

Master Gardener Gazette Nueces County, Texas



The mission of the association shall be to organize and promote volunteer efforts that support the AgriLife Extension programs that are advancing sound horticultural practices in Nueces County (nueces.agrilife.org).

20TH ANNIVERSARY CORPUS CHRISTI HOME & GARDEN SHOW February 15 - 17

Expansion of the Show

The local gardening area for this years spring Home and Garden Show has been dramatically changed and will be significantly expanded. The show will now include over 15 horticultural related groups, displays, exhibits and activities. And It will also include a plant sale that is being sponsored by the Nueces Master Gardener and the Corpus Christi Area Garden Club. Show web page - **CLICK THIS.**

To accommodate this expansion the entire left wall of the show floor area has been committed to these activities and will involve over 27 booths and include over a dozen participants. For you to get a better understanding of the activities and groups that will be involved and how the booths have been distributed see page 5 for a preliminary floor plan.

The activities and presentations that take place on the stage have also been sig-

nificantly increased. While the presentations will continue to be anchored by the Nueces Master Gardeners it will now include increased and diversified participation by ten other groups and activities. Another show



enhancement is that the Saturday morning stage activities have been dedicated to youth presentations. The full stage schedule is shown starting on page 6.

Volunteers

With the increased number of events and activities that are included in this years Home and Garden show it will be highly desirable that the Nueces Master Gardeners have a great volunteer turnout. If you have any time, any time at all, that you can spare on any day to help out at the American Bank Center it would be greatly appreciated.

If you are intending to assist with the show, in any manner, please take the time and send MG Norma Hernandez an email at <u>cluestar@swbell.net</u> to let her know what times and on what days you will be able to help.

As always, help Is going to be needed in manning the Master Gardener booth and this year in a few new areas. For example, with the addition of the plant sale cashiers will be needed throughout the entire time the show is open to the public and extra help will be needed to set up at the American Bank Center on Wednesday Feb 13 at 11am and again for breaking down when the show ends on Sunday Feb 17 at 5pm.

Your help would be greatly appreciated.

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2019 LEADERSHIP CONTACTS CLICK THIS

Nueces Master Gardeners Monthly Meeting Tuesday, February 19 - Garden Senior Center



11:00am - Board of Directors Meeting

11:30am - Meet & Greet Brown Bag Lunch

12:00pm - Presentation

12:30pm - General Meeting

The luncheon this month will be something that we have not tried before, that I know of, and it will be somewhat a little different than we have had in the recent past; a "Brown Bag Lunch".

All Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring their own lunch. You can serve up your own tasties or buy them from your favorite restaurant or fast food establishment. The choice is up to you and it can be whatever you want,

Garden Senior Center 5325 Greely Dr. CLICK FOR MAP





<u>EARTH-KIND BEDS AT BOTANICAL GARDENS</u> - Each of the five beds is maintained by a team and when they get together will vary by each team. If you would like to help please contact Paul Parr for information at email paulnorman4910@aol.com



<u>FOOD BANK PROJECT</u> - the group gets together on Tuesdays at 7:30am (Except MG meeting day then Wednesday) to maintain the vegetable beds and plan for the upcoming growing season. The contact for info is: Mary Lambert at 813-7596 or cwlmel@yahoo.com



<u>GARDEN SENIOR CENTER COURTYARD</u> - The work session starts at 8am on the 1st Monday of the month MGs prune, weed, and generally shape up the courtyard. Contact is Jessica Latimer 563-6008 or 429paloma@att.net



RAY HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE - Student activity time in the garden starts at 8:45am on Tuesday and Thursday. MGs help coordinate student work in the garden area and offer hands-on gardening instruction. For class times or to otherwise help contact Alene Burch Lenahope9@yahoo.com



<u>SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS (STBG)</u> - Master Gardeners can help out at the STBG nearly any time they wish. There is always something that needs to done that will meet what you are willing to do and your help will be greatly appreciated

CLICK THIS - COMMITTEE/PROJECT CONTACTS PDF

Activities this month at the Garden Senior Center

- <u>Wed. Feb. 6</u> The Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm, for information contact 852-7700
- <u>Tue. Feb. 12</u> Corpus Christi Garden Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10am, for more information contact 537-8231
- Wed, Feb. 27 The Plumeria Society monthly meeting is the fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm, for information contact 813-9616
- <u>Thur, Feb. 28</u> The Bonsai Society monthly meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm, GC, for more information contact 992-0009
- <u>Thur. Feb. 28</u> the Bromeliad Society monthly meeting is fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm for more information contact 658-8650

If you are part of a gardening club or activity and would like to share information, you can add it it to the Gazette. Send an email to the editor and it will be gladly included.



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



Commander Betty!

During the Christmas break, my heart was saddened to hear that one of our Master Gardeners, Betty Weber had passed away. Betty was a unique individual with an effervescent smile and a huge heart. Now don't get me wrong she was a very direct person and would tell you how it was in a heartbeat.

I first met Betty when she signed up for Master Gardener classes (Class 27). It was clear from the beginning that she was a force to be reckoned with. She was straightforward and to the point. I soon learned though that Betty was a joy to be around and that she loved to learn.

Betty took the idea of volunteering to heart. I could call her on a Thursday and tell her that I had something going on Friday and she would say pick me up and let's go. She helped with YEEHA events, Olive trials, the home and garden show and saved my butt this year with the learning to grow program. I will miss seeing her drive up in her little blue truck with a giant smile on her face. I will also miss her calling me to tell me when I got it wrong. She wasn't mean about it, she just wanted to make sure that I understood where I had messed it up. Betty was a go getter with a heart of gold and was a very strong lady to boot.

She loved her children and would often talk about visiting them. Her daughter, Michelle lived in the Waco area and Betty would ask me tree and plant questions about what would work best there. She also talked about her sons Byron and Carl and how proud she was of them.

Wherever you are Betty, take charge and tell them how it needs to be done! Gonna miss you my friend!





Thursday, February 28, 2019 8:00am — 2:45pm



Del Mar Center for Economic Development

CONFERENCE TOPICS

- Protecting our Bays Through Proper Fertilization Techniques
- IPM Strategies for Palms
- Insect Identification and Management in Urban Landscapes
- Tree Selection for Urban Landscapes Selecting for Insect and Disease Resistance
- Disease Identification and Management in Urban Landscapes
- Pesticide Rules & Regulations Update

Pre-registration required by February 21th by calling (361) 767-5217 Fee: \$45 (includes Light Breakfast & Lunch) Make checks payable to NCEPC

For More Information Contact: Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Nueces County 710 E. Main, Suite 1 Robstown, TX 78380 Ph: (361)767-5217

Ray High School Garden

Submitted by Nueces Master Gardener Alene Burch

The Ray High School students that are part of the classes at the schools greenhouse



harvested several tubs of beautiful organic lettuce last week that was grown in the schools greenhouse garden area. They donated it to the schools culinary department and it was used for their burger bash fund-



raiser that was held on Wednesday, January 9. The garden classes students were also promised a nice salad for their consumption. The lettuce was harvested from the

bottom of the plants, so it should continue to grow and produce barring a freeze!

January Monthly Meeting and Training

The January 15 Nueces Master Gardener monthly meeting had a excellent turn out with well over 40 Master

Gardeners in attendance. After the meeting more than 25 Master Gardeners stayed to receive a training presentation on pesticides; which is now required for anyone that will be volunteering for any activity at the Botanical Gardens. The presentation was



given for the Botanical Garden by Carol Krank, Master Gardener Emeritus.

Olive Tree Review

On January 11th the Master Gardeners that tend the olive trees which are being evaluated met at the



Botanical Gardens to review tree performance and their status for the first year. Overall the trees were doing well. Tree growth was minimal, as expected, and no significant problems were reported. Collection of tree data will be done only twice this year and will then be done more often as the trees begin their expected rapid growth cycle next year.

Learning To Grow

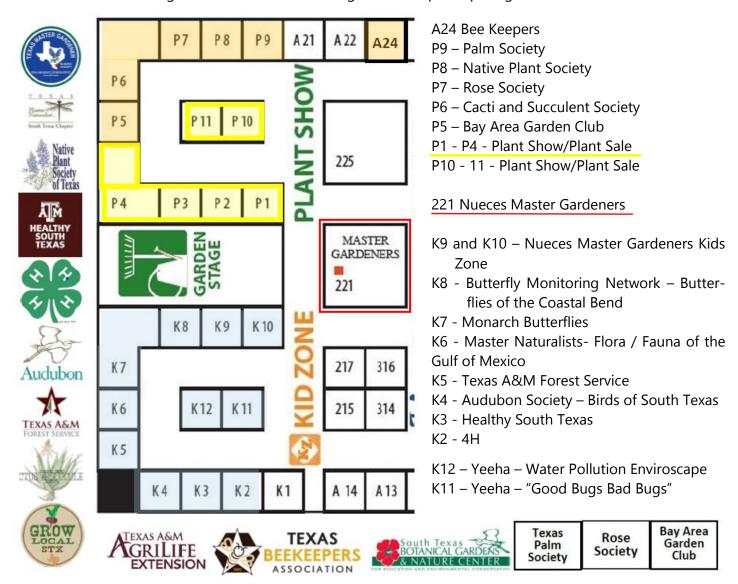
The LTG program is in need of a few volunteers that are willing to oversee the following areas:

- Seed Packing a once a year activity that will not consume a lot of time throughout the year.
- Bed Building only active when schools request new beds. Involves coordinating gathering material and arranging building times.

If any Master Gardener is interested in helping out with the above LTG areas or has any questions about the responsibilities, do not hesitate to contact CEA Kevin Gibbs or NMG John Slusarz.

Home and Garden Show Booth Layout

Shown below is a tentative booth assignment plan for the Home and Garden Show. There is a possibility that there will be changes based on additional organizations participating.



VOLUNTEER PARKING IS FREE

NMG Volunteers can park in the parking lot across from the main entrance on N. Chaparral St. The lot should have signage indicating it is for "Vendors" and should be free. Make sure you have your MG badge or MG identification in case you are asked.

CLICK THIS FOR MAP TO ABC SHOW PARKING



Garden Stage Speakers - Spring H&G, February 15 - 17, 2019

Friday, 2/15 Show opens 2pm	Title and Description	Presenter Jessica Latimer, Nueces Master Gardener	
3:00-3:25	Benefits of Growing Your Own Fruit – Learn how healthy and nutritious fruit picked right off your trees can be for you. Discover simple and delicious recipes to try.		
3:30-3:55	Rainwater Collection for the Homeowner – We never know when drought will hit. Collecting rainwater provides chemically untreated fresh water for your plants.	Carlos Valdez, EarthKind Specialist, Nueces Master Gardener	
4:00-4:25	Rainwater Collection with Rain Barrels – Different rainwater collection systems will be discussed.	Carlos Valdez, EarthKind Specialist, Nueces Master Gardener	
4:30-5:00	Spring Cleanup and Composting – Spruce up your yard while providing materials for the compost pile. Learn some tricks to turn your yard litter into black gold.	Deb Holliday, Compost Specialist, Nueces Master Gardener	
Saturday, 2/16 Show opens 10am Main Stage 1 and 3p	Title and Description	Presenter	
10:30-10:55 Kids Programming	Water Pollution and How You Can Help – Using the Enviroscape water display, Master Gardeners will show how pollution affects our water supply and how we kids can help.	Nueces Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists	
11:00-11:25 Kids Programming	Good Bugs/Bad Bugs – Only a small number of insects are harmful to people or plants. The rest are our friends. Master Gardeners will help you tell the difference.	Nueces Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists	
11:30-11:55 Kids Programming	Enjoy Your Food and Grow up Healthy – Experts from the AgriLife Extension Food and Nutrition Department have good advice for eating well and enjoying good health.	Texas AgriLife Extension	
12:00-12:25 Kids Programming	4-H Ambassadors – Kids who are in 4-H will describe what they do and will talk about the upcoming plant show competition.	4-H Ambassadors	
12:30-12:55 Kids Programming	Texas State Bee Queen – will make a presentation about bees, their lifecycle and how they live, and their benefits to all of us.	Texas State Bee Queen	
2:00-2:25	The ABC's of Succulents – Want to know more about growing and collecting succulent plants? Find out about different varieties and how easy they are to grow.	Kathie Fernandez, Nueces Master Gardener and Kevin Gibbs, CEA, AgriLife Ext.	
2:30-2:55	Wildflowers In Your Yard – Discover the beauty of wildflowers when planted in masses in your garden. Learn the techniques to have success with wildflowers.	Betty Whitt, Nueces Master Gardener	
3:00-3:25	The Best of the Garden Book – This is the holy grail of garden books for South Texas gardeners. Written by local gardeners for gardeners, it contains much valuable advice.	by local Horticulture Agent, Texas	
3:30-3:55	Greenhouses for Home Gardeners – How do I get started? What is needed? What do I want to grow? How much money do I need? Get the answers from this presentation.	Rosemary Plank, Nueces Master Gardener and Greenhouse Specialist	
4:00-4:25	Community Greenhouses – This is a community gardening trend that is being encouraged in Corpus Christi and South Texas. Learn how you can be a part of this new movement.	Rosemary Plank, Nueces Master Gardener and Kevin Gibbs, CEA AgriLife Ext.	
4:30-4:55	Beekeeping to Improve Gardening and Agriculture – Beekeeping experts will be onstage to share their experiences with beekeeping for hobbyists and as a small business.	Dennis Gray, President, South Texas Beekeepers Assn.	
5:00-5:25	South Texas Bays and Estuaries – Learn about the health of South Texas' chief water recreation areas. Discover some of the animals that inhabit this rich ecosystem.	Chad Huckabee, Master Naturalist	
5:30-5:55	Sea Life at the Padre Island National Seashore – PINS is unique for the animals and birds which occupy the seashore. Learn also about the important sea turtle support programs.	Art Seibert, Master Naturalist, et al	

Sunday, 2/17 Show opens 11am Main Stage 1p	Title and Description	Presenter	
11:00-11:25	What's Threatening the Monarch Butterflies? – In addition to habitat loss and predation, disease is another threat to the monarch. Learn what you can do to help.	Rosemary Plank, Master Naturalist	
11:30-11:55	What Do I Plant to Attract the Monarch and Other Butterflies? – Learn about butterfly attracting plants you can grow to experience their beauty while helping them prosper.	Rosemary Plank, Master Naturalist and Kris Kirkwood, Native Plant Society	
12:00-12:25	Native Plants for the South Texas Garden – You can enjoy more birds and butterflies if you provide them with the nectar, protection and food plants they need.	butterflies if you provide them with the nectar, Society, South Texas	
12:30-12:55	Container Gardening for Small Spaces – Growing flowers, herbs and vegetables in containers is the way to go if you have limited garden space. Learn some of the basics here.	o if you STBGNC, and Master	
2:00-2:25	Which Tools Do I Use? This is a dilemma, especially for the novice gardener. Learn which tools are best for each garden task and save money and aggravation.	John Slusarz, Nueces Master Gardener President	
2:30-2:55	Injury Free Gardening – Gardening can be tough on the knees, neck and back, not to mention bites, rashes and sunburn. Our expert will share his prevention advice with you.	John Slusarz, Nueces Master Gardener President	
3:00-3:25	Plant the Best Spring Garden – February is prime planting time for your spring/early summer garden. Learn about the best varieties for our area.	Deb Holliday, Nueces Master Gardener and Veggie Specialist	
3:30-3:55	Grow Local in 2019 – This active community gardening organization is going strong. Learn about their mission and what's on their plate for 2019.	Aislynn Campbell, Executive Director, Grow Local South Texas	
4:00-4:25	What's Bugging You? There are fewer pests to gnaw on and topple our plants in the spring. However, the one's that are out there can do harm. Learn to ID the culprits.	Beth Spirko, Nueces Master Gardener and Citrus/Palm First Responder	
4:30-4:55	Manage Those Bad Bugs – Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to naturally and culturally reduce and eliminate those garden bad guys. Beth Spirko, Nueces Ma Gardener and Citrus/Pa First Responder		

Kids' Zone - Master Gardener and Friends

Saturday: 1:00-2:30 - Nature Crafts – Free hands on activities with Master Gardener Friends 3:00-4:30 - Nature Crafts – Free hands on activities with Master Gardener Friends

Sunday: 1:00-2:00 - Nature Crafts - Free hands on activities with Master Gardener Friends

2:30-3:30 – Nature Crafts – Salad in a Pot

Plant Show Financing

At the January monthly meeting the Nueces Master Gardeners authorized \$1000 to support the plant show and sale at the spring and fall Home and Garden shows. That money, and a matching amount from the Corpus Christi Garden Council (CCAGC), has been put into a separate account managed by CCAGC. Money from this account will initially be used to buy plants that are to be sold and other material or services to support the Home and Garden plant sale and show, Money that is received from the Home and Garden plant sales will go into that same account and be used to fund the subsequent plant sales and shows.

As the money in the account increases to the point that exceeds what would be needed for upcoming plant shows and sales a youth scholarship program will be established. The details and specifics for the youth scholarship have not been established and will be when the amount of money increases sufficiently to set up an ongoing program. The youth scholarship program is intended to increase local youth participation in gardening and have greater youth involvement in future youth plant shows.

Texas Master Gardener VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Recording Public Contacts

One of the primary missions of the Nueces Master Gardeners is to educate the general public on topics related to horticulture. This we are doing very well through the many public events

and activities we host or participate in. However, as an organization we have gotten out of the habit of recording and reporting that we are doing this.

An example of our shortcoming is that for all of 2018 the Nueces Master Gardeners reported contacting under 2,000 people. During that same period the local South Texas Master Naturalist reported contacting approximately 50,000 people.





Why is it important that we fully report our contacts? It is the main method that we are able to display to AgriLife, the Texas Master Gardeners, many other organizations, government entities and the local community that we are deserving of their support. The number of contacts that we report is the primary evidence of our level of activity, involvement and contribution to the community.

What are contacts that should be recorded and reported? Basically, contactS are anytime a Nueces

Master Gardener interacts with the general public (youth or adult) as a representative of the Master Gardeners This could be: making a presentation at a gardening group meeting, to students at Ray High School, at YEE-HAW or the Botanical Garden Lecture series; or just answering questions at Big Bloom or the Home and Garden Show. And it would include any other MG event or activity when MGs interact with the general public. Without question our organization does this continually throughout the year and contacts many thousands of individuals.



How do you report contacts? Shown below is the bottom portion of the VMS page used for reporting volunteer hours and it is also the easiest way to report your contacts. If you have had contact with the general public as a Master Gardener please keep track of the number of individuals and the required demographic information and enter that data into VMS when you record your volunteer hours. At larger events/activities the MG coordinator may have other methods to record contacts for the all the MGs.

The most important thing is to <u>record and report the number of contacts</u> and use common sense, to the best of your ability, when completing the demographic information. If you have any questions ask your fellow Master Gardeners, Betty Rogers at Banrogers@aol.com or email jmslusarz2@gmail.com.

Population Served

Contact Ethnicity	Male Adult	Male Youth	Female Adult	Female Youth
White				
Black				
American Indian				
Hispanic				
Asian				
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander				
Unknown			2	

Save Hours



South Texas Botanical Gardens February Seminars and Lectures

Seminars

February 2, 10:30am Planning for More Spring Vegetables' seminar

Frank Eicholz, retired nurseryman and Nueces Master Gardener, vegetable garden season starts early in South Texas for maximum production of veggie favorites, teaching garden prep, what and when to plant.

February 9, 10:30am Bed to Bud to Bloom rose seminar

Experts from the Corpus Christi Rose Society, which has openings for new members, present a South Texas rose-growing lecture and workshop featuring preparations for beautiful spring blooms, followed by hands-on pruning and planting demos in the Botanical Gardens rose beds..

February 16, 10:30am Evaluating Backyard Greenhouse Needs seminar

Nueces Master Gardener Rosemary Plank will explore types of backyard greenhouses helping home gardeners determine if a greenhouse is a good option, providing checklists of coverings, permitting and Home Owner Association considerations

February 23, 10:30am Improved Crepe Myrtles for your Yard seminar

With a surge of new crepe myrtle colors and varieties available, Gill Nursery Landscape Designer Kathy Hubner will show the latest, helping home owners with sizes, colors and to best fit existing landscapes.

2019 Winter Lecture Series

Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 am

12th WINTER LECTURE SERIES for Texas winter visitors and area residents. Guest speakers present a variety of nature and horticultural topics which define and explain our unique South Texas environment,. Check in at Visitors Center. Included in Gardens general admission, members free, or \$2 lecture only.

- Feb 6 Nature Photography Techniques Susan Chilcoat, Executive Director, Wildlife in Focus
- o Feb 13 Adding Water Features to Your Landscape -Denise Housler, Aquaria Services
- Feb 20 Saving the Monarchs Rosemary Plank, Texas Master Naturalist
- Feb 27 Space-Saving Container Gardens Carol Krank, STBGNC Horticulturist

Reporting Your Hours From Betty Rogers



All students, interns, and Master Gardeners are invited and encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. They are held at 11:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Senior Garden Center.

If you attend the entire meeting on January 15 you can report the following VMS times:

- .75 hour for the Board Meeting
- 0.5 hour for the continuing education (CE) presentation
- .75 hour for the General Meeting

Also, if you attended the presentation on pesticide handling given by MG Carol Krank, after the general meeting, you can record an additional 1 hour of CE in VMS.

Master Gardener January Birthdays

Feb 07 Joni McRee 17 Feb 18 Elizabeth Yzaguirre 28 Feb 24 Michelle Garrett 26 Feb 07 Mary Lambert 21 Feb 23 Jon L Anderson 29 Feb 26 Linda Frost 27



Gill Nursery Garden Talks

February 2, 10:00-11:00 am "Get Ready for Spring" with James Gill, owner, Gill Landscape Nursery A repeat from January 19th ...this talk was so well-attended last year that we decided to hold it twice in 2019. Come get all the great information you need and will use for your garden success!

February 9, 10:00-11:00 am "Real Outdoor Living" with Phillip Elbert, Landscape Designer, Gill Landscape Nursery Learn how to enhance an existing outdoor space or create a new outdoor area. Take a slideshow tour of unique garden spaces and real outdoor living rooms created by our landscape design dept. Courtyards, edible landscapes, patios, water features, lighting and more. We can take your inspiration and turn it into a new creation! Time for Q & A and schedule your landscape design appointment with Phillip!

Gill's, 2810 Airline Rd. Phone (361) 992-9674 Email helpatgills@gmail.com



The Landscape Design School Series XXVI, Course II



February 25-26, 2019 at the George H. W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station, TX This course is practical, inspiring and popular with Texas Master Gardeners, who can now take the course for continuing education credit. Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Texas A&M have sponsored this series since 1960's. Mrs. Diane Mackenroth of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. and Drs. William C. Welch and Andrew King, Texas AgriLife Extension Service, announce the second school in the current series. Four separate schools are offered approximately six months apart, each with 10 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area. These courses offer an opportunity to learn from professional landscape architects and horticulturists about how successful landscapes are designed. CLICK THIS

Master Gardener Advanced Training

Vegetable Training - February 13,14,15, 2019 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service/Dallas County Satellite Office 715 Rowlett Road, Garland, TX 75040 Advanced Vegetable Training was created as a hands-on, intensive multi-day training that will empower you with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas A&M AgriLife Extension efforts in educational programs. <u>CLICK THIS FOR DOWNLOAD INFO</u>

NEW - Budding & Grafting - 04/02/2019-04/03/2019 *8:00 am-5:30 pm* 907 Bains Street - Brookshire TX (East of Houston). This two-day event will provide for a thorough understanding of both the art and science behind this exciting form of propagation. <u>CLICK THIS</u>



The *Nueces Master Gardener Gazette* is produced monthly and is published by: Nueces Master Gardeners John M. Slusarz, editor, and Barbara Moses, associate editor. If you have any submissions, comments or suggestions please send then to jmslusarz2@gmail.com.



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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.

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 Maricela.Guerra@ag.tamu.edu