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EXTENSION

HENDERSON COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS (HCMG)

WEEKLY NEWS ARTICLE

February Thunder

February 25, 2019

By Lydia Holley

Master Gardeners will be giving presentations at the [Keep Athens Beautiful Home and Garden Show](#) on Saturday, March 2, held at the Henderson County Regional FairPark Complex, 3356 Hwy 31 E, Athens. Speakers will be:

- Shannon Greene, 'Medicinal Herbs', 10:00 a.m.
- Peter Cole, 'Invasive Species', 11:00 a.m.
- Bob Erickson, 'Composting and Rainwater Harvesting', 12:00 noon

These presentations are free to the public. Come learn something new.

Henderson County Master Gardener Association has many Master Gardeners willing to give presentations on various gardening topics to garden clubs and other community organizations. On February 19, I gave a presentation on native plants to a wonderful group of women in the Mabank Garden Club. It had been raining all day. A light, quiet, gentle rain that did not necessitate an umbrella. So, I was surprised when I heard thunder. Thunder in February.

I seemed to recall having heard an old wives' tales about future weather based upon thunder in February. So, since Master Gardeners are dedicated to research-based information, I decided to see if I could find out if that wives' tale was true.

I found out that people sleep less when there is a full moon, Texas has the second highest number of fatalities from lightning strikes, and that a Johns Hopkins study agreed with the wives' tale that heartburn during pregnancy predicts a baby born with a full head of hair.

The expression, "Red sky at night, sailor's delight; red in the morning, sailor take warning" is true for certain parts of the country. A halo around the moon really does predict cold weather approaching, at least most of the time, if not 100% accurate. You can also add 40 to the number of cricket chirps in a 13-second time frame to determine the air temperature.

However, thunder in winter seems to have so many different tales connected to it, you would think at least one would be true. Alas, none of the weather predictions corresponding with this phenomenon have been scientifically proven. Too bad. It would have been fun to tell you that Master Gardeners can predict the weather along with teaching you about gardening.

We invite you to contact the Master Gardeners at the phone number below if you need a speaker on a gardening topic.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email hendersonCMGA@gmail.com, or visit txmq.org/hendersonmq.