



MG GAZETTE



MISSION:

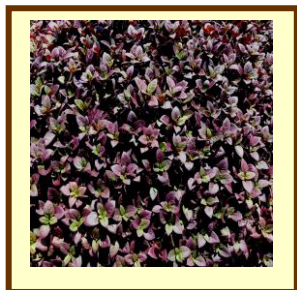
The mission of the association shall be to organize and promote volunteer efforts that Support Extension programs advancing sound horticultural practices in Nueces County.

Nueces Master Gardeners, Inc. Issue 9 September 2015

[HTTP://NUECES.AGRILIFE.ORG](http://nueces.agrilife.org)

Common Name

Little Ruby



Botanical Name

Alternanthera dentata



Little Ruby alternanthera, a relative of Joseph's Coat, has been added to the Texas Super Stars. It is a low-maintenance plant to add color to your landscape. The beautiful foliage in shades of burgundy and purple adds rich color to the landscape, and it is consistently attractive throughout the season. The excellent compact growth habit of this plant requires no deadheading and little maintenance. This tough little plant is heat and humidity tolerant and has a low moisture requirement. This plant likes it warm, so plant after danger of frost, and it will grow and thrive throughout the long, hot summer. Little Ruby alternanthera is excellent to grow in containers or as a ground cover in landscape beds.

September Topics

- ☼ *MG Officers*
- ☼ *President's Corner*
- ☼ *Happenings*
- ☼ *Agent's Notes*
- ☼ *Meeting Lunch*
- ☼ *Meeting Dates*
- ☼ *Tips From Betty*
- ☼ *Meeting Hours*
- ☼ *Birthdays*
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- ☼ *Aquaponics Course*
- ☼ *MG's In Action*
- ☼ *Home & Garden Show*
- ☼ *Bus Trip*
- ☼ *Intern Class Schedule*
- ☼ *Farmer's Market*
- ☼ *Superstar Plant Specialist*
- ☼ *A New Anacacho Orchid Tree*
- ☼ *History of Ft. Worth Botanical Garden*
- ☼ *Vision & Challenge*

MG Officers and Elect 2015

President	Deborah Holliday dholliday@mygrande.net	(956) 433-7110
Elect	Debra Martin	(361) 815-1867
Vice President	Alene Burch Lenahope9@yahoo.com	(361) 334-1021
Elect	Thorunn Kelley	(361) 985-9818
Secretary	Linda Lamprecht argonmill@yahoo.com	(361) 215-7738
Elect	Beth Spirko	(610) 349-1099
Treasurer/ Bookkeeper	Theresa Stelzig cstelzig@stx.rr.com	(361) 643-6491
Elect	Suzy Murray	(361) 816-2464
Publicity & Parliamentarian	Carlos Valdez	(361) 946-6123
Gazette Editor	Jenny Mohundro jlmohundro@gmail.com or master.garden.tx@gmail.com	(361) 816-4646
Ex-Officio	Norma Hernandez cluestar@swbell.net	(361) 816-8206
Members-at-large	DeAnna Baumgartner, Carlos Valdez, Sandra Williams	
State Directors	Jenny Mohundro, Betty Rogers Alternate: Huxley Smith	
Volunteer Hrs. Coordinator	Betty Rogers banrogers@aol.com	(361) 877-7060
Extension Office	Lisa Martinez llmartinez@ag.tamu.edu	(361) 767-5217
MG Helpline		(361) 767-5250



President's Corner

Deb Holliday
President 2015
Nueces Master Gardeners, Inc.

August Review - One would expect the "dog days" of August to be a quiet time. Not so for the NMG's.

August 1, Jenny Mohundro drove Huxley and me to College Station to attend the TMGA State Directors Meeting. Despite the long car ride, the day was certainly worthwhile. A highlight was when Jenny presented our \$650 contribution for the Gardens & Greenway project. The biggest moment came when the project exceeded its \$100,000 goal by more than \$8,000. What a nice celebration - streamers, sparkling soda, and lots of cheers. I recommend that every director and officer take the opportunity to attend at least once in their career. There's plenty of opportunity for Nueces County MG's to participate at the state level if they wish.

The Finance Committee was center stage this month. Chairperson Sandra Williams, Treasurer Theresa Stelzig and Treasurer-Elect Suzy Murray presented a well-researched and realistic 2016 budget that board and general members approved on the first vote. Our thanks to you!

The FC also spearheaded our foray into the 21st century of bookkeeping practice by recommending the adoption of Quicken as our accounting software. The board and general membership went a step further in approving the purchase of a computer/printer package for the Treasurer to use for our monthly financial reporting.

Members also voted to nix the public plant sale this fall and go ahead with our members only sale and auction for the October program.

Upcoming - Bed building - Tuesday, Sept 1
Seed Packing - Sept 8, 9 a.m., Robstown - We need you to help deliver plants and seeds to the schools that day. Help LTG to succeed. Sign up to mentor the coach at schools near you.
Home & Garden Show - Sept 11-13. Sorting handouts Friday Sept 4 in Robstown. Packing up on Sept 8 at Robstown. Setup at 10 a.m. at American Bank Center, Sept 9. Not too late to volunteer. Find the sign up sheet at the weekly Intern classes.
Member Excursion to San Antonio Botanical Gardens - October 6. More details to come. Contact is Debbie Martin.

Agent Jeff Floyd has much more to say about upcoming events.

Check out all activities elsewhere in this copy of the Gazette.

Thank you for your participation this past month

Deb

Other Happenings September '15

Wed Sept. 2

- *Coastal Bend Cacti & Succulent Society, 7pm, GC, 852-7700
- **"LTG & YEEHA" MG Intern Class, 1pm, BG, 767-5217

Thur Sept. 3

- *Orchidology Class, 7pm, BG, 852-2100
- *Rose Society, 7pm, GC, 853-7554

Sat Sept 5

- **"Healthy Herbs" seminar, 10am, BG, 852-2100

Tue Sept 8

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

Wed Sept 9

- **"Home Vegetable Gardening" MG Intern Class, 1pm, BG, 767-5217
- *Rockport Herb & Rose Study Group, 10am, ACISD Maintenance Dept., 619 N. Live Oak St., Room 14, Rockport, 361-790-0103

Fri Sept 11 (2-7), Sat Sept 12 (10-7) Sun Sept 13 (11-5)

- *Home & Garden Show, ABC, 767-5217

Fri Sept 11 & Sat Sept 12 (field trip)

- *Blacklock's Introduction to Exciting World of Birds" short course, BG, 6:15-9:15pm,
Field trip Sept 12, 7am-1pm, 852-2100

Sat Sept 12

- **"Transition to Xeriscape" seminar, 10am, BG, 852-2100

Tue Sept 15

- *MG Executive and General Meetings, 10am and 12Noon, GC, 956-433-7110
- *Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener Association, 10am, 892 Airport Rd., Rockport, 361-790-0103
- **"It's Hot! What Do You Mean It's Time to Start My Fall Garden?" brown bag, 12-1pm,
Rockport Extension, 892 Airport Rd., 361-790-0103

Wed Sept 16

- **"Composting & Vermiculture" MG Intern Class, 1pm, BG, 767-5217

Sat Sept 19

- **"Introduction to EarthKind Gardening" seminar, 10am, BG, 852-2100

Mon. Sept. 21-December 5 (Mondays)

- **"Blacklock's Beginning Bird ID 101 Series", BG, 6:15-9:15pm, prepaid registration required by Sept. 18, 852-2100

Mondays and Tuesdays, Sept 21, 22 28, 29

- *EarthKind Home Landscape Design School, Research & Extension Center, 10345 Hwy 44,
\$140 or \$190 for couples, \$70 for MGs, 767-5217

Wed Sept 23

- **"Entomology" MG Intern Class, 1pm, BG, 767-5217
- *Plumeria Society, 6:30pm, GC, 813-9616

Thur Sept 24

- *Bonsai Society, 7pm, GC, 992-0009
- *Bromeliad Society, 7pm, GC, 658-8650

Fri Sept 25 & Sat Sept 26 (field trip)

- **"Hawks in Flight Identification Short Course", 6:15pm-9:15pm, field trip
Sept 26, 9:30am-1pm, BG, 852-2100
Prepaid registration required by Sept. 19, 852-2100

Sat Sept 26

- **"Plan NOW for Spring Wildflowers" seminar, 10am, BG, 852-2100

Wed Sept 30

- **"EarthKind Landscaping" MG Intern Class, 1pm, Rockport Extension, 892 Airport Rd., 767-5217



Jeff Floyd, CEA- Horticulture
Texas A&M
AgriLife Extension Service
Nueces County



Jeff's Notes

I continue to have a resolute fascination with keyhole gardening. Everything associated with the concept speaks to the environmental stewardship and best management practices we in Extension so firmly hang our hats on.

For those who don't know, and that shouldn't be too many of you, keyhole gardens represent the definitive raised bed garden. First introduced in arid parts of the African continent by a United Kingdom nonprofit, keyhole gardens have earned their reputation as an effective food production method on infertile land.

The bed is often created high enough to eliminate any need to bend over while harvesting. The curious moniker stems from a convenient cutout located on one side of the bed. The center of the bed is usually kept open by a wire mesh core. From above, the roughly six foot diameter bed resembles a key slot in a door knob.

The sides of the bed can be constructed of virtually any material. Native rock is often used to create a striking rustic look. The only requirement is that the sides must be able to contain the planting media. The media usually consists of well-composted plant-based organic matter, and therein is the secret to the success of keyhole gardens.

Constructing the sides of a keyhole garden is only half as maddening as filling it. People are always amazed at the amount of compost required to top it off. On the other hand, once the bed is crowned with rich fluffy organic matter, the real benefit can be realized.

Anything that can be grown in a traditional South Texas garden can be grown in a keyhole garden. Even some finicky produce can be had with this amazing system. The design allows the gardener to take greater control of water and pH adjustment. However, most gardeners exercise the good sense to grow the customary South Texas crops. And grow they will.

What more could any ardent garden fanatic ask for; an attractive bed, reduced water and fertilizer costs and practically no strain on the back and knees. Did I mention the convenience of plucking fresh vegetables for the table only minutes before mealtime?

September Meeting Lunch



NOTICE: Lunch now begins at 11:30.
Please deliver your dishes from 11:00 -11:15 a.m.

Pat & Paul Parr	361 855-3664
Debra Martin	361 815-1867
Lan-Lee Lin	361 852-5524
Rita Phillips	361 991-0750

To volunteer for future lunches, contact Rita Phillips 991-0750 or email

Next MG General Meeting September 15th at Greeley Garden Center

11:30 noon – Lunch Meet & Greet

12:00 p.m. – Program

Gourds:

More Than Your Grandfather's Birdhouse

Presenter: Sheila Guidry

1:00 p.m. – General Meeting

Next MG Board of Directors Meeting

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

MAKE YOUR HOURS COUNT

TIPS FROM BETTY ROGERS

All students, interns, and MGs are invited to attend monthly board meetings. They are held at 10:00 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at Greeley Senior Center before our general meeting. If you attend the entire board meeting you receive 2 hours volunteer service. If you don't attend the entire meeting, you receive hours for the time you were there.

August 18th MG Meeting Hours

Volunteer Hours

Executive Meeting = 2.0 hours

Master Gardener Meeting = 1.25 hours

Time Traveled = Figure your own

Continuing Education Hours

Program: = .75 hours





09/06 Betty Whitt	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
09/25 Hope Romero	Class 24

AMarian Rhonda Diznev

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 7:30a.m. (Except MG meeting day then Wednesday) Contact: Mary Lambert 813-7596 or e-mail her at cwlme1@yahoo.com

Ongoing: Nature Conservatory, Mondays, 4:00pm & Blucher Park 5:00 pm until sundown (Behind the Main Library)
Bring gloves, bug spray, plus a bag lunch & a chair if you plan to stay for our Chat & Chew time.
Contact: Karen Smith 877-9723

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

Ongoing: Botanical Gardens, Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m.
If gate not open, go through neighborhood to access back gate or fence.
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.



BOTANICAL GARDEN EVENTS



HEALTHY HERBS

Saturday, Sept. 5, 10-noon

Discover the medicinal benefits of many herbs from the owner of Chiron Holistic, Susan "Sparky" Sparks, and decide which of these medicinal herbs you want to try to grow and use for a healthier lifestyle.

TRANSITION TO XERISCAPE

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10-noon

Find out more about practical application of Xeriscape principles from Xeriscape Corpus Christi chair, Joanne Salge, and learn about easy ways you can transition your existing landscapes into a water-smart yard that can survive and thrive through the next drought.

INTRODUCTION TO EARTHKIND GARDENING

Saturday, Sept. 19, 10-noon

What is "Earth-kind Gardening?" Learn about research-proven techniques to provide maximum garden and landscape enjoyment while preserving and protecting the environment with Nueces Master Gardener Sandra Williams. Then walk through our Earth-kind Garden to see practical applications.

PLAN NOW FOR SPRING WILDFLOWERS

Saturday, Sept. 26, 10-noon

Fall is wildflower planting season. Plan your spring wildflower garden with tips on selecting seeds and planting techniques from Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist Ernie Schertz.

CREATIVE COMPOSTING

Saturday, October 3, 10-noon

Learn the basics of composting and practical ways to recycle your kitchen scraps and landscape debris into "Gardener's Gold" from Nueces Master Gardener Bob Becquet .

Seed Packing for Learning To Grow Beds

Tuesday, September 8th, 9:00 a.m.

**AgriLife Auditorium
 Robstown, TX**



Hint for new Interns: This event earns Youth Education Hours!



TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Topics to be Covered:

- SYSTEM DESIGN AND TERMINOLOGY
- PLANTING AND HARVESTING TECHNIQUES
- FISH HEALTH AND WATER QUALITY
- ECONOMICS OF AN AQUAPONIC SYSTEM
- MARKETING AQUAPONIC PRODUCE

To be held at:



DEL MAR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CENTER, ROOM 117
3209 S. STAPLES
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX 78404

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Nueces And San Patricio Counties
710 East Main
Robstown, TX 78380
361.767.5223
j-ott@tamu.edu

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 at 361.767.5223 eight days before all programs for assistance.

A participation fee of \$30, which includes lunch and a light breakfast, will be charged at the door. Seating is limited to the first 30 participants to RSVP before September 17th to:

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Nueces And San Patricio
Counties
710 East Main
Robstown, TX 78380
361.767.5223
j-ott@tamu.edu

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Introduction to Aquaponics

Join AgriLife Fisheries Specialist,
Peter Woods
for an informative short course on the
Basics of Aquaponics.

September 24th
8:30 to 3:00pm

Aquaponics is a method of growing plants in a symbiotic relationship with fish. The fish waste feeds the plants, the plants clean the water that returns to the fish!

Register now to attend this full day Aquaponics Workshop. You will gain insight into how to design and manage your very own backyard aquaponics system, as well as, learn about the marketing strategies, business planning, and economics of larger aquaponics systems.

Nueces Master Gardeners In Action

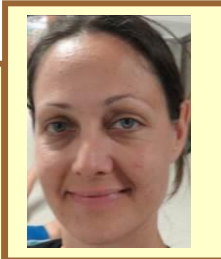
MEET YOUR CLASS 26 INTERNS



Jill Barris



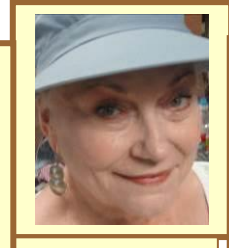
Michael Bishop



Bianca George



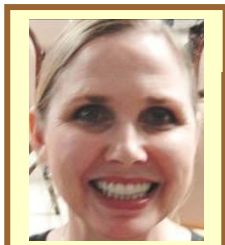
Maire Kelly



Dorris Lutenbacher



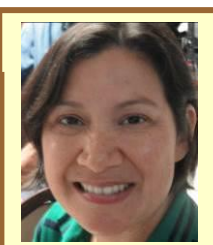
Rosemary Plank



Patty Sawyer



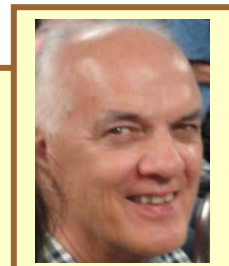
Elizabeth Schmidt



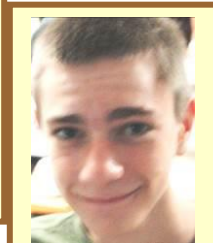
Lisa Schmidt



Michelle Scott



Rayburn Walker



Joshua Wigley



Brenda Bishop, Transfer taking class



Intern Class 26 is off to a great start with 12 students plus a transfer retaking the class. Agent Jeff Floyd gave an overview of the Master Gardener program for the new interns and the Certified Master Gardeners who attended to show support.

Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous spread of food from the table decorated in honor of the late Shirley Whiteside who for many years made the first class of the year a sunflower extravaganza.



Nueces MG, John Balcar, Shares His Plumaria Passion



Red Orange



Heirloom



Saigon Moon



Yukatan Yellow



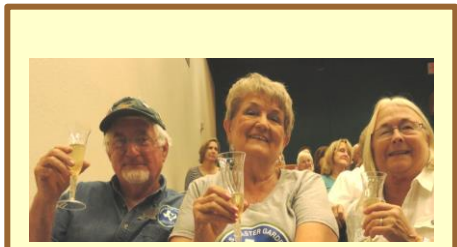
Nueces Master Gardeners Contribute To The TAMU Gardens & Greenway Project



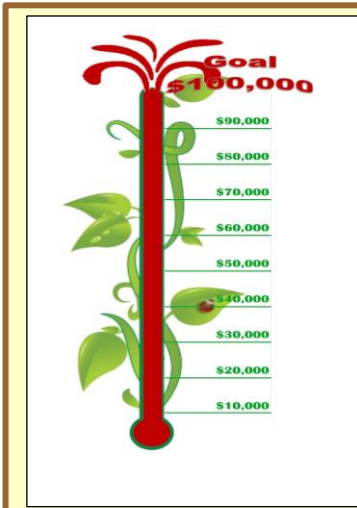
Nueces MG State Director, Dr. Jenny Mohundro, received our Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Doug Welsh, Coordinator, & Garey Wylie, Chairman..



State Directors, Dr. Jenny Mohundro and Huxley Smith and President Deb Holliday placed the Nueces Rose Sticker on the Garden & Greenway poster.



Then Huxley, Jenny and Debbie joined everyone in toasting all Texas Master Gardeners for achieving the \$100,000 goal for the Gardens at TAMU.



We did it! The Gardens and Greenway Donations thermometer has erupted; it's OVER THE TOP! You, the Master Gardeners of Texas, have given so generously to this project that we have met our 3-year goal in nine short months! We are so proud of each and every one of you who came together to achieve the naming rights of the Earth-Kind® Garden, one of the specialty areas of the Teaching Garden Complex within the Gardens and Greenway.

\$108,440 from 36 counties – that's what we've raised thus far!

Future donations will go towards expanding the Teaching Gardens, enhancing the signage and adding elements like statues or similar features. These gardens will be our "backyard" and we should feel very gratified by our contributions!



Fall Home and Garden Show September 11 – 13, 2015

Fri. September 4 Sorting Handouts, Robstown
Tues. September 8 Packing the trailer, Robstown
Wed. September 9 Setting Up, American Bank Center 10:00 a.m.
Fri. September 11 Open 2:00-7:00 p.m.
Sat. September 12 Open 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Sun. September 13 Open 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Call to confirm your stage or booth assignment time!

Intern Tip: This is a great way to get volunteer hours. You can shadow Certified MG's listening to the way they answer questions posed by attendees.. OR you perhaps already know information to share!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Master Gardener Bus Trip
October 6th
SAN ANTONIO BOTANICAL GARDENS



\$20 w/ Botanical Garden Membership Card
\$25 w/o Botanical Garden Membership
Includes a Deli Sandwich Box Lunch
Sign up, pay, and get final details at the
September MG Meeting.



Location	Date	Class	Instructor(s)	Pre Class Assignment
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	9/02/15 Wednesday	Youth Environmental Education & Health Awareness & Learning to Grow	Nueces Master Gardener Volunteers DeAnna Baumgartner, Carol Krank, Suzy Murray, Gary & Stephanie Martin	LTG & YEEHA handout
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	9/09/15 Wednesday	Home Vegetable Gardening(joint class) 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Dr. Juan Anciso Professor & Extension Specialist	Read chap 6 Note to coordinators: composting handout
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	9/16/15 Wednesday	Composting & Vermiculture Hands on class 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Nueces Master Gardener Volunteer Stephanie Martin & Dennis Britton	Read chap 3 pp. 10 & 11. Read composting handout
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	9/23/15 Wednesday	Entomology 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	TBA	Read chap 4
892 Airport Road Rockport	9/30/15 Wednesday	EarthKind Landscaping 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Dr Steve George (joint class) Professor & Extension Landscape Horticulture Specialist	Read chap 3 EarthKind handout
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	10/07/15 Wednesday	Turfgrass & Integrated Pest Management 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Dr. Casey Reynolds Assistant professor & Extension Turfgrass Specialist	Read chap 8
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	10/13/15 Tuesday	South Texas Native plants & Attracting Wildlife 11:00 am-4:00 pm	Ernie Schertz (joint class) Aransas Master Gardener & Master Naturalist	
710 Main St. Robstown	10/21/15 Wednesday	Identifying Plant Problems Hands on class 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Dr. William Johnson County Extension Agent, Galveston County	Read chap 4
710 Main St. Robstown	10/28/15 Wednesday	Rainwater Harvesting & Irrigation: Hands on class	Dr. Dotty Woodson Extension Program Specialist	Review chap 2 pp. 11 & 12, & read chap 7 pp. 22, 23, 24 & Rainwater handout
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	11/04/15 Wednesday	Tree/Palm Planting & Maintenance 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Ginger Easton-Smith County Extension Agent, Aransas County	Read chap 1 pp. 12-24 & chap 7 pp. 17 & Palm handout
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	11/11/15 Wednesday	Landscape Design & Plant Selection 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Kathy Hubner, Landscape Designer @ Gill's Landscape & Nursery	Read chap 7
Botanical Gardens 8545 S. Staples St. Corpus Christi	11/18/15 Wednesday	Wrap-up, Class Project & Social 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm.	Jeff Floyd & Nueces Master Gardeners	None

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

EAT LOCAL **BUY LOCAL**

ART CENTER
corpus christi
100 N. SHORELINE BLVD.
EVERY WEDNESDAY 5:00-8:00PM

www.ccdowntownfm.com info@ccdowntownfm.com

**The Downtown Farmer's Market
Has a New Location**

**The Art Center of South Texas
100 N. Shoreline Drive
Corpus Christi TX**

Every Wednesday 8:00 – 5:00 p.m.



**STATE MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS SUPERSTAR® PLANT SPECIALIST
TRAINING**

Class 1

Hosted by Bexar County – San Antonio

The State Master Gardener-Texas Superstar® Plant Specialist training was created as an intensive multi-day training that helps empower certified Master Gardeners with knowledge and skills required to effectively support and multiply Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service efforts in Earth-Kind® environmental educational programs in their counties.

When: September 16 thru September 18, 2015
Wednesday Friday

Where: San Antonio Botanical Garden
Educational Room
555 Funston Place 78209



Time: September 16-17 class starts at 8 am – 5 pm
September 18 Tour* starts at 9 am – 12 noon
*Site TBD

Registration Fee is \$200. This includes 2 lunches, 1 dinner, snacks and other goodies.

Payment must be made no later than Wednesday, September 9th; thereafter, a \$50 surcharge will be incurred.

We will seek to provide reasonable accommodations for our events for all persons with disabilities. We request that you contact our office (210) 467-6575, at least two weeks in advance, of the event to advise us of the auxiliary aid or service that you require.

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A New Anacacho Orchid Tree: A Reason For Learning

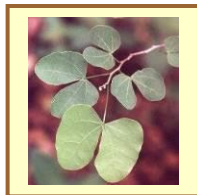
Bauhinia lunarioides (B. congesta)

Submitted by Nueces Master Gardener Class 26 Student, Rosemary Plank

A spot of land with old Esperanza bushes and a Pride of Barbados was becoming 'home' to a coyote or two every morning. As an individual with aspirations for becoming a master gardener and one that experiences a bit of angst when approached by a coyote, a change in thought about planting and environmental control was necessary.

The Esperanza were old, large bushes with profuse 6 inch dark brown capsules appearing each fall following the long blooming season. While beautiful, the coyotes and crowding out of a Pride of Barbados was seen as something to be changed. Desiring to replace beautiful blossoms with beautiful blossoms, orchid trees came to mind. In reading a paper by Bill Ward (Ward, ND), the Texas native tree named Anacacho Orchid Tree seemed perfect. While a bit of research demonstrated that there are other colorful orchid trees with large blossoms, many were not drought tolerant, did not like sand, tolerated heat but not to the extreme, and were salt intolerant. The Anacacho seemed like a great possibility and is a native to Texas!

Local nurseries were contacted as was the South Texas Botanical Garden Center. Local nurseries did not have the Anacacho, but the South Texas Botanical Gardens has a lovely tree - the difficulty came when I asked to dig it up! Several non-local Texas native nurseries were called, but many of the folks that answered the phone were not familiar with the tree; some were familiar but did not have them.. Then I called Native of Texas Nursery in Kerrville, TX.. Mr. D. Winningham, the nursery owner, answered the phone and stated that he did have the Anacacho. Returning from an early April trip to Big Bend National Park, with the desert in full bloom, an Anacacho Orchid Tree was found. The native Texas Nursery, nestled in a valley through which the Medina River flowed, was itself astounding! The nursery is dedicated in memoriam to Mr. Winningham's wife. The nursery, the tribute, the environment is breathtaking (Natives of Texas, 1998-1013). Visit <http://www.nativesoftexas.com/>, to see nursery photos and read the tribute to Betty Winningham.



Anacacho's are remarkable bush trees, the only *Bauhinia* species native to the United States (Native Plant Society of Texas, 2008-2015). With small bi-lobed leaves, and white or light pink flowers, its delicacy appeals to the eye and senses. My Anacacho tree has survived from April through August planted in sand (with loam and organic root stimulant added to the original soil) and lives in the hot sun. It was watered three times a week for three weeks then tapering to once per week. There is no shade where it is planted; its home is North Padre Island. The tree has grown approximately 5 inches, was blossoming when planted, and currently has a few new flowers. A pod like structure with fairly flat 'beans' is produced from each flower.

Humans appreciate the tree for its elegance and beauty, but butterflies and bees enjoy the nectar in the driest of climates (University of Arizona Board of Regents, 2012). Information about the Anacacho's needs varies. The full year outcome on North Padre Island is still to be determined.

Reference

Native Plant Society of Texas. (2008-2015). Native Plant Society of Texas: Anacacho orchid tree, a great landscape plant. Retrieved August, 2015, from <http://npsot.org/wp/story/2009/366/>

Natives of Texas. (1998-1013). Natives of Texas: Hill Country native plants. Retrieved March, 2015, from <http://www.nativesoftexas.com/>

University of Arizona Board of Regents. (2012). Campus Arboretum: *Bauhinia congesta*. Retrieved August, 2015

Ward, B.(ND). It's a NICE! time to plant an orchid tree Retrieved February, 2015.

More Information on the Anacacho Orchid Tree

<http://www.public.asu.edu/~camartin/plants/Plant%20html%20files/bauhinalunarioides.html>

Scientific: *Bauhinia lunarioides* (syn: *B. congesta*)

Common: Texas plume, anacacho orchid tree

Family: Fabaceae

Origin: West Texas hill country south into northeastern Mexico

Pronunciation: Bow-HEN-ee-a lun-ar-ee-OI-deez

Hardiness zones

Sunset 10-13, 18-23

USDA 9-11



Landscape Use: Small single or multiple trunk accent tree for xeric and oasis design themes, nice patio tree or large accent shrub for flower border or border background, large container plant, also makes a fairly nice clipped hedge

Form & Character: Rounded, delicate, open, refined, subtropical

Growth Habit: Semi-evergreen, moderate growth rate to 12 to 15 feet with less than equal spread, tends to sprout at base of trunk

Foliage/Texture: Small, alternate, rounded, emarginated leaves, 3/4 to 1 inch long, leaf size increased slightly under cultivated conditions where regular supplemental irrigations are present; medium fine texture.

Flowers & Fruits: Terminal racemes of relatively smallish (compared to other *Bauhinia sp.*) white or pink orchid like flowers, fragrant; fruit a small flattened bean pod.

Seasonal Color: White to pinkish flowers in early spring, repeat blooms possible.

Temperature: Avoid western exposures having high reflected light conditions.

Light: Partial shade to full sun. Growth habit is more compact if positioned in full sun and more open if positioned in partial shade

Soil: Tolerant of alkaline soils

Watering: Supplemental watering during the summer months helps to improve and sustain canopy density

Pruning: Only minimal pruning to shape is needed.

Propagation: Seed

Disease and pests: None

Additional comments: Anacacho orchid tree is a small, delicate, sparsely canopied flowering tree for desert gardens. The genus *Bauhinia* contains over 300 species of flowering trees, shrubs and woody vines that are native to warm temperate and tropical regions of the world.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: The following article submitted by Sandra Davis was intended for a summer vacation month issue, but I think the garden visit would be nice in cooler weather. When visiting botanic gardens, don't forget to take your membership card from our own South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. It is honored for entrance at many gardens around the country.



Summer is just around the corner and many of us will be taking road trips across Texas. According to Wikipedia there are twenty three significant botanic gardens in Texas. This month we are featuring the oldest one.

History of the Fort Worth Botanic Garden



The beautiful Fort Worth Botanic Garden was once the site of three natural springs used by Indians and early settlers, a cotton gin, a gravel pit, and a dumping ground for the US Cavalry.

In 1912, approximately 37.5 acres was purchased to be Rock Springs Park. In 1926 newly hired City Forester, Raymond C. Morrison, saw the opportunity to educate the public about plants and trees. Work began in 1929 to create a natural setting of trails and utilize the springs to create ponds, lagoons and waterfalls. In 1930, the landscape architecture firm, Hare and Hare, produced a comprehensive plan that included a formal rose garden and long vista through a grove of trees to connect Rock Springs Park to Trinity Park.

Construction began in 1933 in the midst of the Great Depression. A government loan available to states for local work made through the Reconstruction Finance Firm enabled completion of the project. The Fort Worth Municipal Rose Garden was dedicated on October following year, Rock Springs Park officially Worth Botanic Garden.

The Fort Worth Garden Club opened the Rock in 1935 as the first established garden center in offices, a greenhouse and a library. Today, the building houses offices and restaurant. The Exhibition Greenhouse holds a portion of one of largest species begonia collection.



Springs Building Texas with expanded attached the world's

In 2009, the National Register of Historic Places recognized the original Rock Springs Park.

To the southwest of the Botanic Garden, on private property, stood an abandoned gravel pit, used for decades as a dump by a calvary unit. As a result of the vision of Scott Fikes and Charles Campbell, in 1968 Kingsley Wu was hired to design the 7.5 acres Japanese Garden. From 1970 to 1973, park employees constructed the Mediation Garden, the Teahouse Complex, the Tea House, Moon Deck, Pagoda and ponds.

The Garden Center in the Rock Springs grew too small to accommodate the business of a growing garden. In 1984, ground was broken on a new center, designed by Hahnfeld Associates. The new Garden Center with 17,000 square feet of business offices, meeting rooms, a conservatory, and a 240 seat lecture hall. The 10,000 square foot glass enclosed Conservatory holds plants from all the world's tropical regions.

Continued on next page

Each weekend from June 1 through July 4th, the vista transforms into lawn seating for Concerts in the Garden in conjunction with the Fort Worth Symphony. Linking the areas is the Texas Native Forest boardwalk with viewing platforms and educational features designed to engage children.

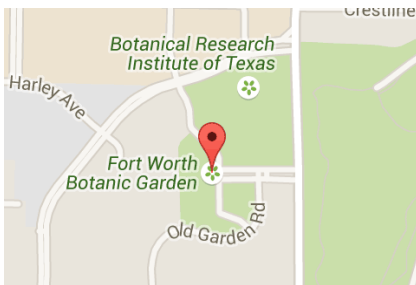
A large Flower Clock and the Water Conservation Garden filled with native, water-thrifty, well adapted and wildlife friendly plants greet visitors to the oldest botanic garden in Texas....Morrison's fulfilled dream of an "outdoor library of plants".

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<http://fortworthgardenclub.org/our-history/>

Address: 3220 Botanic Garden Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76107

Phone: [\(817\) 871-7686](tel:8178717686)



JEFF'S VISION...A NEW CHALLENGE!

Our agent, Jeff Floyd, has challenged us with his vision of the Nueces Master Gardeners becoming a highly respected, creative, productive force in the Texas Master Gardeners Association. He believes that we have the drive and talent to attain this goal. It made me wonder what the other county MG's are doing to grow their organizations and make strong contributions to their communities.

As one of your State Directors, I receive the TMGA Newsletter which lists MG sponsored events throughout the state of Texas and provides feature articles on projects and programs of other Master Gardener Organizations. Looking at the wide array of activity was inspiring. This helped me understand what Jeff envisions for our group of industrious, knowledgeable, talented members.

Make it a habit to go to the Texas Master Gardener Association website on a regular basis. Read their newsletter. Read the article on the featured county each issue.

<https://txmg.org/news-letter/newsletters/>

Read the goings-on around the state. Plan to attend some of the events. Go to the annual State Convention. Read the Master Gardener Blog. Google other Master Gardener newsletters. Go to other MG websites. Look them up on Facebook. Scope out our competition.

Then You Will Have The Vision Too!

From Your MG Gazette Editor, Jenny Mohundro

SEPTEMBER

Fall Planting Time In South Texas



Jeff Floyd, CEA- Horticulture
Editor: Jenny Mohundro

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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.

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