



**Aransas/San Patricio
Master Gardener Association**

August 2009

2009 Officers

President: Lonnie Matthew
1st VP: Sandy Stanley
2nd VP: Ellen Reisinger
Secretary: Susan Lopez
Treasurer: Beth Wilson

Extension Agent:
Amy Freeman
Extension Office Manager:
Ernie Edmundson
Secretary: Thea
Edmundson

Website:
www.aspmastergardeners.org

***Seeking Serious
Plant Lovers***

Texas Master Gardeners are a team of volunteer horticulture educators who are under the auspices of:



Green Acres is our award winning demonstration garden located at 611 E. Mimosa, Rockport, Texas. The gardens showcase plants and landscape schemes suitable for the Coastal Bend. For help with plant problems, or for class information, please call (361) 790-0103, or email aransas-tx@tamu.edu

Editors

Marsha Hendrix
marsha.hendrix@the.state.tx.us

Ernie Edmundson
aransas-tx@tamu.edu

The President's Corner



Lonnie Matthew

The Board of Directors held a lively meeting on Tuesday, July 21, setting the agenda for our next meeting on August 4. Of course, that means that our General meeting should also be interesting.

Two major items to be discussed will be the results of the Planning Committee's hard work. Those revisions of the policies and procedures and bylaws should be read prior to the meeting so that your vote will be based on your knowledge. The other big item will be the election of the nominating committee. This is an important and under-appreciated responsibility. These three members will be contacting their fellow members asking five people to step forward into leadership roles for the organization. These positions must be filled if the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association is to continue. We know there are many excellent potential leaders in our group, and I hope that you will be willing to step forward and volunteer your services.

August Brown Bag

Tuesday, August 18 12:00-1:00 pm
Garden Design Computer Software
by Richard Snyder, Master Gardener

Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

In Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Drought Lawn Care - Todd Cutting,
Earth-Kind Landscaping Class - Russell Bell
Fall Gardening in South Texas - Maryellen Sherman

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

**Green Acres
Garden Days**

August 7th & 19th
8:00 - 11 am

Happy Birthday !

Carole Howard, 2nd
Ellen Reisinger, 9th
Sarah Shugart, 10th
Suzie Cook, 14th
Sally Moore, 22nd
Elayne Arne, 23rd
Ceil McKinney, 27th

Seminar

*Healthy Garden
Habits & Unseen
Critters to Know -
Microbe Dangers in
the Garden*
August 15
9 am - 12 pm
Earl Matthew, MD
Infectious Disease
Specialist
Old Rockport School
619 N.

**MG Hours
Due
August 31**

From Our Writers

FALL GARDENING IN SOUTH TEXAS

By: Maryellen Sherman, Master Gardener, Aransas/
San Patricio Master Gardener

As optimistic gardeners, we know that in mid September the temperature is going to start to cool down. We are anxious to get out there now and put in new fall plants. With sweat dripping from the brow, reality soon creeps in and we realize it is still hot and dry, but forge ahead and begin to cut back summer blooms to give them new life before adding cool weather plants. This is also a good time to trim back shrubs and roses. Be sure you don't prune spring blooming plants because their buds will already be set.

You can cheat a little to minimize the labor involved and maximize the reward and use vinegar or glyphosate (Roundup or Kleenup) spray to rid the garden of Bermuda grass and other garden invaders. Plants must be actively growing for these sprays to work. They are non-selective and will damage all plants that they come in contact with. You can also mulch the weeds away by covering the weeds with several thicknesses of newspaper and then put a thick layer of mulch on top of it to keep the paper from blowing away. Leave small spaces in between the newspaper/mulch to put in new plants or seeds. Continue to maintain adequate soil moisture, which is not an easy job during this extreme drought we have been enduring.

If the summer sun and the hungry pests have taken a toll on your warm weather plants you might want to replace them with a new set of plants to provide a colorful fall garden. Zinnias love fall. Try the new single-flowered, narrow leaf zinnias that don't need

deadheading and come in shades of white, yellow, and orange. The trailing petunias, the shade loving impatiens or yellow coneflowers would be a good choice. Fall is the



Zinnia angustifolia

best time to grow marigolds here in South Texas. Spider mites tend to get them in the spring, but in the fall the spider mites decline quickly. Try the large pom-pom type African marigolds and put on a big show.

You might want to provide some temporary shade for your new seedlings during the afternoon heat.

You can put strips of cardboard on the west side or wrap tomato cages with sun screen material for individual plants. Add a mild, slow

release organic fertilizer. Look for composted cow manure or fish meal or another product that won't over stimulate or burn your plants. Lightly work the fertilizer into the soil so it won't run off when watered.

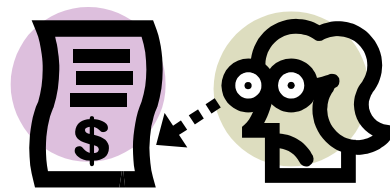
Hydration is critical for a fall bloom bonanza. Water slowly and thoroughly until the ground is saturated throughout the plants' root zones. A good tip to get deeper water penetration is to water one day, then repeat watering the next day. This double cycling approach will let water soak into the soil overnight and make room for additional water, thus allowing for deeper water that will last longer. This watering technique will also benefit your lawn.

This is a good time to take a good look at your summer watering bills and decide what landscape changes you might want to make

this fall. There are lots of ways to save water through efficient landscape design, drip irrigation, rain switches on your irrigation timer, drought tolerant plants, and rainwater collection. We are heading toward a time when water is not so plentiful and conservation will become more than just a good idea. Our local AgriLife Extension Office has many pamphlets and web sites to help you with these decisions.



Tagetes erecta



Earth-Kind Landscaping Class Starts October 6th



plants and practices for the Texas landscape

By: Russell A. Bell, Master Gardener, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners

If you are a new resident to this area and unsure what will grow and thrive here or if you are thinking about refreshing or upgrading your existing landscaping, a unique opportunity is available to you. Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners will be offering a 7 week course on Tuesday evenings in Rockport starting on Oct 6th from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. that covers everything you need to know to plan and implement a beautiful and effective landscape for your property. By the time that you finish on November 17th, you will be discussing your plan with other members of the class and amazing yourself at what you know.

This class will cover all the elements that are necessary for you to confidently proceed with your project. This 7 night course will walk you and your family through the steps in planning and design, resulting in your own unique design that meets your needs, just in time for spring planting. Specifically it will include: 1) all the skills, tools and materials needed to produce a scale drawing of your land and ideas; 2) the 7 steps used in planning the perfect landscape; 3) introduction to soil and bed preparation; 4) methods of composting to produce free fertilizer for your plants; 5) turf selection, maintenance and watering; 6) how to conduct an irrigation audit to achieve the most effective water management practices; 7) common pitfalls in adding hardscape, beds and trees to your plan; 8) plant and tree selection of native and adapted plants that use less water and 9) special topics like rainwater harvesting and wildlife

gardening.

All of the topics covered will take the "Earth-Kind" approach to gardening recommended by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. These recommended practices are designed to reduce yard waste, reduce fertilizers and pesticides, and conserve water—all major issues facing the people of the Coastal Bend.

Most homeowners do not realize that their day-to-day landscaping practices often have a negative impact on the water quality in our bays. Poor design and mismanagement of residential landscapes is the major contributor of fertilizer and pesticide pollution reaching our waterways. A few simple changes that you will hear about in this course can transform your yard into an environmentally friendly landscape while saving you time and money.

The \$70 tuition per family group covers the drafting materials, handouts, a soil test and refreshments. Enrollment is limited to 40 individuals, so get your application and check turned in before the class fills. Registration is requested by September 30.

Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners Award Grant



ABC Learning Center Director, Molly Johnson (left) received a \$400 grant from the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Education Committee Chair, Ellen Reisinger, for their plans for "Building a Butterfly Garden."

2009 Master Gardening Class Schedule

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Tues. Aug. 11th | Practical Botany – Plant Classification & Plant Parts; Plant Processes | Dr. Michael Womack, Exec. Director, South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center |
| Tues. Aug. 18th | Reporting MG Volunteer Hours Habitat Gardening – Attracting Birds & Butterflies / Native Plants | Ronell Burke Ernie Edmundson Aransas/San Patricio MGs |
| Tues. Aug. 25th | Rainwater Harvesting | Karen Ivey, San Patricio Municipal Water District & Barbara McSpadden, MG Rainwater Harvesting Specialist |
| Tues. Sept. 1st | Entomology & IPM | Dr. Roy Parker, Extension Entomology Specialist |
| Tues. Sept. 8th | Turf I (irrigation & its fertilization, weeds, aeration) & Turf II (common problems-pests & diseases, Q&A) | Michael Potter, Nueces EA-Horticulture |
| Tues. Sept. 15th | Identifying Plant Problems, Pesticide Safety | Michael Potter, Nueces County EA-Horticulture |
| *Wed. Sept. 23rd 1:30-5:00 pm | Tree Planting, Palm Planting & Maintenance *Texas A&M Research & Extension Center, 10345 State Hwy. 44, CC | Paul Johnson, Regional Forester, Texas Forest Service |
| Tues. Sept. 29th | Earth Kind Gardening | Russ & Marilee Bell Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardeners, Earth Kind Specialists |
| *Tues. Oct. 6th | Landscape Plant Selection **Gill's Nursery, 2810 Airline, C. C. | Kathy Hubner, Landscape Designer Gill's Landscape Nursery |
| *Tues. Oct. 13th | Home Vegetable Gardening *First Methodist Church, 801 E. Main, Rockport | Tom LeRoy, Montgomery Co. Extension Agent-Horticulture |
| Tues. Oct. 20th | Propagation I – Seeds Propagation II- Vegetative *Green Acres Greenhouse | Master Gardener Propagation Specialists: Annette Fowler, Vicki Coble, Sandy Stanley – Aransas/San Patricio Co. Master Gardeners |
| Tues., Oct. 27th | Soils & Fertility | Speaker-Dr. Dan Fromme, Associate Professor and Extension Agronomist |
| Tues. Nov. 3rd *Extension Office | Container Gardening Tropicals | Carol Krank & DeAnna Baumgartner, Nueces Master Gardener & Darlene Gooris, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener |
| Tues. Nov. 10th | Citrus and Fruits Composting / Worm Composting | Dr. John Fucik, Retired Horticulture Professor & Nueces Master Gardener |
| *Wed. Nov. 18 1:30-5:00 pm **CC Museum of | Landscape Design and Xeriscape Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral St. | Dr. Carol Brouwer, Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture CC - Lecture Hall |
| Tues. Dec. 1st | MG Phone Desk & Common Homeowner Questions / MG Post Test & Surveys | Aransas Co. Extension Agent |

Around the State

Learn how your yard can be a Hummingbird Playground at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Seminar August 29

Learn what plants and feeders will attract our tiny, feathered Winter Texans to your yard, not only in the fall, but well into our mild winters, at a hummingbird seminar, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, August 29, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. Texas Parks & Wildlife biologist Brent Ortigo also will give a tour of the Gardens & Nature Center's whimsical Hummingbird Garden.

Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 members; and include Gardens & Nature Center admission. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.

Anyone can be a Birder seminar at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center September 19

On Saturday, September 19 from 10 am to noon, local birding hobbyist Beth Hoejke will speak to want-to-be birders about how to enter the world of birding, and how to improve beginning skills. Join the popular world of nature tourism with helpful birding facts, area hot spots, equipment (etc). You can bird virtually anywhere, including the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, which is on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail. Class fee is \$6, \$3.50 members, and includes general admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100. Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples.

Costumed flamingos settled in for the summer; will roost at Gardens & Nature Center through September 7

Meet *Beautiful Bathingo*, *Whoopi Goldbird*, *Bobtailed Catbill Flamingo* and *Roller Derby Roxy* at **Flamingo Fandango**, a flam-tastic exhibit of 65-or-so innovatively-costumed pink plastic yard flamingos--and a huge flock of naked birds--continuing at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center (STBGNC), 8545 S. Staples, through Labor Day Monday, September 7.

"This year's flock is definitely upscale quality and delightfully out-of-the-box design, attracting visitors from across the state and beyond," says Marketing Director MaryJane Crull. Professional and amateur artists of all ages have flamboyantly "costumed" their flamingos for the best-dressed bird contest, hoping to place in one of seven categories, including VISITORS CHOICE. All Botanical Gardens guests receive a ballot to select their three personal favorite birds. *Flamingo Fandango* is co-sponsored by the City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission. For further Flamingo Fandango facts, "fone" 361/852-2100.



For Continuing Education Learning Credit: Sick Plants in a Hungry World

This non-credit course is completely online and has 10 modules with topics ranging from basic concepts in plant disease to prehistoric man and plant diseases, and from the Irish Potato Famine to bioterrorism. The course will be online for 10 weeks once you begin the program. Assignments consist of supplied module readings and self-tests. You will receive a certificate from the Ohio State University Office of Continuing Educational upon completion. There is a charge for the class. To register for the class, visit:

<http://osucedreg.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x15405241>

August 2009

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--------------------|--|--|-----|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 TMGA State Board Meeting - College Station |
| 2 | 3 | 4 9 am MG meeting - 10 am MG Mentor Training | 5 8:30 am Propagation Committee | 6 | 7 8-11 am Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Com Meeting | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 1:30 pm MG Class | 12 8:30 am Propagation Committee | 13 | 14 | 15 9-12 Seminar Microbe Dangers in the Garden Old Rockport School |
| 16 | 17 | 18 10 am Board mtg 12 pm Brown Bag Program 1:30 pm MG Class | 19 8:00-11 am Garden Day 8:30 am Propagation Committee | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 1:30 pm MG Class | 26 8:30 am Propagation Committee | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 MG Hours Due | | | | | |