



Lisa Whittlesey

**Extension Program Specialist and International Program Coordinator
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Lisa Whittlesey is an employee of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and received her bachelor and master's degree from Texas A&M University in horticulture with an emphasis in education/curriculum development.

Lisa serves as the program coordinator for the JMGsm International Junior Master Gardener program which currently operates in all 50 states and has expanded internationally through collaborative partnerships with the Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture, JMG Korea, and expansions through US Military and National Guard projects. She is the author/co-author of nine award winning youth environmental curriculums and her horticulture work and expertise has been featured in over 130 popular press/newspaper articles including *Saturday Evening Post*, *Southern Living*, *Better Homes and Garden*, *Readers Digest*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Family Life*, 7 national children's magazines, and on HGTV. She has been an invited speaker to over 250 regional and national conferences and her recent work has focused on utilizing the Junior Master Gardener program (Learn, Grow, Eat & GO curricula) as an intervention as a part of a 5 year USDA AFRI funded Extension and Research project focused on child and family interventions for obesity prevention. Lisa has been recognized with the National Diversity Award USDA-NIFA (2015) National Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Award for Superior Service (1999 and 2014) and was the recipient of the 2011 Texas A&M University Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award for Extension, Outreach, Continuing Education and Professional Development. Lisa was selected as the recipient of the 2011 National Excellence in Extension Award for the Southern Region through the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities. In addition to her work with the JMG Program, Lisa provides leadership to horticulture programming, staff development/management and as a PI federal contracts with the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Windham Schools – TDCJ, and with Lee College prison programming efforts. Lisa is a guest lecturer for floral design and socio-horticulture classes at Texas A&M University.

In her spare time Lisa enjoys doing floral design, teaching Bible classes, playing piano and traveling. She is married to Randel Whittlesey and has two children – Taylor Whittlesey and Cole Whittlesey.