

Master Gardener Gazette AGRILIE



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)



19TH ANNUAL CORPUS CHRISTI HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Feb 16-18, 2018 - American Bank Center

100 More Home and Garden Show pictures - CLICK THIS See page 4 for pictures of the plant show

Whew, another Home and Garden Show is complete. Thanks to all the many Nueces Master Gardeners that took the time to man our booth. A special thanks to those NMGs, and a few others, that gave stage presentations, always a crowd pleaser, and the attendance was exceptionally high this year.



This year we added our first plant show. We hope many more will follow. Without much advance notice it turned out extremely well. Good job providing plants by the NMGs. See page 4 for pictures.





















Issue 27 - Mar. 2018 IN THIS ISSUE

- P1 Home & Garden Show
- P1 NMG Officers 2018
- P2 Volunteering
- P2 Other Activities
- Р2 **Ongoing Projects**
- P3 Agent's Notes
- NMG Open Positions
- Plant Show
- P5 Rose Presentation
- P5 Zip-z-Dee-Doo-Dah Days
- P6 Nina's Green House
- P6 The Zoo Beneath
- Ρ7 YWCA Garden
- P7 Who is 2-1-1
- P8 Port Aransas Preserve
- 2018 TMGA Conference
- P9 Science/Nutrition Night
- P9 Three Sisters
- P10 From Betty Rogers
- P10 Looking Back
- P10 Birthdays
- P11 Woodlawn Volunteers
- P11 Daylight Saving Time
- P11 Disclaimers

<u>LEADERSHIP</u>

President Open Vice President Beth Spirko Carlos Valdez - Elect Secretary Brenda Bishop Jessica Latimer Treasurer Suzy Murray Norma Hernandez - Elect Members at Large Linda Lamprecht

Huxley Smith Theresa Stelzia

State Directors

Nina Dawson Mary Lambert

Alt - Carlos Valdez

Gazette Editor John Slusarz **Hours Coordinator**

Betty Rogers Extension Office Lisa Martinez

MASTER GARDENERS MEETING Tuesday, March 20

10:30am Board of Directors Meeting
11:30am Meet & Greet Over Pot Luck Lunch
Share your favorite hot or cold
lunch dish and you can bring a de-

lunch dish and you can bring a desert or some tasty nibbles, which are always welcome.

12:00pm NMG Award Presentations 12:30pm General Meeting



Saturday, March 3, 10:30 am - PROPAGATING MEXICAN SPICES - Nueces Master Gardener Certified Propagation Specialist Rosemary Plank, preparing for spring gardens, expand your menu with cuttings and seeds of favorite herbs used in true Mexican cooking and even some medicinal varieties! Help Rosemary prepare *Ensalada de Frutas con chili*, a mixture of Mexican spices and fruit; and leave with cuttings or seeds.

Saturday, March 17, 10:30-11:30 am Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden - Learn necessary components of a Butterfly Garden from "Butterfly Lady" Brenda Dziedzic, author of *Learn about Butterflies in the Garden*.

ORCHID & ROSE EXHIBITION

Saturday/Sunday, March 24/25, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Top Coastal Bend orchid growers and the Corpus Christi Rose Society combine to present a joint Orchid & Rose Show, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

11th WINTER LECTURE SERIES Wednesday 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Mar 7 Ranch Hand Cooking, Karen Howden, Nueces County Historical Commission

Mar 14 Home Hydroponics Systems, Gabriel Vega, BotaniCo

Continue Next Column

Make change happen, volunteer!

OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

<u>Thur, Mar. 1</u> - Orchidology: 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm BG

Wed, Mar. 7 - Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society meeting, 7pm, GC, 687-6474

<u>Tue. Mar. 13</u> - Garden Council meeting, coverd dish, 537-8231 10:am GC

<u>Thur, Mar.22</u> - Bonsai Society meeting, 7pm, GC, 992-0009

<u>Thur. Mar. 22</u> - Bromeliad Society meeting, 658-8650 GC 7pm

Wed, Mar.28 - Plumeria Society meeting, 6:30pm, GC, 813-9616

5325 Greely Dr, Corpus Christi, TX
CLICK FOR MAP

ONGOING PROJECTS

CLICK THIS - COMMITTEE/PROJECT CONTACTS PDF

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 rkplank69@gmail.com

Botanical Gardens NATURE "CSI" 3-DAY SPRING BREAK CAMP Monday-Wednesday, March 12-14, 9 a.m. to noon. Kids ages 8-13, \$50 Members, \$60 others. Prepaid registration required by March 9.



Agents
Notes

TEXAS A&M
GRILIFE
EXTENSION

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

Agent Notes is absent for this month as Kevin is laid up with a nasty case of the flu. We are going to take this as an opportunity to offer some flu avoidance advise, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Preventing the Flu: Good Health Habits Can Help Stop Germs



The single best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get <u>vaccinated</u> each year, but good health habits like covering your cough and washing your hands often can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. There also are <u>flu</u> antiviral drugs that can be used to treat and prevent flu.

- 1. Avoid close contact. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- 2. Stay home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
- 3. Cover your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- 4. Clean your hands. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- 5. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- 6. Practice other good health habits. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

If you are sick with flu symptoms, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.

NMG Open Positions

The Nueces Master Gardeners currently have an open council position and a few open positions within our ongoing projects that are in need to be filled. Please review the following and consider if you would like to volunteer.

- President if you are interested in this position, contact NMG Beth Spirko. If you have any questions as to the responsibilities of this position, do not hesitate to contact any of our recent past presidents; they will also be available to assist and counsel the new president. NMG Beth Spirko will be the Acting President until a new NMG assumes the president position.
- Ray High School Greenhouse chairperson to work with the students in the garden and green house on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The volunteer does not have to be in attendance every week.
 NMG Rosemary Plank will continue to oversee coordinating the in-class speakers and other administrative activities. If you have any questions concerning what this would entail, contact Rosemary, she would be glad to explain.
- Earth-Kind Garden at Botanical Gardens chairperson this would involve overseeing the planning and preservation of the beds. NMG Sandra Williams will continue to be a liaison with the Botanical Gardens and assist the chairperson. If you have any questions about the responsibilities of this position, don't hesitate to contact Sandra, rositoes@att.net.

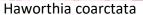


19TH ANNUAL CORPUS CHRISTI HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Feb 16-18, 2018 - American Bank Center

We invited the show attendees to vote for the plant that they liked the most. With the many great options, the decisions had to be difficult. The top 4 plants they voted for are shown below.







French Lavender



Night Blooming Cereus



Staghorn Fern



Plant Display

Despite very short notice, the Nueces Master Gardeners were able to create a wonderful and impressive plant display. Even though there were over 50 plants on display, the variety of plants was nearly perfect. Nearby booths were amazed at the number of people that stopped to observe the plant display and the show organizers stated that they were delighted with the display - and were enthusiastic to see what plant display or contest we would create for the fall show.











Rose Presentation and Display

Nueces Master Gardener Jan Shannon, and Rose Society member, gave a superb presentation on roses at the Garden Council meeting on February 13. She also brought with her a stunning rose display, that included a broad variety of very beautiful and fragrant roses, all collected from local plantings. The display of roses was even more impressive, given that this time of year is far from the idyllic time for rose plants to be blooming in our region.









Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah Days!!!

Sent in by Master Gardener Barbara Moses



March 20th officially marks the first day of spring 2018 and nature is indicating that it is well on its way to the Coastal Bend area.

In the astronomical year, spring begins at the time of the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox occurs when the sun crosses the equator, making night and day of equal length in all parts of the earth.

It's the most wondrous time of the year. Flowers are blooming, and gardens are growing. The birds and bees and butterflies are showing up more. Trees have sprouted buds and are quickly regaining their perfect fullness in the warmth of the sun. And the warmer and sunnier days are a real invitation to everyone to roll up their sleeves and participate in outdoor activities again.

Spring reminds me of the song "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah" from my younger days...... love this song!!! It's from a 1946 animated Disney movie Song of the South, sung by James Baskett. Okay, now Kevin Gibbs. We know that you sing very well (Deep in The Heart of Texas), so will you please sing THIS song for us and maybe we can all join in?



Click on the following link for the YouTube video: https://youtu.be/6bWyhj7siEY

Nina's Green House



You may not know that Nueces Master Gardener Nina Dawson has a green house. But she does, and to put it simply, it is spectacular. The only thing that surpasses the green house building are the plants that Nina has managed to gather and has on display throughout.

Somehow Nina was persuaded into making a short video about her green house and her fabulous plants; it didn't take much convincing as she is rightfully proud of her accomplishments.

To see the video - CLICK THIS.







The zoo beneath our feet We're only beginning to understand soil's hidden world

By Adrian Higgins Gardening columnist August 9, for The Washington Post

Editors note - Shown below is only a small extract from the article, which is too lengthy for this publication. The article contains a very informative review of what microorganisms are common in our soil and their good and bad properties. If interested and would like to read more - <u>CLICK THIS.</u>

The gardener has a long, touchy-feely relationship with the soil. As every good cultivator knows, you assess the earth by holding it. Is it dark and crumbly, is there an earthworm or beetle in there, is it moist, and when you smell it, are you getting that pleasant earthy aroma?

All these signs are reassuring, and have been through the ages, but they are mere indicators of something much greater and infinitely mysterious: a hidden universe beneath our feet.

This cosmos is only now revealing itself as a result of scientific discoveries based on better microscopic imaging and DNA analysis. There is much still to learn, but it boils down to this: Plants nurture a whole world of creatures in the soil that in return feed and protect the plants, including and especially trees. It is a subterranean community that includes worms, insects, mites, other arthropods you've never heard of, amoebas, and fellow protozoa. The dominant organisms are bacteria and fungi. All these players work together, sometimes by eating one another. To continue reading - **CLICK THIS.**

YWCA Garden



Editors Note - Just about a year ago the Nueces Master Gardeners worked with the members of the YWCA to create a raised bed garden at their facility. This is a follow up, submitted by NMG Ronda Dizney, that highlights the success of this project.

The members of the YWCA, Corpus Christi, were blessed the afternoon Extension Agent, Kevin Gibbs and Master Gardener, Deb Holiday stepped into the activity room. Everyone, ages 70 to 85 were eager to learn about raised bed organic gardening.



A site was chosen, plants were picked, the beds were made, making sure weeds would not be a prob-



lem, seven layers of cardboard were the foundation, soaker hoses were decided to be the way to irrigate. A mailbox was added holding gardening materials including a small clipboard to record activities taken, when and who watered, produce eaten or taken home and any observations. The four 4'by8' beds bring all kinds of joy to members and their families.



This YWCA project has been on Kiii-tv, in the Caller Times, The Dallas Morning News and The Washington Post. Meanwhile, free mulch was added by a local tree trimming company and a pallet composter was built and placed nearby. The gardeners bring their own kitchen scraps and fallen leaves from their own homes.











'Together We Grow' is the name of our program and we are growing together. We are celebrating our first anniversary! THANK YOU Kevin and Deb for enriching lives at the YWCA of Corpus Christi, Tx! Here We Grow! Ronda Dizney, Nueces County Master Gardener

WHO IS 2-1-1 TEXAS?



2-1-1 Texas, a program of the Texas Health and Human Services Commission, is committed to helping Texas citizens connect with the services they need. Whether by phone or internet, our goal is to present accurate, well-organized and easy-to-find information from state and local health and human services programs. We accom-

plish this through the work of our <u>25 Area Information Centers (AICs) across the state</u>. 2-1-1 Texas is a free, anonymous social service hotline available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

No matter where you live in Texas, you can dial 2-1-1, or (877) 541-7905, and find information about resources in your local community. Whether you need help finding food or housing, child care, crisis counseling or substance abuse treatment, one number is all you need to know. For more info - <u>CLICK THIS</u>

Port Aransas Nature Preserve Paradise Pond

Submitted by Master Gardener Barbara Moses

These are some photos taken Thursday, Feb, 8 at the Port Aransas Nature Preserve. We volunteered helping Port Aransas Nature Preserve Manager (Colleen Simpson) with the seed packing for the Mardi Gras Parade. There to assist were CEA Kevin Gibbs, Rosemary Plank, Gloria VanZante, Betty Weber, Norma Hernandez, Linda Frost, and myself. Started off by seeing a coyote roaming by the office, then did seed packing, and then went to Paradise Pond to see if we could help.









BEFORE HARVEY





AFTER HARVEY





Next we went to the Port Aransas Water Treatment Plant and the Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center and saw a lot of birds and a lot more damage as you can see by the photos.

Shown at the top are pictures from the internet which show what the pier and walkway used to look like at the Leonabellle Turnbull Birding Center and Paradise Pond BEFORE Hurricane Harvey.

The bottom photos show what they look like now, after Hurricane Harvey. To see the web site for more info on Paradise Pond click the link below.

http://www.cityofportaransas.org/paradise_pond.cfm



2018 TMGA Conference April 4-6, 2018 Texas A&M University Campus

We have an incredible lineup of speakers, session topics and workshops, all in one place, just for you! With keynotes sharing the beginnings of the Master Gardener story, to experts in the horticultural field, we have sessions for everyone, to expand your knowledge and skill set as a Texas Master Gardener.

CLICK THIS FOR FULL INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER

Science and Nutrition night

Submitted by NMG Deb Holliday

Tuesday night, Feb 20, 2018 Gloria VanZante, Gina Sanchez, Sophie Flores and Deb Holliday attended the science and nutrition fair at Metro School Of Design (formerly Wynn Seale Jr. High). We demonstrated salad in a pot and kiddos got to plant a bean seed in a 5 oz plastic pot with a lid. Ever so much neater than an open cup. We served about 50 kiddos plus their parents.



The Three Sisters: Corn, Beans, and Squash

Corn, beans, and squash are called the "three sisters." Native Americans always inter-planted this trio because they thrive together, much like three inseparable sisters. By the time European settlers arrived in America in the early 1600s, the Iroquois had been growing the "three sisters" for over three centuries. The vegetable trio sustained the Native Americans both physically and spiritually. In legend, the plants were a gift from the gods, always to be grown together, eaten together, and celebrated together.

Each of the sisters contributes something to the planting. Working together, the three sisters provide a balanced diet from a single planting.

- As older sisters often do, the corn offers the beans needed support.
- The beans, the giving sister, pull nitrogen from the air and bring it to the soil for the benefit of all three.
- As the beans grow through the tangle of squash vines and wind their way up the cornstalks into the sunlight, they hold the sisters close together.
- The large leaves of the sprawling squash protect the threesome by creating living mulch that shades the soil, keeping it cool and moist and preventing weeds.
- The prickly squash leaves also keep away raccoons, which don't like to step on them.
- Together, the three sisters provide both sustainable soil fertility as well as a healthy diet. Perfection!



FARMER'S ALMANAC

Direct-Sow, Easy-to-Grow: The Ancient **Three Sisters** Method

Tips for Growing The Three Sisters

- To try them in your garden, in spring, prepare the soil by adding fish scraps or wood ash to increase fertility, if desired.
- Make a mound of soil about a foot high and four feet wide.
- When the danger of frost has passed, plant the corn in the mound. Sow six kernels of corn an inch
 deep and about ten inches apart in a circle of about 2 feet in diameter.
- When the corn is about 5 inches tall, plant four bean seeds, evenly spaced, around each stalk. About a week later, plant six squash seeds, evenly spaced, around the perimeter of the mound.

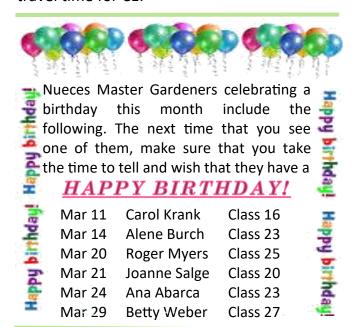
Link to article - https://www.almanac.com/content/three-sisters-corn-bean-and-squash
Link to detailed planting - http://gardening.cals.cornell.edu/lessons/curricula/the-three-sisters-exploring-aniroquois-garden/how-to-plant-the-three-sisters/

From Betty Rogers TIPS ON REPORTING YOUR HOURS

Attending society meetings (Orchid Society,

Plumeria Society, Rose Society, etc.) does not count for volunteer hours. The only thing you may count is CE time IF they have a program. Travel

time is not allowed since we NEVER count travel time for CE.



Senior Center Courtyard

The first Monday of every month is a workday starting at 8:00 am, for this month that is March 5. Every workday we do a little trimming, a little weeding, some watering and just a general clean and tidy things up.

Always can use a few more NMGs to help out. If you have any questions about how you can help out, you can contact NMG Jessica Latimer at 429paloma@att.net.







Looking back 1992 - 2007

Ever wonder what the very first Nueces Master Gardeners were about? I found a PowerPoint presentation that went back to the "good old days". When the link to it was posted on our Facebook Bulletin Board, Jan Shannon advised that she had created the presentation.

When she was asked what time period it covered, she replied: "John, I was in class 2, the second class given here and that was in 1992. I started taking pictures as soon as I started the class, so it would be from then until I had heart surgery in 2009 and had to slow down. I was Texas state president in 2006 and nothing on that timeline is after that, so It would have been from 1992 to 2007."

If you would like to see the presentation - CLICK THIS -

https://www.dropbox.com/s/ks18i8ga3b6ogs3/2017-A.pdf?dl=0



Woodlawn Elementary LTG Bed Build Tue, Feb 2



We have built 15 Learning To Grow beds at Woodlawn Elementary and had planned to fill them with soil, but rain got in the way. The campus was concerned about creating ruts in the field with the dump truck.

The really great news about having to move all this soil is that it has been arranged to have a bob-cat loader and driver to load the soil into the beds.

While this will make the task a lot easier, there will still be a need to have some help to move the beds around and even up the soil. The time this will all start will be emailed out later. If you can volunteer some time on this date, it would be appreciated.

Daylight saving time 2018 in Texas begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 11



8 Things You May Not Know About Daylight Saving Time



By Christopher Klein - history.com

Springing forward and falling back may seem simple enough, but daylight saving's history has actually been quite complex—and misconceptions about it persist today. As you prepare to reset your watches, alarms and microwaves, explore eight facts about daylight saving time that might surprise you.

- 1. It's "daylight saving time," not "daylight savings time." Many people render the term's second word in its plural form. However, since the word "saving" acts as part of an adjective rather than a verb, the singular is grammatically correct.
- 2. Though in favor of maximizing daylight waking hours, Benjamin Franklin did not originate the idea of moving clocks forward. By the time he was a 78-year-old American envoy in Paris in 1784, the man who espoused the virtues of "early to bed and early to rise" was not practicing what he preached. After being unpleasantly stirred from sleep at 6 a.m. by the summer sun, the founding father penned a satirical essay in which he calculated that Parisians, simply by waking up at dawn, could save the modern-day equivalent of \$200 million through "the economy of using sunshine instead of candles." As a result of this essay, Franklin is often erroneously given the honor of "inventing" daylight saving time, but he only proposed a change in sleep schedules—not the time itself.
- **3.** Englishman William Willett led the first campaign to implement daylight saving time. While on an early-morning horseback ride around the desolate outskirts of London in 1905, Willett had an epiphany that the United Kingdom should move its clocks forward by 80 minutes between April and October so that more people could enjoy the plentiful sunlight. The Englishman published the 1907 brochure "The Waste of Daylight" and spent much of his personal fortune evangelizing with missionary zeal for the adoption of "summer time." Year after year, however, the British Parliament stymied the measure, and Willett died in 1915 at age 58 without ever seeing his idea come to fruition.
- **4. Germany was the first country to enact daylight saving time.** It took World War I for Willett's dream to come true, but on April 30, 1916, Germany embraced daylight saving time to conserve electricity. (He may have been horrified to learn that Britain's wartime enemy followed his recommendations before his homeland.) Weeks later, the United Kingdom followed suit and introduced "summer time."
- 5. Daylight saving time in the United States was not intended to benefit farmers, as many people think. Contrary to popular belief, American farmers did not lobby for daylight saving to have more time to work in the fields; in fact, the agriculture industry was deeply opposed to the time switch when it was first implemented on March 31, 1918, as a wartime measure. The sun, not the clock, dictated farmers' schedules, so daylight saving was very disruptive. Farmers had to wait an extra hour for dew to evaporate to harvest hay, hired hands worked less since they still left at the same time for dinner and cows weren't ready to be milked an hour earlier to meet shipping schedules. Agrarian interests led the fight for the 1919 repeal of national daylight saving time, which passed after Congress voted to override President Woodrow Wilson's veto. Rather than rural interests, it has been urban entities such as retail outlets and recreational businesses that have championed daylight saving over the decades.
- **6. For decades, daylight saving in the United States was a confounding patchwork of local practices.** After the national repeal in 1919, some states and cities, including New York City and Chicago, continued to shift *Continued next page*



Remember - Daylight saving time 2018 in Texas begins at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 11 Move your clocks FORWARD one hour

8 Things You May Not Know About Daylight Saving Time

Continued from previous page

their clocks. National daylight saving time returned during World War II, but after its repeal three weeks after war's end the confusing hodgepodge resumed. States and localities could start and end daylight saving whenever they pleased, a system that Time magazine (an aptly named source) described in 1963 as "a chaos of clocks." In 1965 there were 23 different pairs of start and end dates in Iowa alone, and St. Paul, Minnesota, even began daylight saving two weeks before its twin city, Minneapolis. Passengers on a 35-mile bus ride from Steubenville, Ohio, to Moundsville, West Virginia, passed through seven time changes. Order finally came in 1966 with the enactment of the Uniform Time Act, which standardized daylight saving time from the last Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October, although states had the option of remaining on standard time year-round.

- 7. Not everyone in the United States springs forward and falls back. Hawaii and Arizona—with the exception of the state's Navajo Nation—do not observe daylight saving time, and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands also remain on standard time year-round. Some Amish communities also choose not to participate in daylight saving time. (Around the world, only about one-quarter of the world's population, in approximately 70 countries, observe daylight saving. Since their daylight hours don't vary much from season to season, countries closer to the equator have little need to deviate from standard time.)
- **8. Evidence does not conclusively point to energy conservation as a result of daylight saving.** Dating back to Willett, daylight saving advocates have touted energy conservation as an economic benefit. A U.S. Department of Transportation study in the 1970s concluded that total electricity savings associated with daylight saving time amounted to about 1 percent in the spring and fall months. As air conditioning has become more widespread, however, more recent studies have found that cost savings on lighting are more than offset by greater cooling expenses. University of California Santa Barbara economists calculated that Indiana's move to statewide daylight saving time in 2006 led to a 1-percent rise in residential electricity use through additional demand for air conditioning on summer evenings and heating in early spring and late fall mornings. Some also argue that increased recreational activity during daylight saving results in greater gasoline consumption.

Click this for the full article

Kevin O. Gibbs, CEA-Horticulture - Editor: John M. Slusarz - Associate Editor: Barbara Moses

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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

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