vase, position the bulb tip-end up in the upper receptacle, with the bottom vessel of the vase filled to one-fourth of an inch below the neck with water. The roots will reach down into the water as it grows. Check the water level and top off as needed.

## Rock Method

Line your container with clean rocks, pebbles or marbles. Place the bulb with the tip-end up on the rocks. Add more rocks to secure the bulb. Add water to the base of the bulb and just below level with the rock surface layer. Be careful not to add too much water as the bulb may rot. Add water as needed.



*“Forcing bulbs is easy, fun and...truly rewarding.”*

### Soil Method

Fill a clean container with a drainage hole about halfway with potting soil. Plant the bulb tip-end up with one-half to two-thirds of the bulb above the soil surface. Gently press the soil around the bulb then water thoroughly. Dress up the pot with moss if desired.

For all methods and after planting the bulb, place it in a spot receiving indirect light. Move the bulb to a sunny area when roots appear. To check root growth in soil, gently rock the bulb. If it seems loose, the roots are not growing yet.

### Maintenance

For water-grown or rock-grown bulbs, replace water to just below the bulb every 3 to 4 days. After flowering is complete, compost the bulb.

For bulbs potted in soil, maintain moist but not soggy soil. After the flower has bloomed, cut the stem off to about two inches above the bulb but leave the foliage intact. Fertilize the plant with a general 10-10-10 mix as directed on the package. You then have two choices: save the bulb for next season or naturalize it outdoors in the garden. To save, continue to water the plant until the foliage has died back. Then let the soil dry out, remove the bulb and store in a cool, dry location until next fall. If you would like to plant the bulb in the garden, wait until the last cold spell then plant the bulb two inches deep in full sun to partial shade in a well-drained location.

Forcing bulbs is easy, fun and the results are truly rewarding.

Sources: Pennington Seed Inc. *How To Force Garden Bulbs Indoors* and the 2020 Horticulture Guide from the Garden Club of Houston's Bulb & Plant Mart.



Amaryllis



Amaryllis



Narcissus

# Gifts for Gardeners



Linda Barnett  
GCMG 2015

Need holiday gifts for gardeners? With gardening as a focus, it is easy to select the perfect thing to place under the tree to give your favorite gardeners this holiday season.

**Weather station and weather technology** for outdoor and indoor home monitoring systems. They offer; wi-fi displays and are easy to set up and install. A great way to know if you should plan a day outside.

**Hummingbird feeders.** There are so many different types to fit on any patio design or yard (and hummingbirds thank you!)

**Seed keepers.** This is for the gardeners who collect seeds, like to share seeds or just need a place to put them. Very organized people will appreciate this item.

**Eye lens or loupe.** This is not only for jewelers, numismatists or philatelists....it can help gardeners look closely at symptoms of possible diseases or occurrences on leaves or bark. (See Laurel Stine's story on pg 14. She mentions that a loupe would help)

**Butterfly puddling stone.** What every butterfly that visits your yard really wants! This is an opening area that water can collect for butterflies. Many species of butterflies congregate on wet sand and mud to partake in "puddling", drinking water, and extracting minerals from damp puddles.

**Cool tee shirt.** Not only nice looking but keeps its cool and that means less sweating for the gardener. New technology pulls moisture away from gardeners' skin and disperses it

throughout the garment allowing the person wearing it to cool faster and feel dry sooner.

A **garden cairn** you buy or make yourself. A cairn is a stacked pile of stone or rocks. Cairns have been around for thousands of years; Stonehenge is an example of a famous cairn. In a garden a cairn is thought to be a calming, peaceful feeling by its attractiveness.

**Gardeners' harvest basket.** For vegetable growers or flower gatherers, a handled large attractive basket is a nice gift.

**Indoor composter.** Do your homework to pick the perfect one for gifting. Even if a gardener lives in a small apartment/home, they can still compost waste easily and efficiently.

**Art inspired watering globe.** Hand blown stained glass globes can look great in a small or large area. Watering can be done by the globe for differing amounts of time depending on size.

**A good book:** The Green Thumb Book Club has announced its 2022 books that will be read and shared. They include

*Well-Gardened Mind* by Sue Stewart-Smith

*Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson

*The Botanist Daughter* by Kaytee Nunn

*American Eden* by Victoria Johnson

*Maverick Gardeners* by Felder Rushing

*The Samurai's Garden* by Gail Tsukiyama

Happy Shopping!





# Pomander Balls, Simmering Potpourri with JMG Kids



Kaye Corey  
GCMG 2001

November and December months are the perfect time of year for our 12 Heritage Junior Master Kids to learn about herbs and spices viewing a display of mint, fennel, rosemary, basil, ginger, cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon, I ask the Kids to tell me the difference between herbs and spices. Spices are dried roots (ginger rhizomes), flowers (cloves), nuts (nutmeg), and tree bark (cinnamon sticks). Herbs are mostly fresh and dried leaves, stems and flowers of plants. "They smell good and make food taste good," says a young JMG voice." Sounds good...

Our project for November is Pomander Balls taken from Chapter 6 in the Junior Master Gardener handbook. Pomanders were popular and worn by people in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Since people were unable to bathe very often, they wore the pomander balls to make themselves smell better and for decoration. They also believed the pomanders helped protect them against diseases. Today, we use them for decorations and natural air fresheners in our homes. They can last up to a year.

## Pomander ball - (makes 1 ball)

**Ingredients:** \*1 orange \*1/4 cup whole cloves \*Toothpicks to ease the cloves into the orange Push the sharp ends of the cloves into the fruit with the bigger ends sticking up. Be creative and make designs and patterns on the orange, covering the orange as much as possible.

**Spice mixture:** \*1 tablespoon ground cinnamon \*1 tea-

spoon ground allspice \*1/8 teaspoon ground ginger \*1 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Mix spices together in a bowl. Roll the pomander in the bowl of spices, covering the fruit. Shake the fruit and gently blow away the extra spice. Put the pomander in a brown paper bag and keep in a dark cabinet for two or three weeks until it is dried. Attach narrow ribbon for hanging. Enjoy!

Continuing our studies of herbs and spices and at our December meeting, the Kids make a Simmering Potpourri gift. Simmering Potpourri fragrances fill the Garden Center as the Kids enjoy making their gift, a shared cookie exchange, games, and refreshments.

## Simmering potpourri

**Ingredients:** \*1 orange, \*3-4 cinnamon sticks \*A few whole cranberries \*Several whole cloves \*a sprig or teaspoon of rosemary .

Cut the orange into quarters. Add all ingredients to a small stovetop pot. Cover ingredients with water. Simmer on medium/ low to fill your home with a wonderful holiday fragrance for the entire holiday season by simply adding more water.

Like our JMG Kids, you can place the potpourri ingredients with the above instructions in a ribbon tied baggie for a fun holiday gift.

Happy Holidays to readers from Heritage JMG Kids!



Photos by Kaye Corey

## Seasonal Bites



Sandra Gervais  
GCMG 2011

It's that nice, quiet time of year.....the hurricane threats seem to be over, the worst of the summer heat has broken, Thanksgiving and Christmas activities seem far off. We can now look at our gardens and start thinking about winter plantings or different plants to try next year. As always, success will depend on our

hard work and Mother Nature's cooperation.

So here are a couple of very easy recipes to try. One would be great with some of the summer's tomato sauce, if there's any left. The other recipe uses zucchini, the vegetable that keeps on giving, and giving and giving.



### Mini Veggie Frittatas 400°

16 eggs  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese  
2 teaspoons salt  
1 medium-large zucchini, chopped  
1 red or yellow bell pepper, diced  
1 cup sliced cherry tomatoes  
1/4 cup chopped parsley

Whisk eggs until combined.  
Stir in all remaining ingredients.  
Ladle mixture into each muffin cup.  
Bake 20-25 minutes, until frittatas are set.

Line 24 muffin-tin cups with paper liners.  
(Or coat each with nonstick spray.)

**Note:** This is a very forgiving recipe so experiment. Have fun and try fresh herbs, other vegetables, chopped meats, and different seasonings. These frittatas freeze well and can be heated in a microwave.



### Cheese Baked Meatballs 400°

1 pound ground beef  
1/2-pound pork sausage  
1 egg  
1/4 cup breadcrumbs  
1 tablespoon tomato paste  
1 tablespoon chopped parsley  
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce  
1 teaspoon onion powder  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
1 jar (24 ounces) marinara sauce--or equal amount of homemade sauce  
8 ounces fresh mozzarella or slices

Crumble beef and sausage in a large bowl.  
Mix in egg, breadcrumbs, tomato paste, parsley, Worcestershire sauce, onion powder, garlic powder, salt, and black pepper.  
Scoop about 2 tablespoons of the mixture and roll into a ball.

Place in 9 x 13 baking pan. Repeat until all of the meat mixture is used.  
Bake in preheated 400-degree oven for 18-20 minutes, until completely cooked.

Remove from oven and pour marinara sauce over meatballs.

Tuck pieces of mozzarella between the meatballs.

Return to oven and bake another 10 minutes, until cheese is melted, and sauce is bubbling.

Serves 4-6

**Note:** Serve with mac and cheese, vegetables, or pasta of your choice. For spicy sauce, add finely chopped hot peppers to sauce before pouring. Or add other herbs like fresh basil, oregano, or rosemary to sauce before pouring over meatballs.



# Dobos Torte for the Holidays!



Lisa Davis  
GCMG 2018

*Adapted from the magazine Bake From Scratch, May/June 2021 issue, served by GCMG Lisa Davis at the August MG meeting in honor of Kay Sandor's Hungarian heritage.*

## Ingredients

3 1/2 sticks of unsalted butter, softened  
2 cups sugar  
1 tsp vanilla bean paste  
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt

8 large eggs, room temp.  
3 1/3 cups cake flour

Vanilla Simple Syrup  
Chocolate Buttercream  
Caramel Sauce

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Spray 2 (17 1/4 x 12 1/4 -inch) rimmed baking sheets with baking spray with flour. Line bottoms of pans with parchment paper; spray parchment.

Beat the butter, sugar, vanilla bean paste and salt at low speed, and slowly increase speed to high. Beat until light and fluffy, 6-8 minutes, stopping to scrape sides of bowl after 3 minutes. Reduce to medium speed, add eggs, one at a time, beating until combined after each addition. On low speed, slowly add flour, until just combined. Divide batter between prepared pans. Spread batter into an even layer.

Bake until edges are golden brown, 10-12 minutes. Cool completely in pans. Brush cooled cakes with Vanilla Simple Syrup. Freeze until firm, about 30 minutes.

Remove 1 cake rectangle from pan. Trim sides of cake to make a 15x11-inch rectangle. Cut rectangle into 3 (11x5-inch) rectangles. Repeat with remaining cake.

Place 1 cake rectangle on a serving platter. Spread 3/4 cup Chocolate Buttercream on top, smoothing into an even layer. Top with second rectangle, and spread 3/4 cup buttercream on top, smoothing into an even layer.

Repeat procedure three times. Top with remaining rectangle. Spread remaining Chocolate Buttercream on top and sides of cake. Refrigerate until buttercream is set, 30-45 minutes. Spoon Caramel Sauce on top of cake, letting it slowly drip down the sides.

## Vanilla Simple Syrup

1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup water  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla bean paste

In a small microwave-safe bowl, combine sugar and water. Heat on high in 30-second intervals, stirring between each, until sugar dissolves. Stir in vanilla bean paste. Cool to room temperature before using.

## Chocolate Buttercream

3 sticks unsalted butter, softened  
1/2 cups cocoa powder  
1 cup sour cream  
2 pounds confectioners' sugar

Using the paddle attachment, beat butter at medium speed until smooth and creamy, about 2 minutes. Add cocoa, beating until combined. Beat in sour cream until smooth. Gradually add confectioners' sugar, beating until smooth and creamy. Use immediately.

## Caramel Sauce

1 cup sugar  
4 tablespoons water, divided  
1/2 cup heavy whipping cream, room temp  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, soft, cubed  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoons kosher salt

In a medium saucepan, heat sugar and 3 tablespoons water over high heat, being careful not to splash the sides of the pan. (It should be the consistency of wet sand.) Use remaining 1 tablespoon water to brush down sides of pan, and stir to help sugar dissolve. (Do not stir once it starts to boil.) Cook until light amber color. (Mixture will bubble up.) Add butter, a few cubes at a time, whisking until combined. Stir in vanilla and salt. Cool to room temperature before using.

This is a traditional Hungarian cake, invented by Jozsef Dobos in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## Meet 2 Master Gardeners: Terry and Velda Cuculis



Barbara Canetti  
GCMG 2016

The team of Velda and Terry Cuculis are always seen together. However compatible these two master gardeners may be, they are very different people.

As a couple, the two joined the Galveston County Master Gardener program together in 1987. They both had an interest in gardening going back to their youth.

Velda, a retired financial analyst with Ford Aerospace, grew up in Kansas on a farm. And although the climate in Kansas is far different than the Gulf Coast, she knew the basics of growing plants, flowers and vegetables.

“I actually started my own garden when I was 10,” Velda said.

Terry, who was born in California but moved to Greece as a small child, grew up raising figs and vegetables, which became a sort of currency in war-torn Greece.

“The beans and figs were like money during World War II,” said Terry, who later worked in the US at Ford Aerospace as an engineer.

The couple has lived for 36 years on a 2.5-acre plot that borders Dickinson Bayou. On their land, Terry has planted 11 varieties of figs, jujube date trees, several dwarf banana trees, and dozens of varieties of other fruit and citrus trees. The February 2021 freeze was particularly brutal on his garden, killing Meyer lemon, grapefruit, Cara-Cara oranges, Atlas Honey satsuma oranges, blood oranges and Republic of Texas orange trees.

“Most of my figs are still alive but are not producing like they used to. I am still waiting for them to come back,” he said.

Velda’s garden also took a beating. She prefers to dabble in flowers and annuals, but was disappointed when she realized all her prized amaryllis plants in the ground froze. Fortunately, she was able to save most of her plumerias. She said she spends a couple of hours each morning in the garden – weeding and replanting – but it is overwhelming at times.

“I love the plumerias, crown-of-thorns and all the colors of the annuals I plant,” she said. “I am still learning all the time.”

The couple, who have been married for 46 years, met at work – sitting across from each other at a bridge table. After their retirements from Ford Aerospace, they were able to devote more time to their family (three grown children, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren) and the master gardener program. The two of them are delegates to the master gardener quarterly state association meetings and they never miss the annual convention (until 2020 – when the gathering

in Waco was cancelled).

The pandemic year was especially tough on them because of the isolation. They say they are looking forward to seeing people again, but have spent their time at home and in their gardens – planting, replanting, replacing and removing plants and bushes, trees and vines, flowers and herbs and anything else growing on their land.

“It takes a lot of work, but we really love it here,” Velda said.



Photos by Barbara Canetti



# Discovery Garden Update



Tom Fountain  
GCMG 2008

Thank goodness hurricane season is almost over. Tropical Storm Nicholas hit our area and dropped over 12 inches of rain and created a lot of tree damage.

The Discovery Garden lost two trees in the orchard and two more in the north end. The plum and peach trees that were blown over are pictured in (Fig. 1). It has been a tough year in our orchard with the late spring freeze and then a hurricane. We were very fortunate that Nicholas was a minimal hurricane that was reduced to a TS when it hit our area.

Hot, muggy days and the lingering pandemic have kept the garden crowd numbers down through the summer and into fall. After the first cold front reached our area, more gardeners started taking advantage of the cooler weather to come out, clean out the summer leftovers, and put in fall gardens. In Fig. 2 Hedy Wolpa, Sue Bain, and Vicki Blythe were deciding what they were going to plant in the bed that they were getting ready to work. Pictured in Fig.3, Alysha Davila was busy pulling up some bean plants to get ready for fall.

In other parts of the garden trimming and weeding are always constant tasks. Pictured in Fig. 4 Phil Haught had come by to pick up the rubbish that Tish Reustle and others created when cleaning the Serenity and Native Plant Gardens. Later in Fig. 5, Sandra Duvall, Judy Anderson and Tish Reustle were taking a water break and visiting. Pictured in Fig. 6, Ira Gervais, Kathy Maines, Sue Bain, and Glenn Diket were taking care of Master Gardner grown plants getting them ready for the fall plant sale which was a big success.



# The Bulb Hunter *by Chris Wiesinger and William C. Welch*



Lisa Belcher  
GCMG 2014

**What this book is about:** This book is the engaging story of a very determined college horticulture major who tells his tale of searching for an elusive red tulip and finding so many more heirloom bulbs along the way.

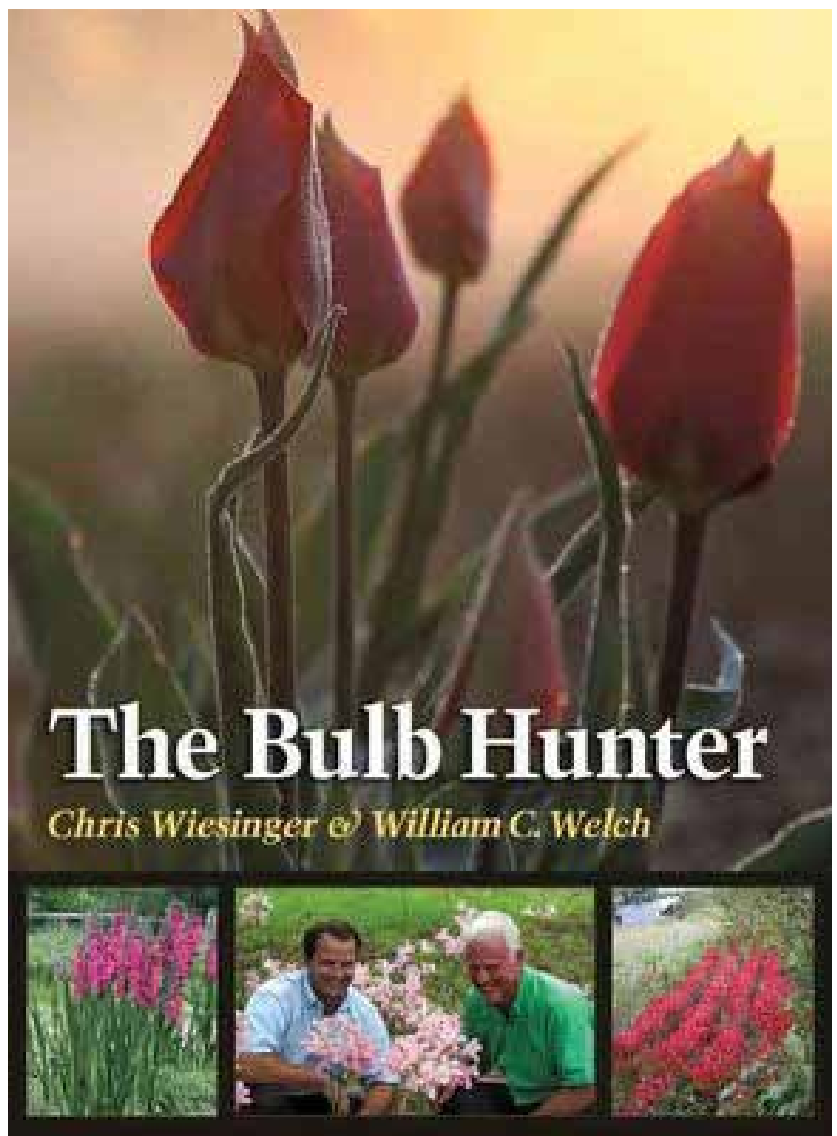
Chris Wiesinger might be a familiar name to master gardeners. He has been a speaker at the Moody Gardens Herb Fair, as well as a Texas Master Gardener State Conference, often sharing his love of heirloom bulbs and how he fell in love with bulbs. Told in first person narrative with wit and self-deprecation, Wiesinger takes you on his journey beginning as a horticultural major at Texas A&M University. He shares his college life, complete with stories of being a member of the Corps of Cadets and the special nickname his fellow Cadets bestowed upon him: "Flower". With his senior year business course project needed for graduation, Wiesinger began brainstorming an idea of selling heirloom bulbs. Met with looks of skepticism and outright incredulity from his fellow classmates, Wiesinger began his business plan. With advice from William Welch and the kind offer of the lease of a portion of a sweet potato farmer's land, Wiesinger began searching for heirloom bulbs to propagate. Deciding upon the name the Southern Bulb Company, Wiesinger broke ground for his upcoming bulb beds and started his hunt.

When you read his stories, you sense from the beginning a very determined man, or in his mind, a foolish one. On each trip Wiesinger takes, one can imagine sitting with him in his old truck driving down the old country roads in the pursuit and hopefully the finding of a bulb. The author shares his failures, some of which make you wonder why he continued again and again trying to propagate heirloom bulbs. He also shares his triumphs and joys where, as a reader, you can't help but smile and think "Go Chris!" This is also a cute side love story that readers will enjoy. Not only does Wiesinger share his story of the Southern Bulb Company, there is a wealth of information, complete with beautiful color photos of heirloom bulbs ranging from hyacinths, spider lilies, and crinums, just to name a few. William Welch adds narrative and more in-depth information on many varieties of bulbs in the latter part of book. The book is also filled with beautiful

color photos of seasonal bulbs which can be grown in our own gardens.

**How does this relate to our work as Master Gardeners?** Like Wiesinger, we too have our failures and at times contemplate growing a different type of plant. Searching out strong, heirloom bulbs for our gardens can also be rewarding for us. We can share our success with others, encouraging them to use heirloom bulbs in their gardens.

As a special treat for our book club, Wiesinger sent a short video with a clip of his stock room where two of his employees were sorting spider lily bulbs. Wiesinger was very kind to offer The Green Thumb Book Club participants a discount from his Southern Bulb Company.





# GCMGA Graduation 2021

The Galveston County Master Gardener Association graduated 14 new Texas Master Gardeners October 12 in Galveston at the home of GCMG Mikey and Allen Isbell.

The 14 are in the Class of 2020 and include Alysha Davila, Celia Philpot, Maria Abad, Bettye Vogler (Row 2) Karen Nelson, Ann Ross, Roxanne Rosson, John Meyer, (3) Carol Hairfield, Anna Michelle Gauthier, Debi Lambson, Debbie Valdez (4) David Eskins and Jesse Jones.

New Extension Agent Stephen Brueggerhoff introduced the new graduates. GCMGA President Sharon Zaal presented the new graduates with special plaques.

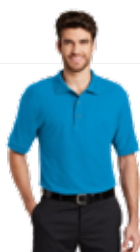
Master gardeners were also recognized for volunteer hours as well as work accomplishments.



# Merchandise for Master Gardeners

## GALVESTON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS

### *Polo Shirts and Hats*



Men's sizes:  
ES-6XL  
Tall - LT-4XLT



Ladies Sizes  
ES-4XL

#### Port Authority Silk Touch Polo

\$30.00 Each

- 5-ounce, 65/35 poly/cotton pique
- Flat knit collar and cuffs
- Metal buttons with dyed-to-match plastic rims
- Double-needle armhole seams and hem
- Side Vents
- Features embroidery of Texas MG logo and below the words Galveston County

#### Hats

\$20.00 Each

- Available colors: Black, Navy Blue and Khaki
- Features embroidery reading Texas MG ~ Galveston County

**Orders taken Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.**

Make checks payable to: GCMG

Debit or Credit on Greenhouse Sale Days Only

SHIRT TYPE (Men's or Ladies)	SIZE	NUMBER OF SHIRTS	COLOR	PRICE
<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>				\$

NUMBER OF HATS	COLOR	PRICE
<b>TOTAL DUE:</b>		\$

#### Available Shirt Colors

Banana	Bark	
Black	Bright Lavender	
Burgundy	Clover Green	
Coffee Bean	Cool Grey	
Court Green	Deep Berry	
Eggplant	Gold	
Hibiscus	Kelly Green	
Light Blue	Light Pink	
Light Stone	Lime	
Maroon	Maui Blue	
Mediterranean Blue	Mint Green	
Navy	Orange	
Purple	Red	
Royal	Steel Grey	
Stone	Strong Blue	
Teal Green	Texas Orange	
Tropical Pink	Ultramarine Blue	
White		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



# Minutes, Annual Meeting, Event

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office at 4102-B Main Street (FM 519) inside Carbide Park in La Marque, are free to the public, and require pre-registration.

## Pre-registration required for each program

*All programs are conducted in person.*

## DECEMBER

### GROWING GREAT TOMATOES, Part 1 of 3 ~ Growing from Seed

**Saturday, December 4, 2021**

**9 - 11:30 a.m.**

Do you want to learn how to grow great tomatoes? This is the first in a series of three programs presented by Galveston County Master Gardener Ira Gervais on learning all about how to grow great tomatoes here in Galveston County. Part 1 will cover learning how to grow tomatoes from seeds, where to obtain seeds, supplies needed to start and grow your seedlings. Discussion topics include how to pick the best seed varieties for Galveston County, seed starting methods, growing techniques and preparing your starter plants for spring garden planting.

Register here: <https://galveston.agrilife.org/horticulture/mgseminars/>



### GCMGA Meeting October 12, 2021 Minutes

The October meeting was held at the home of MG Mikey Isbell in Galveston at 5:30 pm Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

The graduation ceremonies for the 2020 Class of Master Gardeners were held in the yard with a potluck dinner following. With 87 attendees at the event, the graduation was conducted by new Extension Agent Stephen Brueggerhoff and GCMGA President Sharon Zaal. The Class of 2021 had 14 graduates.

The program included the certification of the 2020 Class, recognition of service milestone honorees, and recognition of volunteer hours.

### GCMGA Annual Meeting November 9, 2021 Minutes

The GCMGA Annual meeting was held at the Extension Office at 5:30 pm November 9, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Sharon Zaal.

This was a joint meeting of the Annual Association and the Board of Directors. President Sharon Zaal presented Jim Edwards and Wesley 'Wes' Ruzek with Emeritus Membership awards. Judy Anderson was elected to the Board of Directors for a position vacated by Tim Jahnke.

The slate of officers presented received a unanimous vote of acceptance. Kathy Maines was appointed President, Kevin Lancon Sr. Vice President, Debbie Brizendine Treasurer, Briana Etie Secretary, Sharon Zaal Assistant Treasurer and Velda Cuclis TMGA State Association Delegate. Cuclis was not in attendance at the meeting.

The program included a recap of 2021 for GCMGA and future plans of upcoming events.

There were 37 people in attendance at the meeting.



Emeritus Membership Awards were announced by Board President Frank Resch and presented by Stephen Brueggerhoff and Sharon Zaal to Jim Edwards and Wesley Ruzek



Past Presidents: Ira Gervais, Sharon Zaal (whose term expires end of December), Jim Edwards and Herman Auer. New 2022 President Kathy Maines.

Photos by Karolyn Gephart

## REMEMBER

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

## RECERTIFICATION HOURS 2021

Date	Name of Program	Speaker	MG CEUs
1/8/2021	Wedge Grafting - Online via Zoom	Herman Auer	1.50
1/11/2021	Growing Potatoes - MGs Only - Online via Zoom	Kevin Lancon	1.50
1/15/2021	Planting Fruit Trees - Online via Zoom	Herman Auer	1.50
1/22/2021	Growing Irish Potatoes - Online via Zoom	Kevin Lancon	1.50
1/29/2021	Growing Backyard Citrus - Online via Zoom	Robert Marshall	1.50
2/1/2021	"Texas Tuff" Plants for the Gulf Coast - Online via Zoom	Briana Etie	1.25
2/5/2021	Growing Great Tomatoes, Part 2 of 3 - Online via Zoom	Ira Gervais	1.75
2/9/2021	MGA Feb. Meeting - Wildscaping at Home	Lauren Simpson	1.00
2/12/2021	Chile Peppers from A to Z - Online via Zoom	Gene Speller	1.75
2/26/2021	Growing Peaches in Galveston County - Online via Zoom	Herman Auer	2.00
3/5/2021	Herbs for the Gulf Coast Garden - Online via Zoom	Nancy N. & Briana E.	1.75
3/8/2021	Successful Spring Vegetable Gardening - Online via Zoom	Herman Auer	1.75
3/9/2021	MGA March Meeting - Building Healthy Soils	Greg Cooper	1.50
3/26/2021	Tomato Stress Management - Online via Zoom	Ira Gervais	1.75
4/13/2021	MGA April Meeting - The Grape State of Texas	Justin Scheiner	1.00
4/16/2021	Growing Cucurbits - Online via Zoom	Herman Auer	1.75
4/23/2021	Best Practices of Watering - Online via Zoom	Karolyn Gephart	1.50
5/11/2021	MGA May Meeting - Talking Trash	Diane Hume	1.00
5/21/2021	Composting - Online via Zoom	Jim Gilliam	1.75
5/28/2021	Rainwater Harvesting - Online via Zoom	Nat Gruesen	1.00
6/4/2021	A Passion for Plumeria - Online via Zoom	Loretta Osteen	1.25
6/8/2021	MGA June Meeting - Gardening for the Birds & the Bees	Greg Grant	1.00
6/11/2021	Louisiana Irises - Online via Zoom	Monica Martens	1.00
7/10/2021	Aquaponics	Robin Collins	2.00
7/13/2021	MGA July Meeting - Hort Tech Program Within TDCJ	Scooter Langley	1.00
7/24/2021	Arranging Fresh & Artificial Flowers	Jackie Auer	2.25
8/7/2021	Plumeria Propagation	Loretta Osteen	2.00
8/28/2021	Small Trees for Small Yards	Briana Etie	2.00
8/28/2021	Growing Strawberries	Robert Marshall	2.00
9/11/2021	Growing Onions & Garlic	Herman Auer	2.00
9/11/2021	Bulbs for the Gulf Coast	Lisa Davis	2.00
9/25/2021	Backyard Citrus	Robert Marshall	2.00
9/25/2021	T-Bud Grafting	Hazel L. & Debbie E.	2.00
10/2/2021	Growing Blueberries	Robert Marshall	1.75
10/9/2021	Fall Favorite Vegetables	Gene Speller	2.00
10/30/2021	Kokedama (a hands-on workshop)	Kat Tondre	1.25
<b>2021 Recertification Hours for MGs</b>		<b>Total CEUs (Hours)</b>	<b>57.50</b>

Last Updated: Nov. 1, 2021



## GCMGA Welcomes New Agent



Karolyn Gephart  
GCMG 2017

Welcome new Galveston County Horticulture Extension Agent Stephen Brueggerhoff.

Brueggerhoff joined Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Galveston County in early October. He previously served as the extension agent for horticulture in Brazoria County with an office in Angleton.

Brueggerhoff furthers the extension mission of education and community service, offering horticultural consultation to residential clients, business owners and green industry practitioners. He manages and proudly supports the Galveston County Master Gardeners Association, providing coordination to consistently deliver quality research-based regional programs.

He received a Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Sam Houston State University and a Masters of Forest Resources from the University of Washington.

With over 15 years of experience, Brueggerhoff has supported the environmental community as lecturer, instructor, administrative organizer and collaborative partner.

He is a member of several professional development and community service organizations such as Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Texas County Agricultural Agents Association, International Society for Arboriculture – Texas, Epsilon Sigma Phi - Alpha Zeta chapter, Houston Area Urban Forestry Council and Native Plant Society of Texas.

“On behalf of all Galveston County Master Gardeners, I would like to give him a warm welcome. With his experience, dedication, and vision, we will surely accomplish amazing things together,” Galveston County Master Gardeners Association President Sharon Zaal said. Zaal added a quotation to welcome him: *You are as welcome as the flowers in May!* Charles Macklin (1825)

Brueggerhoff has been active in his new job. He provided the welcome and a speech of congratulations at the recent GCMGA graduation of 14 new master gardeners. He has also begun a new program for Galveston County but one that Brazoria County has enjoyed for a while, Floral Fridays.

Floral Fridays is a weekly vlog presented by Brueggerhoff. It is scheduled at 11 am on Fridays and explores gardening from Texas Upper Gulf Coast Bend. It is hosted live from Galveston County AgriLife Extension Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/galvestontxext>, and co-hosted by Galveston County Master Gardeners Association.

Brueggerhoff's office is located at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension at 4102-B Main Street in La Marque. For more information on the AgriLife program in Galveston County, visit <https://galveston.agrilife.org>. Brueggerhoff can be reached through email at [sbrueggerhoff@tamu.edu](mailto:sbrueggerhoff@tamu.edu).



Photo by Stephen Brueggerhoff



Photo by Karolyn Gephart

## 2021 Master Gardener Association Leadership

*President*

**Sharon Zaal**

*Sr. Vice President*

**Kathy Maines**

*Treasurer*

**Debra Brizendine**

*Secretaries*

**Briana Etie and  
Nancy Langston-Noh**

*State Association Delegates*

**Terry and Velda Cuculis**

*State Association Alternate Delegate*

**Ira Gervais and Sharon Zaal**

*VP for Programs*

**Herman Auer,**  
Education Programs  
**Judy Anderson,**  
Monthly Meetings

*Speakers Bureau Coordinators*

**Betty Webb and  
Nancy Langston-Noh**

*Plant Sale Chairmen*

**Kathy Maines and Kevin Lancon**

*Discovery Garden Coordinator*

**Kevin Lancon**

*Discovery Garden Area Leaders*

**Judy Anderson, Sue Bain,  
Linda Barnett, Julie Cartmill,  
David Cooper, Lisa Davis,  
Briana Etie, Pam Hunter,  
John Jons, Debbie Lambson,  
Kathy Maines, Monica Martens,  
Rachel Montemayor,  
Tish Reustle and Jim Waligora**

*VP for Volunteer Development*

**Nancy Greenfield**

*MG Intern Course Team Leader*

**Pam Hunter**

*VP for Media Relations*

**Nita Caskey**

*Newsletter Editors*

**Karolyn Gephart and  
Robin Stone Collins**

*Fellowship*

**Penny Bessire**

*MG Volunteer Hour Recorders*

**Wayne Elliott,  
Dr. Margaret Canavan  
and Linda Steber**

*Jr. Master Gardener Programs Leaders*

**Kaye Corey and Gayle McAdoo**

*Photography Team Leaders*

**Herman Auer, Tom Fountain  
and Chris Anastas**

*Webmaster*

**Genevieve Benson**

*Board of Directors*

**Ira Gervais, Tim Jahnke, Frank  
Resch,  
Tish Reustle and Linda Steber**

*CEA-HORT and Master Gardener*

*Program Coordinator*

**Stephen Brueggerhoff, M.S.**

## Galveston County Monthly Meetings



Judy Anderson  
GCMG 2012

**November 9, 2021**

### GCMG Annual Meeting

Each year during the November Monthly Meeting, the GCMG Annual Meeting is held at the Extension Office in La Marque. This is an important meeting for all master gardeners to attend. The current state of the association will be presented, including the online sales results, on-going projects, and plans for future projects. Elections will also be held for open positions on the board. The meeting will kick off with a pot-luck dinner. Social will begin at 6 pm and dinner will follow at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you all there.

**December 14, 2021**

### Holiday Meeting

When the jingle bells are ringing, the master gardeners will be gathering at the home of Mikey and Allen Isbell where the holiday spirit will be in high gear. Bring a pot-luck dish to contribute to the traditional feast. This is also an opportunity to donate an unwrapped gift for the Galveston Children's Center.

Join the festivities by participating in the Holiday Grinch Exchange. Bring a gardening gift valued under \$10 for a man or woman. Yes, it is a gift stealing exchange approved by the Grinch, but it is fun.

**Many thanks to the Hospitality Team  
who make the Monthly Meetings so  
special to the  
Galveston County Master Gardeners!**

**Kathy Maines  
Briana Etie  
Sue Bain  
Vicki Blythe  
Sandy McBride  
Hazel Lampson  
Hedy Wolpa**

