



MG GAZETTE



MISSION:

The mission of the association shall be to organize and promote volunteer efforts that support Extension programs advancing sound horticultural practices in Nueces County.

Nueces Master Gardeners, Inc. Issue 1 January 2013

[HTTP://NUECES-CO.TAMU.EDU](http://nueces-co.tamu.edu)

Plant
Ornamental
Cabbage or
Flowering Kale



Botanical Name
Brassica oleracea



January Topics

- ☉ *MG Officers*
- ☉ *President's Corner*
- ☉ *Other Happenings*
- ☉ *Volunteer Hours Due*
- ☉ *Quotation*
- ☉ *Agent's Notes*
- ☉ *Lunch Volunteers*
- ☉ *Next Meeting*
- ☉ *Did You Know?*
- ☉ *Birthday*
- ☉ *Early Planting*
- ☉ *Volunteer Opportunities*
- ☉ *Preserving Books*
- ☉ *Name that Plant*
- ☉ *Farmer's Market*
- ☉ *New AgriLife Name*
- ☉ *Landscape Design School*
- ☉ *Houseplant TLC*
- ☉ *MG's In Action*

**MG Officers and Elect
2013**

President	Stephanie Martin	(361) 814-7776
Elect	Norma Hernandez	(361) 816-8206
Vice President	Martha Gonzales	(361) 510-8945
Elect	Vacant	
Secretary	Linda Lamprecht	(361) 215-7738
Elect	Carol Barragy	(361) 658-9424
Treasurer/ Bookkeeper	Mary Lambert	(361) 813-7596
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Gazette Editor	Jenny Mohundro jlmohundro@gmail.com	(361) 850-7904
Ex-Officio	Huxley Smith	(361) 992-2661
Members-at-large	Barbara Bassett, Joann McDonald, Gary Martin	
State Directors	Betty Rogers, Carlos Valdez	
Extension Office	Lisa Martinez	(361) 767-5217
MG Helpline		(361) 767-5250

Visit almost any botanical garden and you will see beautiful borders spotlighting colorful ornamental cabbage and kale

Ornamental cabbage and kale are in the same species, *Brassica oleracea*, as edible cabbages and kale. They are the result of hybridizing and, although they are still edible, they aren't as tasty and tender as their cousins. Although sometimes referred to as flowering cabbages, it's the leaves that give the plants their color and interest as ornamentals.

Ornamental cabbage and kale thrive in the cool temperatures of fall and winter, but they do not like the summer heat. These showy plants have exceptional cold hardiness and can survive temperatures as low as 5 degrees if acclimated gradually. That means that you can have color in your garden all winter long. One note of identification is kale has fancier, more ruffled foliage and ornamental cabbage has rounder, more even foliage.



President's Corner

Well, here we are at the close of another year. It looks like we even made it through the winter solstice on the 21st..... Hope each and every one of you had a memorable holiday. Some of our members have experienced illness and loss in their families recently. We are thinking of you.

It has also come up several times recently that MGs serving on other societies' board meetings and/or meetings in general are charging hours to MGs. Our rules clearly state that only hours may be charged for CE time/lectures, not board meetings. Please be respectful of the rules. We don't want to tell you some of your hours will not count.

December is a relatively slow month for us. It gives us time to reflect and project into the future. After installation next month of the new officers, we will be in full swing planning for the spring events. Give us your ideas and suggestions for fund raising.

We recently had a seed planting session at the extension office for the purpose of starting seedlings to offer at the Home and Garden show and attempting getting a jump on our own plant auction to be held this time in April. If you have some cuttings or things to donate, keep them warm and pretty. We also thought we would use some of the seeds donated by DeAnna Baumgartner for plantings for the Food Bank; perhaps to be started by the Ray High School project students and MGs. The greenhouse is ready for production I am told, so Cheryl and Carlos, come get the seeds to prep for the new spring semester.

We need articles for the Gazette, so pull some together and shoot them over to Jenny Mohundro. Healthy recipes, articles on veggies, places, anything of educational interest are great items.

Have a great month, happy holidays, be safe, and keep us informed what's happening out there!

Stephanie

Stephanie Martin, President 2012
Nueces Master Gardeners, Inc.

Other Happenings January 2013

Wed. Jan. 2

*Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society, 7pm, GC, 512-592-1538

Thurs. Jan. 3

*Orchid Novice Class, 7pm, BG, 854-7624

*Rose Society, 7:30pm, GC, 853-7554

Tue. Jan. 8

*Corpus Christi Area Garden Council, 10am, GC, 855-3664

Wed. Jan. 9

*Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group, 10am, ACISD Maintenance Dept., 619 N. Live Oak St., Room 14, Rockport, 361-790-0103

Tue. Jan. 15

* MG Executive and General Meetings, 10am and 12Noon, GC, 814-7776

*Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association, 10am, 892 Airport Rd., Rockport, 361-790-0103

Wed. Jan. 16

*Bromeliad Society, 7pm, GC, 949-2175

Wednesdays Jan. 16 thru February

*Winter Lecture Series "Rainwater Harvesting", 10am, BG, 852-2100

Thu. Jan. 24

*Bonsai Society, 7pm, GC, 992-0009

Sat. Jan. 26

*Native Plant Society, 2pm, BG, 776-3285

A Note From Betty Rogers

"Please don't lose your volunteer hours for 2012. The last date I can take them for re-certification is January 15, 2013. Thanks for all your hard work for Master Gardeners".



My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view. ~H. Fred Dale



CITY SOIL TEST CAMPAIGN IN JANUARY

The City of Corpus Christi Storm Water Department and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Nueces County will again be conducting a soil testing campaign during the month of January. This campaign is being conducted in an effort to reduce the amount of excess fertilizer that pollutes runoff into our local water bodies and at the same time could save homeowners some needless fertilizer expenses.

Homeowners can pick up a soil test kit and supporting materials at Gill Nursery (2810 Airline Rd or 4441 South Alameda), Turners Gardenland (6503 S Padre Island Dr.) or the Nueces County Extension Office (710 E Main, Suite 1, Robstown). Soil samples can then be dropped off during normal business hours at the following locations from January 1-31, 2013:

- Corpus Christi Water Utilities Bldg. (2726 Holly Rd)
- Corpus Christi City Hall (1201 Leopard St.)
- Nueces County Extension Office (710 E Main, Suite 1,

Robstown)

This is a program being conducted at no cost to the participants with financial support from the Corpus Christi Storm Water Department. Do not miss this opportunity to find out what type of fertilizer your turf, vegetable garden or landscapes might need in 2013.

Jeffrey R. Stapper
County Extension Agent-Ag/Natural Resources
(361) 767-5223

January Meeting Lunch?



Once again, only one person has signed up with Joni to provide food for our lunch meeting. Thank you, Linda Lamprecht.

If it has been awhile since you have helped with lunch, please volunteer so she does not have to call around asking.

To volunteer, contact

**Joni Mcree 992-2213
Or e-mail joni@gulftex.com**

Next MG General Meeting 301

January 15th, 12 noon at GC

**Next MG Board of Directors Meeting
308**

**January 15th, 10:00 a.m. at GC
(3rd Tuesday monthly, except December)**



Did You Know?

At temperatures under 60 degrees, butterflies' body fluid becomes thick and restricts movement. That is why you will only see them on warm days.

Garden Gate Magazine. December 2010, p.45.



01/04	Bob Becquet	Class 16
01/06	Jan Shannon	Class 02
01/12	Janet Tysinger	Class 16
01/13	Helen Orsak	Class 10
01/15	Bobby Leach	Class 15
01/16	Cheryl Lewis	Class 14
01/18	Gretchen Perrin	Class 10
01/19	Jeanne Cazassis Mayes	Class 04
01/24	Margaret Rose	Class 20
01/24	John Seip	Class 16
01/29	Paul Parr	Class 13

Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing: Ray High School Greenhouse
Behind Ray H.S., Staples & Texan Trail.
Fall Schedule: Tuesday, 9:00-10:00 am
199

Ongoing: Food Bank Project "Outgrow Hunger" 826 Krill Dr. (Navigation then right on Savage Lane to Krill).
 Work on the gardens is done on various days. **Contact: Mary Lambert 813-7596 or e-mail her at cwlmel@yahoo.com 499**

Ongoing: Nature Conservatory 3:30 & Blucher Park 4:00 until sundown. (Behind the Main Library) Bring gloves, bug spray, plus a bag lunch & chair if you plan to stay for our Chat & Chew time. **This month, January 7 & 21st ONLY!**

Contact: Karen Smith 877-9723 499

Ongoing: Courtyard Maintenance at the Senior Garden Center, 1st Monday, 9:15 a.m. Contact: Betty Whitt 991-5375 499

Ongoing: Botanical Gardens, Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Jessica Latimer 993-6013 403

Areas to work:

1. Hummingbird Garden
2. Butterfly Garden (new)
3. Sensory Garden
4. Earth Kind Garden

Check With Michael or Billy for work tasks.

HOW EARLY IS TOO EARLY TO PLANT?

Submitted by Marty Barnett



A late freeze can ruin a vegetable garden or those annual plants in the flower bed. Frost-sensitive vegetables and annual flowers should not be planted outdoors until after the last freeze, regardless what that date is. Some examples of these plants are green beans, tomatoes, squash and peppers. Also, bougainvillea, periwinkles, marigolds, and zinnias are frost-sensitive.

For the gardener who is just itching to get his/her hands dirty or wants to be the first in the neighborhood with a garden, there is a way to get around the cold weather. To get a jump on spring planting, grow transplants indoors. These small plants can be bought at the local nurseries or grown from seeds. Plant them in containers until it is warm enough to transplant them outdoors.

If starting with seeds, something as small as an egg carton or a 2-ounce container can be used. Keep the soil moist until the seeds begin to sprout. Once they are too big for this starter container, transplant to larger pots - one gallon containers - or into the ground if it's warm enough.

These young, small plants will need extra care until the weather is warm enough. Keep them indoors at night or when the temperature drops down in the low fifties. Move them outdoors during daylight hours to enjoy the full sun. Water and fertilize them regularly.

For You Preserving Enthusiasts!



More preserving books have been ordered. If you would like to have one, they are \$18. If paying by check, please make it out to Nueces Master Gardeners, or NMG.

It's Time To Play Name That Plant!

Can anyone identify this plant? This specimen was brought into the extension office. It was found growing in an alley in Driscoll. The question is, what is it?

It seems to have a tap root type root system and a top that looks like a bloomed out flower.



Be sure to check out next month's issue for the answer.
Good luck!

Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course II

February 18-19, 2013

Christ United Methodist Church, 4203 State Highway 6, College Station, Texas 77845. (979) 690-4623 *[If coming from College Station, exit Hwy 6 at William D. Finch Pkwy, u-turn beneath the freeway, and take the feeder road.]*

Sponsored by the Texas Garden Clubs, Incorporated & Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M University

Landscape Design Course II will feature some of the best and most popular instructors from the past as well as an outstanding featured speaker for our “outside” topic. Peter Hatch, who was for many years Head of the Gardens and Grounds at Thomas Jefferson’s home, Monticello, will present **“A Rich Spot of Earth,”** which details the extensive and painstaking restoration of the vegetable gardens and the plants therein that took place under his direction. There will be opportunities to purchase his new and well-illustrated book of the same title.

Tom Stephens, a practicing Landscape Architect from Tucson, AZ will lecture on **“Landscapes as a Learning Experience”** and **“Community Landscape Management.”** Among concepts to be presented are the use of the landscape as a teaching tool, importance of good circulation patterns, educational signage and importance of the community landscape as a means to educate the public on plant selection and design. He is known for creative solutions to landscape needs, and specializes in challenging and unusual single family and multi-family residential, public, commercial, and industrial landscape architectural design projects. He received his landscape architectural degree from the University of Illinois.

Tom is co-author of Xeriscape Gardening-Water Conservation for the Amiercian Landscape. He is currently writing a second book titled Common Sen\$e Landscaping and also wrote the chapter on “Evaluation Landscape Designs of Residential, Public, and Business Property” in our text Stewards of the Land. In addition, Tom writes articles for Colorado Home L& Garden Magazine and other publications in his hometown of Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Bill Welch will discuss **“Plants in the Landscape”** which puts major emphasis on the design characteristics and functional use of today’s garden plants. Such features as microclimate, sound barriers, circulation control and art elements will be discussed. Dr. Mike Arnold will further define plant details in his lecture **“Plant Selection”** by reviewing the major horticultural characteristics of plants used as the softscape of landscape design. Barbara Coody is a local, practicing Landscape Architect and certified historian and will present enlightening information relating development of landscape design in the past and how these influences can be adapted for today’s home and garden. She will speak on **“Development of Landscape Design in Early America”** and **“Preservation of Historic Sites and Structures.”** Emphasis will be placed on the social, economic, political and other influences that developed the national heritage and/or regional characteristics of American landscapes. The National Register of Historic Places and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the need and value of preserving our natural and built landscapes will be highlighted in her second lecture.

Bob Ruth, ASLA will speak on **“Structures in the Landscape”**. He is a local, practicing landscape architect who will discuss working with the non-living design materials (hardscape) in the execution of a design plan with emphasis on details of steps, walls, fences, and other enclosures, economics of different types of hardscapes, etc. Alan King, ASLA has been practicing landscape architecture in the College Station area since graduating from A & M University in 1989. He will talk on two fascinating topics: **“Landscape Design Process”** and **“Site Design and Landform”**. Alan will present many design ideas that will clarify the task of the designer and the components of design as they relate to people, technology, art and nature. He will also speak on concepts of interation of built ground forms with surrounding topography and the importance of the ground plan as design components.

(Continued on page 7)

ABOUT THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN SCHOOL

Mrs. Diane Perez and Mrs. Merlene Schumacher, Co-Chairs for the Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. School and Dr. William C. Welch announce the second in the latest Landscape Design Study Course series (Landscape Design School) which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 10 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area. These courses offer an opportunity to learn from professional landscape architects and horticulturists about how successful landscapes are designed. Specifics include color, scale, history, practicality, plant selection and hardscape choices. We believe that good landscapes reflect a "sense of place" and the application of good design principles. Participants may take the four courses in any sequence. Garden Club members, Master Gardeners, nurserymen and others who are interested in furthering their knowledge of landscape design are welcome to attend.

Master Gardeners who complete a course are usually able to apply 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education in their county. **Texas Garden Club** members who successfully pass the examination for all four courses are eligible to become nationally accredited Landscape Design Consultants. **Texas Certified Nursery Professionals** who pass the course may apply this to their requirement for recertification with the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA).

Registration materials may be downloaded from: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDFeb13/> or requested from Mrs. Merlene Schumacher, 303 N. Baylor, Brenham, Tx 77833 (979-836-0612, outofbounds@sbcglobal.net) or Ms. Cynthia Mueller, Department of Extension Horticulture, 225 HFSB TAMU MS 2134, College Station, TX 77843-2134, by telephone (979) 845-7344 or by e-mail at c-mueller@tamu.edu. Registration for the course will be \$125 (including two lunches). Make check payable to **LANDSCAPE DESIGN** and send to Mrs. Merlene Schumacher. The text, good for all four courses, is Stewards of the Land. It may be purchased for an additional \$40. The book will be reserved for participants to pick up the first morning of the course. The text is a reference for the courses. The lectures will not be taken from the textbook.

Again this year, Stewart Thompson of Martha's Bloomers Garden Center, Navasota, is hosting a complimentary wine and cheese reception for the participants following the first days' events, at 4:00 pm. Dinner reservations following the reception (\$16.95 tax incl.) may be made on the morning of the first day of the course.

For further information please contact: Mrs. Merlene Schumacher, Registrar, at 979-836-0612, outofbounds@sbcglobal.net.

Landscape Tentative Schedule

Monday, February 18, 2013

- 8:00 - 8:30 am Welcome and Introductions – Mrs. Diane Perez & Mrs. Merlene Schumacher, Co-Chairs, TGC Landscape Design School, & Dr. William C. Welch
- 8:30 – 9:30 am *“Development of Landscape Design in Early America”*
– Barbara Coody, MLA
- 9:30 – 9:45 am Break
- 9:45 – 10:45 am Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm *“Plants in the Landscape”* – Dr. Bill Welch
- 12:00 - 12:45 pm Lunch
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm Special Interest Lecture: *“A Rich Spot of Earth”* - Peter Hatch
- 1:45 – 2:00 pm Break
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm *“Plant Selection”* – Dr. Mike Arnold

Tuesday, February 19, 2013

- 8:15 - 8:30 am Announcements
- 8:30 - 9:30 am *“Structures in the Landscape”* – Robert Ruth, ASLA
- 9:30 - 9:45 am Break
- 9:45 – 10:45 am *“Landscapes as a Learning Experience”* – Tom Stephens, Landscape Architect
- 10:45 – 11:00 am Break
- 11:00 – 12:00 pm *“Community Landscape Management”* – Tom Stephens, Landscape Architect
- 12:00 – 12:45 pm Lunch
- 12:45 – 1:45 pm *“Landscape Design Process”* – Alan King, ASLA
- 1:45 – 2:00 pm Break
- 2:00 – 3:00 pm *“Site Design and Landform”* – Alan King, ASLA
- 3:15 pm Exam preparation, Exam

Accommodations: Refer to the Bryan-College Convention and Tourist Bureau for complete information on local places to stay <http://www.visitaggieland.com>) 979-260-9898.

Hyatt Place, 1100 University Drive, College Station, TX 77840 (979-846-9800)

Holiday Inn Express, 1203 University Drive E, College Station, TX 77840 (979-846-8700)

Marriott Hotel Town Place Suites, 300 University Drive E, College Station, TX (979-260-8500)



Houseplant TLC



Just because winter is here doesn't mean you have to stop gardening. Now's the time to give your houseplants a little extra attention. The folks at the Oregon State University Extension Service offer these simple tips on giving your houseplants some winter TLC.

Sunlight Light patterns change with the seasons. Leaves falling from the trees and the natural shift of the earth can affect the way the sun fills up a room. So, as the seasons change you need to make sure your houseplants continue to receive a sufficient amount of sunlight.

If you have a plant placed on a windowsill that was shady in the summer but is now sunny since the leaves fell, you may have to move it. Watch for bleached areas on the leaves---that means your plant is getting too much light. On the other hand, if you see thin, leggy growth, that means your plant isn't getting enough light.

Temperature changes Avoid placing plants near direct sources of hot or cold drafts. A sudden change of temperature from doors, windows, heat ducts, fireplaces or even TV's can hurt houseplants. If your plants have wilting or brown tipped leaves, there may be a temperature problem.

Watering Overwatering is a common problem with houseplants. Be sure to water each plant according to its needs rather than by your regular schedule.

Too much water encourages root rot, which causes lower leaves to turn yellow.

Fertilizing While a plant is most active during the growing season, monthly fertilizing is necessary. But houseplant growth slows in winter, so cut fertilizing down to every other month.



Nueces Master Gardeners In Action

Nueces Master Gardeners' Graduating Interns Say,

"Let Us Entertain You"



**They've Got The
Compost Blues**



PLUS



Food



Friends



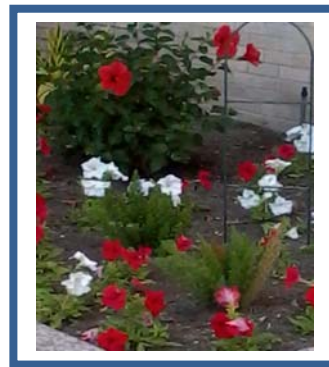
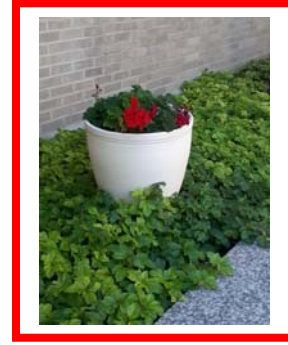
Door Prizes



Winners

(Nueces Master Gardeners continued on page 10)

The Ray High School Botany Club Greenhouse and Garden Is Up And Growing!



**Kudos
To Our
Master Gardeners
Who Have
Faithfully
Mentored This Project**

You've Got Mail

Make smart choices when it comes to buying mailorder plants



By P. Allen Smith

This is the time of the year when gardeners' mailboxes are stuffed with all kinds of tempting catalogs. They arrive when we're most vulnerable---right after the holidays as we peer out the windows over a drab, gray landscape, feeling color-starved for anything that looks like a flower. But before you give in to the desire to order one of everything, here are a few tips to make sure the plants you buy will enhance your garden's beauty.

Consider the advantages. I don't purchase all my plants through the mail, but there are some good reasons to use mailorder sources. First, it can save money. Bare-root trees and shrubs, for example are cheaper than plants that are leafed out and blooming at the garden center. If you don't need mature plants, and want a large quantity, you can get more of your money through mailorder sources. For the cost of a single quart-size nursery plant, you can order enough seeds to row dozens of plants. Another advantage is that you can find more varieties through mailorder sources than in most garden centers. So if you're looking for an unusual plant, or need a particular size or color, chances are you'll find it in a catalog or online.

Stay rooted in reality. It's easy to get swept away by all the special buys and dazzling new varieties, but you'll be better off if you make a plan of what you need and where you want to plant it. It's not as thrilling as ordering what catches your eye, but if you make a list of the colors, heights, and types of plants you're looking for, you'll be less likely to end up with a botanical hodgepodge of varieties that don't work together in a unified design.

Read the fine print. Take the time to carefully read the description of the plant's growing requirements. Make sure they match your garden's light, water, and soil conditions. If you are buying a perennial, tree, or shrub, check the plant's USDA hardiness zone to make sure it can withstand the minimum temperatures in your area.

Learn the buzzwords. In a real estate ad, a home listed as a "handyman special" probably needs major repairs. In the plant world, there are similar terms you should know about. A plant described as a "vigorous grower" or one that "spreads quickly" might be ideal if you're looking for a fast-growing ground cover. Be careful, though, because plants with these qualities may become for words such as "hardy volunteer," "carefree," and "naturalizes," as these plants may colonize, spread or self-sow. (Again, those characteristics may be an advantage or disadvantage, depending on what you're looking for.)

Hunt for special qualities. Plant breeders have developed varieties with unique characteristics that make them easier to grow. Descriptions such as "perennial that blooms first year

from seed" are welcome words for impatient gardeners. (Usually, perennials won't start producing flowers until the second year.) "Self-cleaning" refers to annuals that continue blooming even if you don't deadhead spent flowers, and "self-branching" plants don't need to be pinched back to encourage them to fill out. Some plants are bred to be disease- or insect-resistant so you don't have to worry about pest and disease control.

Pore over plans. Some catalogs offer ready-made garden designs that have the seeds or plants selected for you. Before you buy, be aware that illustrations of perennial borders with all the flowers in bloom are misleading. In reality, the plants will not all bloom at the same time. Instead, these gardens are often planted so different plants will flower in spring summer, and fall, giving you all-season color. If an annual garden plan catches your eye, there's a better chance your garden will look like the artist-drawn pictures, since many annuals bloom all season. If you buy any type of pre-planned garden, make sure you're buying the right number of plants.

P.Allen Smith (www.pallensmith.com) is a garden designer, host of two national TV programs, a regular guest on the "Today" show, and author of P.Allen Smith's Living in the Garden Home (Clarkson Potter, 2007) and other books in the Garden Home series.

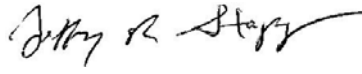
Article from:
Gardening How-to. Vol.14 No. 1
Issue 76, p 14-15.

*Learn From Yesterday,
Live For Today,
Hope For Tomorrow.*

Happy New Year



Jeffrey R. Stapper, CEA, Ag/NR



Editors: Jenny Mohundro

Disclaimer - the information herein is for informational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Master Gardeners is implied. Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in any Extension event are encouraged to contact their County Extension Office at 361-767-5217 at least one week in advance of the program in order for proper arrangements to be made.

In the event of a name, address or phone number change please contact the office at:

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
710 E. Main, Suite 1, Attn. Horticulture
Robstown, Texas 78380
(361) 767-5217*