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)

Issue 28 – Apr. 2018

2017 Awards Ceremony

The Nueces Master Gardeners 2017 awards ceremony was held on Tuesday, March 20 at the Senior Garden Center on Greely. This annual event is to honor and acknowledge the many hours and days that the Nueces Master Gardeners have selflessly given to enhance and educate their community through their horticultural wisdom and experience.

Shown on this page are CEA Kevin Gibbs and Acting President Beth Spirko presenting to those Master Gardeners that have been awarded special recognition for their efforts and actions through the course of 2017 and longer. A full listing of all awards that were presented to Master Gardeners at this event begins on page 4.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Jan Shannon Class 2 and Helen Orsak Class 10 for their many valuable contributions and years of service to our association.

Deb Holliday and John Slusarz were presented the GEM Award (Going the Extra Mile). Not shown is Paula Silva who was presented the award for Rookie of the Year for the intern of Class 27.

CEA Kevin Gibbs presented the Extension Agents Special Appreciation Awards to Rita Phillips, Past-President Michael Bishop and Rosemary Plank.

IN THIS ISSUE

P1 Awards Ceremony
P1 NMG Officers 2018
P2 Volunteering
P2 Other Activities
P2 Monthly Meeting
P2 Ongoing Projects
P2 Botanical Gardens
P3 Agent's Notes
P4 2017 Awards
P5 Emeritus
P6 2017 Awards Pictures
P7 Earth-Kind Garden
P7 Jurisdiction Committee
P8 Moses in a Cradle
P8 Ray High School
P9 LTG Seed Packing
P9 LTG Woodlawn Beds
P9 Birthday Cards Needed
P10 Speakers Bureau
P10 Plant Sale Committee
P10 From Betty Rogers
P10 Specialist Training
P11 New Master Gardener
P11 Path to Plate Dinner
P11 Birthdays
P11 Rose Blooms At Ray HS
P11 Mock Orange & Bees
P11 Facebook Bulletin Board
P12 Suzy Murray
P12 Path to Plate Volunteer
P12 Plant Exploding Fruit
P13 Disclaimers

LEADERSHIP

President
John Slusarz
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 Stelzig
State Directors
Nina Dawson
Mary Lambert
Alt - Carlos Valdez
Gazette Editor
John Slusarz
Hours Coordinator
Betty Rogers
Extension Office
Lisa Martinez
LEADERSHIP CONTACTS - CLICK

MASTER GARDENERS MEETING
Tuesday, April 17

10:30am Board of Directors Meeting
11:30am Meet & Greet Lunch
12:00pm Presentations
12:30pm General Meeting

Volunteers for this months lunch are Ola Mae Batteau, Deb Holliday and Lan-Lee Lin. To volunteer for future lunches, contact Rita Phillips 991-0750 or email rnphillipscctx@grandecom.net

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center's annual **BIG BLOOM** mega Plant Sale, garden festival, and **Dollar Day,** will be 9 am to 5 pm, Saturday, April 7, on Gardens & Nature Center grounds, 8545 S. Staples St. Visitors may shop *and* tour the entire Botanical Gardens for just $1 per person. Members will be admitted free, and may begin shopping at 8 a.m. More than 6000 people attended BIG BLOOM 2017. Full info **CLICK THIS**

Corpus Christi stages second birding festival, April 19-22, based at South Texas Botanical Gardens
Activities include; 9 birding field trips, 3 photography field trips, 3 photography workshops, 8 presentations, Raptor Project, trade show, family fun day and an arts & crafts show. Online registration open ***https://www.birdiestfestival.org/***

Monday, April 16, 11 am - STORYTIME WITH PARROTS, Kids of any age, just bring a storybook with pictures, your favorite adult if under 12.

OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

Wed, Apr. 4 - **Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society** meeting, 7pm, GC, 687-6474
Thur, Apr. 5 - Orchidology: 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm BG
Sat, Apr. 7 - 8 am till 5 pm - Botanical Gardens BIG BLOOM - All Master Gardeners are encouraged to come out, share your knowledge and support this project.
Tue. Apr. 10 - Garden Council meeting, coverd dish, 537-8231 10:am GC
Thur, Apr.26 - **Bonsai Society** meeting, 7pm, GC, 992-0009
Thur. Apr. 26 - Bromeliad Society meeting, 658-8650 GC 7pm

5325 Greely Dr, Corpus Christi, TX
CLICK FOR MAP

ONGOING PROJECTS
CLICK THIS - COMMITTEE/PROJECT CONTACTS PDF

BOTANICAL GARDENS, Wednesday, 7:30 am
GREELY SENIOR CENTER COURTYARD, 1st Monday, 8am Jessica Latimer 563-6008 or 429paloma@att.net
FOOD BANK PROJECT "Outgrow Hunger" Tuesdays 7:30am (Except MG meeting day then Wednesday) Contact: Mary Lambert 813-7596 or cwlmel@yahoo.com
NATURE CONSERVANCY Mondays, 4:00pm & Blucher Park 5:00pm (Behind the Main Library). Contact: Karen Smith 877-9723
RAY HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE MG Workdays Tuesday and Thursday 9:55 - 10:55am 2:40 - 3:30pm Rosemary Plank 945-5915 rkplank69@gmail.com

Agents Notes

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

The months "Flu" by!

You can tell that it's spring because things are getting crazy. Not just work, but weeds, insects and even people. Luckily, I work with some great people (mostly volunteers). This month you're getting a two for one. I'm sorry I missed the deadline for submission last month. I'd like to blame it on the flu, but I think that would be irresponsible! Oh well, it was because of the flu!

We made it through the spring home and garden show with relative ease, thanks to some great leadership. Rosemary Plank and her husband came through when I couldn't find the lock key for my trailer hitch. Michael Bishop had entrusted me to pick up the trailer from the show, but when I went to change out the hitch, it had a lock and even though I looked high and low, I could not find it. I called John and he spread the word and wouldn't you know that Rosemary was the heroine of the group. Thanks Rosemary! I still haven't found the key by the way.

This month saw the construction of fifteen beds at Woodlawn elementary. According to eyewitness reports (I was out with the flu), it was a precision process. Paula brought in a skid steer and loaded the soil into the beds one at a time and then moved the next row of beds into place. People are telling me it was impressive. John and I built the frames, but no one said that was impressive, oh well! Thanks Paula! Thanks John! (I was impressed).

The olives are doing well, both in the city parks and at the botanical gardens. All are still alive, and most are putting on new growth. The mulching was a great help. One of our big concerns was that the mowers wouldn't see them and would plow them over, but the mulching seems to have prevented that. Thanks to all of you who are participating. It appears that we are going to be able to back off and only collect data quarterly.

We've had great YEEHA events at Metro East Elementary and Mireles Elementary. Thanks to all of you who helped with that. Deb and the YEEHA group do an impressive job each time that they visit schools.

We made it through this year's Coastal Bend Landscape conference with relative ease and that is in part to great speakers, in part to a terrific assistant, Lisa, and in part to a fabulous group of volunteers who show up to make things run smoothly. Thanks Deb Holliday, Norma Hernandez and Mary Lambert. Betty Weber was so kind and stepped in to help me get things set up on the breakfast table. Thank you all. Thanks Ryan for helping at the Xeriscape Symposium!

This month so far we've had two workdays already at the Xeriscape Gardens, some very productive meetings with Corpus Christi Parks and Recreation, a great workshop on "Constructed Wetlands" in Kingsville, a volunteer meeting at the Oso Bay Wetlands, a Master Gardener monthly meeting, a Master Naturalist monthly meeting, a Garden Council meeting, an Earthkind Beds meeting, a Healthy South Texas Coalition meeting, a Plant Show meeting, Gardening classes at the YWCA, one career day, bed building at Woodlawn, YEEHA events, numerous committee meetings, webex meetings and a number of HOV's(Home owner visits).

This Photo by Unknown Author is

I could not do my job without the greatest group of people anyone could ask for! Together, it's impressive the number of things that we get done each month. I want to say a special Thank You to Beth Spirko for stepping in when John and we needed her to; it was greatly appreciated and a very warm welcome back to John Slusarz to the Presidency!

Now, get up out of that easy chair and go make the world a greener place!

2017 Awards Ceremony

This page commemorates those Nueces Master Gardeners that have achieved significant length of volunteer service accomplishments.

The following Nueces Master Gardeners have been presented special badges in recognition of their many hours of volunteer service to the organization:

5000+ HOURS GOLD BADGE WITH EMERALD

Rogers, Betty	Class 15

2000+ HOURS GOLD BADGE

Holliday, Deborah	Class 23
Lambert, Mary	Class 21
Latimer, Jessica	Class 4

1000+ HOURS SILVER BADGE

Parr, Pat	Class 10
Plank, Rosemary	Class 26

500+ HOURS BRONZE BADGE

Burch, Alene	Class 23

The following Nueces Master Gardeners were acknowledged for having given 5, 10, 15 and 25 years of service as members of our association:

15 YEARS		10 YEARS		5 YEARS	
McElroy, John	Class 14	Maxwell, Ron	Class 4	Martin, Debra	Class 23
Morlan, Sabra	Class 13				

The following Nueces Master Gardeners are being presented the GOLD TROWEL AWARD for giving over 100 hours of outstanding volunteer service for the year 2017:

Barragy, Carol	Class 21	Klaneckey, Iris	Class 10	Salge, Joanne	Class 20
Bishop, Michael	Class 26	Lambert, Mary	Class 21	Seip, John	Class 16
Easton, Karen	Transfer	Latimer, Jessica	Class 4	Silva, Paula	Class 27
Frost, Linda	Class 27	McRee, Joni	Class 17	Slusarz, John	Class 25
Hernandez, Norma	Class 21	Murray, Suzy	Class 25	Valdez, Carlos	Class 22
Holliday, Deb	Class 23	Parr, Paul	Class 13	VanZante, Gloria	Class 25
Johnson, Leland	Class 1	Plank, Rosemary	Class 26	Weber, Betty	Class 27
Kelley, Thorunn	Class 22	Rogers, Betty	Class 15	Williams, Sandra	Transfer

The following Nueces Master Gardeners have been presented the SILVER TROWEL AWARD for giving over 50 hours of outstanding volunteer service for the year 2017:

Abarca, Ana	Class 23	Dizney, Ronda	Class 24	Maxwell, Ron	Class 4
Balcar, John	Class 3	Garrett, Michelle	Class 26	Seip, Marjorie	Class 27
Barris, Jill	Class 26	Kelly, Maire	Class 26	Smith, Huxley	Class 16
Batteau, Ola Mae	Class 11	Lamprecht, Linda	Class 20	Spirko, Beth	Class 25
Baumgartner, DeAnna	Class 16	Lin, Lan-Lee	Class 10	Stelzig, Theresa	Class 20
Bishop, Brenda	Transfer	Martin, Debra	Class 23	Whitt, Betty	Class 9
Burch, Alene	Class 23	Martin, Gary	Class 13		
Dawson, Nina	Class 27	Martin, Stephanie	Class 13		

2017 Awards Ceremony

This page lists those Nueces Master Gardeners that were certified or were recertified during 2017.

Nueces Master Gardeners Certified in 2017

Clodfelter, Marsha	Class 28	Fernandez, Kathie	Class 27	Seip, Marjorie	Class 27
Denson, Kelly	Class 27	Moses, Barbara	Class 28	Weber, Betty	Class 27

2017 Class 28 - The following Interns have completed the course of instruction and have successfully passed the examination:

Bryan Carter	Kelly Munguia	Ryan Hanisch
Barbara Moses	Mary Ochoa	Elizabeth Yzaguirre
Marsha Clodfelter	Sofia Flores	Melanie Mora
Linda Early	Gina Sanchez	

The following Nueces Master Gardeners have been acknowledged for successfully completed the re-certification requirements to maintain the distinguished title of TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

TO DATE CERTIFIED NUECES COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS HAVE LOGGED 7,729.5 HOURS

Abarca, Ana	Class 23	Johnson, Leland	Class 1	Myers, Roger	Class 25
Balcar, John	Class 3	Kelley, Thorunn	Class 22	Parr, Pat	Class 10
Barragy, Carol	Class 21	Kelley, Maire	Class 26	Parr, Paul	Class 13
Batteau, Ola Mae	Class 11	Klaneckey, Iris	Class 10	Plank, Rosemary	Class 26
Baumgartner, DeAnna	Class 16	Krank, Carol	Class 16	Rogers, Betty	Class 15
Bishop, Brenda	T, 2015	Lambert, Mary	Class 21	Salge, Joanne	Class 20
Bishop, Michael	Class 26	Lamprecht, Linda	Class 20	Seip, John	Class 16
Burch, Alene	Class 23	Latimer, Jessica	Class 4	Silva, Paula	Class 27
Church, Madeline	Class 27	Lin, Lan-Lee	Class 10	Slusarz, John	Class 25
Dawson, Nina	Class 27	Martin, Debra	Class 23	Smith, Huxley	Class 16
Dizney, Ronda	Class 24	Martin, Gary	Class 13	Spirko, Beth	Class 25
Easton, Karen	Transfer	Martin, Stephanie	Class 13	Stelzig, Theresa	Class 20
Eicholz, Frank	Class 25	Maxwell, Ron	Class 4	Valdez, Carlos	Class 22
Frost, Linda	Class 27	McElroy, John	Class 14	Whitt, Betty	Class 9
Garrett, Michelle	Class 26	McRee, Joni	Class 17	Wigley, Joshua	Class 26
Hernandez, Norma	Class 21	Morlan, Sabie	Class 13	Williams, Sandra	T, 1999
Holliday, Deb	Class 23	Murray, Suzy	Class 25		

Emeritus

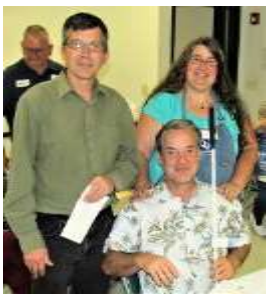
It was announced at the March monthly meeting that Nueces Master Gardeners DeAnna Baumgartner and Carol Krank had applied for, and were granted, emeritus status in our organization. At the meeting Nueces CEA Kevin Gibbs presented a summary of their activities and accomplishments as Master Gardeners, which were numerous and outstanding. While it was only a summary it clearly reflected that both DeAnna and Carol had compiled distinguished service since they began with the Master Gardeners in 2006. It is anticipated that they will continue to maintain active relations and be involved with our group in the future, their exceptional contributions that they have made to our association will be truly missed.

2017 Awards Ceremony

The pot luck luncheon was once again an excellent banquet with numerous delicious selections that were provided by the Nueces Master Gardeners. This year featured an outdoor dessert buffet, in fabulous weather conditions, that was set up in the truly pleasurable and tranquil courtyard.

Shown below is a random selection of pictures from the awards presentations.

To see all the pictures CLICK THIS



Nueces Master Gardener Earth-Kind Garden

The five Earth-Kind garden beds at the Botanical Gardens are maintained by the Nueces Master Gardeners. Recently, not so much. The issue of maintaining the beds, or lack of maintenance, was raised and discussed during the last few monthly meetings. After a little more discussion and a few other meetings, a new effort is being made to bring these beds up to their potential as a visual example presenting the benefits of using Earth-Kind plantings.

Previously, all the beds in this project were maintained by a committee chairperson and whatever NMGs volunteers that would show up on the planned work days. This approach has proven to be less than ideal. As a result of the recent dialogues on the challenges to this project, it has been changed so that there will now be NMGs that have volunteered, in teams, to oversee individual beds. The teams will establish their own work schedule and plans to improve and maintain their bed. The following is a summary of volunteers for each bed.

- Bed #1, roses, will be fostered and taken care of by Beth Spirko and Sandra Williams.
- Bed #2, SuperStars and salvia, will be cultivated and nurtured by Brenda Bishop, Jessica Latimer and Pat Parr.
- Bed #3, grasses, will be developed and managed by Carlos Valdez and John Slusarz.
- Bed #4, children's garden, will be overseen by Paula Silva and Breda Ermis of the Botanical Garden.
- Bed #5, herbs, will be given TLC by Brenda Bishop, Sophia Flores and Jessica Latimer.

There is always room for one more NMG volunteer. If you have an inkling and want to join in, just pick the bed, or beds, where you would like to help and contact any member of that team. They will gladly give you an update on their current plans for their bed and the times that they would be working on the bed. You can also help by propagating plants or donating plants that can be placed in the various beds.

A little help, helps a lot. Any questions or if you would like to help out contact Earth-Kind chairperson Paul Parr at paulnorman4910@aol.com

Jurisdiction Committee Meeting

A Jurisdiction Committee is simply a group getting together to start reviewing the Members Guide to determine if there is a need to update, change or delete any parts of the guide. It has been five years since the guide was last updated. This is work that is not fun for the average MG, but if you like this kind of work, this is for you. If you have a need or hours and cannot make a lot of weekday or other projects, this is work-at-home going through the 44 pages in the guide for possible changes. Prefer that no lawyers or government employees apply, there is enough bureaucracy in the guide as it is.

If you are interested or want to know more, contact the committee chairperson, Beth Spirko at 610-349-1099 or email her Elizabeth.spirko@gmail.com

Moses in a Cradle Survival

Submitted by
Gina Sanchez, Intern
Master Gardener

Picture A – Traditional

Wow! My Moses in a Cradle, scientific name Tradescantia spathacea, came back after the round of snow and freeze that hit our communities this past winter (Picture A). John you were right. They do come back. My heart sank after the winter appeared to wipe them out. I had diligently planted the cuttings that Mr. Slusarz so graciously shared. They were even placed in a cinder block border in an attempt to prevent them from being attacked by the "weed eater." You know, that piece of equipment that can get out of control, depending on the operator.

Even the variegated species (Tradescantia spathacea variegata) that I picked up at the end of the growing season from Home Depot pulled through the winter (Picture B). Not all of my plantings survived approximately 85% returned. Maybe because I planted the Moses in a Cradle in November, I guess not all were able to obtain deep roots. Lessons learned, build a green house. Can't wait till they fill each container over flowing. Happy planting! -

Picture B –Variegated

Ray High School Green House

An ongoing NMG project that is experiencing a small change is at the Ray High School green house.

NMG Rosemary Plank, a long-time chairperson of this project, is splitting her responsibilities. She will now focus on the administrative side and will be coordinating with Victoria Reyes, CCISD teacher, scheduling in-class speakers, class curriculum, attaining grants, etc.

NMG Alene Burch is taking over as the liaison for students when they are in the green house and garden area. Working with Victoria she will assist the process of organizing students with gardening, planning, and gardening day-to-day maintenance and other activities.

Ray High School Green House New Beds

There is an new 30 foot long garden bed located along the fence in the Ray High School green house garden area, thanks to the Nueces Master Gardeners. NMG John Slusarz and NMG Carlos Valdez put the finishing touches on the new bed at the end of March. The bed is 3' front to back and has been created in a way that is a little unique, it has three different elevations.

Located in the center of the bed is an 11" high section that is 8' long. On either side of that are two lower sections that are 6" high and each of these are 8' long. On both ends are the tallest sections that are 15" high and both of these are 3' long.

This bed was designed in this manner so that the students would have a little challenge when determining what plantings will go into the bed. They will now have to take the elevations into consideration when selecting plants and their locations within the beds to maximize the visual appeal.

SEED PACKING

On Tuesday, February 27th a group of Nueces Master Gardeners got together at the Garden Senior Center on Greely for the spring session of seed packing for the Learning To Grow program. If you have not participated in this event you might not be aware of all that it involves, it is a little more than just putting seeds in packets.

There are 51 schools that are part of the Learning To Grow program. The schools in the program have a total of 78 vegetable beds. For each bed the seed packing group puts together a shopping size bag. Each bag contains: 7 different packets of seeds they just packed, 3 different vegetable seedlings and a bag of fertilizer. Then those 78 bags have to be delivered to the 51 schools throughout Nueces county. The next time you hear there is a seed packing, this fall, you might consider taking part.

Woodlawn Elementary Bed Build

A hardy and robust bunch of Nueces Master Gardeners got together at Woodlawn Elementary school, on March 2nd, to load soil into 15 brand new Learning To Grow vegetable beds. This is a task that lesser gardeners would have shuddered at the thought of doing. Not this bunch. They handled the job easily, quickly and didn't break too much of a sweat. What a group!

Oh, did I neglect to mention that Learning To Grow chairperson, NMG Paula Silva, did magic and somehow managed to convince another group to donate the use of a front loader tractor and driver to do all the heavy-loading-soil-into-the-beds work. Regardless, the Master Gardeners still did one heck of a job preparing, relocating and smoothing out the beds.

Birthday Cards Needed

NMG Linda Lamprecht has requested that we put in the Gazette: "if anyone has birthday cards they don't want I'll take them. Have plenty of get well and sympathy, but I don't want to get picky. I told a friend hope I don't need all those get well and sympathy cards!"

Editors note - You know you have a bunch of birthday cards, that you will never use, stuck up on the closet shelf or the back of that drawer. Dig them out and contact Linda at aragonmill@yahoo.com.

Speakers Bureau

Shown below are the upcoming Speaker Bureau events scheduled for elementary schools within Nueces county. Always can use some extra MGs or Interns to help set up and assist with the presentation. You don't have to actually make the presentation, you can shadow the NMG that is doing the presentation. These presentations are a great way to have fun, the students love them, and get those youth education hours that you need.

- Friday, April 13, Early Scholars Academy Career Day, 8am - 12:00, Gardening careers, YEEHA! CLICK FOR A MAP
- Wednesday, April 18, Robt. Driscoll Jr Elementary Robstown, pre-K and K students, YEEHA! Veggies, bugs, water, 8:30am-10 am and 1-2 pm, they usually provide a lunch. CLICK FOR A MAP
- Monday, April 23, Early Scholars Academy Career Day, 8am-noon, Gardening careers, YEEHA! CLICK FOR A MAP
- Wednesday, April 25, Ella Barnes Elementary, 8am - noon, lunch provided, YEEHA! Veggies, bugs, water. CLICK FOR A MAP
- Friday, May 25, Kostoryz Elementary, 8:30am-11:30am, Lunch, YEEHA! Veggies, bugs, water. CLICK FOR A MAP

If you would like to volunteer or have questions, contact Deb Holliday - dholliday@mygrande.net

Plant Sale Committee

The Plant Sale Committee will meet at the Garden Senior Center - Computer Room (last room on left) on Friday April 13 @ 1:30 pm. This committee was formed during the March monthly meeting as there was considerable favorable discussion about the possibility of the Nueces Master Gardeners having a plant sale. The conversation focused on the NMGs growing the plants to be sold, so there would not be competition with the local nurseries. There was also significant interest expressed in having the plant sale at the weekly Farmers Market which is held on Wednesdays at 5pm in The Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 N Shoreline Blvd, Corpus Christi.

If you would like to join the committee and help decide if we should have a plant sale and what would be the best way to have a plant sale, contact Thorunn Kelley at thorunnkelley32@gmail.com.

From Betty Rogers

TIPS ON REPORTING YOUR HOURS

Volunteer and CE hours are NOT interchangeable. You must complete at least 30 volunteer and 6 CE hours annually to re-certify.

Two new projects have been added to the List of Projects for VMS. Please begin using "Oso Bay Wetlands/Preserve" and "Port Aransas Nature Preserve" when appropriate.

Upcoming Specialist Training.

Shown below are some upcoming Master Gardener training opportunities. Click the specialist title to view details and for more information on the courses.

Rainwater Harvesting – April 30-May 2 - Hosted by Dallas County
Greenhouse Management – May 23-25 - Hosted by Hill Country
Texas Superstars – September 18-20 - Hosted by Smith County

Click this for full details

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!

Apr 03	Nina Dawson	Class 27
Apr 13	Deb Houlihan	Class 21
Apr 30	Beverly Leach	Class 15
Apr 30	Betty Rogers	Class 15

New Master Gardener

Our newest certified Nueces Master Gardener is Sofia Flores from Class 28. If you happen to bump into her make sure you give her a big ***CONGRATULATIONS.***

Rose Blooms

I was at Ray High School green house and could not help but notice the rose bed. It looked terrific. What made me stop and look is that this bed gets the least amount of attention possible.

Mock Orange and Bees

Submitted by Intern Kelly Munguia

Kelly sent in this picture of a bee doing bee things on her Variegated Japanese Mock Orange, *Pittosporum tobira 'Variegatum'.* This is a sure indication that spring has sprung in all of its full glory.

Facebook NMG Bulletin Board

If you have not joined the Nueces Master Gardeners Facebook Bulletin Board and have wondered just how many Nueces Master Gardeners are part of the Bulletin Board. Well, shown below is the latest listing. Don't you think you should join?

Alene Hope Burch
Allene Eicholz
ßeth Spirko
Beverly Smith Leach
Brenda Bishop
Carlos H Valdez Sr.
Carol Barragy
Carol Krank
DeAnna Baumgartner
Deb Holliday
Debra L. Martin
Gina Sanchez
Gloria Fernandez-VanZante
Helen Orsak
Jackie Martin
Jan Gardner Shannon
Jason Ott
John Balcar
John Slusarz
Kathie Hardesty Smith
Fernandez
Kelly Fitzy Denson
Kelly Munguia
Kevin Gibbs
Linda Early
Linda Mussman Lamprecht
Lisa Margot Schmidt
Lisa Martinez
Liz Yzaguirre
Madeline Church
Máire McPartland Kelly
Marjorie Seip
Martha Gonzales
Mary Lambert
Mary Lou Ochoa Martin
Mel Mora
Michael Bishop
Michelle Garrett
Nina Flores Dawson
Norma Hernandez
Paula Silva
Romeo Gonzales
Rosemary Plank
Sabie Morlan
Sandra Rosato Williams
Sofia Flores
Stephanie Martin
Suzy Murray
Theresa Stelzig
Thorunn Kelley

Nueces Master Gardener Suzy Murray, Class 25

Shown as we are used to seeing her, Nueces Master Gardener Suzy Murray, Class 25, will be leaving us in May. She is moving to her new bit of paradise in the hill country. While only with us for a few years, her participation has made it seems longer, she has been an active and involved Master Gardener. She became an Irrigation Efficiency Specialist in 2015 and has made excellent numerous presentations. Her involvement as Treasurer has seen a new accounting system installed and she has maintained continued high standards in the position. She will be leaving large footsteps behind. Her last monthly meeting will be in April, make sure you wish her well and the best of things as she begins a new adventure in her life.

Path to the Plate Dinner Volunteer

Submitted by Nueces Master Gardener Deb Holliday

The Master Gardeners have been asked to set up and man a demonstration booth at the Path to the Plate Dinner event at on Saturday, April 14 which is being held at the Rockin' K Maze that is located just outside of Robstown. MAP

We would begin setting up at 4:3pm and will start manning/demonstrating from the booth at 5 to 6 pm. I would like to have at least another NMG volunteer accompany me and dinner will be included. I can drive. If interested contact Deb at dholliday@mygrande.net

Watch the High-Flying Physics of a Plant's Exploding Fruits

The New York Times By Kenneth Chang March 9, 2018

When it's time for the hairyflower wild petunia to pass its genes to the next generation, it does it with a bang. To reproduce, the plant flings tiny seeds from a small torpedo-shape fruit more than 20 feet through the air. That's not an easy task. The seeds are discs about a tenth of an inch in diameter — smaller than the circles that fall out of a hole punch — and 1/50th an inch thick, the equivalent of three sheets of paper. "It's like throwing confetti," said Dwight Whitaker, a professor of physics at Pomona College in Claremont, Calif. But somehow these seeds slice smoothly through the air.

In an article published in the Journal of the Royal Society Interface, Dr. Whitaker and a trio of undergraduate physics majors worked out what happens in that moment of explosion that launches the seeds so far. "It's really cool," said Sheila Patek, a professor of biology at Duke who was not involved with the research.

While scientists know that plants use a variety of strategies to disperse seeds, Dr. Whitaker and his students "really did an exceptional job of showing how this comes together in this particular plant species," Dr. Patek said. Dr. Whitaker became intrigued with the hairyflower wild petunia more than five years ago when botanists at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, less than a mile from campus, told him about the plant.

The seeds sit within a small fruit that is a bit over an inch long. A spine along each half of the fruit is made of three layers, which shrink at different rates as they dry. That creates a strain that bends them outward. The two halves remain held together by glue. Drip some water onto it, the glue dissolves and the fruit violently splits in half.

Continued next page

Watch the High-Flying Physics of a Plant's Exploding Fruits

Continued from previous page

With ultrahigh speed video — up to 20,000 frames a second — Dr. Whitaker and his students slowed down the action, watching as hooks in the fruit accelerated the seeds to speeds more than 30 miles per hour, similar to how the curved scoops used in the sport of jai alai can accelerate a ball to well over 100 m.p.h. "It just looks like this gentle, beautiful motion," Dr. Whitaker said.

Seeds still nestled in the jagged stalks that help propel the hairyflower wild petunia's

When they did the calculations, they were stunned to find that some of the seeds were spinning at a rate of more than 1,600 revolutions a second. The discs were oriented vertically, spinning like a bicycle wheel headed backward. Those at the top of the fruit tended to fly the farthest, while those at the bottom of the fruit tended to wobble — "floppers," the researchers call them — and land closer to where they started.

Next, they wondered why. Why the vertical orientation? Why backspin? Why do the seeds spin so fast? For that, they turned to an obsolete piece of 20th century technology: the compact disc.

Carolyn Cross, who graduated from Pomona in 2013, cannibalized a boom box and built a disc-launching apparatus. She also performed more prosaic experiments: flinging CDs down a hallway or off the roof of a campus building. No matter how she launched the CDs, the spinning discs would invariably tip over to a vertical orientation, always with back spin, not top spin. The aerodynamics of a flat disc are fundamentally different from a Frisbee, Dr. Whitaker said. The Frisbee's lip creates a stabilizing turbulence that keeps it flying horizontally (at least when properly thrown). Eric Cooper, a senior at the college, worked out the mathematics of the seed's flat disc. The back spin keeps the seed oriented so that it slices through the air with minimal drag. He also showed how the forces on a horizontally spinning seed tip it over to vertical, similar to the wobbling motion of a spinning top.

"Most people think plants don't move at all," Dr. McDade said. "Some of them have really remarkable ways to move around."

Editors Note - the above is an extract, for the full article and to view the video- CLICK THIS - https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/09/science/hairyflower-wild-petunia-seeds.html?action=click&mod ule=D iscovery&pgtype=Homepage

Editors note - Something I recommend that you do. If you would like to see the foundation of this article and the extraordinary amount of researched detail that is involved in this type of seemingly simple article - CLICK THIS - for a link to the Royal Society Publication article. It is interesting just to scan the article to get a small understanding of what is necessary to support the information provided. Click below.

http://rsif.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/15/140/20170901

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

Disclaimer - The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife. The information herein is for informational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Master Gardeners is implied.

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.

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