

#### 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 9 September 2014

#### HTTP://NUECES.AGRILIFE.ORG

#### Plant Virginia Creeper



#### Botanical Name Parthenocissus quinquefolia



#### September Topics

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# MG Officers and Elect 2014

President	Norma Hernandez	(361) 816-8206
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Vice President	Debra Martin	(361) 815-1867
Elect	Alene Burch	(361) 334-1021
Secretary	Carol Barragy	(361) 658-9424
Elect	Linda Lamprecht	(361) 215-7738
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Ex-Officio	Stephanie Martin	(361) 814-7776
Members-at- large	DeAnna Baumgartner, Betty Rogers, Gary Martin	
State Directors	Jenny Mohundro, Carlos Valdez	
Extension Office	<b>Lisa Martinez</b> (361) 767-5217	
MG Helpline		(361) 767-5250

#### **LOVE FALL COLOR?**

Virginia Creeper is a climbing vine, which can grow up to 50 feet. It is identified by its leaves, which have five leaflets.

Leaves are green, but are tinted with red when they first grow. In the Fall, all the leaves turn deep red. Leaflets are three to seven inches long, and up to two inches wide.

Virginia Creeper can not only grow as a vine up tree trunks and walls, but it can stand alone. It will send out runners along the ground, and quickly cover the area.

Virginia Creeper is very fast growing. It can choke a tree or shrub if not controlled and is poisonous to humans.

Virginia Creeper blooms from June through August. Flowers are tiny, yellowish-green, and clustered. Fruits are purplish-black 1/4 " berries.



#### **President's Corner**

Welcome Class 25 to the Nueces Master Gardener community. We look forward to seeing you all at monthly meetings and projects. Remember we are here to help.

Kudos to Debbie Martin for scheduling water conservation managers from Environmental & Strategic Initiatives who enlightened us on current, future water restrictions and the City's desalination plans.

Jenny Mohundro's "pass the hat" idea to honor Shirley Whiteside's memory earned the scholarship committee \$254. If anyone would like to make a donation, please contact treasurer, Mary Lambert.

It's fall! That means Learning to Grow is off and running. On 9-2-14 8:30am, three raised beds will be installed at West Oso High School and one bed at Corpus Christi Montessori School. Please make plans to assist with this project.

In addition, volunteers will be needed 9-9-14 9am at the Extension office in Robstown to pack seeds, prepare supplies and deliver vegetables to all our LTG schools.

The Fall Home & Garden is right around the corner, 9-12 thru 9-14. Contact Thorunn Kelley to volunteer with the educational booth and Jackie Martin to assist with the Kids Zone. On Thursday, 9-11am, we will meet at the American Bank Center to organize, setup and decorate the booths. Look for emails from Lisa with more info as we get closer to the event.

Thanks to intern Frank Eicholz who donated plants for an impromptu drawing; \$42 was collected.

FYI, the next quarterly glass recycling event will be 9-13-14 9am-3pm at the Whitecap Wasterwater Treatment Plant, 13409 Whitecap Blvd.

Please contact Deb Holliday to assist with the October Plant Auction. Help is needed identifying and labeling donations at the Ray High School greenhouse.

Remember to "like" Nueces Master Gardeners, Inc. on Facebook to share ideas and pictures with the group.

I look forward to working with all members and thank you to everyone for all you do for the Nueces Master Gardeners.

#### Norma

Norma Hernandez President 2014 Nueces Master Gardeners, Inc.

#### Other Happenings September 2014

#### Wed. Sept. 3

\*Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society, 7pm, GC, 852-7700

\*South Texas Orchid Society, 7pm, GC, 816-1948

#### Thurs. Sept. 4

\*Rose Society, 7pm, GC, 853-7554

\*Orchid Novice Class, 7pm, BG, 854-7624 Tue. Sept. 9

\*LTG seed packing, 9am, Extension auditorium, 767-5217

\*Garden Council, 10:00am, GC, 728-4386 Wed. Sept. 10

\*Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group, 10am, ACISD Maintenance Dept., 619 N. Live Oak St., Room 14, Rockport, 361-790-0103 Fri. Sept. 12

\*\*"Blacklock's Introduction to Fascinating World of Birds" short course, 6:15pm-9pm, field trip Sept. 13, 7am-1pm, BG, 852-2100 Fri-Sun, Sept. 12-14

\*Home and Garden Show, ABC, 767-5217 Sat. Sept. 13

\*Fall Plant Sale, Aransas/San Pat MGs, 9-1, Rockport Extension Office, 361-790-0103 \*"Trees for South Texas", 10am, BG, 852-2100 Tue. Sept. 16

\*MG Executive and General Meetings, 10am and 12Noon, GC, 816-8206

Thur. Sept. 18

\*Bromeliad Society, 7pm, GC, 658-8650 Mon. Sept. 22-December 6 (Mondays)

\*"Blacklock's Beginning Bird ID 101 Series", BG, 6:15-9:15pm, Prepaid registration required by Sept. 17, 852-2100

Thur. Sept. 25

\*Bonsai Society, 7pm, GC, 992-0009 Fri. Sept. 26

\*Blacklock's "Hawks in Flight" short course, BG, 6:15-9:15pm, Field trip Sept. 27, 9:30am-1pm, 852-2100

**BG=Botanical Gardens GC=Garden Center (Greeley Senior Center)** 





Howdy!

The Master Gardener Intern Class is going well so far! At the August 6<sup>th</sup> class, the new interns were introduced to numerous activities that the Master Gardeners are involved with including but not limited to, the Learning to Grow School Gardening Program, the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center, Food Bank, Y.E.E.H.A., Ray High School, Home and Garden Shows, and the Master Gardener Gazette Newsletter. The interns also learned how to fill out time sheets and more about the volunteer opportunities and the number of hours that are required in each category. This class would not have been possible without the help of DeAnna Baumgartner, Carol Krank, Stephanie and Gary Martin, Betty Rogers, Jenny Mohundro, Thorunn Kelley, Norma Hernandez, Mary Lambert, Deb Holiday, John Seip, and others!

On August 5th I gave a presentation covering "Beneficial Insects in the Garden: an overview of common insects found in Gulf Coast landscapes" to the Ingleside Garden Club.

On August 13, Dr. Michael Womack, a previous horticulture agent and the Executive Director of the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, educated the interns about Botany.

On August 20<sup>th</sup> our first joint Master Gardener Class was held at the O.N. Steven Water Treatment Plant. The Nueces and Aransas County Master Gardener interns learned about Xeriscaping and EarthKind techniques. The class was taught by Joanne Salge, Brent Clayton, and Carlos Valdez.

On August 14th, I attended a Tree Advisory Committee meeting, and a goal setting workshop that was held on August 28th, where we worked diligently to get a draft of a city plan put together. I also attended and assisted the 4-H Agent, Zach Davis, at his 4-H banquet that was held that evening.

On August 15th I presented at a Fuel up to Play 60 CCISD In-service for physical education educators that was sponsored by Dairy MAX. I enjoyed talking about all of the hard work the Nueces Master Gardeners put into making and installing the raised garden beds.

I attended the Master Gardener monthly executive and general meetings and enjoyed hearing Alexa and Wesley talk about their work with the City of Corpus Christi.

On August 21<sup>st</sup> I conducted site visits and attended an Ag Awareness meeting that was held at the Robstown office.

On August 26<sup>th</sup> I attended the Finance Committee Meeting that met in Robstown.

I had the pleasure of teaching the Entomology class to the Master Gardeners in Rockport and then to the Nueces Master Gardener Interns at the District office on Highway 44 on August 27th. I really appreciate all of the certified Master Gardeners who came out and assisted with the classes and refreshments!

The rest of the month was filled with reports and answering numerous phone calls and emails from residents of Nueces County. A special thanks to Betty Rogers, Casey Williams, Gloria VanZante, Suzy Murray and Beth Spirko for working the NMG Help Desk and assisting me with resident's phone calls!

As always, thank you for all that you do

Gessica Weizer

Jessica Weizer CEA-Horticulture Jessica.Weizer@ag.tamu.edu

#### **September Meeting Lunch**



**Betty Whitt** 

991-5375

Unless Betty can perform the loaves and fishes miracle, she shouldn't have to do the meal all by herself.

PLEASE call Rita Phillips and volunteer to help with the September luncheon!

Contact Rita Phillips 991-0750 ASAP Or e-mail <a href="mailto:rnphillipscctx@grandecom.net">rnphillipscctx@grandecom.net</a>

PLEASE GIVE RITA YOUR SUPPORT Always sign up the month ahead of time!

#### **Next MG General Meeting**

September 16th, noon at GC

#### **Program:**

Iceland, The Land of Fire, Ice, and Flora Thorunn Kelley, Presenter

#### **Next MG Board of Directors Meeting**

September 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m. at GC (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday monthly, except December)

# THE PLANT AUCTION! Coming Next Month

Get your plants ready and groomed with labels, growing information, and a photo of the adult parent plant. Call Deb Holliday for information and to volunteer to help.

Be saving up to make some great purchases.

Come join the fun and bring a friend.



The following
Master Gardener
needs our caring
thoughts:

Deb Holliday on the death of her mother



09/06	<b>Betty Whitt</b>	Class 09
09/07	Stephanie Martin	Class 13
09/09	Pat Parr	Class 10
09/09	Norma Hernandez	Class 21
09/15	Jackie Martin	Class 22
09/16	Iris Klanecky	Class 10
09/24	Sandy Cherniss	Class 24
09/25	Barbara Bernwanger	Class 23
09/25	Hope Romero	Class 24

#### **Important!**

Certified MG's, to enter your volunteer hours in the new on-line system, use this address!

https://texas.volunteersystem.org

# August 19<sup>h</sup> MG Meeting Hours Volunteer Hours

Executive Meeting = 2 hours

Master Gardener Meeting = .5 hours

Time Traveled = Figure your own

#### **Continuing Education Hours**

Master Gardener Program = .75 hours
Intern Orientation = # of hours you attended

#### **SOMETHING NEW**

While entering your hours in the Texas
Volunteer System, go to the first page with
gold boxes, click on the Event Calendar to see
Nueces MG's important dates and click on
General Information/Newsletters to see the
2014 MG Gazettes.

# Master Gardener Specialist Rainwater Harvester Training

**September 29-October 1, 2014**For full information go to:

http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/2014/septemb er-29-october-1-2014-rainwater-harvestingspecialist-training/

Nueces MG's need to have a Rainwater Harvesting Specialist to provide programs in

# **Volunteer Opportunities**

Ongoing: Ray High School Greenhouse Behind Ray H.S., Staples & Texan Trail. Tuesday MG Workday 9:00-11:00

Ongoing: Food Bank Project "Outgrow Hunger" 826 Krill Dr. (Navigation then right on Savage Lane to Krill). Tuesdays 8:00a.m.( Except MG meeting day then Wednesday) Contact: Mary Lambert 813-7596 or e-mail her at cwlmel@yahoocom

Ongoing: Nature Conservatory, Mon., March 10 & March 24, 4:00 & Blucher Park 5:00 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.

Contact: Karen Smith 877-9723

Ongoing: Courtyard Maintenance at the Senior Garden Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 9:15 a.m. NOTE: In September, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

Contact: Betty Whitt 991-5375

Ongoing: *Botanical Gardens*, Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m.

**Contact: Jessica Latimer 993-6013** 

Areas to work:

1. Hummingbird Garden

2. Butterfly Garden (new)

3. Sensory Garden

4. Earth Kind Garden

Check With Michael, Carol, Billy or Brenda for work tasks.



# South Texas Botanical Garden Speaker Series



Sept.12-13 Blacklock's Fascinating World of Birds 6:15-9:15 Fri., Sat. field trip 7:00am-1:00

Sept.13 Trees for South Texas 10:00 a.m.

Sept.27 Beginner"s Bird I.D. Series (10 sessions)
Mon. evenings Sept. 27-Dec.6 6:15-9:15
3 Saturday fieldtrips

Sept.26-27 Hawks in Flight Friday 6:15-9:15 Saturday Fieldtrip 9:30am-1:00pm

# Nueces Master Gardeners In Action

#### Class 25 Intern's First Class



MG's recreated the late Shirley Whiteside's sunflower themed decorations and some of her famed recipes.



Interns enjoyed the culinary efforts of the MG hostesses.







Nueces Agent, Jessica Weizer, shared information on AgriLife and Master Gardeners programs. DeAnna Baumgartner covered the Learning to Grow program activities.

MG's ready to share support and information on their specialties.

#### **Interns Added Since Orientation**



Billie Cox



Lisa Mitchell



Donna Stewart



Staci Vanderford



Casey Williams

#### **Botanical Garden Earthkind Crew**





The MG volunteers at Botanical Gardens are comparing Earthkind plants to Texas Gardener Fall list. HAPPY FALL PLANTING TO ALL!

Jessica Latimer, Sandra Williams, Ana Abarca, Alene Burch, Ronda Dizney

#### **Learning to Grow/CCISD Project**



DeAnna Baumgartner and Stephanie Martin met with CCISD Coaches to plan for fall Learning to Grow gardens.

#### **MG August Meeting Program Presenters**





Alexia Casteneda, Water Conservation
Manager for the City of Corpus Christi,
explained the city water restriction guidelines.
Wesley Nebgen, Water Supply Specialist with
the Future Water Project, described the
options for future water supply currently
being explored for the Coastal Bend region.



September 12-14, 2014

American Bank Center

#### **It's That Time Again!**

Check the lists below to verify your volunteer time in the MG Booth or on the Speaker's Stage.

Help will be needed to load and unload the trailer and set up the MG Booth on Thursday. Jackie Martin also needs help in Kids Zone!

MG Information Booth				
Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
Sept.12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14		
2:00-4:00 Carol Barragy Alene Burch Norma Hernandez Hernandez Mary Lambert	10:00-12:00 Billie Cox Ray Estrada Norma Hernandez Jenny Mohundro	11:00-12:00 Carol Barragy Velma Garza Norma		
Beverly Leach Bobbie Leach Suzy Murray	Suzy Murry Mary Parrot Gloria VanZante	<b>12:00-2:00</b> Ronda Dizney Deb Holliday Sandra		
Williams 4:00-7:00	12:00-2:00			
John Balcar Ann Davis Roger Myers Theresa Stelzig Carolyn West	Billie Cox Frank Eicholz Hope Romero John Seip	2:00-4:00 Hope Romero Huxley Smith		
Casey Williams	<b>2:00-4:00</b> Jenny Mohundro Roger Myers Rita Phillips	<b>4:00-5:00</b> Hope Romrero Huxley Smith		

Speaker's Stage				
Friday	3:00-3:30	Carlos Valdez		
•		Rain Water Capture		
	3:30-4: 00	Carlos Valdez		
		Rain Barrel Construction		
Saturday	1:00-1:30	Deb Holliday		
_		Herbs-From Beauty to Bounty		
	1:30-2:00	Dennis Briton		
		Black Gold Compost		
	2:00-2:30	Betty Whitt		
		The Delicate Bonsai Plant		
	2:30-3:00	Iris Rose Klanecky		
		Xeriscape		
	4:00-4:30	Beverly Leach		
		General Landscape		
	4:30-5:00	Frank Eicholz		
		The Exotic Plumeria		
Sunday	1:00-1:30	Stephanie Martin		
		Good Bugs-Bad Bugs		
	1:30-2:00	Stephanie Martin		
		Worm Composting		
	2:00-2:30	Huxley Smith		
		Rose Care		
	2:30-3:00	Dennis Britton		
		Black Gold Compost		

#### KID ZONE SCHEDULE

Saturday 1:00-1:30 2:30-3:30

Sunday 1:30-2:00 2:00-3:00

Jackie Martin needs help with Kid Zone. To volunteer, call 855-6699.

#### **NEED CE HOURS? Remember that MG's can attend Intern Classes to Earn CE hours**

## 2014 MASTER GARDENER CLASS 25 CLASS SCHEDULE WEDNESDAYS, 8:15-12:00 (unless noted by an \*)

Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program, 4639 Corona, Suite 30, Corpus Christi, TX 78411

Sept. 3 8:15-Noon	Propagation 710 E. Main, Robstown	Stephanie & Gary Martin/Sandra Williams/Carol Carroll, NMGs & Propagation Specialists
Sept. 9* 1:30-5:00	Soils & Fertility 892 Airport Rd., Rockport (joint)	Dr. Mark McFarland, Professor and Soil Fertility Specialist
Sept. 17	Fruit & Nut Production/Composting	Dennis Britton, NMG and Composting Specialist Stephanie Martin, NMG
Sept. 23* 1:30-5:00	Home Vegetable Gardening 892 Airport Rd., Rockport (joint)	Carol Krank, NMG Stephanie Martin, NMG
Oct. 1	Tree/Palm Planting & Maintenance	Ginger Easton-Smith, Aransas County CEA Ag/NR
Oct. 7	Turf Grass 892 Airport Rd., Rockport (joint)	Brad Cowan, CEA-Ag/NR Hidalgo County
Oct. 15* 1:30-5:00	Identifying Plant Problems/Citrus Greening South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center (joint)	Dr. William Johnson, CEA-Horticulture Galveston County
Oct. 22	Rainwater Harvesting	Karen Ivey, Administrator San Patricio Municipal Water District
Oct. 29	Pruning Trees & Shrubs/Tropical Plants	Ginger Easton-Smith, Aransas County CEA Ag/NR
Nov. 5 9:00–12:30	Attracting Birds & Butterflies & Native Plants of the Coastal Bend, So. TX Botanical Gardens & Nature Center (joint)	Ernie Edmundson, Aransas County Master Gardener/Master Naturalist
Nov 12* 1:30-5:00	Landscape Plant Selection & Design 710 E. Main, Robstown (joint)	Doug Wade, Landscape Architect
Nov. 19	Hodge Podge Day MG Post Test & Surveys	

### A Fall Adventure May Be On the Horizon!

Carol Krank is gathering information on a possible trip to King Ranch this fall.

The tour emphasizing the conservation efforts on the ranch

The tour emphasizing the conservation efforts on the ranch may cost about \$12.00 each.

Details will be coming soon.

OFFICE OF NUECES COUNTY

710 E. Main, Suite 1 Robstown, TX 78380 (361) 767-5223 phone (361) 767-5248 fax i-ott@tamu.edu August 18, 2014



#### What is your Water Footprint?

By: Jason P. Ott, CEA-Ag/NR

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

**Nueces County** 

On Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, AgriLife Extension conducted an extensive well owner workshop here in Robstown. The program covered everything a well owner would ever need to know about managing their private water system from the well to the septic system. Because well owners are solely responsible for their water system they should be critically aware of the need to conserve water. However, the availability of water, now and in the future, should be a concern for everyone. Or to quote Thomas Fuller, "We never know the Worth of Water, till the Well is dry." And while we hope we never know the worth of water in this contexts; there are constantly new demands on our water supply, especially here in South Texas as our population continues to grow.

With drought, issues about water supplies and conservation become very relevant topics. Do you know how much water you consume for everyday tasks? Here are some real eye-opening statistics that water experts have developed that show "water footprints" for single individuals.

Here are some everyday water use facts:- 1 bath uses 70 gallons, while a 5-minute shower uses 10-25 gallons

- 1 dripping faucet wastes 15 gallons per day
- The average home landscape uses over 1000 gallons monthly per person.
- 1 toilet flush can use from 1.6 to 5 gallons
- 1 uncovered swimming pool can evaporate at a rate of over 900 gallons a month.

If one takes another approach and looks at your virtual water use, the numbers can be alarming. For example, the water footprint for a pound of plastic is 24 gallons, so the average bottled water uses three to five times as much water as it contains. It takes 20 gallons of water to make one pint of beer. One gallon of gasoline requires on average 12.9 gallons of water, as a result every 15 gallon fill-up you make consumes over 190 gallons of water. So it is easy to see how important water is in our daily activities, and in times of drought, we all need to do our part and conserve.

Here are some ways that you can reduce your water footprint:

- Reduces landscape irrigation runtime by 2 minutes can save 80 gallons per day.
- Fixing a leaky toilet can save 30 gallons per day.
- If building a new home or changing the plumbing in your current one, install a gray water system, which allows you to reuse the water from your non-kitchen sinks, laundry machine, and dishwasher for watering plants and flushing toilets. Follow local and state gray water system regulations.
- Recycling one plastic bottle and one newspaper saves more than 5 gallons of water.

(continued on next page)

Conserving water also conserves other resources—energy and money. It costs money to pump water and make it available in our homes, for irrigation, and for business and industrial uses. By becoming more aware of your water use habits—both old and new—you can reduce water use, eliminate waste, and save energy and money. For more information about water conservation and ways that you can reduce your water footprint go to the website; <a href="http://www.40gallonchallenge.org/">http://www.40gallonchallenge.org/</a>. While you are there complete the checklist of water-saving practices to make your commitment to reducing your water footprint by at least 40 gallons per day. The checklist includes both indoor and outdoor water-saving tips. To date over 3,300 Texans have taken the 40 Gallon Challenge and pledged to reduce their water use by over 607,500 gallons daily!

If water restrictions continue to increase, then only water high priority areas and allow other areas to go dormant or die. If you use the back yard more than the front, it would be the high priority area. If a beautiful landscape is important to you, then the front yard might be the priority. This approach will allow you to maintain a green lawn in important areas of the yard and still save water.

In South Texas, plants may frequently encounter drought stress. Rainfall is very seasonal and periodic drought will occur. When this drought finally breaks, we can rest assured the next one will not be far behind. If you have not incorporated any water conservation practices into your landscaping for this drought it might be wise to consider implementing a few practices for the future. For more information on water conservation in landscaping, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service – Nueces County Extension Office at 361.767.5223.

Individuals with disabilities, who require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodation in order to participate in any of the mentioned activities, are encouraged to contact the County Extension Office eight days before all programs for assistance. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

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









Rescued plants, rescued pots, planters and yard art — looking for "forever" homes. Tropicals, bromeliads, succulents & seedlings.

Newly rooted (or rescued) plants looking for a caring nurturing home environment

Where: 1907 Cochran (in Little Bay Shores Subdivision) Rockport, TX

When: Saturday Sept. 6, 2014 Sale Hours: From 9:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All Proceeds will benefit the American Diabetes Association



Jessica M. Weizer, CEA- Horticulture

Editor: 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 people without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating

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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