



HOE! HOE! HOE! September 2013

GRIMES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS NEWSLETTER VOLUME 9, ISSUE IX

IN THIS ISSUE

Officers for 2013

President: Jamie Brun
Vice President: Kathy Laughlin
Secretary: Pat Randall
Treasurer: Cathey Hardeman

Committee Chairs

Administration: Nicky Maddams
Timekeeping: Martha Brogdon
Awards/Social: Scotty Bennett/Phyllis Pollard
Children's Activities: Phyllis Pollard/Marti Luedtke
Communications: Nicky Maddams
Class: Nicky Maddams/Jamie Brun
Co-op: Fred Vesperman
Anderson Beautification: Janeth Nevill
Publicity: Peggy Sloan
Fundraisers: Phyllis Pollard/Dianna Westmoreland
Go Texan Landscaping: Mike Brame
County Fair Judging: Marti Luedtke
Historian: Sharon Murry

Texas AgriLife Extension

Extension Agent: Kimberly Hall
MG Coordinator: Jayla Fry
Secretary: Sandra Cook

Newsletter

Editor: Nicky Maddams
Article submissions, photos and information due by the 20th of each month. Send to: biplanechik@yahoo.ca

Website: txmg.org/grimes
Email: grimesmastergardeners@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

September 10 10:00am Tour of Peckerwood Gardens near Hempstead

September 14 9:00am-12:00pm Fall Seminar – Water-Wise Gardening & Native Plants

October 8 6:00pm Fall Social hosted by Dianna Westmoreland

November 12 9:00am Monthly Meeting with Election of New Officers; Speaker: Joe Floyd "Snakes in the Garden & Other Things that Bite & Sting"

December 6 Christmas Party and Installation of New Officers



Thanks to Helen Quinn for this month's photo
* the night-blooming cereus flower*



Get to Know Your Fellow Master Gardeners!

Interview was not returned to Editor;
Stay tuned for next month's MG

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

September Vegetable Planting Guide

Bush & Pole Beans	Now thru 9/15
Beet	Now thru 10/20
Broccoli *	9/10-11/15
Brussels Sprouts*	9/10-11/05
Cabbage*	9/15-12/31
Chinese Cabbage	9/01-10/15
Carrot	9/15-12/31
Cauliflower*	9/20-10/31
Kohlrabi	9/20-11/30
Lettuce, leaf	9/15-11/30
Mustard	Now thru 11/15
Spinach	9/05-10/25
Turnip	Now thru 11/20
Pea, Edible Pod & English	9/15-09/30
Pepper*	Now thru 09/30
Radish	Now thru 11/30
Tomato*	Now thru 09/15

*Use plants, not seeds; be sure to provide shade and adequate water



SEPTEMBER brings us the following birthdays:

Carol Garnett – September 1
Edmond McGee – September 8



Questions Received at Extension Office

It appears there is still some confusion as to how the Extension Office shifts function. Every two weeks, on a Monday, the next person on the schedule will be notified by Nicky Maddams via email that their shift is beginning. Ninety percent of the inquiries will be received via email but on occasion you may be contacted by Sandra Cook at the Extension Office. It is your responsibility to check your email on a daily basis and respond within a 24-

hour period. If you are uncertain about how to respond, please contact your mentor.

At the end of your two weeks, you will receive an email asking about activity/questions received during your term and the next person on the schedule will take over.

During August, the MG on call only received one inquiry. The gentleman wanted to know if it would be ok to spray Round Up (actually a generic of) on the grass around his Crepe Myrtles after he had cut all the suckers off that were coming up from the base of the plant. Would that in fact keep the suckers from returning?

He was asked if he liked the plants and he assured he did and had planted twenty five of them, but his wife was insisting on spraying them with the grass killer. He was informed that the poison would probably kill the plants and should not be used anywhere around plants he wanted to keep and the suggestion was given that that he remove the grass then mulch around the trees. This would not only deter the grass and weeds, but would also help retain the moisture for the plants.

Did you Know?

You can obtain valuable volunteer hours simply by writing an article or submission for this newsletter?

Activity Report

A report was not submitted for August.

THE SENSITIVE PLANT

Submitted by Helen Quinn

I came across this poem by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) and reading through its many (76 or so!) verses I wondered which plant was known as "sensitive" back in England in Shelley's day.

*"A Sensitive Plant in a garden grew,
And the young winds fed it with silver dew,
And it opened its fan-like leaves to the light.
And closed them beneath the kisses of Night."*

The "Sensitive Plant", as I'm sure you all know, is so named because of the way its compound leaves fold inwards and droop when touched. One of the most common of the varieties to bear this common name is **Mimosa pudica**, *pudica* from the Latin "shy, bashful, shrinking". There are 400+ known Mimosas!!!



U.S. references give the same common name to many plants, including:

- Chamaecrista nicitans** (Patridge Pea, Sensitive Plant)
- Cassia marilandica** (Sensitive Plant)
- Cassia tora** (Sensitive Plant)
- Senna ligustrina** (Sensitive Plant)
- Aeschynomene fluitans** (Sensitive Plant)
- Neptunia oleracea** (Sensitive Plant)

Then, of course, you have the Mimosa Tree, **Albizia julibrissin**, which used to grow so freely all over the older neighborhoods, and has nothing to do with **Mimosa pudica** even though the flower is similar! And the yellow Mimosa tree is **Acacia dealbata**, known as the Silver Wattle in its native Australia!

And I still don't know to which "Sensitive Plant" Shelley was specifically referring!

Nominations for Officers

The nominating committee is seeking persons interested in holding one of the Officer positions for the 2014 year. If you are certified, consider letting them know your interest or nomination someone you feel would be an asset to the Board (it's always best to obtain permission first!). See Carol Garnett or Kathy Denning for nominations. Voting is held in November.

IN OUR CO-OP



The new patch is available now in the Co-op. They will cost \$6 including tax, and are about 3- 1/4 inches wide.



FALL HOME VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

with TOM LEROY

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2013
6:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M.
LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST
3201 NORTH MAIN LIBERTY, TEXAS

Wondering what to plant in your home garden this fall? Then we have the program for you! The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—Liberty County and the Liberty County Master Gardener Association are proud to present a program with Tom LeRoy, Montgomery County Extension Agent Emeritus—Horticulture. He will talk about Fall Home Vegetable Production.

Considered one of the best in the field of Horticulture and Home Gardening, Tom LeRoy began his 35 year career with the Texas A&M University System after receiving a Master's Degree in Plant Breeding from Texas A&M University. Recently retired he has served as the Montgomery and Harris County Extension Agent for Horticulture and established the very first Master Gardener Program in the State of Texas. Working with Bill Adams, Tom LeRoy has co-authored three gardening books, Growing Fruits and Nuts in the South, Common Sense Vegetable Gardening in the South, and The Southern Kitchen Garden.

There is a \$10.00 fee for this program. RSVP by the close of business day on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 to 936-334-3230.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training & Testing



Friday, September 27, 2013 at 8:00am
Grimes County Fairgrounds; Go Texan Building
5520 FM 3455, Navasota, Texas

TDA Inspector will be hand for testing. Please RSVP to Sandra Cook at 936-825-0465 no later than September 25, 2013. Training Costs \$60.00 and Includes lunch, Laws and Regulations Manual and Private Applicator Manual. TDA requires an additional fee to receive your license.