

# *Master Gardener Gazette*

January 2018 Issue 25

## *WINTER*

*SOUTH TEXAS  
COASTAL BEND  
IS A CONTRAST  
OF THE SEASONS  
CHANGING ON  
A DAILY BASIS*

*YOU CAN ONLY  
MARVEL AT THE  
BEAUTY THAT  
NATURE HAS  
ARRANGED FOR  
US TO ENJOY  
AND APPRECIATE.*





# Master Gardener Gazette

Nueces County, Tx



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>)

## STUDENT RECOGNITION & HOLIDAY CELEBRATION



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### LEADERSHIP

- President  
John Slusarz
- Vice President  
Beth Spirko
- Secretary  
Brenda Bishop\*  
Jessica Latimer \*
- Treasurer  
Suzy Murray
- Members at Large  
Linda Lamprecht  
Huxley Smith  
Theresa Stelzig
- State Directors  
Nina Dawson  
Mary Lambert
- Alt - Carlos Valdez
- Gazette Editor  
John Slusarz
- Hours Coordinator  
Betty Rogers
- Extension Office  
Lisa Martinez

\*pending election  
[LEADERSHIP CONTACTS](#)  
[CLICK THIS](#)

2017 Master Gardener Graduates - Class 28  
Interns that graduated but not show are; Linda Early, Sofia Flores, Ryan Hanisch, Melanie Mora, Gina Sanchez and Elizabeth Yzaquirre



Marsha Clodfelter  
Certified Master Gardener



Barbara Moses  
Certified Master Gardener



Brian Carter



Kelly Munguia



Mary Ochoa

**MASTER GARDENERS MEETING  
Tuesday, January 16**

- 10:30am - Board of Directors Meeting
- 11:30am - Meet and Greet Over Lunch
- 12:00pm - Presentation
- 12:30pm - General Meeting

Many thanks go out to the lunch volunteers for this months meeting; Deb Holliday and Rita Phillips  
*To volunteer for future lunches, contact Rita Phillips  
 991-0750 or email [rnphillipsctx@grandecom.net](mailto:rnphillipsctx@grandecom.net)*

**[5325 Greely Dr, Corpus Christi, TX - CLICK FOR MAP](#)**



**11<sup>th</sup> WINTER LECTURE SERIES  
Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

- Jan 17 - Grow Local South Texas** - Aislynn Campbell, Executive Director, *Grow Local*
- Jan 24 - Rainwater Harvesting** - Carlos Valdez, Nueces Master Gardener Rainwater Harvesting Specialist
- Jan 31 - Sensational Succulents** - Merlien Wilder
- Feb 7 - Wildflower Legends & Lore** - Betty Whitt, Nueces Master Gardener
- Feb 14 - What Type of Rose Do I Need?** - Jan Shannon, Corpus Christi Rose Society
- Feb 21 - Raptor Rehab at Texas Sea Life Center** - Amanda Terry, Director of Rehabilitation, *Texas Sea Life Center*
- Feb 28 - Worm Composting** - Rosemary Plank, Nueces Master Gardener

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

**Free Urban Soil Testing January 12 – February 28**

**For Corpus Christi residents,**

Have you had your soil tested lately? If not, please take advantage of this opportunity. The report will tell you your soil nitrogen, phosphorous & potassium levels and acidity level and can help you select the right fertilizer for your lawn, landscape, vegetable and flower gardens - 767-5217

Make **change** happen,  
**volunteer!**

**OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH**

- Wed. Jan. 3** - Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society, 7pm, GC, 852-7700
- Thur, Jan. 4** - **Orchidology:** 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm BG
- Tue. Jan. 9** - **Garden Council** meeting, 537-8231 10:am GC
- Wed, Jan. 24** - **Plumeria Society** meeting, 6:30pm, GC, 813-9616
- Thur, Jan. 25** - **Bonsai Society** meeting, 7pm, GC, 992-0009
- Thur. Jan. 25** - **Bromeliad Society** meeting, 658-8650 GC 7pm

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

**[CLICK FOR MAP](#)**

**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 Workdays Tuesday and Thursday 9:55 - 10:55am 2:40 - 3:30 Rosemary Plank 945-5915



## Agents Notes

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

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



## Nueces Master Gardener Presidents Corner

John Slusarz  
President 2018



### The Sweetest Bramble I know!

If you've ever tried getting day sensitive plants to bloom when you want them to bloom, not when they want to bloom, then you know how tricky it can be. The slightest interruption from people going in and out of the room where the plants are located the porch light, or even the street light can totally disrupt the setting of blooms on these types of plants. Many times, I've thrown my hands up and just let them bloom when they chose to; it's much easier that way. This year, to my surprise, my mom asked, "can you tell me how to get my old poinsettias to bloom again"? I walked her through the steps and told her what would need to happen for the poinsettia to be blooming at Christmas time.

It's hard for me to believe that my mom is now 80. She may not move as quickly as she once did, but she is still a fireball, just waiting to shift her energy from one thing to the next. I never know what she's gonna ask for, but if it's within my capability, I'm gonna try to make it happen. Usually, it's simple things like repotting her plants or helping her change light bulbs, but occasionally it's something tough. One year when we were still in East Texas, she asked me to help her find a yellow Rose; not just any yellow rose, but one like her favorite climbing rose, that she had grown when she was younger. As she described its attributes, I knew this was not your everyday run of the mill climbing yellow rose. I searched big box stores, local nurseries and roadside vendors looking for the yellow rose my mom was wanting, but each time I would find one, it just wasn't quite right. Finally, I found one with medium sized yellow roses. It was the thorniest rose I had ever seen. "This can't be it I thought!", but I grabbed the only one they had and shipped it off to my mom. She planted it and the next spring was so excited to tell me that it was indeed the yellow rose that she had been wanting. The point, I'm trying to make, is that some of the thorniest brambles provide some of sweetest memories. Who or what has been your thorny bramble?

*Continued next column*

Hoping everyone has a Happy New Year. To start things off I thought I would should tell you a little about me, so here is a brief recap of my life.

I was born and spent my childhood in Camden, NJ. Which is why I will occasionally use a "you guys" in place of a customary "y-all". After completing a stint in the Army I went to work for American Airlines. I started out as a "ramp rat", loading baggage and cargo into the lower holds of aircraft, at Philadelphia airport. I managed to get into a management development program, these were the days when airlines were regulated and prospering, and became a first line supervisor at the airport in Newark, NJ. While there I bought my first house in Piscataway, NJ.

Thereafter, I held a few management positions at Americans headquarters located at 633 3rd Ave. in New York City; during this time they relocated the headquarters to Dallas, TX and I, and my family, went along with them. Hello Duncanville Texas.

After a few years I went back to airport operations at Dallas airport and retired there after 30 years with American. I then spent some time working for a airline contracting company and also did a few consulting jobs for different airlines. Airlines had been deregulated and things were changing dramatically.

Next up, while now living in Lewisville, TX, I became a instructor training and certifying employees, for airlines and other companies, on international dangerous goods handling and processing. While this was most interesting, it involved a lot of travel; and I had more then enough of that working for a airline. So, I retired, again, and moved to Corpus Christi, actually Flour Bluff, around 18 years ago.

Currently, I have a part time job and live in Corpus with my son, daughter, teenage granddaughter, two dogs and three cats. Isn't life good.

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By the way, when I went home for Christmas this year, my mom happily displayed the poinsettia that she had worked to bring into bloom. It was good to see the big smile on her face! That big smile and the big heart it's attached to, have brought me through some hard years.

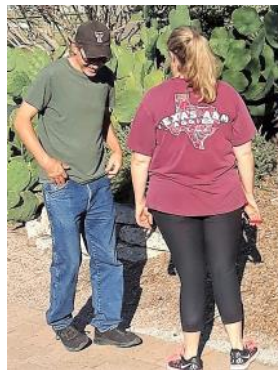
Thanks Mom! ❤️

# Xeriscape Workday

*Pictures by Nueces Master Gardener Barbara Moses*



On Saturday, December 2, a workday was held at the Xeriscape Garden located next to the Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History. Among the Nueces Master Gardeners that contributed their time and efforts were; Carol Barragy, Brian Carter, Marsha Clodfelter, Barbara Moses, Joanne Salge, Betty Whitt and CEA Kevin Gibbs.



## Winter Wonderland

In the morning on Friday, December 8, Corpus Christi woke up to an uncommon, but genuine, winter wonderland – it had snowed overnight. Everyone experienced some snow, from just a few inches to several inches. Thankfully, it warmed up very quickly and the snow was mostly gone by that afternoon. Even though the overnight air temperature was at or below freezing, there were no reports of significant damage to plants; the snow probably provided a protective blanket, locking in the ground heat. Luckily, a few Master Gardeners had their cameras, or phones, handy and were able to capture a few great, and uncommon for Corpus, winter-like pictures.



Newly certified Nueces Master Gardener Barbara Moses sent in these pictures that exemplify the result of a “winter” snow in our area. Snow covering blooms that will just shrug it off and keep doing what they do this time of year.

Sent in by NMG Stephanie Martin. “Gary asked why I shot these frames in black and white and not color... I told him these ARE in color! All gone now.”



# Olive Tree Trials



Olive trials synopsis – We’re currently conducting olive tree trials with hopes of finding several varieties that will prosper in our hot summers and unpredictable fall and spring seasons and provide viable olive harvests. The potted trees were supplied by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension located in Fredericksburg, TX. Our plantings include 15 different varieties for a total of 87 trees, which provides a broad assortment of olive tree characteristics for our evaluations. All of the trees have been planted at various locations within the Botanical Gardens.

This will be a long term trial, lasting for many years. Initially, as the trees are becoming established,

	Olive Variety	Nbr of Plants	Master Gardeners
1	Aglandua	3	Pat Parr
2	Arbequina AS1	6	Deb Holliday
3	Arbosana	6	Betty Weber Barbara Moses
4	Chiquitita	6	Sandra Williams
5	Coratina	12	Carlos Valdez Sr. Brenda Bishop
6	Hojiblanca	6	Beth Spirko
7	Koroneiki	6	Michael Bishop John Slusarz
8	Leccino	6	Elizabeth Yzaguirre
9	Mission	6	Marjorie Seip
10	OAC- 9806-10	6	Gloria Van Zante Kathie Fernandez
11	Oliana	6	John Latimer Jessica Latimer
12	Pendolino	3	Carol Barragy
13	Picholine	3	Paul Parr
14	Picual	6	Joanne Salge
15	Tosca	6	Karen Easton

there will be monthly data collected to evaluate the growth rates and to monitor the trees for any influence from local climatic conditions, diseases and pests. Some supplemental care will be given to the trees until they are established.

Ultimately, as the trees mature, olive crop production of each variety will be detailed to establish the tree varieties that can best adapt and are the most proficient for our area.

As you can see from the chart to the left there are over 20 Nueces Master Gardeners that have already volunteered to participate in this program. Current primary responsibility is to make sure the trees are watered. check for any problems and monitor the growth rate.

If you would like to have more info on growing olive trees in Texas - [CLICK THIS](#)

<https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/fruit-nut/files/2010/10/olives.pdf>



These pictures are of Nueces Master Gardeners Betty Weber and Barbara Moses (pics sent in by Barbara).

Theses NMGs braved our frigid winter weather and are shown in the process of planting six pots of their assigned variety, Arbosana, of olive trees at the Botanical Gardens on December 14. And it looks like Betty is doing all the work (not really).



# 19TH ANNUAL CORPUS CHRISTI HOME & GARDEN SHOW

## Feb 16-18, 2018 - American Bank Center

A sure sign that spring is just around the corner is when the Gazette starts touting the Home and Garden Show. In a little while you will be receiving information about volunteering to man our booth at the show. Please make every effort to spare some time and spend a few hours at the booth. This show is our largest public contact event of the year and your help is greatly appreciated.

NMG Deb Holliday is coordinating the stage presentations this year. She will shortly be reaching out to our speakers to fill the stage presentation schedule. If you are ready, willing and able, don't make her wait, let her know of your availability.

This year a little extra help is needed; if you have a vehicle, with a trailer hitch, that can move our trailer, that is used to carry show displays and related material. It will need to be moved:

- Thursday, Feb 15 moved to the office in Robstown, from storage in Robstown, for top off loading, then taken to the American Bank Center for unloading and empty back to Robstown.
  - Sunday, Feb 18 the trailer is moved empty from Robstown to ABC, loaded and taken to Robstown.
- If you can help with this matter, let John Slusarz know; [jmslusarz2@gmail.com](mailto:jmslusarz2@gmail.com) or 351.939.0505.

You will be getting further details on the show, probably by email, as it gets closer to SHOW TIME,

### Specialist Training: Vegetables

**Date(s)** - Wednesday, Feb 14 thru Friday, Feb 16  
**Time** 1:00 pm-12:30 pm  
**Location** 10056 Marsh Lane - Dallas [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 below.

Training activities during the course will empower you to complete these service requirements.

See link for PDF on the agenda and registration: [2018 Vegetable Specialist Dallas Co](#)

### Specialist Training – Plant Health and Diagnostics Educator

**Dates** - Thursday, February 8 and Friday, February 9  
**Times** - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
**Address** - PACE Building 623 N Fair St., Gonzales TX

The Gonzales Master Gardeners are pleased to host the first Master Gardener Plant Health and Diagnostics Educator Specialist training program. Chaired by Dr. Kevin Ong, Director of The Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology & Microbiology, Texas A&M University, the course will offer an intensive training with a broad overview of plant health and diagnostics.

[CLICK THIS FOR PDF - Schedule, Information and Registration](#)



# Some recent pictures and posts that are from the Nueces Master Gardener Facebook Bulletin Board



[Michelle Garrett](#)

Update on progress of the Green house she is starting to build .



[Deb Holliday](#) Angel Trumpet was energized to bloom after the snow event.



[Kelly Munguia](#) One of my auction plants has bloomed!



[Nina Dawson](#)

One of my new babies.



[Kelly Munguia](#) A newly hatched cicada. I had never even seen one until a few years ago, only the "husks".



[John Slusarz](#) Cleaned out a bed and offered bags of Oyster Plants - all gone in one day.

## PICROSTER Revise

In our never ending quest to make your life easier and a little more better, we are revamping and updating the PicRoster for 2018. By arranging the data in a different format it has been reduced from its current 8 pages to only 4 pages, this alone makes this a great idea.

Please check your profile entry and make sure that all of the information is correct. And you can have your profile picture changed to something you feel is more flattering; these photos were originally cropped from whatever pictures could be found in our Gazette archives.

Don't bother to print or save this DRAFT copy, I am sure that there will be a lot of changes before it is ready to be "officially" published. To check out the **DRAFT** PicRoster - [CLICK THIS](#)

If you find any information that needs to be updated or picture changed should be sent to [jmslusarz2@gmail.com](mailto:jmslusarz2@gmail.com)



# Botanical Gardens Volunteer Appreciation

*Pictures by Nueces Master Gardener Barbara Moses*

On Friday, December 15, the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center held a Volunteer Appreciation luncheon to thank the many volunteers that have contributed their time and efforts.



## Plumeria - Tresa Wildere

NMG John Balcar sent in photos of one of the many plumeria he is growing— **Tresa Wildere**. aka Theresa Wilder, Teddy, Teddy Wilder, Phet Sairung, Pet Sairung, Sam Kasat, Pinwheel Rainbow, Lo Kwain. A 4" rainbow with spicy clove fragrance. Gorgeous old time favorite that was recently rediscovered in Hawaii. Recommended. A large pinwheel rainbow with strong color definition. Grows in very large clusters and has a medium sweet floral scent of spicy clove. Open petaled bright rainbow with moderate overlapping petals. Well formed growth habit. Golden-orange and bright red. Leaves: emerald green with light green veining, elliptical, pointed tip. Conspicuous and strong coloration. 4" rainbow with slender, sometimes almost curly petals. Beautiful pinks, red, gold, and orange. Medium compact tree. One of the bright rainbow colors, 3.5", long petals, and heavy bloomer. Spicy clove fragrance with average keeping quality with average tendency to fade. Tall grower with good branching, elliptical green leaves acute tips.



For the full article - [CLICK THIS](#)


### From Betty Rogers TIPS ON REPORTING YOUR HOURS



**All Master Gardener volunteer hours for the 2017 calendar year must be posted by January 15, 2018.**

Failure to post your hours by that time could cause non-recertification.

Any hours posted after January 15, 2018 will be added to your cumulative hours only.

  
 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!**

Jan 06	Jan Shannon	21
Jan 08	Frank Eicholz	25
Jan 13	Helen Orsak	10
Jan 18	John Slusarz	25
Jan 25	John Seip	16
Jan 25	Beth Spirko	25
Jan 29	Paul Parr	13
Jan 30	Maire Kelly	26

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

# Urban Leadership Agriculture Academy



**BACKGROUND:** Rural working lands play an unseen yet critical role in water/food sustainability and national/energy security. With less than 1% of the population owning and managing Texas’s working lands, community leadership in the urban areas need to develop the skills to form the innovative solutions required to sustain private rural working lands as our state’s population continues to expand.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Important expectations of all Academy participants

- An open and inquiring mind.
- A willingness to learn.
- A commitment to actively participate in the Academy activities and experiences.
- A commitment to greater service for the betterment of our community.



**TIME COMMITMENT:** Participation requires a time commitment of four days during the one-year period. This schedule includes three half-day afternoon/evening sessions and one 1-day weekend tour, plus travel time to and from meeting locations.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Selection is based on a competitive process in which interested aspiring urban community leaders apply to participate in the program. Recruitment for this class will begin January 2018 with applications due on February 28, 2018. Successful candidates for the Academy pay a tuition fee which includes all sessions and out-of-county travel and accommodations. Costs for travel to all sessions and in-county travel are borne by the participant.

**REWARD:** “Earn your spurs in Agriculture”, by becoming a Certified Urban Champion of Agriculture.

Only 10 to 12 applicants will be successful. If I can provide further insights about the course and exactly the type of participant we are looking for, feel free to contact me at [361.767.5223](tel:361.767.5223). Jason P. Ott, CEA-ANR, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



For a short video  
CLICK THE ABOVE

To get full information on this program and an application - [CLICK THIS](#)

## Ray High School Greenhouse

The Ray High School Greenhouse project is going full speed. If you would like to come out and work with the students their garden work time is on Tuesday and Thursday at 9:55 - 10:55am and 2:40 - 3:40pm. The Nueces Master Gardener in-class presentations for the next few months are shown below and take place on Mondays at 9:55 - 10:55am and 2:40 - 3:40pm. It would be great if you could visit the school to work with the students and get involved in these meaningful activities.

Jan 8	Earth Kind Garden	NMG Jessica Latimer	Feb 19	Plant Reproduction	
Jan 22	Water Conservation	CEA Kevin Gibbs	Feb 26	Rain Water Capture	NMG Carlos Valdez
Feb 5	Spring Plant Selection & Planting	NMG Carol Krank	Mar 5	Pests: Bad Bugs	NMG Michael Bishop
Feb 12	Flower Research:	NMG Nina Dawson			

# Don't hang up your gardening hat just yet

*From Texas Gardener magazine*

*Submitted by Nueces Master Gardener Carlos Valdez*



Gardening doesn't have to end with your final summer crops each year. Whether you live in milder winter regions or where the snow piles up high, there are so many different gardening projects available to fill the winter months and keep your pastime going until spring. Below are a few great wintertime gardening ideas to keep you busy and productive in the coming months.

**Plant Winter Gardens.** Swap out your summer containers for winter containers with frost-tolerant flowers and greens such as evergreens, cabbage, twigs, and strings of lights. In milder regions, rotate your garden to a winter one with plant greens, root crops, herbs (depending on your region), and other hardy vegetables.

**Indoor Gardening.** There are many herbs that can easily be moved indoors during the winter months, such as rosemary, basil, and parsley. Just keep your containers near a window for maximum sunlight. Salad greens are also a cinch to grow indoors with the right amount of light and warmth. Just avoid placing them near cold windows. Other plants like white jasmine, narcissus, and cyclamen open beautiful blossoms during the cool seasons of the year. Even small lemon trees can be grown indoors during the winter months.

**Plan Next Spring's Garden.** Winter is the perfect time to start planning your summer garden. There are so many wonderful resources online to help you do the job easily like Smart Gardener or Gardena's My Garden. During the winter you can lay out your garden, decide what you want to plant, request seed catalogs, and order flower and vegetable seeds, as well as, any new gardening tools and accessories at an off-season discount (think trellises, fencing, compost bin, and plant containers).

**Research New Plants and Flowers.** Take inventory of your yard and landscaping in the fall and note areas that are lacking and need filling in. Decide if you're looking for plants, trees, shrubs, or flowers. Take some time for researching plants and figuring out what's native to your region and would grow the best. Look through online photo galleries and visit the websites for different seed retailers and see what their offerings are. Once you narrow down your selections, you'll be ready to order once spring arrives.

**Winter Care and Maintenance.** There are a lot of things you can do in fall and winter to help prepare yourself for spring. Many of the items on the list take some time and effort and you may not find the time until the cooler months arrive. Things to add to your winter care and maintenance list are cleaning off tools, wrapping terra-cotta and ceramic pots in bubble plastic, organizing seeds, properly storing hoses and tools, and checking the supplies you'll need for seed starting. The good news is that you may also find some deals online and even in stores with left over gardening tools and supplies.

**Prepare A List and A Schedule.** First off, you have to map out a winter gardening itinerary to follow. You need to know your area's frost dates, for starters. The USDA site has a plant hardiness zone map you can use as reference to know which plants are best at surviving cold weather, and which need special care. You can then schedule the chores, tasks, and other activities that need to be done in your winterizing list. Small acts like rolling up garden hoses, putting plastic containers away to prevent from cracking, and draining the fuel tank of lawn mowers will save you a lot of heartache (and money) when spring rolls around.

*Continued on next page*

## Don't hang up your gardening hat just yet

*From previous page*

**Trim, Clean and Put Away.** Before it gets too cold to do outdoor activities, clean up garden debris as best as you can in milder weather. Leaves, dead stalks, decaying foliage, and other garden refuse can become a breeding ground for pests. Rake fallen leaves, trim overgrown shrubbery, and compost where you can. Don't forget to put away garden accessories like buckets, hoses, rakes, and others - keep them in a shed so they won't freeze or rust. Remember to cover your compost with a tarp or a thick layer of hay. Give your garden a general cleaning so that it still looks presentable.

**Get Rid of Weeds.** Don't neglect weeding. Many can survive the cold and wreak havoc on your plants. Carefully remove those with seed heads so that none will come out. Even a tiny portion of seeds can germinate fast and invade your garden in a matter of weeks. Make sure the weeds are nowhere in contact with your other plants and soil. Put them in a covered garbage bin where they belong.

**Keep Shrubs Snug and Warm.** Plants can experience chill, too. You can wrap shrubs with a burlap sack or a thick fabric to keep them from freezing and suffering windburn. Never use plastic because it doesn't breathe, and can overheat young plants. When the weather becomes warmer, remove the wrapping right away.

**Mulch, Mulch, Mulch.** Plants need extra warmth during winter, and mulching will act as a protective blanket for them. New plants that have not taken root yet especially need mulching. It will keep moisture where it needs, and prevent weeds from taking hold, while keeping soil temperature even for tender plants. Check in mid-January to early February if the mulch has moved from heavy wind and rain, and reapply as needed.



### Just A Note From Your Master Gardener Gazette Editor

Editor: John M. Slusarz Phone: 361-939-0505 E-mail: [jmslusarz2@gmail.com](mailto:jmslusarz2@gmail.com)



Surprise, and yes, there is a cover page as part of this issue of the Gazette. As I was looking around the web, at some other Texas Master Gardener newsletters, I noticed that a few always have a cover page. So, I thought I would try it and give y-all something a little different and maybe a little more interesting. Creating a cover page is also influenced by our winter, the weather is not amenable to playing working in my garden and I am stuck in the house with plenty of time to kill.

Whether this continues in the future will depend upon the feedback from y-all. And, if any of the NMGs have some talent in photography, computer graphics or whatever artistic ability, and would like to design and submit a cover page or two, they will very gladly be published.

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:  
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service  
710 E. Main, Suite 1, Attn: Horticulture  
Robstown, Texas 78380 361) 767-5217  
[llmartinez@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:llmartinez@ag.tamu.edu)