



**Aransas/San Patricio  
Master Gardener Association**

**September 2008**

**2008 Officers**

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**Ernie Edmundson**  
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**Website:**  
<http://aransas-tx.tamu.edu>

**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](mailto:aransas-tx@tamu.edu)

**Editors**

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**The President's Corner**



We are gearing up for our last major fund-raising event of the year. The Fall Plant Sale will be September 27, and Vicki Coble and all the propagation team members have worked diligently throughout the summer. Now it is our turn to step up and help with the sale. Watch the e-mails for notices of meetings and take part.

We have a wonderful bunch of Interns this year; they all look like they are just itching to get to work. Thanks to those of you who are providing help to them by being a mentor. Help is still needed each Tuesday with the refreshments, etc., so check your calendars to see if you can participate.

Our efforts to train teachers and MG members in the Junior Master Gardener curriculum have been very successful. Two workshops provided a great JMG introduction to thirty-eight people, including teachers from the pre-school to middle school grades. This program is aligned to the TAKS test materials, so it helps with the state and national education requirements. Obviously, two kinds of "seeds" will be planted by those who attended. What a win-win endeavor!!

As a MG group we must ponder our situation now without a specific agent for our needs. We should realize that we must be extra careful to follow our practices and guidelines and that this will require us to think and plan ahead. Amy Freeman will fill in for Logan in the interim until we get a new Extension agent/Master Gardener coordinator.  
Nan Jackson

**September Brown Bag**

**Tuesday, September 16 Noon-1:00pm**  
**"Be EarthKind to Your Landscape"**  
**Presented by Marilee Bell**  
Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

**In Area Newspapers this month watch for...**

*Secret Weapon* - Olin D. Briggs  
*Earthkind Landscaping Class* - Russell A. Bell  
*Creating a Pocket Prairie* - Ellen Reisinger  
*Fall Treatment for Imported Red Fire Ants* - Ronell K. Burke

**Change to Newsletter:**  
Please see **Calendar** for dates to remember

**Happy Birthday !**

Ann Clark, 7<sup>th</sup>  
Annaliese Dahle 18<sup>th</sup>  
Sandy Stanley, 10<sup>th</sup>  
Rose Finley, 17<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Ware, 26<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, Sept. 2,  
6 pm High School  
Commons  
MG Meeting**

Brisket will be provided, Bring side dishes and desserts.

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

**Our Mission:** *Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.*

# EARTH KIND

Our EarthKind series has ended. Please email your editor, Marsha Hendrix, with suggestions for what you would like to see in this section of the newsletter - [marsha.hendrix@tmc.state.tx.us](mailto:marsha.hendrix@tmc.state.tx.us)

In the meantime, please encourage your friends, family and neighbors to attend:

## EARTHKIND LANDSCAPING CLASS

*Learn hands-on how to design  
and draft*

*then create your Eden.*

Tuesdays Oct 7- Nov 18

6:00-9:00 pm

Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa -  
Rockport TX

Register by SEPT. 26 - Call 790-  
0103

COST \$70 Per Family Enrolled  
Cost includes drafting supplies you  
keep.

Space is limited to 40 persons so reserve  
your family's spaces by September 26, 2008.

## ORGANIC GARDENING SEMINAR

John Dromgoole on  
Organic Gardening

Enjoy a special Seminar about  
Organic Gardening with John  
Dromgoole, well-known host of  
Austin radio and  
TV gardening programs.

Monday- SEPT. 8 6:00-8:30 pm  
Methodist Church Meeting Room  
801 E. Main - Rockport TX  
Admission is Free

Presented by Aransas/San Patricio Master  
Gardeners 361 790-0103 and Texas AgriLife  
Extension Service

## 2008 Master Gardener Class Schedule

Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup> or Nueces- 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Entomology	Dr. Roy Parker, Extension Entomology Specialist
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup> or Nueces- 10 <sup>th</sup>	Integrated Pest Management Introduction to Identifying / Diagnosing Plant & Pest Problems	Michael Potter, Nueces EA-Horticulture
Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup> or Nueces- 17 <sup>th</sup>	Landscape Plant Selection **Gill's Nursery, 2810 Airline, Corpus Christi	Kathy Hubner, Landscape Designer Gill's Landscape Nursery
Wed. Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Soils & Fertility **First Methodist Church, 801 E. Main, Rockport	Speaker-Dr. Dan Fromme, Associate Professor and Texas AgriLife Extension Agronomist
Wed. Oct.1 <sup>st</sup>	Tree Planting, Palm Planting & Maintenance **Texas A&M Research & Extension Center 10345 State Hwy. 44, Corpus Christi	Paul Johnson, Regional Forester, Texas Forest Service
Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> or Nueces- 8 <sup>th</sup>	Habitat Gardening - Attracting Birds & Butterflies Native Plants	Ernie Edmundson, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> or Nueces- 15 <sup>th</sup>	Turf I (irrigation & its fertilization, weeds, aeration) Turf II (common problems-pests & diseases, Q&A)	Michael Potter, Nueces EA-Horticulture
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup> or Nueces- 22 <sup>nd</sup> @STBGNC	Earth Kind Gardening Rainwater Harvesting	Marianne Hagg, Nueces MG, Earth Kind Specialist Barbara McSpadden, MG Rainwater Harvesting Specialist

## A Visit in the Gardens with Heather Bywater

It is so great getting to be the one to delve into our members' lives because I learn so much. Even though Heather and I were in the same MG class of 2005, I completely missed the fact that she's neither a Britain, Australian nor New Zealander. She's a southern African! I've even been to southern Africa and still did not catch on.

Heather was born in East London, which is a bit confusing because it is East London in the country of South Africa, not England. Her family moved to South West Africa when it was a protectorate of South Africa and before it became Namibia. She met her husband, Geoff, when he was in southern Africa working in oil exploration. Because he was working with a bunch of Americans, Heather asked him where he was from in America and was quickly informed that he was a Yorkshire man! Her mistake did not dissuade their romance and how fortunate is Rockport to have two lovely people with such fine accents?

After living in the Middle East, North Africa and England for 17 years, Heather, Geoff and their 3 sons settled in Houston for 20 years. After retiring, they moved back to England for four years where they had kept a house in Windsor. However, they decided that it was much more economical to retire in the States. Rockport was an easy choice because they had first discovered the community in 1981 when they came to visit a friend. After renting a house in Shell Ridge and then spending a month at Christmastime with family, they decided in 2004 to make Rockport their home.

Heather did not waste any time getting into the Master Gardening course. She first heard about the program while living in Houston but to participate would have required an inconvenient trip into the traffic of the big city. Here in Rockport, there was nothing standing in her way. She is a big proponent of the course because of the valuable information you learn about our local plants and environment. For the organization, she serves on the Landscape Committee and takes care of the South of the Border Garden in the Children's Garden. If you don't know why Heather would be attracted to working in a garden with a south of the border theme, you'll have to ask her. It has to do with something that I also enjoy savoring.

Heather's favorite types of plants are vines because, "They do their own thing, keep their feet cool, and grow to the sun." When pressed for which ones are her favorites, Heather lists coral vine *Antigonon leptopus* as being really beautiful right now, Pandora *Pandora jasminoides* because it flowers all summer, and Passionflower *Passiflora incarnata* because it reminds her of a type grown in South Africa which has edible fruit and serves as a basis for fruit salad.

Heather has one son, Michael, serving in Baghdad; her eldest, Andrew, lives in Wayne, New Jersey; and her middle son, David, lives in Kansas City. With her sons so spread apart, three grandchildren, plus another on the way, and Geoff's elderly step-mother living in England, it is fortunate that Heather has flight privileges since she worked for Continental Airlines for 10 years. She has been quite busy traveling back and forth across the pond, but is always happy to get back to her plants and her gardening friends.



## 2008 Master Gardener Class Schedule Continued

Wed. Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Home Vegetable Gardening **First Methodist Church, 801 E. Main, Rockport	Tom LeRoy, Montgomery Co. EA-Horticulture
Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> or Nueces-5 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Master Gardeners	Nueces Master Gardeners Stephanie & Gary Martin
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup> or Nueces-12 <sup>th</sup>	Citrus and Fruits Composting / Worm Composting	Dr. John Fucik, Retired Horticulture Professor, Nueces Master Gardener
Tues. Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Landscape Design and Xeriscape/MG Program **CC Museum of Science & History, 1900 N. Chaparral Street, CC - Lecture Hall	Dr. Carol Brouwer, Harris County Extension Agent-Horticulture
Dec. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Aransas -Tropicals  Overview-MG Phone Desk & Common Homeowner Questions MG Post Test & surveys	Darlene Gooris, Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener  Aransas Co. EA

# Around the State

## **Beginning Bird ID Series, Sept. 1 - Dec. 5 at The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center**

12 Monday evening sessions (6:30-8:30 pm), 6 field trips, with entertaining birder & naturalist, Gene Blacklock, of Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program. (The maximum class size is 16.) Payment must accompany registration-Register by September 4. \$175, \$150 members. For program reservations, call 361-852-2100.

## **Water Garden Seminar at The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center September 13**

Do you want cool trickling water on your patio; or rock ledges and waterfalls in your landscape? The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center hosts "Adding *Splashes* to your Landscape" seminar from **10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, September 13**. Workshop cost is \$6, \$3.50 Gardens & Nature Center members, and includes admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

## **Master Gardener Specialist Entomology Training Sept. 15-19**

Hosted by Wizzie Brown, Extension Program Specialist, Travis County. Registration fee of \$300.00 includes collecting kit with lots of goodies; lectures; Extension bulletins; 3 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks & drinks. Transportation and lodging is on your own. Course is limited to 20 applicants; deadline is July 18, 2008. Contact Wizzie Brown at [ebrown@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ebrown@ag.tamu.edu) or 512-854-9600 with any questions.

## **Rainwater Harvesting Specialist Training September 11-12, 2008 in Conroe, TX**

The purpose of this course is to provide advanced training whereby Master Gardeners can obtain specialization in rainwater harvesting that support or expand designated educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. For more information, visit: [http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu/training\\_gardener.html](http://rainwaterharvesting.tamu.edu/training_gardener.html)

## **Hummingbird Playgrounds at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center September 20**

Learn what plants and feeders will attract our tiniest feathered Winter Texans to your yard, not only in the fall, but well into our mild winters, at a hummingbird seminar, 10 am to noon, Saturday, September 20, Seminar fees are \$6, \$3.50 members; and include Gardens & Nature Center admission. Speaker is Dr. Brent Ortego, Texas Parks & Wildlife Biologist. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.

## **Rediscover antique roses & learn pruning techniques at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center October 4**

Rose enthusiasts may discover the pleasure of growing antique roses as the Corpus Christi Rose Society teaches which of these old favorites do the best in our challenging climate, from 10 am to noon, Saturday, October 4. Participants are invited to bring clippers and gloves for a hands-on workshop immediately following the seminar on how to selectively prune all types of roses. Workshop fee is \$6, \$3.50 for members. Call for reservations at 361-852-2100.

## **Moonlight in the Gardens at South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center October 11<sup>th</sup>**

This casual evening fundraiser by the light of the silvery moon is Saturday, October 11, beginning at 7 pm on South Texas Gardens & Nature Center grounds, 8545 S. Staples St. Under a nearly full moon, guests will enjoy multiple food and music venues, special garden lighting effects, star and moon-gazing with telescopes, and a *Starlight Silent Auction*, which will include *Flamingo Fandango* winning costumed flamingos, orchids, bromeliads and more! Tickets are \$50 members, \$60 non-members. **Tickets which also include an exclusive 6-7 pm SUNSET HOST PARTY are \$75 each.** Sponsor opportunities are available from \$5000 to \$150. For more information, call 361-852-2100.

## **Herb Day at the Botanical Gardens & Nature Center is Saturday, October 18!**

Seminars will be presented on the hour, from 9 am through 1 pm, in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples Street. Master Gardener Linda Collins and other members of the *Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group*, will lecture on various herb topics, featuring an 11 a.m. cooking demonstration by *Cheryl's on the Bay*. Cindy Meredith of the *Herb Cottage* in Hallettsville, will have potted herbs available for purchase. General Admission Only. No class fees, members free! Please call for seminar reservations at 361/852-2100.

## **Earth Kind Gardening and New Composting Alternatives Seminar offered at South Texas Botanical Gardens October 25**

This seminar, from 10 am to noon, Saturday, October 25, will feature Master Gardener and *EarthKind* Gardening specialist Bob Becquet. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members, and includes Gardens & Nature Center admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

# September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i> County Holiday - Extension Office closed.	<i>2</i> 6 pm MG meeting, Rockport-Fulton H.S. commons 1:30-5pm MG Class – Entomology	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee, GA	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> 6-8:30 pm Organic Gardening Program, First Methodist Church, John Dromgoole	<i>9</i> 1:30-5pm MG Class—IPM, Plant & Pest Problems	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <b><i>Hummer/Bird Celebration</i></b> Continuing Education credits for programs related to habitat gardening. See <a href="http://www.rockporthummingbird.com/">http:// www.rockporthummingbird.com/</a>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> 1:30 pm MG Board meeting, GA 12-1 pm Brown Bag Program 1:30-5pm MG Class—Gill's Landscape Nursery –Corpus	<i>17</i> 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 1:30-5 pm MG Class—1st Meth. Church-Soils & Fertility	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i> Sept. 26 - Deadline for registration for Earth Kind Landscaping class	<i>27</i> 9 am - 1 pm <b><i>Fall Plant Sale</i></b>
<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>1</i> 1:30-5pm MG Class Texas A&M Center- Corpus Christi- Trees & Palms	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>