

McLennan County Master Gardeners PRESENTS
LUNCH WITH THE MASTERS
2022 SEASON

Wednesday, March 16, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at MCC's Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr, Room 105

Topic: Creating Naturalized Areas in Urban Spaces

Presenter: Jim Moore

Jim Moore, retired USGA agronomist and recognized authority on environmental issues in golf course management, will present reasons for incorporating natural habitats in the city, as well share his list of plants to use. He'll bring us information gleaned from his more than 30+ years of experience with USGA, which included more than 1,000 consultations and more than 500 educational presentations in 15 countries. Jim and his wife Kay, who is a degreed horticulturalist and shared his 30+ year career at USGA as his office manager, make their home in McGregor.

Be sure to bring your lunch to this free session. Everyone is welcome,

For more information: visit <https://txmg.org/mclennan/> or call the McLennan County Texas Agri Life office, 254/757-5180.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at MCC's Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr, Room 105.

Topic: The Lake Waco Wetlands and its partnership with the Heart of Texas Master Naturalist Chapter

Presenters: Nora Schell & Rebecca Simanek

Nora Schell, who is the long-time Program Coordinator of the Lake Waco Wetlands and is President of the Heart of Texas Master Naturalists, will explore the wetland ecosystem. The 180-acre Lake Waco Wetlands is a working, living lab, full of educational opportunities for all school aged children and adults. She'll cover species of plants and animals live her as well as water quality concerns flowing through the wetlands. Birding hikes, wildflower hikes, and scheduled volunteer pollinator plantings are offered throughout the year.

Nora will be joined by **Rebecca Simanek**, who prior to moving to Texas, worked as a gardener at Cheekwood Botanical Gardens in Nashville, Tennessee for two years. She is both a Master Naturalist and a Master Gardener, and has been taking a number of native plant classes, primarily through the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. In addition to talking about flowering plants like those in the

wetlands garden, she will talk about host plants and some general garden practices that are good for pollinators and birds.

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Wednesday, May 25, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at MCC's Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr, Room 105

Topic: Texas Tough Plants

Presenter: Steven Chamblee, Longview Arboretum

Steven Chamblee, Executive Director at Longview Arboretum & Nature Center. presentation will focus on Texas Tough Plants. This environmentally-friendly program highlights garden-worthy plants that thrive in the harsh, long summer conditions of North Central Texas, particularly in heat and drought. His session will be especially helpful for people new to this region or those who wish to expand their gardening knowledge beyond traditional landscaping. Steven will feature trees, shrubs, color, and accents in this program with special emphasis on heavily-flowering herbaceous perennials.

Steven is the Executive Director at Longview Arboretum & Nature Center. According to the *Longview News Journal*, he is considered one of the top five horticulturalists in Texas by Neil Sperry, a man regarded as Texas' guru on all things horticultural. As writer of the column, "Native Son," Steven has been a regular contributor to Sperry's publications over the years — first to the now-defunct Neil Sperry's Gardens magazine and now to the Neil Sperry's e-gardens newsletter.

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Wednesday, June 15, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at Central Presbyterian Church Activity Center, 9191 Woodway Dr., Woodway

Topic: Indoor Plants

Presenter: Ashli Robken, owner of Bonnie's Greenhouse

Ashli Robken is the owner of Bonnie's Greenhouse in Waco, which has been a green landmark in the Central Texas area for over 40 years. Ashli, a graduate of Tarleton State University with a degree in Horticulture, will be presenting the basics of caring for houseplants, as well as, how to grow and propagate these plants into different soil substitutes such as LECA, which has a number of benefits.

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Wednesday, July 20, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at Central Presbyterian Church Activity Center, 9191 Woodway Dr., Woodway

Presenter: Deb Tolman, Ph.D.

Topic: Keyhole Gardening

Deb Tolman, a well-known expert in sustainability who headquarters in Clifton, will discuss her method of filling a keyhole garden, microbiology, critter control, horticulture, and composting in general. She will discuss comparisons to conventional growing and farming and explain why conventional growing methods struggle to be productive in today's soils, and how the keyhole garden can overcome those struggles. She will also discuss The Silo Project, an outdoor educational non-profit in Clifton she directs that takes gardening to a whole new level while planting seeds for sustainable practices with hands on applications.

You may already know Dr. Deb through her DVD, her book "Soiled Rotten," or you may have seen her on Texas Country Reporter where she told Bob Phillips that it takes a dumpster's worth of flattened cardboard to build one keyhole garden her way. If you don't know Deb or haven't heard of keyhole gardens, you will want to hear how to be the best gardener using a keyhole garden.

She holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences/Resources and Geography from Portland State University. She has over thirty years of experience in academic research and landscape design, as well as extensive and formal training in plant nutrition, economics, and environmental education.

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Wednesday, August 17, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at Central Presbyterian Church Activity Center, 9191 Woodway Dr., Woodway

Topic: Fall Bloomers: Native Plants, Perennials and how to gather seeds

Presenters: Mark Barnett & the MCMG Seed Bank Team

Mark Barnett, a graduate of Texas State Technical College with a degree in Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, will use the knowledge gained from his 30+ years of professional gardening experience to give you an overview of some of the best native plants and perennials for Central Texas and tips for helping them flourish. He was a founding member of McLennan County Master Gardeners in 1996 and has 12 years of experience in landscape design and installation. He is an expert in native landscaping and is certified in Earth Kind Soil consultation.

He'll be joined by members of the **MCMG Seed Bank** who will share information on how to harvest seeds, plant seeds and care for new seedlings.

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Wednesday, September 21, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at MCC's Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr, Room 105

Topic: Empress of the Garden

Presenter: Mike Shoup, owner of Antique Rose Emporium

Mike Shoup, of course, will be talking about antique roses, which he believes are the ultimate easy-care garden plant. For the past 35 years his goal has been to give credibility to these old roses. He said, nothing can substitute for the benefits of hands-on experience. But he hopes to answer enough questions and generate enough enthusiasm to launch participants into the world of old roses with confidence.

He earned a master's degree in horticulture and started his nursery in 1976. He didn't start as a rose lover, but as he began to search for hardy native plants, he and his helper started finding ever-blooming roses surviving without any apparent care in desolate surroundings. In 1982, they chanced upon a huge rose covering a chain link fence, made an unauthorized "rustle," and brought back flowers and cuttings. Identified by a rosarian as 'Mermaid,' was not for sale anywhere. Soon it, and the other "survivor" roses became the foundation of the Antique Rose Emporium offerings.

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Wednesday, October 19, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at MCC's Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr, Room 105

Topic: Landscape planning: foundation plants & soil amendments

Presenters: Sandy Katz & Jeanette Kelly

Sandy Katz, who has been a Master Gardener since 2004, will center her presentation around the importance of using foundational plants that stay looking good year-round, with emphasis on not only evergreen plants, but species with texture, height variations and low maintenance. She will incorporate the use of hardscapes to show the you that every space does not have to filled with plants. As a MCMG, Sandy has plenty of landscape experience having designed the outdoor classroom at Cedar Ridge

Elementary, the Superstar Bed at the Carleen Bright Arboretum, the Star Shaped bed known as the McGregor Garden, the Jobs Test Garden and Miss Nellie's Pretty Place at Cameron Park. She also enjoys helping homeowners with their own private landscapes and making the homeowner's vision for their yard come to life!

She'll be joined by **Jeanette Kelly**, a MCMG since 2004, who will review the soils of Texas, the types of soil in our area, and show how to use the soil test as taught through TAMU. She'll show samples of soil amendments, such as expanded shale, compost and mulch. A MCMG composting specialist, she has helped to prepare the soil at most of the MCMG gardens, including Woodway Elementary School, Cedar Ridge elementary, McGregor Demonstration Garden, Habitat for Humanity, and Miss Nellie's Pollinator Teaching Garden. She said she's learned what works and what does not and will share with you.

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Wednesday, November 16, 2022, noon to 2 p.m.

at MCC's Emergency Services Education Center, 7601 Steinbeck Bend Dr, Room 105

Topic: Cacti and fall decorating with succulents

Presenters: Steven Lovecky & Jeanette Kelly

Steven Lovecky, who has been a McLennan County Master Gardener since 2004, is well known locally for his expertise in cactus and succulents. He says most cacti are **not** of the "drop-it-on-the-ground-and-it-will-grow" variety. Many cactus plants require specialized skills, experience, and care to propagate and establish. Steven grows and propagates over a thousand species and varieties.

"Learning how to propagate these plants inevitably means you will fail, and fail and fail – until you learn how to succeed. One grower I know concluded that a person must kill a thousand plants before success as a cactus grower. I am well on my way to success." He'll share what he's learned with you.

Jeanette Kelly, Master Gardener since 2004 and a gifted decorator, will show you how to create an all-natural door-step arrangement with pumpkin and succulents after Steven's presentation.

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