



## Nueces 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](http://nueces.agrilife.org))



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### 2021 NMG LEADERSHIP

President-Vince Muscarello  
 VP 1-Mary Helen Johnston  
 VP 2-Linda Lamprecht  
 VP 3-Sandra Williams  
 At Large-Gloria VanZante  
 Secretary-Betty Whitt  
 Treasurer-Leigh Green  
 Treasurer Elect Pro Tem-  
 Norma Hernandez  
 State Directors-  
 Mary Lambert & Elva Steiner  
 Alternates-  
 Alene Burch & Huxley Smith  
 Extension Agent-Kevin Gibbs  
 Past President-Beth Spirko

## July 4 - Independence Day

### June-October

**\*For Emergency Preparedness Tips, Kit Contents: [FEMA](#), Evacuation Routes & Local Alerts, click:**

**[Corpus Christi Emergency Ops](#)**

**\*Sign up [HERE](#) for Nueces County & other Emergency Alerts**





## Nueces Master Gardeners Monthly Meetings

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

**No Minutes from Last Meeting**

Garden Senior Center remains Closed

**Via Zoom Only—check your email for the invitations**

**6 P.M.—Board of Directors Meeting (4th Monday) (Via Zoom)**

**6 - 7:30 P.M.—General Meeting (4th Tuesday) (Currently Zoom only)**  
*(now 90 minutes for questions & discussion)*

*Presentations will move to a to-be-announced day as part of a Monthly 1 hour Lecture Series for Continuing Education (CE) hours.*



**Meeting Length  
& CE Day!**

**important stuff**

### NMG CLASS 32 INTERNS!

**Orientation has been moved BACK to  
Monday, July 19, 2021 6:30-8:30PM**

***In-Person & via Zoom***

***Del Mar Economic Development Center  
3209 S. Staples St @ Kostoryz Rd***



**See *tentative* class outline on Page 3**

Classes start August 2nd through 2nd week of November.  
Education is every Monday via Zoom 6:30PM - 8:30PM.  
Labs every Saturday morning at STXBG 10:00AM-Noon.



## 2021 Master Gardener Trainee Class Schedule



<b>Orientation</b>	7/26/2021 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Review of Schedule, expectations, and paperwork	Nueces Master Gardeners and Kevin Gibbs CEA Horticulture	Virtual - Zoom
<b>Week 1 Aug 2-7</b>	8/2/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Intro/Overview MG Committees Overviews	Nueces Master Gardeners Project Gardeners Project Chairs, Betty Rogers & Kevin Gibbs	Virtual - Zoom
	8/7/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Plant Science/Botany	Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Dir. South Texas Botanical Gardens	Virtual - Zoom
<b>Week 2 Aug 9-14</b>	8/9/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Plant Science/Botany	Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Dir. South Texas Botanical Gardens	Virtual - Zoom
	8/14/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Plant Science/Botany Lab	Carol Krank Nueces Master Gardener	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 3 Aug 16-21</b>	8/16/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Soils & Fertility/Composting	Shanna Dunn, Resource Soil Scientist USDA-NRCS	Virtual - Zoom
	8/21/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Soils/Composting Lab	Deb Holliday Nueces Master Gardener	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 4 Aug 23-28</b>	8/23/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Plant Diseases/Pathology	Dr. Kimberly Cochran Extension Plant Pathologist	Virtual - Zoom
	8/28/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Diseases/Plant Pathology Lab	Beth Spirko, Nueces MG	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 5 Aug 30 - Sept 4</b>	8/30/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Weeds	Dr. Joshua McGinty, Texas A&M AgriLife	Virtual - Zoom
	9/4/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Weeds Lab	Grace Lopez, South Texas Master Naturalists	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 6 Sept 7-11</b>	9/7/21 Tuesday 6:30pm-8:30pm	IPM/Entomology	Kate Harrell, CEA Integrated Pest Management	Virtual - Zoom
	9/11/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Entomology Lab	Beth Spirko, Deb Holliday Nueces Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 7 Sept 13-18</b>	9/13/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Trees	Bill Green, Forest Service	Virtual - Zoom
	9/18/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Tree ID Lab	Cindy Straub	City Parks
<b>Week 8 Sept 20-25</b>	9/20/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Herbaceous and Tropical Plants	Kevin Gibbs, CEA	Virtual - Zoom
	9/25/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Herbaceous and Tropical Plants Lab	Kevin Gibbs, CEA, Nueces	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 9 Sept 27- Oct 2</b>	9/27/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Turfgrass Management	Rebecca Grubbs, Turfgrass	Virtual - Zoom
	10/2/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Grasses Lab	Beth Spirko Nueces Master Gardener – trip to Turfco grass farm	Turfco Grass Farms, Robstown, Texas
<b>Week 10 Oct 4-9</b>	10/4/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Fruit Crops/Pomology	Dr. Larry Stein, Associate Dept. Head/Professor & Ext. Agronomist Specialist	Virtual - Zoom
	10/9/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Fruit Crops Lab	David Nuss, Exec Dir. GROW Local South Texas	Downtown Farmers Market
<b>Week 11 Oct 11-16</b>	10/11/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Home Vegetable Gardening	Dr. Juan Anciso, Professor & Extension Vegetable Specialist	Virtual - Zoom
	10/16/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Vegetable Lab	Norma Hernandez, Mary Lambert, Carol Barragy and Thorunn Kelley	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 12 Oct 18-23</b>	10/18/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Palms	Ginger Easton-Smith, CEA, Aransas	Virtual - Zoom
	10/23/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Field Trip/Volunteer Sites	Kevin Gibbs, CEA, Nueces	Various locations
<b>Week 13 Oct 25-30</b>	10/25/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Propagation	Sandra Williams, Nueces Master Gardeners	Virtual - Zoom
	10/30/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Propagation Lab	Sandra Williams, Nueces Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 14 Nov 1-6</b>	11/1/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Irrigation/Rainwater Harvesting	Dr. Becky Bowling, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist for Urban Water	Virtual - Zoom
	11/6/21 Saturday 10:00 am-12:00 pm	Rainwater Harvesting Lab	Joanne Salge, Ron Maxwell Nueces Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens
<b>Week 15 Nov 8</b>	11/8/21 Monday 6:30pm-8:30pm	Wrap Up & Post Test	Kevin Gibbs/Master Gardeners	South Texas Botanical Gardens

# The Meaning of Mentorship



Think back to when you were an intern. For some it's been just a few years. For some it's been just a *feew* more. Because of your personality and social skills, your experience was different from others' and there may have been some things you'd wished had occurred or were available to help you better acclimate and merge with the tadpoles you were schooled with, as well as the others in the *BIG* pond. So, we created the Mentorship Program!



**If you would like to be a mentor to an NMG Class 32 Intern, and share your ideas with co-Chairs [Mary Johnson](#) (815.298.0530) & [Sandra Williams](#) (361.945.2978), click their names to send an email or call NOW!  
Orientation begins in 4 day!**

Another way to get NMG Info



**WANTED:  
Someone who is  
passionate about horticulture,**



**young people,  
and their education.**

*If that's you, please consider being  
NMG's Scholarship  
Committee Chairperson!  
The recipients need you.  
Email [Vince](#).*





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Hit me with your best

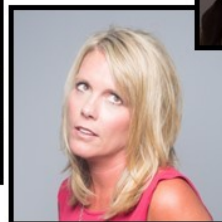
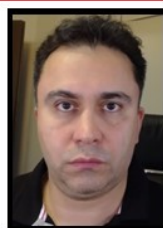
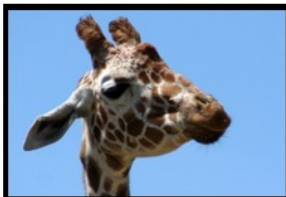
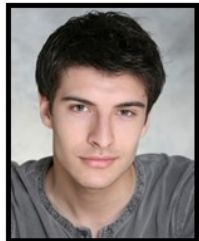


MMM...

GOOD!



We need a current Picture of YOU!  
Please take a few minutes to update your  
VMS Profile with a new selfie headshot &  
confirm/edit your information!



**New VMS has launched!**

Link is: <https://vms.texasmg.org/>

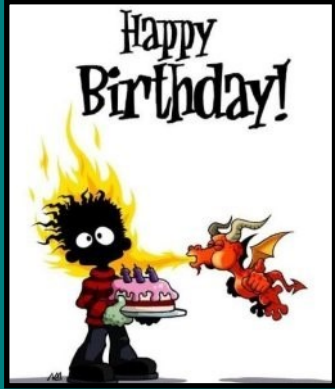
Username is: the beginning of your email address  
listed in the old VMS (*before the @ sign only*)

Temporary Password is:

**Garden4Life\$**

**JULY**  
7/22 Renee Brown - class 31  
7/23 Cindy Garcia - class 31  
7/25 Karen Easton - class 10

**AUGUST**  
8/13 Mary Sherwood—class 29

A cartoon illustration of a character with black hair and a red shirt holding a birthday cake, with a small red dragon-like creature next to it. The text "Happy Birthday!" is written above them.

**Class 31**  
**INTERNS**

**CERTIFIED**

OF  
THE  
NUECES

*Master Gardener Program*

\*as of  
07/15/21

YOUR CLASS 31 NAME HERE!

GO INTERNS! YOU CAN DO THIS!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



# NMG CALENDAR

## Nueces Master Gardener Meetings/Events

- ♦ Tues 7/27/21 **Monthly Nueces Master Gardener Meeting** via Zoom (see [page 2](#) for details)
- ♦ Thur 8/5 Submissions Due for Gazette (articles, pictures, etc.) Send to: [gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com](mailto:gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com)
- ♦ (Every 2nd) Wed 8/11 @ 1:00pm—**Plant Sale Sub-Committee Yard Art Workshop** to be held on Joan Whitmire's back patio; 757 Meadowbrook. Contact [Agnes Hamilton](#) 852.5285 or Joan FMI. Here's the schedule:

Aug.....Garden poles (4x4) paint and decorate
- ♦ September .. Building Succulent Pumpkins with Kathie Fernandez
- ♦ (Every 2nd) Thurs 8/12 @ 1:30pm —**Plant Sale Committee Meeting via Zoom**. Find the June Agenda [here](#) and April meeting minutes [here](#). **Sub-Committees need Volunteers!** Contact [Gloria VanZante](#) 994.8274 for more info (FMI) or to sign up!
- ♦ Tues 8/24/21 **Monthly Nueces Master Gardener Meeting** via Zoom (see [page 2](#) for details)

## FEATURING... IN THE ZONE - 9a-b that is!

*Mexican Feather Grass*  
*Nasella (Stipa) tenuissima*



## Outdoor Volunteer Opportunities:

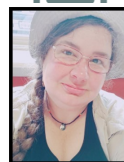
**EARTH-KIND BEDS AT BOTANICAL GARDENS**—Each of the five beds is maintained by a team comprised of NMGs, whose day to work may vary. The group meets Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to get involved contact [Paul Parr](#) for information at . ***Sign in at the gift shop upon arrival & add your volunteer time before you leave.***



**GARDEN SR. CENTER PATIO REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**—As our meeting & activity location, the Nueces Master Gardeners have been responsible for the maintenance and beautification of the patio's garden areas. A Committee is being formed to get back to work on this project. If you'd like to participate, contact Carlos Valdez.



**LEARNING TO GROW RAISED BED BUILDING**—The Nueces Master Gardeners work together with the staff and students on the campuses of Corpus Christi Independent School District to learn how to grow store-bought produce from farm-to-table. Contact Education Chair, [Beth Spirko](#) FMI



**RAY HIGH SCHOOL GREENHOUSE**— NMGs help coordinate student work in the garden area and offer hands-on gardening instruction. To get involved contact [Alene Burch](#) Welcome new Botany Program & Greenhouse Project leader, and tennis coach Kyle Bowers!



**SOUTH TEXAS BOTANICAL GARDENS & NATURE CENTER (STXBOT)**—NMGs can help out at the STXBOT any time during business hours. There is always something that needs to be done within your abilities. Check in at the Gift Shop for assignments & to record your volunteer hours. [Renee Brown](#) has 5 un-adopted rose beds. ***Two volunteers per rose bed is ideal to trim the roses and keep the bed weeded. Call/Text 361.443.2719***



**XERISCAPE GARDENS**— Monthly Saturday workday 8:00 am-12:00 pm on random dates. Located next to the Museum of Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral St. **Tools ARE provided. NEXT work day: TBD**



**Find all VMS Project Categories & Symbols [HERE!](#)**

**Special Note:** The Texas Master Gardeners Board reduced the required number of volunteer hours to recertify for 2021 from 12 hours to 6 hours. It is anticipated that they will revert back to the 12 hours starting the first of 2022. Additionally, our Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Agent, Kevin Gibbs, allowed CE hours above 6 hours to be credited as NMG-Other Projects to Volunteer Hours. This will no longer be allowed starting Jan 1, 2022.

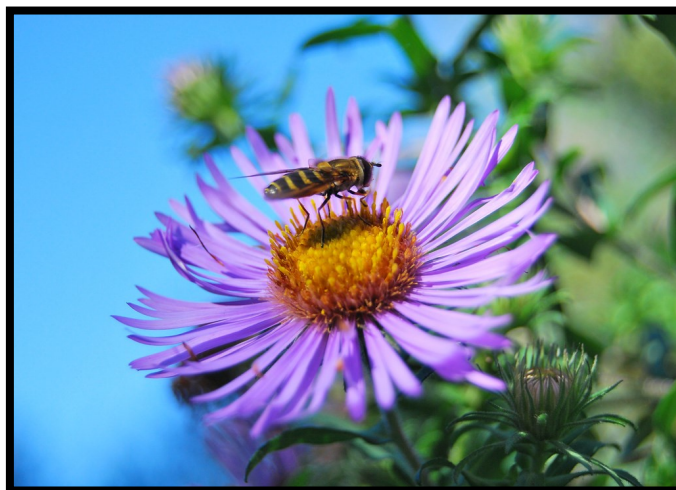


## LOCAL ACTIVITIES & EDUCATION

### Coastal Bend Meetings/Conferences/Training/Volunteers/Group Participation

- Every
- Every Wednesday 10:00 am - **Gardening in the Gulf Coast Series** presented by your Coastal Bend extension offices. Check out the [April/May Schedule!](#) **PRE-register** through the Eventbrite website by selecting a date and getting a “ticket” to attend online . Do it early and save your ticket, as there is a limited number of online attendees. If you missed any, here are the [video presentations](#).
- 2nd Friday each Month 2:30 pm - **Port Aransas Landscape Lecture Series.** **IN-PERSON.** UTMSI Seminar Room, 750 Channel View Drive, Port Aransas, TX . Register [here](#). **Online attendance available.**

### NATIVE POLLINATOR PLANTS OF SOUTH TEXAS



FRESH PRODUCE, MEAT, BREAD, EGGS, DAIRY,  
PLANTS, LOCAL ARTISANAL PRODUCTS,  
FLOWERS, PREPARED FOODS & MORE!



**FARMERS' MARKET**  
WEDNESDAYS 5PM-8PM

 **growlocalfarmersmarket**  
Grow Local Farmers' Market

 **growlocalfarmersmarket** Grow Local South Texas (@growlocalsouthtexas) organizes and manages our farmers' market every Wednesday, 5-8pm, at the Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Our Market features an assortment of fresh seasonal produce, meats, dairy, locally made products, food trucks and live music; all products were

♥ 💬 📍  
28 likes

## NMG Plant Sale Preparation

The 2021 plant sale is around the corner and hopefully you have been successful in nurturing your propagated plants that you may be considering contributing toward the plant sale scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2021.



To facilitate the creation of the plant list, here is the "2021 Plant Donation form" in [Excel format](#) and in [WORD format](#). Please complete either form by entering those plants you plan to donate. If you know the pot size of the plant(s) you are donating, enter the information. The column for pricing will be completed by Jessica and her team. You may return your list by email to [plantsale-chair.nuecesmg@gmail.com](mailto:plantsale-chair.nuecesmg@gmail.com) or to [atlarge.nuecesmg@gmail.com](mailto:atlarge.nuecesmg@gmail.com).

The deadline to submit the plant donation list is 9/24/2021. Information for plant drop-off will be provided later. Jessica and her team will have a process to check in, label, and price the plants. Your assistance on adhering to the deadlines will be appreciated, as the turnaround time will be very short to provide Jessica with a list of all anticipated plants, checking them in, labeling and then compiling a master list for the rest of the group.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and donating plants! Let's make this another successful plant sale!

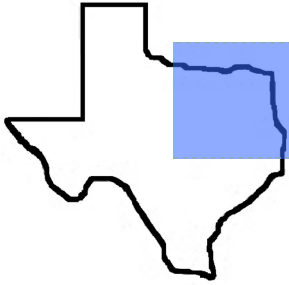
Gloria VanZante & Agnes Hamilton

## NMG PLANT SALE SPONSORS



# Helping Here<sup>®</sup>

More to come....



## REGIONAL Activities

### State-Wide Meetings/Conferences/Training/Education/Events

- ♦ **Wednesday, June 23rd at 10am-11:30am Plant Party 3 “The Low-down on Invasives.”** See [flyer](#) for more info. [Register](#) to receive Zoom link the day prior.
- ♦ Every Monday at 6:00 pm—**Aggie Turfie Tuesdays Talks** on their [Facebook](#) page for live Q&A.
- ♦ **Mondays @ 4:30 p.m.— June 7 thru August 2 (8 weeks)** [Beginner Birding For Fun](#) via Zoom courtesy of Texas Master Naturalists & the Rosenberg Library. Register for all or some classes by emailing [Mr. Ash Welborn](#). Hurry! Space is limited!
- ♦ Every Wednesday & Friday at 1:00 pm—Aggie Horticulture [Facebook Live Events](#)
- ♦ Every Thursday at 12:12 pm—Chat with TAMU Green Aggies. [Register](#) to attend via Zoom, one or all their talks! [April-June Schedule](#) include turfgrass & weeds, native perennials, irrigation, edible landscapes/trees. All previously recorded chats are available here: [\(27\) TX Plant Clinic - YouTube](#).
- ♦ Second Tuesdays at 12pm-1pm—**Tx Master Naturalists: #TMNT Tuesdays** online via WebEx. [WebEx 101 Guide](#). Click [here](#) to see previous month's presentations, and watch when next month's date turns **green**, then click it & register for the class!
- ♦ One day every Third Week of the Month - Webinar at 6:30pm-7:30pm—[Texas Waters Specialist Program](#). Register for any/all 2021 webinars or view past webinars for CE hours, or become a Texas Water Specialist!







Horticulture Therapy Institute [Newsletter](#)

National Audubon Society [Publications](#)

National Gardening Assoc [Weekly Newsletters](#)

Nueces 4-H Clover Chronicles [Monthly Newsletters](#)

South Texas Chapter-Texas Master Naturalist [Newsletters](#)

TCEQ-Take Care of Texas [Publications](#)

Texas Nursery & Landscape Assoc [Publications](#)

Texas Gardener Magazine [Current Issue](#)

Texas Master Gardener [July 2021 Newsletter](#)

Texas Chapter ISA (Int'l Society of Arboriculture) [Newsletters](#)

ATTRA/NCAT Sustainable Agriculture— [Newsletters](#)





# NMGS

Helping  
&  
Harvesting!

XERISCAPE GARDEN  
WORK DAY



**Ronnie shows off & shares  
his vegetable bounty  
with Norma and Leigh  
(it *pays* to be the Treasurer!)**



Thank  
YOU

# NMGs

**Aransas Sesquicentennial County Fair** awarded \$40 in prize money and the title of Reserve Champion to Jessica Latimer for her baked biscotti. She also received Second place for her homegrown orange citrus jelly made before the freeze :(



Jessica asked to recognize Rockport Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Agent, Carol Gittinger, who donated all of the prize money.

## FNMG: Future Nueces Master Gardeners

**Welcome  
Natalia Elena  
Mungia-Johnston  
on June 27, 2021**



**Parents Ryan & Kelly  
Mungia-Johnston &  
Grandmother Mary  
Helen Johnston**



## 2021 NMG Scholarship Recognition Award

presentation to Tyler Mae Svorec made at the South Texas Botanical Gardens on June 17, 2021. Tyler was selected as the top performing academic and involved student at W.B. Ray HS Botany Class and Greenhouse Project for the 2020-2021 School year. She graduated and will be attending Texas A&M Corpus Christi in the fall. She is applying for the NMG Post-Secondary Scholarship and she, her mom, dad and sister are submitting an application for the Intern Scholarship Class 32.



# NMGS

## Walk Across Texas

**WALK ACROSS TEXAS! ADULT.** Walk Across Texas! Adult is an eight-week program designed to help Texans establish the habit of regular physical activity. Each adult team may include up to 8 team members, all working together to reach the 832-mile goal to make their way across the state of Texas. [walkacrosstexas.org](http://walkacrosstexas.org)

**Week 7  
July 2-July 8**

### **Top 10 Texas Teams**

Team Godzilla 2301  
Get to Steppin 1865  
NUECES MASTER GARDENERS AND NATURALISTS-TEAM 1 1820  
Walk the Walk 1747  
Nueces County TAC Trotters 1585 Holy Walkamolies 1580  
Running On Empty 1462  
WITNESS THE FITNESS 1337 ALPHA 1329  
Nothing But A Good Time 1309

### **Top 10 walkers as of 7/8/21**

Kyle Perez 590  
Eris Hilburn 469.27  
Julio Torres 466.58  
Adelina Ugarte 384  
Patty Beasley 363.7  
Jessica Latimer 351.2

**Walk Across Texas!  
Challenge!**

**May 21-July 15, 2021**

NUECES MASTER  
GARDENERS AND  
NATURALISTS-TEAM 2  
**IS THIRD IN OUR  
LEAGUE!!**



## Vaccines & Testing for Coronavirus/COVID-19

- **Go to the City's website for current Corpus Christi info:**  
[www.cctexas.com/coronavirus](http://www.cctexas.com/coronavirus).
- **While there, sign up to receive news updates via email & go to**  
[nuecesknows.com](http://nuecesknows.com) **for vaccine availability.**
- **Call the Hotline with questions, if you think you are sick, or to make an appointment to be tested: 361.826.7200.**



### For General Info:

#### 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.

#### Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office

710 E. Main Ave., Suite 1  
Robstown, TX 78380-3148  
361.767.5217

[stella.nepote@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:stella.nepote@ag.tamu.edu)

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRI LIFE**  
EXTENSION

#### Nueces Master Gardener Gazette

is produced monthly with submissions due to the Editor, Kelly Denson (class 27), by the 5th of each month.

We welcome your submissions, comments, corrections or suggestions!

Send them to

[gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com](mailto:gazette.nuecesmg@gmail.com)

#### Disclaimer

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*The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating*