



Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association

April 2008

2008 Officers

President: *Nan Jackson*
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Ernie Edmundson
 Secretary: *Thea Edmundson*

 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:



Logan Respass
 County Extension Agent
 Aransas County
 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

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The President's Corner



March brought us ANOTHER level of success. Approximately 570 people came through our gates, filled the wagons and carted off over \$9100 in purchases at our Spring Plant Sale! Vicki Coble, Ernie Edmundson and the rest of the plant sale gang should be commended for doing a great job. I personally heard several comments of how well organized the sale was, and other members heard the same thing. Thanks to all who planned/drove and picked up plants, as well as those who worked Saturday. All the plants were nice, but the citrus and herbs were really exceptional!

Fifty-one attended the March brown bag and twenty-three of them were non-Master Gardeners. I believe the articles and ads in the newspapers are making a difference in our attendance, don't you?

Approximately fifteen members have taken advantage of Vicki Coble and Sandy Stanley's propagation workshops. I'll bet that the Fall Plant Sale will really be phenomenal.

We will have a booth at the Herb Festival as well as the Farmer's Market on April 5. Kid's Fest and another Farmer's Market day will be April 19. Sign up and join the fun!
 Nan Jackson

Dates to Remember:

- Tues, 1st: Master Gardener meeting, 9am
- Fri. 4th: GA Garden Day, 8-11am
- Fri. 4th: Landscape Committee, 10:30am
- Tues. 15th Education Committee, 10am
- Tues. 15th: BBL 12-1pm & 6-7pm;
- Tues. 15thMG Board Meeting 1:30pm
- Wed. 16th: GA Workday 8-11am
- Sat. 19th: Kid's Garden Fest, 10am-1pm

The April 2008 TMGA Newsletter is now available for your reading pleasure. You may read it on line at http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/news/news_index.html
 Click on Web newsletter April

April Brown Bag

Tuesday, April 15 Noon and 6:00pm

Compost Doesn't have to Stink

Russell Bell, Master Gardener
 Aransas County Library, 701 E. Mimosa, Rockport

In Local & Area Newspapers this month watch for...

Calendula Officinalis: 2008 Herb of the Year – Linda Collins
A Garden Just For Kids – Kids Garden Fest – Linda Collins
Why the Hidden Gardens Tour – Maryellen Sherman
Rainwater Harvesting Texas Style – Winnie Trippet

Happy Birthday !

Paul Eulenfeld, 3rd
 Celso Garza 6th,
 Ligia Bryant, 10th
 Nina Davila 10th
 Susan Lopez, 18th
 Kay King, 21st
 Marilee Bell, 25th
 Richard Snyder, 28th

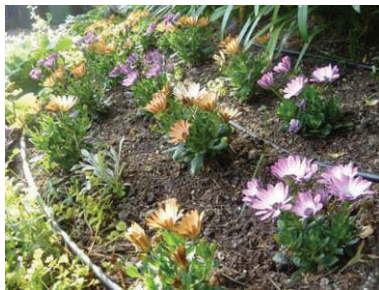
Our Mission: *Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.*

EARTH KIND

Efficient Irrigation — Part I

Just as we zone plants in the landscape according to their different water needs, irrigation systems should be zoned so that plants with different water needs are irrigated separately. Using irrigation water efficiently also requires proper selection of irrigation methods for the plants and for each area of the landscape.

Trees and shrubs in the low-water-use zone need supplemental water only during establishment or the first growing season (first 8 to 10 weeks after transplanting), whereas plants in moderate-water-use zones require water only during periods of limited rainfall when they show signs of stress. For these plants, a temporary system such as a soaker hose or hand watering may be all that is required. On the other hand, high-water-use zones require frequent watering and may warrant a permanent system with automatic controls. Whenever possible, use highly efficient watering techniques, such as drip irrigation.



Sprinkler Irrigation

Sprinkler irrigation may be as simple as a single sprinkler attached to a garden hose, or it may be a complex system of underground pipes and pop-up spray heads. A typical landscape uses sprinkler irrigation for watering turf, applying water uniformly over the entire lawn. For most other applications in the landscape, especially for individual trees and shrubs, drip irrigation may be better than sprinkler irrigation.

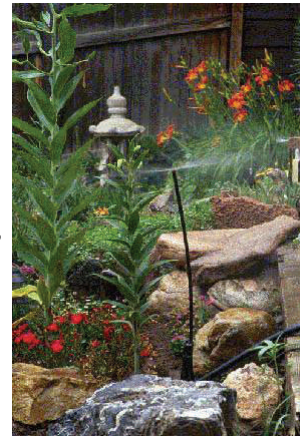
Many types of sprinklers are available for use in the landscape. Permanent systems with pop-up spray heads are most common. They are installed underground and rise above the ground surface to operate. Some are designed for use in turf (those having 2- to 3- inch pop-up height); others are designed for use in beds of taller plants (with a 6- to 12-inch pop-up height). Some sprinkler heads are designed for watering small, irregularly shaped areas. These typically have a radius of 15 feet or less. Others, like rotary sprinkler heads, wet a radius of 20 to 50 feet and are used to irrigate large areas. Most sprinklers are available with either full-circle or part-circle patterns, and most have an adjustable radius for watering irregular areas.

Proper Design

The installation of an efficient sprinkler system begins with good design. The system must apply water uniformly over the desired area with a minimum of overspray into adjacent areas. Choosing the appropriate sprinkler for a given area is important, but the location and spacing of sprinklers is equally important. Placing part-circle sprinklers along the boundaries of the irrigated area allows uniform watering along the edges while avoiding wasteful overspray onto buildings, paved areas, and other adjacent areas.

Proper spacing of sprinklers is critical in achieving uniform water application. Sprinklers spaced too far apart will waste water by applying too much water in some areas and not enough in others. On the other hand, spacing sprinklers closer than required increases the cost of the system and wastes water. In general, the spacing between sprinklers should be about 50 to 60 percent of the wetted diameter. For example, sprinklers with a wetted diameter of 80 feet should be spaced 40 to 50 feet apart.

When part-circle sprinklers are used on the same zone with full-circle sprinklers, the sprinklers should be carefully selected to achieve a matched precipitation rate. A half-circle sprinkler waters only half as much area as a full-circle sprinkler; therefore it should discharge only half as much water. If a full-circle sprinkler discharges 6 gallons per minute, then a half-circle sprinkler should deliver 3 gallons per minute and a quarter-circle sprinkler 1 1/2 gallons per minute. Most manufacturers offer sprinklers with matched precipitation rate (MPR) nozzles.



One other important aspect of proper design is pipe sizing. Selection of pipe sizes should be based on the flow rate through the pipe. If pipes are too small, excessive pressure losses occur. This causes some sprinklers to apply more water than others and results in non-uniform application and wasted water. Additional information on pipe sizing and irrigation system design is provided in design manuals available from sprinkler manufacturers.

Continued next page

Congratulations Master Gardeners!



All MG's recertified, in attendance.



MG Award winners in attendance for incremental hours



Texas Master Gardener Graduates
Ellen Reisinger, Susan Lopez, Cyndi Kuhn



Sharon and Vicki - highest awards received (Harold Henley and Patty Bidwell not pictured).

1,000 Hours

**Russ Bell
Harold Henley**

3,500 Hours

Sharon Watkins

Volunteer Service Hours

100+ hours Suzie Cook, Todd Cutting, Thea Edmundson, Mary Ann Geer, Ruth Hoes, Carole Howard, Barbara Mahan, Bill McGinnis, Ceil McKinney, Barbara McSpadden, Sarah Shugart, Sandy Stanley, Marilyn Vaughan, Steve Vaughan

250+ Hours

**Elayne Arne
Lois Atwood
Heather Bywater
D.J. Chilcoat
Suzie Cook
Elaine Dryer
Frances Frizzell
Jeanna Godfrey
Janice Holland
Janelle Jensen
Lynda Mullen-Madrone
Steve Vaughan**

500+ Hours

**Patty Bidwell
Vicki Coble**

Check the Application Rate of Your Sprinkler Systems

Application rate is the rate at which a sprinkler system applies water to the soil surface, measured in inches per hour. If application rates exceed the infiltration capacity of the soil, then runoff occurs. Problems with runoff are more likely to occur in clay soils or compacted soils that have a lower intake capacity than sandy soils. Rotary sprinklers usually have application rates of 1/4 to 1/2 inch per hour and rarely cause runoff. Spray heads, on the other hand, typically have application rates between 1 and 2 inches per hour and may cause runoff on clay soils, especially on slopes greater than 10 percent. If runoff occurs, apply only half the total amount of water, then turn the system off for an hour or two to let the water soak in before applying the remainder of the water. Many irrigation controllers can be programmed to cycle irrigation applications.

The application rate of a sprinkler system can be determined by placing three or four rain gauges at random locations in an irrigated area for a predetermined length of time, usually 1 hour. The average water level within the gauges is a measure of the output of the system in inches per hour (if the test was conducted over a 1-hour period). Repeat this procedure in each sprinkler zone, particularly if different types of sprinklers are used on different zones.

Adjust Sprinkler Heads as Needed

Improper adjustment of sprinkler heads not only wastes water but may also damage buildings or cause accidents if the water is allowed to spray onto buildings, streets, or sidewalks. Carefully adjust the radius and arc of part-circle sprinklers to prevent undesirable overspray. Check the system several times during the year to ensure proper adjustment.

Prepared by: **T. E. Bilderback and M. A. Powell**, *Extension Horticulture Specialists*

Around the State

Fourth Annual Herb Festival

Saturday, April 5, 2008

at the Rockport-Fulton High School.

Texas Master Gardener Association State Meeting, Thurs., April 24-Sat., April 26 Conroe

BIG BLOOM!

April 12 at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center & DOLLAR DAY at the Gardens!

The BIG BLOOM!, the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center's ONLY plant sale and gardening festival of the year, will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 12, on Gardens & Nature Center grounds, 8545 S. Staples St. It's also DOLLAR DAY—visitors will be admitted for \$1 each. Children under age 5 and members will be admitted free. Members may begin shopping at 8 a.m.

Besides shopping the big, annual plant sale, look for free children's activities, participate in beneficial insect releases, and tour the Gardens & Nature Center—all for \$1! For vendor, membership, volunteer or other information, call 361/852-2100.

Good bugs/bad bugs in your landscape?

'What's Bugging You'

April 26 at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

Learn to recognize the difference between pests and beneficial landscape insects at this seminar with Master Gardener Cindy Straub. 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 26, at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S. Staples.

Class fees are \$6, \$3.50 members, including admission. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

TURF TALK

May 3 at Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

Texas Cooperative Extension Horticulturist Michael Potter discusses fertility, mowing, irrigation, and other best turf management practices for the greenest lawn on the block. 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, May 3 at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, 8545 S.

Staples. Class fees are \$6, \$3.50 members. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

2008 JMG Specialist Class

Please save the date of June 11-12, 2008. Junior Master Gardener Specialist Training will be held at the Williamson County Extension Office in Georgetown, TX. Cost is \$250 and application are available on the TMGA website.

Orchids with Sam, May 17th at The South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center

Did you buy an orchid at the BIG BLOOM? Or get one for your birthday? Do you want to keep it healthy, but don't know much about orchids? Sam Jones, well-known South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Orchid Curator, says "you too can grow orchids!" Learn the basics of orchid culture made simple from 10-noon, Saturday, May 17th in the Visitors Center, 8545 S. Staples. Seminar fee is \$6, \$3.50 members. For reservations, call 361-852-2100.

Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference

May 28-31, Nacogdoches, TX

The Stephen F. Austin State University Pineywoods Native Plant Center is once again proud to host the 4th Lone Star Regional Native Plant Conference in historic Nacogdoches, Texas. The conference will be held on the beautiful SFA campus which is home to the Mast Arboretum, the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden, as well as the 40-acre Pineywoods Native Plant Center.

Texas Master Gardener Specialist Training - Plant Propagation

June 5 - 7, 2008 - Abilene, TX

Sponsored by Big Country Master Gardener Assoc. and Taylor County AgriLife Extension Service.

Registration fee of \$155.00 includes lecture, hands-on instructional sessions and materials; resource CD and copies of lecture materials; misc. propagation equipment; denim shirt; transportation for field trips; 2 dinners; 1 lunch; and, snacks. Transportation and lodging is on your own. Course is limited to the first 30 applicants. Contact Melissa Clifton, CEA-Hort, at dmclifton@ag.tamu.edu or at 325.672.6048 should you have any questions You may also access the Specialist Training information on the TMGA website Specialist page <http://www.texasmastergardeners.org/>

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 or 512.854.9600 with any questions.

April 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9am MG Meeting - GA	2	3 1 pm Keys to Successful Presentations class (Pre- registration required)	4 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day 10:30 am Landscape Committee meeting, GA	5 Farmer's Market
6	7	8 10 am Rehearsal for Composting Program—GA	9	10 1 pm Presentations class	11	12
13	14	15 10 am, Education Comm.- GA 12-1 & 6-7 pm BBL-Compost 1:30 pm Board of Directors Meeting, GA	16 8-11 am Green Acres Garden Day	17 1 pm Presentations class	18	19 10 am – 1 pm Kid's Garden Fest, Children's Discovery Garden (Library- in case of rain) Farmer's Market
20	21	22 12-1:00pm BBL- Composting 1:30pm Board Meeting 6-7 pm BB- Composting	23 8:30-11:30am Green Acres Landscape Garden Day 9am-12pm Propagation Workshop	24 1 pm Presentations class Texas Master Gardener Association State Meeting in Conroe	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 <i>Hidden Gardens Tour</i>

TIME TO PONY UP to Hidden Gardens Tour Volunteer jobs! As usual, we'll need everyone to be involved in work on May 3 (Tour day). Starting on Apr 16, we'll need the beautiful HGT posters to appear all over town.

POSTER DISTRIBUTION (April 16)

There is a YELLOW distribution sheet at GA, awaiting your name. Please check it out and put your name beside one or more groups before Monday Apr 14.

THEN, on Apr 15, all materials you'll need will be in your folder at GA. GRAB YOUR GARDEN HAT & MG NAMETAG and splash a bit of HGT color about our community.

Distribution sites have been organized into 15 geographic groups. They should each take no more than an hour to do:

locations

Bayfront 15

Bayfront South (RCA/Maritime/CofC/Yacht) 4

Central 15

Downtown 15

Downtown Peripheral 9

Enterprise 3

Fulton 18

Hwy35 N 10

35 N strips: Harbor Oaks Village, Live Oak Village 12

Hwy 35 S 9

Lamar 4

RF Schools 1

Little Bay 10

Market St 9

Corpus Christi you tell us!

Aransas Pass 9

Bayside

Ingleside

Portland

Sinton

Taft

Go to Green Acres today and sign up. With YOUR help, this job should be a snap!

Thanks... Suzannah