



# 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>)

### April 7 brings Botanical Gardens' **BIG BLOOM**

Despite wind, rain and chilling temperatures Big Bloom was a winner. Over 25 Nueces Master Gardeners were onhand to assist plant buyers in selecting the best plants for their needs, manning the refreshment booth, receiving attendees and collecting payments for their purchases. All around good showing and involvement by the Master Gardeners helping make it a success.



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### **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**

- 10:30am** Board of Directors Meeting
- 11:30am** Meet & Greet Lunch
- 12:00pm** Presentation on the Greely and CC Parks & Recreation
- 12:30pm** General Meeting

*To volunteer for future lunches, you can contact Rita Phillips 991-0750 or email her at rnphillip-scctx@grandecom.net*

**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** Tuesdays 7:30am (Except MG meeting day then Wednesday) Contact: Mary Lambert 813-7596 or cwlme1@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

THANK YOU  
**Volunteers!**  
 We couldn't do it without you



**OTHER ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH**

- Wed, May 2** - Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society meeting, 7pm, GC, 687-6474
  - Thur, May 3** - Orchidology: 1st Thursday of the month, 7pm BG
  - Tue, May 8** - Garden Council meeting, 537-8231 10am GC
  - Wed, May 9 - 6:30-8:30pm** - Youth Training Demonstration, GC see page x,
  - Wed, May 23** - Plumeria Society meeting, 6:30pm, GC, 813-9616
  - Thur, May 24** - Bonsai Society meeting, 7pm, GC, 992-0009
  - Thur, May 24** - Bromeliad Society meeting, 658-8650 GC 7pm  
[5325 Greely Dr, CC, TX CLICK FOR MAP](#)
- For full details of the monthly events:  
 Botanical Gardens May Events - see page 10  
 Gills Nursery Garden Talks - see page 11

Speakers Bureau



**Youth Training Demonstration**  
**Wednesday, May 9 from 6:30pm-8:30pm.**  
**At the Garden Senior Center on Greely**

CEA Kevin Gibbs and NMG Deb Holliday will be conducting a demonstration and training of some of our youth programs. This is a great opportunity to learn what some of these programs are about so it's not so intimidating to volunteer to assist with some of these programs. And even if you are not comfortable with presenting, there is always setting up and other duties you can help with that are still a huge help.

During this time of year, Master Gardeners (MGs) get quite a few requests for youth education programs at different schools as well as other sites. Many of them are repeat customers because they've really enjoyed and benefitted from MG programs in the past, so they keep coming back! This is great for us, but our Speakers Bureau Committee needs your help. It's also a great opportunity for MGs to get youth hours.



**Agents  
Notes**  
**TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION**  
 Kevin O. Gibbs, CEA - Horticulture  
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

## Texas Highways to Heaven

Last Friday, I took the afternoon off because we had company coming into town. They arrived at 4:45 by the way. I'm not complaining though. It's rare that I get the time to just sit and relax. It's also very rare that I get a sneak peak at the mail before the others in my house do. The dogs began to bark ferociously, which signaled the arrival of the mail man. I browsed through the stack skeptically, there's usually nothing more than junk mail and a few bills. As I reached the bottom of the stack, I saw the *Texas Highways* magazine. My mom told me she had gotten me a subscription for my birthday. I placed the other crap on the counter and sat down to browse.

I was only a fourth grader when my family moved to the small town of Lorenzo about eighteen miles east of Lubbock at the base of the Texas panhandle. We moved there to be closer to my grandparents. My grandmother was in failing health, she outlived everyone else, coincidentally. My grandparents owned a five and dime and a Western Auto franchise, so my parents began working for them. I thought it was cool to go to the five and dime after school instead of riding the bus home. We would sit and drink Orange Crush from the quarter coke machine and eat peanuts. It wasn't long before my grandmother and my dad figured out that they couldn't work together. They got into it one day and out the door my dad went in a huff.

Before long though, he had found a job in neighboring Lubbock County and thus began his career working for the State Highway Department. He transferred eventually to the Crosby County Highway Department and worked there the rest of his career until retiring in 2002. My dad did pretty much everything and worked his way up to maintainer driver (that's a road grader). We laughed so hard at some of the stories that he would tell about his experiences there.

My dad hadn't been working for the highway department long before he began bringing home *Texas Highways* magazines. They were full of all kinds of interesting tidbits about Texas towns, Texas politics, food and other oddities, but my favorite things always were the editions full of Texas wildflowers. I don't know about you, but Texas has some of the most beautiful wildflower displays of anywhere that I have ever been. Nothing heralds in spring like the first specs of blue from our state flower announcing spring is almost here, get ready. If you haven't travelled some of the wildflower trails, they are certainly worth the drive. Get out this spring and explore our great state or visit the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. There's nothing better than exploring our great state to put you in the mood for gardening.



[https://www.wildflower.org/?gclid=EAlaIqob\\_ChMlXbrNv\\_Pk2gIVUr7ACh0AZwb5EAAAYASAAEgKyFfD\\_BwE](https://www.wildflower.org/?gclid=EAlaIqob_ChMlXbrNv_Pk2gIVUr7ACh0AZwb5EAAAYASAAEgKyFfD_BwE)  
<http://texashighways.com/travel/item/573-trip-to-beautiful-th-wildflower-drives>

My Dad didn't always understand all the fuss over the bluebonnets and the Indian paintbrush that grew along the highways; the prickly poppies or the phlox, but the one thing he did love was nature. Little did he know when he began working for the highway department all those years ago, that I'd still get a rush of endorphins, just at the site of the new *Texas Highways* magazine awaiting my exploration. You can bet that if I'm at a doctor's office, dentist's appointment or even just getting the oil changed, that I'll look through the stack of magazines on the table or shelves and go for a *Texas Highways* magazine first, every time. Dad's been gone for a while now, but all those great memories are still alive and well. It's funny how a song, a place or even a magazine can bring those memories flooding back. Making you think about those you love and all the reasons why.

Love you Dad! I bet heaven's full of bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush!

Thanks for the subscription Mom! You're the prettiest wildflower around!

## 2018 Texas Master Gardener Association Conference

The conference was held at the Texas A&M facility in College Station on April 4-6. Our local organization was well represented by Nueces Master Gardeners Michael Bishop, Thorunn Kelley, Jessica Latimer, Beth Spirko, CEA Kevin Gibbs and Daisy Castillo of Extension Assistant - BLT - GNHC.

We found out at the convention that our submission of the Learning To Grow Instructors Manual as an entry for the TMGA Awards Program won 3rd place in the medium large group category, more information will be published when the official awards list is announced.



NMG Beth Spirko took quite a few pictures while at the conference, to see them [CLICK THIS!](#)

# Happy birthday!

# Happy birthday!

Nueces Master Gardeners with a birthday this month include the following. When you see one of them, be sure that you take time to tell and wish that they have a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

May 01	Pat Botkin	15	May 20	Robert Dillard	27
May 06	Sandra Williams	T, 1999	May 21	Rosemary Plank	26
May 09	Linda Lamprecht	20	May 23	Michael Bishop	26
May 16	Kathie Fernandez	27	May 25	Theresa Stelzig	20
May 18	DeAnna Baumgartner	16	May 28	Lisa Schmidt	26

## 7 Best Birdwatching Hikes in Texas



Listed as #1 is the South Texas Botanical Garden and Nature Center in Corpus Christi, Texas by Step Outside.org. It has several birding guides separated by season for its guests. Consider taking a paid tour, or branching out on your own on their many nature trails. Birds you might get to see here include pelicans, herons, and terns in the summer, and hummingbirds, robins, and warblers in the winter! To see the complete list - [CLICK THIS.](#)

<http://stepoutside.org/article/7-best-birdwatching-hikes-in-texas/>

## 4-H Presentation

One of our youngest Nueces Master Gardeners, and a very active 4-H member, Joshua Wigley gave a most interesting and informative presentation at the Garden Council meeting on April 10 at the Senior Garden Center. He explained the history, objectives and current activities that the 4-H youth organization supports and participates in.



## Tomato Growing

NMG Jessica Latimer sent in this photograph of some green tomatoes that she is very proudly growing in her garden. From the way her plants seem to be starting out, it looks like she will be having a bumper crop of tomatoes this year.



## Eastern black swallowtail

Intern Kelly Munguia sent in a picture of what she identified as an Eastern black swallowtail larvae, *Papilio polyxenes asterius*. In the picture she also identified the plant that the larvae were feasting on, a roughfruit scale seed, *Spermolepis divaricata*.



The eye-catching larvae will transform into a reasonably common, and also attractive, butterfly seen in our area.



## Rock Rose

NMG Kelly Denson sent in a picture of a flower from a Rock Rose plant, *Pavonia lasiopetala*, that is growing and flourishing outside of the office where she works. She has the opportunity to see it every workday and commented "I love it!" The Rock Rose is a hardy Texas native plant that does very well in our region. If you would like more information on this plant [CLICK THIS](https://www.gardenia.net/plant/Cistus-Creticus-ssp-Incanus-Rock-Rose).  
<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/Cistus-Creticus-ssp-Incanus-Rock-Rose>



## 2nd Annual Tomato & Salsa Festival

Saturday June 3, 2017

5902 S. Staples Corpus Christi, TX 78413

This is an opportunity to show off your home grown tomatoes for the chance to win a \$100 gift card for the biggest tomato! Additional prizes will be given for the best in the other categories below.

Bring us your best tomatoes in the following categories:

- Biggest Red (weight in oz.) Best Tomato any variety
- Best Unusual Tomato (striped, rare variety, etc)
- Best Small (Cherry, Grape, Pear)
- Best tomato grown by a child (12 or under)
- Best Fresh Salsa (Green or Red) Mild, Medium, and Hot Salsa Categories

If you are interested in entering the tomato contest, please print out the entry form and bring it with you to the festival! For more information and full contest rules and entry form available as download PDF at website - [CLICK THIS](#)

# *Nueces Master Gardener Public Plant Sale*

**Saturday, October 13, 2018, 9am until 2pm  
Senior Garden Center on Greely.**

We are requesting that our fellow Master Gardeners propagate plants for the sale from what they have in their homes and gardens. If the plant sale is successful it will need a large display and variety of different types of healthy plants to sell. This event could become a major fund raising source. Examples of the plants in the sale could include herbs, fall vegetables, bushes, trees, fall flowers and house plants; also succulents, bonsai, roses, plumeria and orchids. Whatever you can provide would be greatly appreciated.



To help coordinate and assist with the planning of the show it would be most helpful to know in advance the types and number of plants that we will have available for the sale. As soon as you can establish what plants you are planning to provide please email the list to NMG Madeline Church at [madichurch@hotmail.com](mailto:madichurch@hotmail.com).

The plants offered should represent Master Gardener’s standards, and to present a professional impression, we are requesting if at all possible the plants be in minimum lots of 6 for 2-quart pots, 6 for one-gallon pots and 12 for 4-inch pots. Pots of these sizes are being secured and if you need any pots to help with propagation for this program there will be information announced shortly.



Every plant in the sale will be clearly labeled/tagged and have more information for growing and maintaining the plants than one can get at a big box store. These sale plants can be grown from seeds or any other means of propagation and please bear in mind the time of year the plant sale is being held: plants that are appropriate for the upcoming costal bend winter season.

There will be a propagation class held at the Botanical Garden Education room on Wednesday, May 16 and will run from 11 am until 1 pm (bring your lunch). This propagation refresher class is being held to answer any questions concerning how to propagate various type seeds or plants and what plants can be propagated for the sale from your garden or house.

To support the plant sale it is planned to advertise the sale in as many ways possible; the newspapers, local TV channels news, use yard sales signs and it will be heavily promoted at our booth during the Home and Garden show. As we get closer to the sale date volunteers will be needed to help to stage plants, make and attach labels/tags, sell plants at the sale, set up/cleanup crew and help in many more ways.

The committee is still in the process of formulating all the details that will go into this show. Additional information will be published as they are finalized. In the interim, if you have any suggestions or questions contact any committee member; Co-Chairpersons Thorunn Kelley and Madeline Church, Secretary John Slusarz, Brenda Bishop, Michael Bishop, Deb Holliday, Frank Eicholz, Beth Spirko, Theresa Stelzig, Sandra Williams, Jessica Latimer and CEA Kevin Gibbs.

## Fall Home and Garden Show Plant Show Committee

Even though the Home and Garden Show is quite a way off, the Plant Show Committee met on Fri-



day, April 27 at the Garden Senior Center to develop and organize plans for the plant show that will be part of the upcoming fall Home and Garden show that is scheduled for September 28 - 30. The committee members are; President Brian Carter, Secretary Emiliana Wigley (mother of NMG Joshua Wigley), Treasurer

Deb Holliday, Communications Kelly Munguia and John Slusarz, Garden Council President Huxley Smith, CEA Kevin Gibbs, Joshua Wigley and Kathie Fernandez.

It is intended that the plant show will be open to participation by all member organizations of the Garden Council, Huxley Smith is in the process of contacting all to see if they would be willing to participate and to what extent they would participate in the plant show. He has been making presentations at the organizations meetings to explain the intent of having the plant show. This effort will be continued and expanded by other members of the committee.

NMG Joshua Wigley is coordinating participation of the youth organizations from our local area on the possibility of having a contest, for the youth organizations only, included as part of the plant show, this has not been fully established.

It is anticipated that the committee will be presenting the Master Gardeners with more information on the plant show in a short period.

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### Presentations

At the April monthly Master Gardener meeting a couple of presentations were made by President John Slusarz and Vice President Beth Spirko. Doing a little catch up from last month, Paula Silva was given her Award for Rookie of the Year from Class 27 for her contribution to the Learning To Grow program and her involvement in many other NMG activities and events. In a more timely manner, Sophia Flores was presented with her certification for completing all her requirements and becoming a Certified Master Gardener. Congratulations to both for their accomplishments.



# Turfgrass tips to make a lawn the envy of the neighborhood

By Adam Russell Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

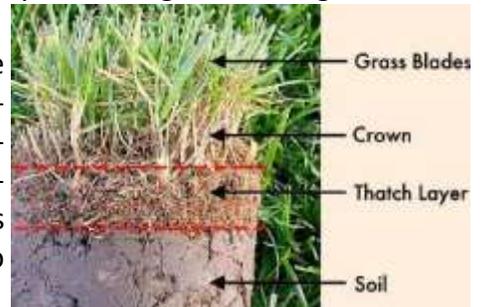
Submitted by NMG Carlos H. Valdez from From: Texas Gardener



Springtime is a good time to prepare lawns for a healthy summer as warm-season grasses come out of dormancy and begin to green up, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert. Dr. Becky Grubbs, AgriLife Extension turfgrass specialist, College Station, said lawn care is a multifaceted effort homeowners can tackle if they follow AgriLife Extension recommendations and invest the time to create healthy, thriving grasses. "It's impossible to make blanket recommendations for homeowners who want their lawn to perform to its potential," she said. "But AgriLife Extension has an incredible amount of science-based information that can direct homeowners on most lawn care questions and concerns."

AgriLife Extension has several online resources available to help homeowners establish and maintain turfgrass. Aggie Turf at <https://aggieturf.tamu.edu/> has extensive information about caring for species including Bermuda grass, St. Augustine, buffalo grass, seashore paspalum and others. The site also provides information regarding identification and treatment of common weeds and insect pests and publications that address specific weed, disease and pest issues. Grubbs recommends homeowners contact their county's AgriLife Extension agents for recommendations that meet their lawn's needs according to local conditions.

**THATCH** - One thing all homeowners can check for is excess thatch - a layer of living and dead grass stems, roots, rhizomes and stolons, which are new plant growth that develops between the live green vegetation of a lawn and the soil surface. The thatch layer is composed of plant parts at various stages of decomposition, according to an AgriLife Extension publication. Thatch can help provide a good growing environment for grasses, but excess thatch can prevent water and oxygen from reaching plant roots and create conditions for diseases, Grubbs said. Core aerators or verticutters can be used to thin thatch, she said. Many professional landscapers can dethatch and aerate lawns, or machines can be rented at some lawn and garden retailers. The AgriLife Extension publication for thatch management can be found at <https://bit.ly/2qdkR6i>. "Roots need oxygen and water to survive, and microbes need oxygen to be productive to create healthy soil," she said.



**FERTILIZER** - Once past the window of a last frost, Grubbs said homeowners should ramp up their grasses' access to nitrogen via fertilizers. The nitrogen requirements for grasses vary with species, but most warm-season varieties should receive nitrogen fertilizer every four to six weeks. Bermuda grasses, for instance, can require moderate-to-high levels of fertilizer, she said. "Bermuda grass needs approximately 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet every four to six weeks between May and August, whereas buffalo grass, which is native to West Texas and typically low maintenance, needs less nitrogen over the growing season," she said. "I would emphasize that homeowners need to strike a balance with their fertilizing, as too much fertilizer can be detrimental for the grass, the environment and their pocketbook."

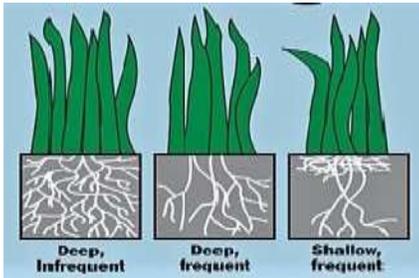


**WATER** - Like fertilizers, grass species also require different amounts of water, Grubbs said. "Making a recommendation on water is difficult because it varies so much with location, grass species and ever-changing environmental conditions," she said. AgriLife Extension has a resource at <http://texaset.tamu.edu/> that provides evapotranspiration rates and watering needs based on current conditions for around 50 locations around the state.

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Evapotranspiration, which is the rate water evaporates into the atmosphere by evaporation and by transpiration from plants, for some areas can be found by going to the site and clicking on the county or weather station nearest their lawn, she said. It will calculate how much water needs to be applied with the input of a little information. Grubbs does recommend homeowners refrain from watering until grass shows initial signs of stress - such as reduced bounce-back. "When you walk on your lawn and the leaves don't immediately



bounce back and your steps leave an indentation - it's time to water," she said. Typically, watering one to two times a week for a total of 1-2" of water when conditions are dry is plenty, she said. Moisture- or rain-sensing technology is a good way to avoid overwatering. Grubbs recommends watering to reach a soil depth of 6 inches. "That might take using a hand trowel to dig down and see how much time and water it takes," she said. A resource that provides insight about proper lawn watering can be found at <https://bit.ly/2GDkzR4>.

Homeowners should also be aware of municipal water restrictions and recommendations, homeowners with sprinklers should also be mindful about their systems and check for leaks or faulty sprinkler heads and using water unnecessarily. Water-wise individuals can learn how to test their sprinkler system from this video by AgriLife Extension's Water University at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nIwZ\\_imn9w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nIwZ_imn9w). It's a good time to check systems or have a professional take a look at it," she said. "A malfunctioning sprinkler head could mean too much water in one area or not enough in another."

**WEEDS**

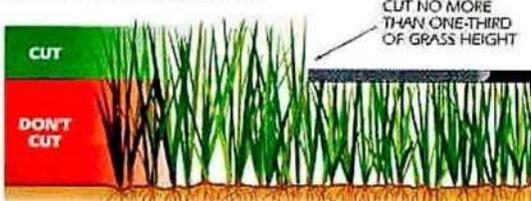
The best way to fight weeds is by promoting warm-season grasses. Creating ideal conditions for specific warm-season grass varieties includes fertilizing and watering appropriately. "The time for pre-emergents has passed, but we can do other things to help create ideal conditions for turfgrasses," she said. "Turfgrasses can more easily outcompete weeds for resources when we reach the goal of a healthy, dense turf." Grass health will also depend on other conditions such as whether it is a high- or low-traffic area, the amount of shade or sun it receives, and mowing height, she said. Post-emergent



herbicides, such as 2,4-D, work well against broadleaf weeds such as dandelions without hurting most turfgrass varieties, but they aren't effective against clover and grassy weeds. "Weed identification is very important when it comes to determining what the treatment options are," she said. "Again, I would reference Aggie Turf publications or contact a local AgriLife Extension agent when there is a question."

**MOWING** - Grass species will play the most significant factor in mowing height, and conditions such as rain and sun will direct frequency of cutting, "Homeowners should never

**THE ONE-THIRD RULE**



take more than one-third of the plant's mature height throughout the season," she said. "The amount of shade or sun will also factor into how high the grass should be cut. The height should be raised about 50 percent for areas that are shady most of the time." The amount of foot traffic will also direct mower height, Grubbs said.

An AgriLife Extension publication on mowing practices at <https://bit.ly/2H2eNrx> can direct homeowners on cutting height, mowing equipment and frequency for several grass species in lawns, athletic fields and golf courses. "Once homeowners establish what they need to do to provide the right environment and conditions for their lawns to thrive, lawn care won't seem like such a daunting task," Grubbs said. "Most things will become a routine that will be repeated each year and growing season, and AgriLife Extension publications, resources and staff are available for things that pop up."



# MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

## THURSDAY, MAY 3, 7 PM ORCHIDOLOGY



On-going Orchid monthly class series and information exchange, for novice to experienced growers, with Orchid Curator Sam Jones, in the Education Station classroom. Monthly topics range from different orchid genera to specific orchid culture techniques. FREE for all orchid lovers! Orchids for sale at most meetings. For information, call 361-290-7429.

## SATURDAY, MAY 5, 10:30 AM PRINCIPLES OF DESIGNING LANDSCAPE CURB APPEAL

Learn from Gill Nursery landscape designer Kathy Hubner the basic principles of designing curb appeal into your landscape—type of plants, colors, groupings, size, textures, curves (etc) for admiration of neighbors, other observers.



## FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MAY 11-13. MOTHERS DAY FREE WEEKEND--MOMS GET IN FREE!

Celebrate **National Public Gardens Day** with us and the **American Public Gardens Association**, on **Mothers' Day Weekend!** At Visitors Center Check-in, all a mother needs to say is **"Moms Love Flowers!"**, and she gets in free.



## MONDAY, MAY 14, 11 AM. STORYTIME WITH PARROTS

Parrots may live to be 100, but never grow up; and like children, love to be read to! Kids of any age, just bring a storybook with pictures, your favorite adult if under 12, and pull up the floor for *Storytime with Parrots*, with education staff and parrot trainers!

## SATURDAY, MAY 19, 10:30 A.M. TEENS, TWEENS MEET PARROTS AND REPTILES UP CLOSE

Staff Animal Care Specialists and Master Naturalist Chad Huckabee take youth deep into the habitats, habits and humor of Botanical Gardens most personable exotic parrots, and fascinating Resident Reptiles, and how they made their way into these popular Gardens exhibits. Under age 12 need accompanying adult.

## SATURDAY, MAY 26, 10:30-11:30 AM MARVELS OF PURPLE MARTINS

On Memorial Day Saturday, Purple Martin Conservation Association retiree Louise Chambers, shares insights of how to draw colonies of popular mosquito-eating Purple Martins to your back yard, their ideal housing, and lets you peak into the Botanical Gardens Martin "apartments" as she conducts nest checks for hatchlings.



## From Betty Rogers TIPS ON REPORTING YOUR HOURS



To earn CE credit, consider researching and writing an original article for the Gazette. It could be about one of your gardening passions, about a botanical garden you have visited on a trip or any other gardening related topic that you find interesting and would like to share with your fellow Master Gardeners. If you have other ideas, run them by us.



2810 Airline Road Website <http://gillnursery.com/garden-talks/>

**Saturday, May 5th, 10:00-11:00am - A Good Grade & Drainage!**

Speaker: James Gill, Owner and Landscape Designer, Gill Landscape Nursery. Grading and good drainage are two of the most important landscape factors impacting the health of your plants, lawn and home. James will discuss how to create proper drainage and correct common mistakes homeowners can make when installing pools, patios, and other landscape elements.

**Saturday, May 12th, 9:00am-4:00pm - Celebrate Mom!**

Bring the kids for a fun Mom's Day project. Kids can come plant a pot of flowers to give to mom. For \$10 we'll provide a terracotta pot, soil, plant food, and pretty flowers for the season. A sure way to make her smile! We'll have our staff on hand to assist.

**Saturday, May 19th - All Day - Armed Forces Day Celebration!**

Thank you to our Armed Forces, including Veterans, for your commitment and service to our country! All Military please enjoy a 30% discount all day at Gill's (excluding labor charges & already discounted items).

**Saturday, May 26th, 10:00am-11:00am - Adding Summer Color!**

Speaker Grace Buchanan, Garden Coach & Designer, Gill Landscape Nursery. Make your outdoor space look it's best with beautiful flowers and colorful foliage for the summer. Let Grace share her favorite plants and combinations for front door entries, patios, and color throughout your garden areas. Grace's sweet nature and eye for color is delightful for everyone!

**Saturday, June 2nd, 10:00am-11:00am - Expand Your Outdoor Space!**

Speaker Phillip Elbert, Landscape Designer, Gill Landscape Nursery. Dreaming of an outdoor room for entertaining, cooking, and just relaxing? Turn your ordinary outside to a beautiful and useful living space. Join Phillip as he walks you through designing your outdoors by adding stone, water, seating, cooking area, lighting and more. Phillip's eye for design and passion for the outdoors is inspiring and contagious!

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](mailto:llmartinez@ag.tamu.edu)