



Master Gardener Gazette

Nueces County, Tx

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

The mission of the association shall be to organize and promote volunteer efforts that support Agrilife Extension programs advancing sound horticultural practices in Nueces County (<http://NUECES.AGRILIFE.ORG>)

2018 Nueces Master Gardener Officers

During the November General Meeting the following Nueces Master Gardeners nominees were elected to the officer positions as shown below. They will all assume their positions effective January 1, 2018.

**Issue 24 – Dec. 2017
IN THIS ISSUE**

- P1 NMG Officers 2017
- P1 Election Results
- P2 Holiday Celebration
- P2 Volunteering
- P2 Other Activities
- P2 Ongoing Projects
- P3 Agent's Notes
- P4 12 Day of Christmas
- P5 Intern Training Class
- P6 Underneath a Pot
- P6 TMGA Conference
- P7 CCISD Registration
- P7 Betty Rogers
- P7 Birthdays
- P8 NMG Specialist
- P8 Specialist Training
- P8 Work at STBG
- P8 A New Greenhouse
- P9 Invasive Earthworms
- P10 Oso Bay Wetlands
- P10 Editors Note
- P10 Disclaimers

LEADERSHIP

- President
Michael Bishop
- Vice President
Open
- Secretary
Michelle Scott
- Treasurer
Suzy Murray
- Members at Large
Linda Lamprecht
John Slusarz
Sandra Williams
- State Directors
Huxley Smith
Mary Lambert
Alt - Nina Dawson
- Gazette Editor
John Slusarz
- Hours Coordinator
Betty Rogers
- Extension Office
Lisa Martinez

Leadership Contacts
CLICK THIS



President
John Slusarz
Class 25



Vice President
Beth Spirko
Class 25



Secretary
Open



Treasurer
Suzy Murray
Class 26



Member at Large
Linda Lamprecht
Class 20



Member at Large
Huxley Smith
Class 16



Member at Large
Theresa Stelzig
Class 20



State Director
Nina Dawson
Class 27



State Director
Mary Lambert
Class 21



State Director (Alt)
Carlos Valdez
Class 22

The Secretary position is still vacant, and should be filled in order to have a full council representation. If you have any interest in this position, or want to know its responsibilities, please contact Michael Bishop at 361-701-6207 or email him at Mbishop1@stx.rr.com.

Additionally, there were no candidates put forward as nominees for any of the positions as elected officers for 2019, these positions that remain open are: president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. If anyone has an interest in these open positions, please contact NMG Debra Martin.



MASTER GARDENERS MEETING

STUDENT RECOGNITION & HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



Tuesday, December 12

6:30pm at the Senior Center

For the main course there will be a delicious turkey, cooked to perfection by Thorunn Kelley, and a wonderful ham, from the oven of Linda Lamprecht. A second turkey would be beneficial if someone has the skill and time.

Everyone can bring their family favorite festive seasonal hot or cold side dish or a dessert to share. Norma Hernandez is coordinating the menu, so please let her know what dish you will provide and if you will be bringing any guests.

You can reply to Norma at cluestar@swbell.net.



To share our abundance and the holiday experience with others, we will be collecting canned food that will go to the Coastal Bend Food Bank and/or a packaged new toy, for children 11 years and older, that will be donated to Toys-for-Tots. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

If you can, we will need help with decorating and set up that will begin at 4pm.

Treasurer will have a table for paying 2018 dues.
\$12.00 - Only cash or checks acceptable.

[5325 Greely Dr, Corpus Christi, TX](#)

[CLICK FOR MAP](#)

Wishing you a very
MERRY CHRISTMAS

Make change happen, volunteer!

OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

Mon, Dec. 4 -Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve
 8am, Seed Collection 361.826.3311

Thr, Dec. 7 - **Orchidology:** 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm BG

Wed, Dec. 27 – Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve
 8am, Remove Invasive Grass, 361.826.3311

HOLIDAY SALE FOR MEMBERS until December 31 - South Texas Botanical Gardens Nature’s Boutique gift shop Holiday Sale for Members of the & Nature Center means a 20 percent member discount on all non-sale merchandise, books and available plants.

BG - Botanical Gardens

[CLICK FOR A MAP - 8545 South Staples](#)

ONGOING PROJECTS COMMITTEE/PROJECT CONTACTS PDF - [CLICK THIS](#)



BOTANICAL GARDENS, Wednesday, 7:30 am
GARDEN SENIOR CENTER COURTYARD, 1st Monday, 8am Jessica Latimer 563-6008 or 429paloma@att.net

FOOD BANK PROJECT “Outgrow Hunger”
 Tuesdays 7:30 am (Except MG meeting day then Wednesday) Contact: Mary Lambert 813-7596 or cwlmel@yahoo.com

NATURE CONSERVANCY Mondays, 4:00pm & Blucher Park 5:00 pm (Behind the Main Library). Contact: Karen Smith 877-9723

RAY HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE MG Work-days Tuesday and Thursday 9:55 - 10:55am
 2:40 - 3:30 Rosemary Plank 945-5915



Agents Notes

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Kevin O. Gibbs, CEA - Horticulture
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Gumgum was a gardener!

Seems I was always surrounded by people who loved to eat. My grandpa had been an alcoholic for most of his life, but had managed to come clean by the time I knew him. I called him Gumgum, because he always had a pack of Wrigley's in his pocket. I found out later that the gum was a tool he had used to stop smoking and drinking. When he had the urge to partake of one of the two he would put in a stick of gum. My grandpa was an avid gardener who loved to eat fresh vegetables. We always had corn, fresh peas, watermelons, turnips, rutabagas, spinach, carrots and much, much more. He didn't like weeds either; every day during gardening season, you would find him, hoe in hand chopping at them. One of his favorite vegetables was purple hull peas. Grannie would cook them up and always put in some bacon, ham hock or salt pork. We'd chow down with a bowl of those purple hulls and a chunk of corn bread from the cast-iron skillet.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA](#)

Grandpa had apricot trees in the back too, every year he'd call us and tell us to bring some bags and pick us some. We made everything we could out of the little suckers. Apricot jelly, apricot fried pies, apricot cobbler, you name it we probably tried it. Sometimes we even had apricot wars with my cousins and siblings. Apricots have a pretty good sting when they zap you in the face. I never knew apricots were expensive until I grew up. We just knew we'd had our fill of apricots. I drove by their house not too long ago. No more apricot trees, no vegetable garden. Gone, is all the evidence of a wonderful couple who loved their family and raised them well. Good thing I still have all those terrific memories!

I bet it took lots of hard work and determination to kick the addiction to alcohol and cigarettes, but because he did, I only have fond memories from those days. My mom tells me of stories of drunken misery from when he was younger. I'm glad he stopped drinking; it left me with wonderful childhood memories of my grandparents. I loved to make grandpa smile after he had taken his false teeth out. I thought it was the funniest thing ever and he would do it over and over. I miss you Gumgum, take out your falsies and smile big in heaven. Oh, and tell my Daddy I love him!

We made it through Thanksgiving, now if we can just breeze through Christmas! This year there are many things to be thankful for! Living in a country where we are free. Bountiful friends and loved ones. Good food! But most of all access to every plant imaginable! Winter is a great time for gardening here and you don't sweat nearly as badly. Get out there and have some fun!

Twelve Days of Christmas for Master Gardeners



*Submission and Interpretation
by Nueces Master Gardener Linda Frost*



- 🎵 *On the first day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the second day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 2 garden gloves and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the third day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the fourth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the fifth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the sixth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 6 trowels digging, 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the seventh day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 7 shears pruning, 6 trowels digging, 5 raised beds... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the eighth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 8 mowers mowing, 7 shears pruning, 6 trowels digging, 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the ninth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 9 shovels lifting, 8 mowers mowing, 7 shears pruning, 6 trowels digging, 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the tenth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 10 loppers lopping, 9 shovels lifting, 8 mowers mowing, 7 shears pruning, 6 trowels digging, 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the eleventh day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 11 hoses flowing, 10 loppers lopping, 9 shovels lifting, 8 mowers mowing, 7 shears pruning, 6 trowels digging, 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds, 3 flower pots, 2 garden gloves, and a seagull in a palm tree.
- 🎵 *On the twelfth day* of Christmas, my true love gave to me, 12 gardeners eating ... 11 hoses flowing ... 10 loppers lopping ... 9 shovels lifting ... 8 mowers mowing ... 7 shears pruning ... 6 trowels digging ... 5 raised beds ... 4 hummingbirds ... 3 flower pots ... 2 garden gloves ... and a seagull in a palm tree!

Master Gardener Class



The 2017 Nueces Master Gardener Intern training class are finally complete.

The 2017 Intern training classes are over, much to the relief of the interns. The only thing left was the final exam. As shown below the Interns are working through the quiz, hoping to find the answers.



To see all the pictures, from beginning to end, of all the classes - [CLICK THIS](#)

Found Underneath a Pot

Land Planarian (*Bipalium kewense*) Arrowhead Flatworm



Intern Kelly Munguia posted these pictures, on November 14th, to the Nueces Master Gardener Facebook Bulletin Board of a creature she found underneath a pot in her yard. She then did some online investigation and found out what it is, a Land Planarian.



Now the good news... Land Planarians are effective predators as they will eat slugs and many types of harmful insect larvae. The thought of having a beneficial that preys on slugs should be encouraging!



But now the not-so-good news... while all of this sounds rather benign, the land planarian is not necessarily without flaws (at least from a gardener perspective, but Mother Nature does not operate in such black-and-white perspectives). Like an earthworm, it burrows in moist soil, but it can exhibit much more sinister epicurean habits. Although it will eat slugs and harmful insect larvae, the Land Planarian will also dine on earthworms!

For full information on this little cutie - [CLICK THIS.](#)

[https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-57\(partial\)_land_planarian.htm](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/beneficials/beneficial-57(partial)_land_planarian.htm)



2018 TMGA CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

To all our Texas Master Gardeners: Come join Master Gardeners from all over Texas for this exceptional conference! We are celebrating our 40th Birthday and the Texas Master Gardener Earth-Kind® Garden within the Leach Teaching Gardens, part of The Gardens at Texas A&M University. This conference will be THREE FULL DAYS!

Register before December 31, 2017 and get our **SPECIAL EARLY-BIRD Pricing*** of \$255

*price increases to \$285 on Jan 1, 2018

[Visit our website](#) to see our amazing lineup of special events, speakers, workshops, and tours!

THIS WILL BE A CONFERENCE LIKE NO OTHER!

APRIL 4-6, 2018 AT TEXAS A&M CAMPUS, COLLEGE STATION

B O N U S !

All registrations received by Dec 31, 2017 will be entered into a drawing for 3 Extra Special prizes!

- One night stay at any of our listed hotels during the conference
- Exclusive Master Gardener embossed denim messenger bag
- Basket of specially chosen Master Gardener "surprise" gifts

[Conference Website - CLICK THIS](#)



CCISD Volunteer Registration



If you are going to help with any of the school gardens the Corpus Christi Independent School District requires you to complete a volunteer registration form.

CCISD Volunteer Registration Process:

1. Complete and submit the on-line Volunteer application at: <https://jobs.ccisd.us/winocular/Workspace/wSpace.exe>
2. All registrations must include the applicant's correct name, social security number, and a physical address.
3. The application system will immediately run a nation-wide background check.
4. The Volunteer application will be review by CCISD Human Resources in one (1) business day.
5. If there are any background check issues, the application will be review by CCISD Police Services
6. **Applications are normally approved within 1 to 2 business days.**
7. Approved applicants will receive an email with their 5-digit Applicant ID and a copy of their Volunteer Approval Letter attached.
8. **Approved applicant may then go to any campus with their 5-digit Applicant ID and a valid photo ID (current Driver's License, State Photo ID, or active Military ID Card).**
9. The campus will print the District Policies and Confidentiality Agreement for the volunteer's signature, and keep on file (at the campus) with a copy of the Volunteer's Photo ID.
10. The Volunteer will be issued a campus ID Badge.

It's easy to do!! Thank you, Paula Silva



Work Days

Sat., Dec 2- Xeriscape garden 8am to noon. Xeriscape garden work day, we will be planting trees and shrubs to replace the damaged ones from the hurricane and general clean-up of the garden. Located at the entrance to the CC Museum of Science & History.



[CLICK THIS FOR A MAP](#). For more information contact Joanne Salge joannes@cctexas.com

Mon., Dec 4 - Senior Center Courtyard 8am. This monthly workday is part of our responsibility for our use of the facility. The work is general maintenance; trimming, edging and just general clean-up.



For more info contact Jessica Latimer 563-6008 or 429paloma@att.net. [CLICK FOR MAP](#)

From Betty Rogers

TIPS ON REPORTING YOUR HOURS



The Intern Recognition Meeting does **NOT** count for volunteer or CE hours. Neither does cooking a ham, turkey, etc. Instead it is a time for us to get together to have a good time and get to know one another better. You may count time for decorating/cleanup.



Nueces Master Gardeners celebrating a birthday this month include the following. The next time that you see one of them, make sure that you take the time to tell and wish that they have a

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Dec 06	Kelly Denson,	27
Dec 09	Carol Barragy,	21
Dec 11	Jill Barris,	26
Dec 12	Carlos Valdez,	22
Dec 25	John Balcar,	3
Dec 30	Madeline Church,	27



spe.cial.st

noun: **specialist**; plural noun: **specialists**

1. a person who concentrates primarily on a particular subject or activity; a person highly skilled in a specific and restricted field.

The above definition, from Merriam-Webster dictionary, is most appropriate for the Nueces Master Gardeners that have gone the extra mile to gain certification in various horticulture specialties. Their achievements, as specialists, provide our organization with greater expertise in so many relevant areas.

Too often the contributions of these members of our organization are under appreciated. To see all the Nueces Master Gardeners that have been certified as specialists and the areas of their specialty - [CLICK THIS](#) or the image to the right.

NUECES MASTER GARDENER SPECIALIST		
	Lisa Martin	Composting Specialist (2015)
	Stephanie Moore	Composting Specialist (2015)
	Deb Dufek	Composting Specialist (2015)
	Carol Taylor	Practical Specialist (2015)
	Nadine Williams	Waterlogging Specialist (2015)
	Deb Dufek	Pruning & Thinning Specialist (2016)
	Beverly Lewis	Composting Specialist (2016)
	Lisa Martin	Integrated Pest Management Specialist (2016)
	Lisa Martin	Pruning & Thinning Specialist (2017)





Specialist Training – Vegetables

Dates - 2/08/2017 - 02/10/2017

Location - Dallas Co. Texas A&M AgriLife Extensive Service

The Vegetable Specialist program is designed to train and certify Master Gardeners to become part of a state corps of volunteer experts and educators. To become a certified Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist, you are required to attend the Vegetable Specialist training to fulfill training requirements and subsequently meet service requirements described in the website link shown below. Training activities during the course will empower you to complete these service requirements. For full information - [CLICK THIS https://txmg.org/events/specialist-training-vegetables-2/](https://txmg.org/events/specialist-training-vegetables-2/)



Starting a Greenhouse

Work at Botanical Gardens



Nueces Master Gardener Intern Liz Yzaguirre checked in on the Master Gardener Facebook Bulletin Board on Saturday, November 11 to report she had a great work day at the Botanical Gardens.

She volunteered her time, and energy, with the Plumeria Society by helping with the annual process of removing leaves from the plumeria. This is

Nueces Master Gardener Michelle Garrett  advised on the Master Gardener Facebook Bulletin Board that she, with a little help

from her husband, had laid the foundation for and was building a greenhouse.

Needing advice and helpful hints, as she never had a greenhouse of her own, she queried NMGs for anything they could offer to make the greenhouse experience much better. Knowing Michelle, it will be a fantastic success that she will enjoy for many years to come.



Invasive Earthworms Worms That Can Jump

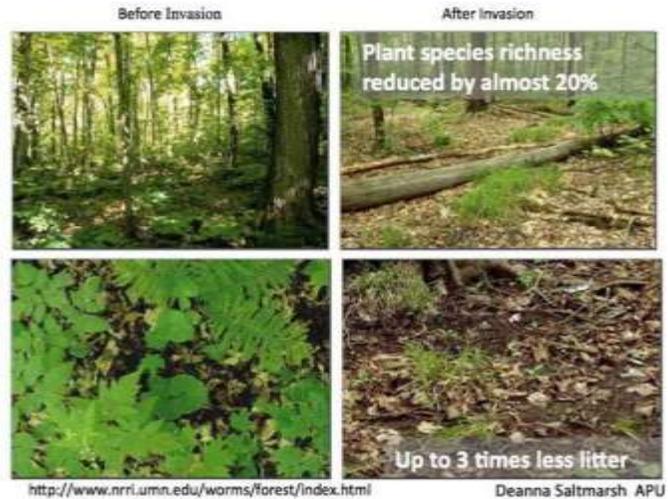


<https://www.nps.gov/grsm/learn/nature/dff-earthworms10.htm>

You may know this worm already, although when the Asian Jumpin Worm (*Amyntas agrestis*) is sold for bait or composting as the Alabama Jumper or Georgia Jumper, there is no mention of the destruction it can bring to forests. Composting ads boast that the worm can eat and process more than its body weight in organic matter (vegetable scraps, leaves, lawn trimmings, etc.)

each day. That same tenacious appetite means that when people release their bait (or their bait escapes) and the worms make their way to the forest, they consume massive amounts of leaf litter. If you were a leaf-litter-feeder such as a millipede, fly larvae, or springtail, this would be a big problem because your food source would be gone! It would also be bad if you were a creature that ate these invertebrates. In some areas on the western side of the Smokies, the Jumping Worm population is so high there is almost no leaf litter left. Without this food, native animals are disappearing, and the nutrients from decaying plants aren't there to build new soil!

Full article - [CLICK THIS](#) and for picture insert article - [CLICK THIS](#) <http://nrri.d.umn.edu/worms/forest/index.html>



<http://www.nrri.d.umn.edu/worms/forest/index.html>

Deanna Saltmarsh APU



Tech Insider Published on Sep 4, 2016 - Our country is under threat from its tiniest invaders. *Amyntas agrestis*, or "crazy snake worm," is an earthworm natively from Korea and Japan that has begun appearing in the U.S. They're everywhere in Wisconsin, Vermont, Georgia, New York, and Tennessee, and spreading quickly. **For a short video - CLICK THE PICTURE** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKuK8o_l1_g

The Crazy Snake Worm, *Amyntas agrestis*, is an aggressively invasive earthworm that hails from Korea and Japan. Most earthworm species found in Vermont have probably come into North America by early colonial trading with Europe. These worms are in the family of Lumbricidae. The new invaders are from East Asia and are in the earthworm family Megascolecidae. There are several *Amyntas* species in the North East. These species are usually called Jumper worms (Alabama Jumpers), Wrighglers (Jersey Wrighglers) or Snake Worms. It is difficult to differentiate among these species by looking at their external appearance. One needs to look at the internal organs of these worms to tell which species they are. The only *Amyntas* species found in Vermont to this date are *Amyntas agrestis*. These worms are very aggressive invaders that change forest structure and the decomposer community in the affected forests. This may have long range effects on these forests including a reduction in forest regeneration. Just imagine a world without maple syrup ...

Full article PDF download - [CLICK THIS](#) <http://blog.uvm.edu/jgorres/amynthas/>



The University of Vermont



Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve

New Volunteer Opportunity

Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve & Learning Center is starting a Seed Collecting program for volunteers that will be on Monday, December 4th at 8:00am.

The morning will consist of collecting and storing native seeds that will be used in future habitat restoration projects. Justin will do an introduction/training on how to identify the plants and seed heads that we will be concentrating on to collect and store.

We may also be removing invasive grass and scattering native seeds in the cleared area. The group will be staying relatively close to the building, depending on what seeds are available that day.

We will also be having a trail clean-up to remove invasive grass on December 27th at 8:00am.

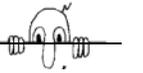
Please let me know if you are interested in attending! Also, feel free to pass the word along to any friends or family that may like to help as well

Lauren Piorkowski | Recreation Coordinator | Oso Bay Wetlands Preserve & Learning Center
[361.826.3311](tel:361.826.3311) | LaurenP@cctexas.com | www.osopreserve.com



Just A Note From Your Master Gardener Gazette Editor

Editor: John M. Slusarz Phone: 361-939-0505 E-mail: jmslusarz2@gmail.com



Keeping with the spirit of the season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Nueces Master Gardeners and Interns that have contributed, in many different ways, to their Gazette over the past year. Their contributions have been entertaining, informative and most important; educational.

Thanks for their contributions to the Gazette go out to; John Balcar, Marsha Clodfelter, Nina Dawson, Linda Frost, Michell Garrett, Deb Holliday, Thorunn Kelley, Beverly Leach, Linda Lamprecht, Jessica Latimer, Stephanie Martin, Barbara Moses, Kelly Munguia, Rosemary Plank, Betty Rogers, Paula Silva, Joanne Salge, Carlos Valdez, Sandra Williams, Liz Yzaguirre and my copy editor Lisa Martinez.

If I neglected to mention you for your contribution, and I am so very sure that I have, please forgive. I want to also take this occasion to beg forgiveness for all those faux pas, omissions and errors that have been committed in the Gazette throughout the year. Wishing a Merry Christmas to all!

Kevin O. Gibbs, CEA-Horticulture—Editor: John M. Slusarz

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Individuals with disabilities who require auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-767-5217 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

Contacts: for general information please contact Extension office at:
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 Robstown, Texas 78380 361) 767-5217
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