



Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association

December 2008

2008 Officers

President: Nan Jackson
1st VP: Ruth Thompson
2nd VP: Marilyn Vaughan
Secretary: Sharon Watkins
Treasurer: Sarah Shugart

Extension Agent:

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

Website:

<http://aransas-tx.tamu.edu>

Master Gardener Graduation, Silent Auction, and Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 - 6:00 pm
Rockport-Fulton High School Commons.
Bring side dishes & desserts for pot-luck dinner.
Turkey and Ham will be provided.

December Brown Bag

Tuesday, December 16 Noon-1:00pm
"It's a time to dream...& plan"

Planning & Design

Presented by Jeanna Godfrey, DVM
Master Gardener, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

Happy Birthday !

Ruth Thompson, 1st
Gay Hejtmancik, 8th
Barbara Mahan, 11th
Ann Schick, 13th
Linda Collins, 14th
Janelle Jensen, 15th
Barb McSpadden, 16th
Vicki Coble, 24th
Nan Jackson, 26th
Janice Holland, 29th
Ray Ahlers, 30th

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

In Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Easy to Make Topiary - Jeanna C. Godfrey ~ *Starting Vegetable Plants Indoors* - Sandy Stanley
Garden Art & Decoration - Jeanna C. Godfrey ~ *Winter & Holiday Herbs* - Linda Collins
A New Years Gardening Resolution - Sandy Stanley

Be on the Lookout for Citrus Greening Disease

Greta Schuster, Ron French and Kevin Ong*

*Associate Professor-IPM and Extension Specialist in Plant Pathology, Assistant Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist, and Associate Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist; The Texas A&M University System

Citrus greening (also known as huanglongbing) is a devastating disease of citrus. Although it does not affect human health, the disease slashes citrus production by up to 20 percent, destroys the fruit's economic value, and can kill citrus trees.

Citrus greening disease can also lead to an increase in costs for juices, whole fruits, and other citrus products. There is no known cure for infected citrus trees.

The disease is caused by bacteria that are transmitted by an insect, the Asian citrus psyllid. This psyllid carries the bacteria that causes this disease, which was detected in Florida in 2005 and in Louisiana in 2008.

What Can I Do?

Help detect and curb this problem early on in Texas. Examine the citrus species in your area for symptoms. If you find suspicious-looking plants, call 800.835.5832 (800 TELL TDA) or contact the nearest regional office of the Texas Department of Agriculture.

The department will then contact the nearest county Extension agent, who will inspect the tree, collect a sample if necessary, and mail it to the Texas A&M University-Kingsville Citrus Center for analysis. Ask for publication L-5505 Signs of Citrus Greening at Green Acres. For more information, <http://tda.state.tx.us> or <http://kcc-weslaco.tamu.edu>

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.

Editors

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

From Our Writers

GARDEN ART AND DECORATION

By Jeanna C. Godfrey, DVM
Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener

When decorating a garden area it is important to decide on a theme. Ideally, any garden art or statuary should complement the theme introduced by the surrounding plantings. Garden themes abound and are only limited by the imagination, but some of the more common include formal, cottage, oriental (Japanese), Mediterranean, and nature (wildlife). Once a theme has been established, garden décor such as birdbaths, fountains, archways, trellises, and containers can provide focal points within the garden to re-emphasize the theme.

The same basic principles of good landscaping apply when choosing and placing garden art and decoration. Focusing on a theme for your garden is one of the first steps toward satisfying the landscape principle of unity. For example, if you want to create a butterfly garden you could use plants known to attract these winged jewels as well as statues, ornaments, and other décor related to butterflies. If you have a large landscape and plan on having several themes or “garden rooms”, you can maintain unity across these rooms by repetition - utilizing one or two consistent elements across all the areas, such as color schemes, textures, or size.



Painted glass bottles turned upside down provide water for butterflies.

Another important landscape principle to consider when selecting garden décor is proportion. This simply refers to the size of all the elements in the garden in relation to each other. For example, if you have a small courtyard garden, a huge six-foot statue placed in the center would dwarf all other garden elements and appear way out of proportion. Alternately, a small two-foot waterfall and pond placed in the center of a large open yard would look disproportionately lost in the overall picture.

However, that same small water feature could be used to center a theme or “room” within a larger garden by surrounding it with appropriate plants.

Balance must also be considered when placing garden décor. There are basically two types of balance in landscape design - symmetrical and asymmetrical. Symmetrical balance means both sides of the garden are essentially mirror images. In terms of garden art, this type of balance is most often utilized in formal gardens, where fountains, statues, archways, and seating are repeated on both sides. Asymmetrical balance is more abstract and free form. While unity and repetition are very important when designing an asymmetrical landscape, it allows for much more contrast and flow within the garden. Decorating a garden is always more interesting with asymmetrical balance.

Color adds an additional dimension when placing garden art and décor. Objects with bright colors such as reds, yellows, and oranges will seem to advance and actually appear closer to you. Cool colors like greens, blues, and most pastels seem to fade and appear farther away from you in the landscape.

What comprises garden “art” is truly in the eyes of the beholder. Plastic flamingos, gazing balls, birdbaths, bottle trees, mirrors, doors, windows, whirligigs, bathtubs, iron beds, bicycles, and a myriad of other objects have adorned gardens over the years. Following a few basic design principles will help you determine what (and how much) garden art you wish to include in your landscape. The most critical factor in choosing your garden décor is to make sure it reflects who you are - your colors, your interests, your likes - not simply what is the current “fad”. If your garden, and it’s décor, makes you and your family happy, then it is certainly a great landscape.

Photos taken in Jeanna’s former backyard garden in Spanish Woods.



A bottle tree adds whimsy and sound to the landscape.

A Visit in the Gardens with D.J. Chilcoat

I don't believe I have met a Master Gardener who confessed to taking the class because she was never successful with plants! Anyone who has met D. J. Chilcoat would be surprised to learn that she has any problems being successful at anything. I was also surprised to learn that she was a shy child growing up. After spending her first three childhood years in Japan and learning to speak Japanese before English, D. J. was the hit of family get-togethers. All that unwanted attention caused her to stop speaking altogether. D. J. jokes that she is still making up for those silent years. She also loves to remember her adolescent years spent living in Bermuda exploring the island. The beaches became her classroom as she would skip school by pretending to be her mother and calling in sick. Eventually finding pools of water with baby star fish and man-o-wars during class time became more difficult when the Headmaster became suspicious and discovered D. J.'s deception.

Those early life lessons surely helped D. J. when she became a school teacher and administrator. After receiving a degree from the University of Texas and her MA from the University of Houston, D. J. spent 15 years in the classroom and 17 years serving as assistant principal or principal. Even in retirement, D. J. stays involved by performing principal assessments which administrators need to stay certified.

D. J. has lived in Rockport for 5 years, and we can thank her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Jimmie and Jean Chilcoat who own Paradise House, for convincing her to move here from Victoria. One reason D. J. loves Rockport is because it is one of

the few Texas towns where you do not have to be from here to be accepted.

D. J.'s contributions to the Master Gardening organization include rejuvenating the butterfly bed in the Children's Garden, serving on the Propagation Committee, and working with the 2008 intern class. Vicky Coble has taught her how to be successful at propagating, and D. J. had fun last year raising around 50 plants at her house. D. J.'s attitude towards gardening is, "You just have to get in there and do it!" Her current plant interest is gourds because of all the fascinating things you can do with them, and she is planning to help with the gourd bed in the Children's Garden.

The Fulton Mansion is another interest of D. J.'s. She has been a docent at the Mansion for over a year, and summertime is a great time to catch her tour because she comes dressed in a Victorian bathing suit. Any group would be thrilled to have a volunteer like D. J., and I am fortunate to be involved in the two organizations for which she has decided to contribute her talents.

Written by
Marsha Hendrix,
Ph.D.
Aransas/San
Patricio Master
Gardener



Texas Superstar™

Looking for a tree with spectacular fall color? Try Chinese pistache (pronounced pis-tash'), *Pistacia chinensis*. This pest-free and easily maintained shade tree bursts out in shades of orange, red-orange and even crimson, often rivaling the show of sugar maples in the Northeast. The pistache has a spreading, umbrella-like canopy which at maturity is 40-50 feet high with a width of 30 feet. It was the first shade tree to receive the coveted "Earth-Kind" designation for its high levels of genetic resistance to insect and disease problems. This tree also boasts superior drought, heat and wind tolerance once it is established.



Cookbook Wins Big!!

For the second year in a row, the Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener cookbook, *Coastal Bend Cuisine*, swept honors at the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce 5th annual "You Don't Have to Drive to Find the Fabulous Five" business builder networking breakfast November 19th. The cookbook won a place on the Fabulous Five, best five holiday gifts in the Rockport-Fulton area, and won as **Best Shore Related Gift**.

Congratulations and thanks again to Ceil McKinney and all her cookbook team for bringing us this distinction in the community and money in our coffers. Good job!!



Congratulations!

On Tuesday, November 18, after serving on the General Board of the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center in Corpus Christi for 18 months, Master Gardener Linda Collins was voted to serve on the Executive Board. Congratulations, Linda!

Final Hours to Report

Certified Master Gardeners:

All Volunteer (20) and Continuing Education (12) Hours are due to the MG Timekeeper no later than Monday, December 15th to be certified for 2009. Hours reported after December 15th will be counted as 2009 hours.

Dues are Due

It's that time of year again--Please pay your 2009 dues by December 15, 2008. Dues are \$15.00. There is an "Interest Inventory" on the back of the dues statement. If you do not have the interest inventory--you may pick one up in the office. Send the inventory and your dues "In care of" Sarah Shugart to the office by mail or bring by the office. 2008 Interns do not pay dues.

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

This is a reminder from Jayla Fry, the new Texas Master Gardener State Coordinator: Remember to identify yourself, not only as a Texas Master Gardener, but also as part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

Jayla's Memo

The Texas Master Gardener Program is among the most visible educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. County Master Gardener Programs in over 115 Texas counties deliver horticultural information through highly trained, talented, and dedicated volunteers known as "Master Gardeners."

County Master Gardener Associations (often with 501C3 status) support the County Master Gardener Programs through contributions of leadership and coordination for educational projects and events and through securing and delivering financial resources to support these activities. The Association might be an independent organization, but the Master Gardener program is an Extension program. Identification of educational programs with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service (versus "A&M," "Texas A&M," "the Aggies," etc.) is essential to future funding support for Extension. Proper "branding" is even more critical for highly visible programs like Master Gardeners and 4-H.

We all have an essential role in the continual education of legislators, county officials, partners and stakeholders, and the general public as to the "home base" for all Extension's educational programs. The Texas Master Gardener logo incorporates the agency name, Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Other examples of using associating AgriLife Extensions brand with the Master Gardener program include:

- Master Gardener program sponsored educational activities should include the Texas AgriLife Extension logo and/or name, Texas AgriLife Extension Service
- Introductions of Master Gardeners as speakers or in media should include: *Jane Doe, Texas Master Gardener with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.*

Around the State

Kristie Kringle's Garden Shoppe Open House, At South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, December 6 and 7

From hummingbird feeders to armadillo banks and wildlife wood sculpture—*new and unique gifts, tasty refreshments*, and *SANTA*, this Open House, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. The event is open to the public. Visitors Center admission is free! *Santa's on site* with no line from 1 to 4 p.m. both days, inviting shoppers to bring their kids and cameras. Mrs. Santa's serving complimentary punch and cookies in the Meeting Room. Members receive a 10 percent discount on most purchases.

Blacklock's Advanced Bird ID Series, at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center beginning January 12

The *Advanced Birding ID Series* with acclaimed birder, naturalist and author Gene Blacklock of the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, will be offered beginning Monday, January 12. The series, which runs through May 2, offers twelve class sessions, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Mondays; plus six field trips. Blacklock's *Beginning Bird ID Series*, or similar prior birding experience is required for the Advanced Series. Class maximum is 16. Series tuition is \$150 for STBGNC members, \$175 non-members (includes one-year STBGNC membership). Prepayment must accompany registration. Fee includes all Gardens & Nature Center admissions. Call 361/852-2100 for registration.

The annual **Coastal Bend Tree Health Conference** is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 27, 2009** at the Del Mar Economic Development Center, Room 106. Featured speakers will be Drs. Tim and Monica Elliott, Florida State University. They will be discussing popular topics relating to **Palms**. Pre-registration is required with reservations made by calling Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Nueces County at 361-767-5217. The cost is \$30 which includes lunch. The \$30 fee, checks payable to NCEPC, can be mailed in to Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 710 E. Main, Suite 1, Robstown, TX 78380, or collected at the door on the day of the conference.

2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference - April 23-24 & 25, 2009

Marshall, Texas. Make plans to join us for the 2009 Texas Master Gardener State Conference, that will be held in beautiful East Texas. The conference will feature world class azaleas, dogwood and crape myrtles, as well as unique bed & breakfast establishments, just to name a few. This year, something new, the Earth Kind Rose Workshop, an all-day session will be presented the day before the '09 conference and will feature some of the most renowned experts in the Earth Kind rose field!! Information on registration for this workshop will be added to the regular registration form, come a day earlier and don't miss-out on this added feature! Harrison County Master Gardener Association c/o Extension Office, 102 West Houston, Marshall, TX. 75670 (903) 935-8413 See this link for more information: <http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>

Rose Bed to Rose Bud seminar/workshop at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center January 24

The annual "Rose Bed to Rose Bud," seminar/workshop will be from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, January 24, beginning in the Visitors Center meeting room, 8545 S. Staples.

Rosarians from the Rose Society will discuss plant selection, bed preparation, planting, feeding and disease control for the South Texas region. A pruning workshop, with the Rose Society in the STBGNC Rose Garden will follow the seminar.

Participants are asked to bring gloves and hand pruners. Workshop fee, which includes handouts and Gardens & Nature Center admission, is \$6, \$3.50 members. For reservations, call 361/852-2100.

2009 Winter Lecture Series for 'Winter Texans' & residents at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

The Center offers its third WINTER LECTURE SERIES for Texas winter visitors and area residents. Guest speakers will present unique perspectives on regional environmental, agricultural and horticultural topics from 10 to 11:30 a.m., **Wednesdays, in January and February**, in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. **Cost is General Admission only:** \$5 Adults; \$4 Seniors (60), Active Military, College Students. STBGNC members are free. Topics For reservations, call 361/852-2100.

December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 1:30-5pm MG Class 6pm - Graduation, Silent Auction, Meeting	3	4	5 8-11am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee	6 MG Booth at Farmer's Market
7	8	9 1pm Budget Meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15 <i>Deadline for Dues & 2008 MG Hours</i>	16 12 pm Brown Bag Program— It's A Time to Dream ...and Plan 1:30 pm Board of Directors Mtg.	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 County Holiday - Extension Office Closed	27
28	29	30	31	1 County Holiday Extension Office Closed		