



The Latest Dirt

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2022

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Upcoming Meetings:

June 9—TBA
July—no meeting
August 11—TBA

Message From The President

JUNE!!! Flag Day, Father's Day, remember to feed your citrus.

We have a great opportunity to serve and to participate: The Fruit & Vegetable Show, June 11, is sponsored by the Jefferson County Horticulture Committee. They need our assistance, and you can also enter the competition.

In this past month, we have had lots of opportunities for Master Gardener participation:

We have two interns who have each anchored the Beaumont Farmer's Market table more than twice. Thank you, Michael Smith and Martha Rinker.

A core group of us cleaned up the plant beds at the Precinct 2 offices on May 18. While there, we were greeted and thanked for sprucing up and planning for the effects of hot and dry on the plants. Thank you to Carolyn Barras, Debby Parker, Michael Smith, Sara Ledwith-Zumwalt, Rebecca Jo Voss (thanks to her for organizing plants & mulch), and Jim Weinert.

There were a number of well-appreciated rains that next weekend, and we postponed cleaning up the Veteran's Memorial until Friday, May 27. We were fortunate that Precinct 2 had already mowed and weed-eated. Unfortunately our Wednesday people were unable to attend, but we picked up a couple of others. Stellina Reed, Rebecca Jo Voss, Michael Allen, Dave Burnett, Jim Weinert and Sara Ledwith-Zumwalt did a great job out there. After we were done, several of us talked

about our family connections to veterans.

I would like to share with you part of an email from my brother-in-law, Dan Kirkpatrick. He and his wife, Julie, served in the Navy. My husband told them what we Master Gardeners were going to do Friday morning. In response, Dan wrote:

"Please thank Marianne and friends from both of us for the work they're doing on the flower beds at your Veterans Park in Port Arthur for your Memorial Day remembrances. It may not get said enough, but it really does mean a lot to most all veterans, wherever we are."

The other thing that is often left unsaid is, "Thank you for your service."

See you soon,

Marianne Kirkpatrick



Agent's Two Cents

By David Oates

Jefferson County Horticulture Extension Agent

*"...it is officially
the HOT!!!
weather
season..."*

Well, it's official. No matter how you want to look at it, think about it, or react to it; it is officially the HOT!!! weather season, and it seems like it is here to stay for an extended period. I think we missed our gradual warm up of temperatures from the mid 80-degree temperatures on a daily basis to the upper and high 90-degree days on a continual basis. We jumped from the pleasant temperatures to the uncomfortable temperatures in a week's time span. Let's not forget about the lack of rain with only a shower or occasional passing chance of rain. At this point, I think most of the county is in a deficit of 8-10" of rainfall for the year. We have already started watering lots of the vegetable gardens and those prized annual and perennial beds to keep them healthy and vibrant. Last, but certainly not least, who can forget about all the high winds that we have encountered this spring and early summer season. With winds reaching gusts into the mid 40 mphs on some days, it is a wonder that we did not lose more plants than we did in certain circumstances. I personally had to replant some of the tomatoes at the demonstration garden due to wind damage since they were damaged from windburn and excessive winds that would simply snap apart

young tomato plants in their prime growing season. A big thanks to those folks who helped to improvise temporary wind blocks for all the plants at the test garden during sale time.

No matter your complaint against mother nature this year, gardeners will prevail against the elements. Mother nature threw the whole course of weather at gardeners this year in a brief period, just a few months into 2022. We have experienced freezing weather, wind, early season heavy rainfall, hot and dry spells, lack of rain, unbearable high temperatures and high humidity, and I am sure that I am forgetting something in between all of this, and this is only the month of June. With all the adversity of gardening, enthusiasts such as yourselves have shown what it takes to grow here in SE Texas. Be proud of your accomplishments thus far in the garden and landscape, and let's show everyone how we really garden here in SE Texas. Good luck on your gardens. Here's hoping to only dragging the water hose a short distance this year!



TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

51st Annual

Jefferson County Fruit and Vegetable Show

Saturday, June 11th

Central Mall

Entries received from 9:00 – Noon

Judging will begin at Noon

Enter your fresh or processed
fruits, vegetables, and herbs!

Anyone can enter!
Ribbons awarded!



Sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Jefferson County
Horticulture Committee, Central Mall Merchants Association

For more information and a copy of the show rules and
regulations Call 835-8461 or 727-2191 Ext. 8461

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who may need auxiliary aids or services are requested to contact Cary Erickson, Jefferson County Human Resources Director at (409) 839-2391 five working days prior to the meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

State Awards Results

By: Melissa Starr

Pictures are screen shots of the virtual presentation.

This year's state awards were presented virtually as part of the State Conference. The JC MGs entered three categories.

The first category was Youth-Other featuring the Boy Scouts who worked with Tony Lucenti and other JCMGs to earn their garden badge. Jefferson County placed FIRST in medium counties!

The next category was Outstanding Organization. To receive this award, we had to describe our organization, list awards received, list on-going projects, list new projects for 2021, describe how we met the educational needs of the community, and more. Jefferson county received FIRST place in medium counties!

Now for my favorite, Outstanding Individual. Eleanor Lazenby was nominated for this award, and she received FIRST place for medium counties!

Congratulations! You deserve it!



Eleanor Lazenby and Melissa Starr



Eleanor won the first place state award in 2021, and her daughter, Melissa, won the same state award in 2015. I don't know if that has ever happened before.

Spring Plant Sale

The Spring Plant Sale was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event possible, and a grand “Thank You!” to Debby Parker for being lead coordinator.



Thank you to Scout Troop 10 for all your help!



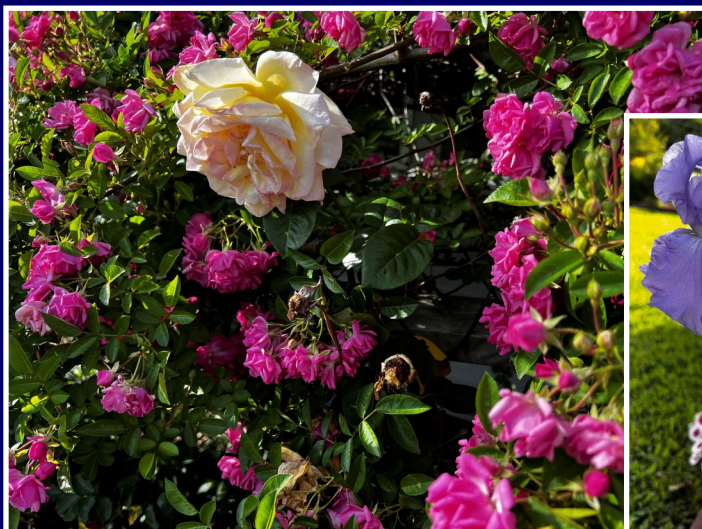
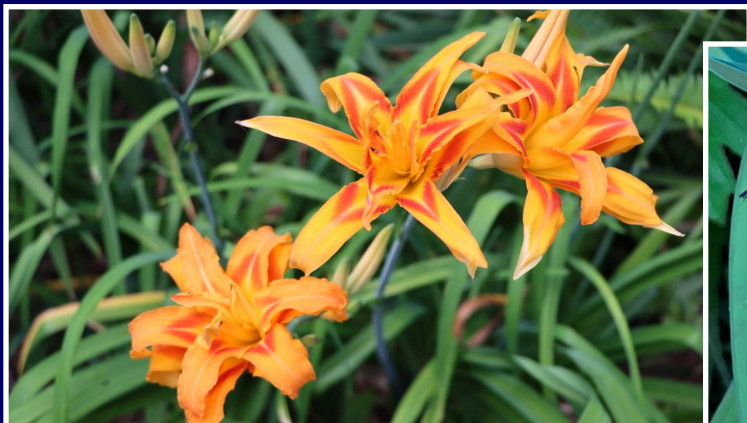
Spring Plant Sale cont.



Thank you Sharon for your beautiful booth!

Spring Flowers

Grown my Master Gardeners



Master Gardeners at Work



Michael Smith teaching 4th graders at Collier's Ferry.



Carolyn Barras, Debby Parker, Michael Smith, Sara Ledwith-Zumwalt, Rebecca Jo Voss (thanks to her for organizing plants & mulch), and Jim Weinert working at Commissioner's Precinct 2.



Stellina Reed, Rebecca Jo Voss, Michael Allen, Dave Burnett, Jim Weinert and Sara Ledwith-Zumwalt working at Veteran's Memorial



Master Gardener bed at Beaumont Botanical Gardens.



Sarah Sloan teaching about Texas Superstar plants.

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We're On The Web:

<http://txmg.org/jcmg/>

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MISSION STATEMENT

To encourage and support the horticultural community of Southeast Texas through education and example.

2022 Officers

President—Marianne Kirkpatrick

Vice President—Michael Allen

Secretary—Belinda Bullard

Treasurer—Debby Parker

At Large— Kevin Pierce, Eleanor Lazenby,
John Hughes

Newsletter Staff:

Editor: Melissa Starr

Announcements

Monday June 6
Library Education Day
at Terrell Park -
part of library education day camp series
MG's will provide activity on June 6 at
Tyrell Park.

Weekly help ALWAYS needed at our community gardens

Wesley-Seeds for Needs Garden. 3810 N major Dr., BMT every Tuesday/Thursday starting early usually around 8am. **Get with Toni Lucenti for additional times and days.

Grow to Share NSS Garden-4950 concord Rd, Beaumont, Tx

Volunteer anytime but especially on Tuesday and Thursdays; please get with Belinda Bullard for other times help may be needed.

Beaumont Farmers Market

JCMG Educational Booth

6525 College Street

(under the pavilion)

Starting February 19th

Every 3rd Saturday

8 a.m. - 11a.m.

TO PARTICIPATE CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE

(409) 835-8461 | Jennifer.coleman@ag.tamu.edu

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