



The Grapevine

The newsletter of the Lubbock County Master Gardeners Association
August 2018

August Calendar

Tuesday, 8-7

Master Gardener General Meeting
6:30 Covenant Presbyterian, 48th & Salem

Master Gardener Dennis Howard will speak on "Do It Yourself Greenhouse"

This program counts as 1 CEU.

Saturday, 8-11

Second Saturday at the Arboretum

10:00 am

Topic: Parks of Eternal Rest in Europe

This program counts as 1 CEU.

Saturday, 8-4

Downtown Farmers Market

9:00 till close

Master Gardeners will not have a booth this month.



Saturday, 8-18

Landmark After Dark Night Hike

Lubbock Lake Landmark

2401 Landmark Drive

Hike begins at 8:00

(dusk)

Begin at the Interpretive Center, hike along the nature trail. Listen to a tale, watch for creatures scurrying to bed, do some star gazing or participate in a solo-sit. This hike will take you down the nature trail, past an ancient playa lake, and back to the Interpretive Center. 75-90 minutes.



Chrysomelid Beetles

thanks to JeanAnne Stratton who took the photo and supplied the information



Chrysomelid beetles are commonly called leaf beetles or flea beetles. They are called flea beetles because they have enlarged back legs that allow them to jump high when disturbed. There are a number of different species and they are often found on different plants, vegetables and otherwise, in the backyard.

If you are looking to control them, you have a few options. Flea beetles typically cause serious damage on very young or seedling plants, but if you have older more established plants, control isn't necessary until 20% or more of the foliage is destroyed. Mechanical removal is often done by using a handheld vacuum to remove the beetles each day from the plants. There are organic insecticides that can be used, such as pyrethrin, but they don't last more than a day. Other options include diatomaceous earth or neem oil. Conventional pesticides can be used as well, and those will last longer, around a week. Cultural control options that can be used for next season would be to rotate the plants you used, or plant a trap crop. These beetles will typically feed on the tallest, earliest blooming plant (and then just remove the plant before it seeds).

Editor's note: According to the TAMU website, mustard is a good trap plant. Catnip, mint and sage repel beetles.

Katelyn A. Kesheimer, Ph.D.
IPM Agent – Lubbock and Crosby counties
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Sherrlyn Foster took this picture of a shrub hibiscus at the Artesia Hotel in Artesia, NM.

***Every beetle is a gazelle in the eyes of
its mother.***

Moroccan proverb

The Garden at the Alamo

picture and article by Judith Hardin



The Alamo is a very important historic site, not only to Texas, but also to the United States. People from all over the world visit there every year, and I try to go as often as I can. In recent years, I have focused on the Alamo grounds which have been featured on national garden television programs. The lawns are manicured daily, and are surrounded by a wide assortment of native plants. There are many park benches to rest on and reflect, and I am always amazed at the trees on the grounds. There are several live oak trees over a hundred years old, like the one in the photo. I'm not sure why I didn't photograph the one that most amazes me-- the pecan tree that was 40 years old when it was transplanted in 1912. With all the great care given to these aged and enormously large trees, they grow on and are sweet reminders of all of the history they have seen.

Angie Gregg bought these stamps at the Post Office this past week. The commemoratives feature the Monarch butterfly and the western honeybee.



News from Your Lubbock Master Gardeners Association

Save the date.....

for the 48th annual Fall Arts and Crafts Festival at the Lubbock Memorial Arboretum on Saturday, September 8th. Master Gardeners will have a booth. We will need volunteers to help with this fun event.

A new school garden

is slated at Whiteside Elementary for this new school year. They already have two raised beds but want to expand the garden.

Susan Hicks....

has agreed to be the garden coordinator for the Boys and Girls Club project. She has already met with the staff and will soon be recruiting volunteers.

Sherrlyn Foster, Communications Coordinator....

reports that as of July 22nd, there are 1038 Friends of Master Gardeners on our e-mail contact list, and 120 names in the Master Gardener directory.

JeanAnne Stratton, Certification Secretary....

has recorded 983.83 volunteer hours and 382.25 CEU's from all members as of July 24th. Please be sure to submit your hours. It is easy to do on our new TAMU volunteer web page. You can find it under "Members" on the Lubbock Master Gardeners website. If you have trouble reporting your hours, JeanAnne will be glad to help you. The more hours we report, the better! They are considered by the legislature as they decide on funding for Extension and for our Lubbock County Extension Office.



Flame acanthus in **Cecilia George's** garden. Five plants were purchased in the fall and bloomed the next year. Since then, they are cut down to the ground each spring and are tall and blooming in July. They get the western sun each afternoon and have withstood the intense heat very well. They are supposed to attract hummingbirds, but so far none have come by. Perhaps the plants will be a stop during the fall migration.

From Our July Gardens



Kale Bates vegetable garden before the heat began to damage the plants. It has been a hard July,

The Grapevine is published monthly except January. Send articles and photos to Editor Cecilia George, cfgeorge64@gmail.com Articles should be in Word with photos attached.



Sally Doherty grew these white cucumbers with seed from the Baker Creek seed company. Sally says that the skins are thin and that they are delicious in salads.



Sally Doherty also grew these Tennessee dancing gourds. You can spin these like a top, using the neck or the base.