

# The Latest Dirt



Official Newsletter of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners

August 2012

## From The President

By Jackie Steen

The smell of salt air, the hot wind in your face, crammed into the back seat of the car with your siblings and cousins, the anticipation of the first sight of the beach- the return trip home from 'grit city', tired, sunburned but happy and in bed by sundown. All great childhood memories of summers past.



For those who are too young to remember those hot summer trips packed into an automobile with no air conditioning, reading the Burma Shave signs along the way to the beach or lake, this is part of Americana now, filed away in the memories of those of us who were children growing up in the 50's and 60's. Some of the Burma Shave signs were really silly, but they were always so much fun to read and better still, occupied your mind and kept kids from repeating 'how much longer 'til we get there?'

For those of you who will be traveling this summer, I doubt if you will see any such signs, not sure if they still exist, but if you happen to come across one, do enjoy!

## Agent's Two Cents

By Ricky Thompson

Wow... What a summer... This time last year we were praying for rain and this year some people want the rains to stop, but not me. The rain and cloudy days can cause some minor problems but nothing like last year.

The Master Gardener Short Course is getting close to kick-off. Looks like we will have over 20 people in the class. We decided to utilize some of our own talented gardeners to teach better than half the classes. My thanks to all who will be participating in teaching the course.

We have filled the position for the Horticulture Program Assistant, and we will introduce this person to you soon. I will continue to give leadership to the program area, but will share the responsibilities. I/we hope this will keep the program growing with the loss of our full time Horticulture Extension Agent Position.

Be safe and enjoy the remainder of the summer.



Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, 7pm in the Extension Office Auditorium

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

August 9

September 13

October 11

# Congratulations

To our new Master Gardener Graduates:

Darlene Price-Bailey  
Amanda Black  
James Black  
Patty Bright  
Danita Deaton  
Penny Gilfillian  
Donna Hopkins  
Dania Matak  
Bob Pittman  
Berta Rueda  
Linda Schnell  
Judy Starr  
Charlene Stringer  
James Stringer  
Bruce Withers



*"A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows."  
Doug Larson*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

To encourage and support the horticultural community of Southeast Texas through education and example.

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Editor: Micah Shanks

Layout: Peggy Coleman

# Let's Get To Know! Delia Walker

*Editor's Note: Since the launch of "The Latest Dirt" in May, 2007, I have had the privilege of interviewing individual members and writing their stories for the "Getting to Know" column. This month is different. I contacted Delia to ask her if I could feature her, and in no time at all, her loving hubbie presented me with the story already done. So, I introduce you to Delia Walker as seen through the eyes of her husband, Byron.*

Delia completed the Master Gardener course in 2009. Completing the course was very special to her since she had wanted to take the course for many years, but couldn't due to her work schedule. Her love of plants began at an early age, as she watched her mom plant seeds every spring and gather the seeds in the fall for the following year. It was amazing to see the beautiful carnations, zinnias and sunflowers grow to maturity. Plants were never bought at a nursery not only because of the cost but also because the family had no transportation. That meant you walked or rode a bike. She has been working in her gardens since her children were small. Delia and Byron have been married for 54 years, have 4 children, 4 grandchildren and two

cats, Nicki and Ringo. They live in Nederland and attend

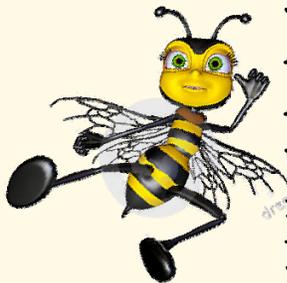
St. Charles Catholic Church. She retired after 31 years from Lamar Institute of Technology where she taught computer drafting. Her garden in Nederland consists of one large and two small lasagna flowerbeds and 7 regular flowerbeds all designed for hummingbirds and butterflies. Of interest in the yard is a gazebo, garden house, birdhouse island, and diamond shaped espalier of confederate jasmine on the brick wall of her home. The garden house was a former school bus stop shelter, which was converted to a children's playhouse. Later it was converted to a garden house complete with chimney, and holds all the garden and yard tools. The family has a vacation home on Galveston Island where Delia maintains a variety of trees and flowerbeds for butterflies and hummingbirds. It displays several architecture artifacts from Galveston buildings that have been demolished. The yard was part of the annual Galveston Backyard Garden Tour in May, 2010. Delia is very active with her family and home gardens, and still finds time to work in the MG Test Garden.





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

We now have the MG baseball caps for sale for \$10. They can be purchased at the August meeting.



**Beekeeping Seminar**  
August 25th in the Texas AgriLife Extension Auditorium. Cost \$25. Look for more information on the website or by calling the hotline 409-835-8742.

**Golden Triangle Citrus Show** has been scheduled for November 15th. More details later on—check the website or the hotline closer to the date.



“Out In The Yard” has now officially moved to the Sunday edition of the Port Arthur News. Micah Meyer always had a column in the PA News, but it has been vacant since he moved to another job. The editor of the PA News has requested that we do our own. Several members have volunteered to participate, and we can always use more. If you have suggestions and/or would like to contribute, contact Micah Shanks at 409-749-0893 or [mshanks52@gmail.com](mailto:mshanks52@gmail.com)

Melissa Starr has created a webpage for the Jefferson County Master Gardeners. You can find it at <http://txmg.org/jcmg/> You can still find info on the AgriLife website as well <http://jefferson.agrilife.org/> or call the hotline 409-835-8742 or the office 409-835-8461. It's always a pleasure to speak to all of you!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU !!!!

## August:

Randy Kimler - 5  
J.C. Drake - 17  
Ed Kasper - 22  
Florence Wingate - 25  
Karen McCormick - 25  
James Stringer - 25  
Melissa Starr - 27  
Lee Freeland - 27



## September:

Clyde White - 2  
Karen Sourdellia - 4  
Danita Deaton - 4  
Curtis Bloodworth - 5  
Beth Lazenby - 6  
Linda Schnell - 11  
Peggy Coleman - 12  
Pat Tolbert - 13  
George Cowart - 18  
Margie Hanlon - 21  
Carolyn Barras - 22  
Mary Cotton - 27  
Kathy Day - 30

## October:

Kathy Attaway - 2  
Gary Tucker - 2  
Rhonda Hawkins - 5  
Jerry Sourdellia - 7 (Hon.)  
Elaine Smith - 9  
Ann White - 14  
Ranah Becker - 17  
Mary Beth Distefano - 18  
Joan Sensat - 21  
Linda Leblanc - 23  
JoAnn Koch - 23  
Donna Shirley - 25  
Geri Diaz - 28

# In The Kitchen With: Kay Drake

## Moroccan Salad

1 tsp. Olive Oil  
3 Tbsp. white wine vinegar  
2 tsp. ground cumin  
3 Tbsp dry wine  
1 tsp. salt  
1 Tbsp, chopped parsley

1 small onion, thinly sliced  
2 large green peppers, cut up  
3 medium tomatoes, peeled  
and diced  
1 tsp pepper

Combine the olive oil, vinegar, cumin, salt, pepper, and parsley in a bowl. Add the onion, green peppers, and tomatoes. Toss the mixture well and refrigerate until thoroughly chilled. When served, sprinkle more chopped parsley over the top as garnish. Serves 6.

## Corpse Flower

By Micah Shanks, JCMG

Back in June, I was lucky enough to see the extremely rare Corpse Flower that bloomed at Moody Gardens. Lovingly named Morticia by the very excited staff, this was the fourth to bloom in the state of Texas, and one of only 84 that have bloomed in U.S. botanical gardens since 1998. The only place on earth where it grows wild is Sumatra, Indonesia. The first bloom to be cultivated from seed occurred at Kew Gardens in London in 1889. It caused such a stir that police were called in for crowd control! This unusual plant has the dubious reputation of smelling like rotting meat, hence the name. I actually saw this plant the day after it had fully bloomed, so I was not lucky enough to smell it....or was I? There was a box nearby with a button that said "Push here to smell the corpse flower". I didn't see anyone lining up to do that. Grown from a tuber, it can get grow up to 8 ft. tall and the bloom can be 10 feet across. Morticia was about 5 ft. tall with a bloom span of 7ft. The tuber can grow up



to 200 pounds. Why the smell? Since it smells like carrion, it attracts flies and beetles that are necessary for pollination. In order to reproduce, two corpse flowers must be in bloom

at the same time. This is one reason why they are so rare. Even in the wild, blooms are sporadic. The tuber can actually break dormancy over and over, but doesn't always bloom. It will shoot up what looks like a small tree, which feeds the tuber. Moody Gardens has tubers in several stages of the life cycle.

When it decides it has stored enough energy to bloom, a thick dark purple spike will break through and in a few weeks, the beautiful ruffled green-edged flower will open for a few hours. The giant corpse flower is a distant cousin to the voodoo lily and jack in the pulpit. If it ever blooms again, it is well worth the drive to Galveston to see it!

*"How deeply seated in the human heart is the liking for gardens and gardening."*

*Alexander Smith*

*"How deeply seated in the human heart is the liking for gardens and gardening."*

## August Gardening Tips By Cecil Hightower, JCMG

August is a good month to evaluate your garden, really taking notice of what's doing well and what's not during this challenging season.

Watering chores can eat up a lot your garden time this month. Remember the basics: Water in the early morning. Water the soil and not the leaves, and water deeply and occasionally rather than shallow and often.

Flowering annuals and perennials can get leggy and scraggly by August so cut them back by 1/3 or more which will make them look neater and with fertilization a new flush of blooms will be encouraged. If an annual flower, vegetable or herb looks sickly or is struggling, at this point in the season, just pull it up. However, if a perennial is looking awful, cut it back to just a few inches and it will come back this year or next spring with healthier growth. And, don't forget to keep dead-heading; for the most flowers, it

Fertilize acid loving plants such as azaleas, gardenias, blueberries and camellias, that may be showing an iron deficiency indicated by yellow-green young leaves.

It's best not to fertilize roses this month as high heat reduces their vigor and need for food. Continue to fertilize potted annuals and perennials as constant watering flushes out nutrients. Feed with either a liquid or granules, synthetic or organic...your choice.

And the most important August tip of all: protect yourself from heat stroke when tending your plants; work early in the morning, take frequent breaks and drink lots of water.





## Cottage Gardens

### Follow These Six Steps For Easy Style From Texas Gardener "Seeds"

Think cottage gardens are only for English people with thatched roofs and all the time in the world for work-intensive, old-fashioned landscapes?

Think again, say gardening experts: By learning the basics of this carefree style and using plants that thrive in your area, cottage gardens can be the easiest to maintain.

#### 1. Go informal

"The English or cottage garden is a style that conjures up a flower-filled landscape bursting with color," says Jane Schwartz Gates, of Gates & Croft Horticultural Design in Santa Clarita, California. The definition of the style, she admits, can be somewhat confusing: "Some see it as the romantic style of an informal garden, some as the more formal country manor, specifically Victorian."

While there *is* a more formal style of cottage gardening, Gates says it's best for large estates that require geometric patterns and other ways to plan and control the use of bigger spaces. The more formal version also calls for more spending and maintenance. "The informal style, for my design purposes, is more flowing, natural and less symmetrical," she says. "It reflects the cozy feel of an 18th or 19th century home garden: white picket fences, curvaceous wrought iron, meandering paths and lots of color."

#### 2. Start with design

"The key to cottage garden design is to not make it look designed," says

Anthony Tesselaar, cofounder and president of Tesselaar Plants. Yet there *are* design elements characteristic of cottage style: "The look is exuberant and unrestrained. Avoid straight lines, tight shapes or patterns. Use a riot of colors: don't stick to one palette. Let plants wander where they will, letting them intermingle with each other." Also, says Tesselaar, use fragrant plants to add another sense to the experience. And let Mother Nature play a role, with flowers that self-seed and grow back in unexpected places.

Other traditional cottage garden staples, says Gates, are winding paths, be they cobblestone or lawn, and architectural features like archways and picket fences.

Even if you don't have a cottage, says Gates, you can work to blend your home into a cottage-style landscape. "Look at the house and surrounding views to see how the theme can be integrated smoothly," she says. Cottage-style elements of your house, for instance, can be amplified in the garden: A contemporary home with stone veneer could overlook a cottage garden with rocks and boulders. White exterior trim might amplify the cottagey look of white window boxes, trellises or sections of picket fence. And a winding path from the driveway to your front door could help amp up the storybook look.

## Cottage Gardens continued

### 3. Choose easy-care plants

"Cottage gardens got their start in the late 15th century as edible and ornamental plots around small, humble cottages featuring plants that grew well in England's cool, wet climate," says Tesselaar.

Such plants, he says, included foxglove, hollyhocks, irises, daisies, hydrangeas, roses, peonies, hostas, lupins, violas, pansies, phlox, Johnny jump-ups, primrose, delphinium, wisteria,

snapdragons, bachelor's buttons, columbine and bleeding heart: "But if these romantic, old-fashioned favorites don't grow

well in your area, it's important to pick low-maintenance plants that thrive where you live."

In Gates' hot, dry climate, she uses water-wise, heat-tolerant favorites that can take poor soil, like Jerusalem sage, guara, Flower Carpet groundcover roses, cosmos, agapanthus (the Storm series, the only one used at the Dallas Arboretum, is especially drought-tolerant), Festival Burgundy cordyline, 'May Night' sage, coreopsis, penstemon and Jupiter's Beard. Instead of the rolling lawns associated with the cottage



garden style, she may also substitute permeable paving – perhaps cobblestones, to stick to the theme.

"We can garden year-round, so we use classic cottage garden plants like dianthus, alliums and rosemary," says Frank Hyman, owner of Cottage Garden Landscaping in Durham, North Carolina. "But the winters are mild enough that we can punch up things with big-leaf plants like brugmansia and hibiscus moscheutos. So we can also do the

"Tropical Cottage Garden' look if we want."

"I always say I do cottage garden style with Oklahoma-loving plants," says Red Dirt Ramblings blogger Dee Nash,

who lives in Guthrie, Oklahoma. "I use cannas in it, too. I'm just trying to get the blowsy look. Instead of foxglove, I would plant a salvia or sage."

Kathy Muscato's cottage garden in precipitation-heavy Rochester, New York, is stuffed with ferns, variegated hostas and lush, dense groundcovers. With all her rain and shade, she also grows plants that resist fungal disease like carpet roses and fragrant Volcano phlox.

### 4. Delve into details

Now that you've got your plants in place, Gates says it's time for cottage

## Cottage Gardens continued

garden décor: "Think English street lamps, birdbaths, benches and outdoor fabrics in a Victorian floral print. Small areas can be defined with a little old-fashioned fence or even a row of window flower boxes." Add a comfy bench or fun swing, and surround it with frolicking roses or fragrant herbs. "Always create a focal point – maybe a seating area or a fountain – then build your landscape around it," says Gates. "Size doesn't need to be a factor to create your own three-dimensional painting of a peaceful cottage garden."

### 5. Think 'garden shabby chic'

Gates also suggests repurposing well-worn items and materials, for a cozy, homey look that's full of character: Brick or concrete slabs for paths or retaining walls (creeping plants could tumble over the edge), an old-fashioned sink for a whimsical fountain or vintage metal seating for conversation areas.

Tesselaar recommends pieces like old wheelbarrows, a worn wicker chair, a rusted wire egg basket or old metal bucket: "Such features lend an aged, authentic, whimsical look, as well as a sense of stability and permanence."



### 6. Don't forget the containers

"Containers are a convenient, inexpensive way to add interest to any garden, particularly if you're interested in cottage garden style," says Tesselaar. He gets the look easily by using carpet roses, which are full-figured and romantic, yet drought-tolerant and compact, in a 'cottagey' container like an old washtub or whiskey barrel or one made of hypertufa.

"With containers, you can also easily add a splash of color here and there and be able to move it around the garden to change things up," says Tesselaar. "It's the cottage garden way – ignore the rules, play around and have fun."



## Strange Things In The Garden

By Micah Shanks, JCMG

As I was picking tomatoes recently, I was thrilled to find this example of nature at her strangest. I couldn't remember right away what it was, but I knew I had seen it before in some of our Master Gardener literature. A quick search online revealed this to be braconid wasp eggs on a tomato hornworm. I excitedly showed it to my family, took pictures and then put the whole thing in a bucket of water. No more damage to my tomatoes, no more wasps in my garden....sounded like a plan.



Well, I should have done more research when I looked up the picture, because the braconidae wasp family that is actually a beneficial! This particular wasp likes to feast on squash bugs, stink bugs, aphids, and many other garden pests. In the case of the hornworm, the eggs are laid just under the skin. As the eggs hatch, the larvae chew their way out, literally eating the worm alive. Once outside, they spin little white cocoons that look like eggs. By the time they hatch, the worm is pretty much gone. My daughter felt sorry for the worm. I told her he was toast anyway because I wasn't going to leave him on my tomatoes. But now, I feel sorry for my garden because I killed all the beneficials with him. Never again!

*"Growing, cooking, and eating what you've planted-no matter how tiny the yield-is one of the most important day-to-day human art forms. This nearly lost tradition binds us to nature in an immediate way that ought to be passed on to future generations."*  
Stephen Orr

## Hot Summer Watering By Jackie Steen, JCMG

When the temperature rises, it's more crucial than ever that you pay attention



to your plants. When it doesn't rain enough, turn on the spigot. Veggies need water to produce, so watering the garden correctly is crucial in the hot summer. Tomatoes are especially unforgiving if they dry out. Going from dry to wet and back again creates problems like blossom-end rot. And that's not all. Have you seen cracks in the fruit? This happens when water follows a drought, causing the fruit to expand suddenly and split the skin. The way to avoid this is to keep the soil consistently moist. Don't let it go dry and wet and dry and wet and dry and wet. It's a spoiler.

Try These Tips For Watering:

- Water your plants so the leaves don't stay wet for very long. Wet leaves encourage disease.
- Water your vegetables two to three times a week during really hot weather.
- Deep watering is critical. The water must go down, down, down to encourage deep roots and get away from the hot soil surface. Put a can in the garden and don't stop watering until it has collected at least an inch of water from the sprinkler that you

set up. (If your veggies are in containers they'll probably need water every day during the heat because containers tend to dry out faster than the ground.) If you aren't using a sprinkler, put the can under your drip or soaker hose. It won't be quite as accurate, but it's better than nothing. To hand water a small plot, or pots, use a nozzle like a showerhead for gentle, rain-like watering.

- If water puddles on the surface at first, move on but come back several times to be sure the water is soaking in and the soil is thoroughly moist.
- Watch your garden for an "indicator" plant, which is the first plant to wilt as the garden becomes dry. You'll always know to water when that plant has droopy leaves. The first is usually a squash, cucumber, or melon because the big leaves lose lots of moisture fast. Actually, it's better that this "indication" would never happen and the plants have consistent moisture, but it's not a perfect world and even the best of gardeners gets caught by wilting plants. In very hot, dry, and sunny weather, the big-leafed plants will wilt a little in mid-day no matter what, but they should recover quickly in the evening. Waste less water by using mulch to retain moisture and reduce evaporation.
- Avoid wetting plant leaves when you can. Of course, if you use a sprinkler, it is impossible not to wet the leaves, so in that case water early in the morning

## Hot Summer Watering (continued)

so that the foliage will dry early and quickly to minimize disease. You can put the sprinkler on a timer so that it comes on just before daybreak, when the leaves might already be wet with dew. The gardening principle here is to avoid adding to the length of time that the leaves stay wet because many diseases need moisture to thrive.

• Do what you can to keep water in the ground. An organic mulch such as wheat straw, finely ground bark, pine needles, or ground leaves spread on the ground around and under plants is a welcome barrier between the moist soil and the hot sun. A 2 to 3-inch layer of mulch makes a huge difference in hot weather. Without mulch, the intense sun bakes the soil. Think of mulch as a shade cloth that holds in moisture and cools plant roots.

• Water Early and Deeply When you water, quality is more important than frequency. Watering in the morning is best for plants and will be easier on you, too. Water deeply at the base of plants, not above on the leaves. You may see plants wilt a little during the day, but they should perk backup in the afternoon.



## IT'S SO HOT in Texas . . .

...the birds have to use potholders to pull the worms out of the ground.

.... the trees are whistling for the dogs.

.... the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.

.... hot water comes from both taps.

.... you can make sun tea instantly.

.... you learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron .

.... the temperature drops below 90 F and you feel a little chilly.

.... you discover that in June it only takes two fingers to steer your car.

.... you discover that you can get sunburned through your car window.

.... you actually burn your hand opening the car door.

.... you break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 A.M.

.... your biggest motorcycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death"?

.... you realize that asphalt has a liquid stage.

.... the potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter.

.... the cows are giving evaporated milk.

.... farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.

...that the Baptist are starting to baptize by sprinkling.

...the Methodists are using wet wipes.

...the Presbyterians are giving rain checks.



## TULIP TIME RIVER CRUISE

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## Drought Tolerant Perennials By Cecil Hightower, JCMG

The drought has definitely taken its toll on many of our favorite, usually reliable flowering plants and since it appears we may be in this dry spell for an extended period, I've compiled a list of some of the best drought tolerant perennials. When the heat kicks in, these plants will hold their own and still look beautiful.

Yarrow has many attributes: it tolerates heat and drought, is great as a cut flower, and is resistant to rabbits, deer and other pests. It can reach a height of four feet and blooms in shades of yellow, orange, pink and white. Its large blooms, made up of many smaller flowers, sit atop a single stem surrounded by feathery foliage.



Salvia, commonly called sage, is another tough sun lover which comes in hundreds of different types all of which share beautiful, tall, flower spikes in red, blue, pink and violet. They will bloom from spring to late fall and are loved by hummingbirds.



Lamb's Ears, with its soft, fuzzy leaves is great as a ground cover and with its silvery tone is a great contrast for just about any other plant. A word of caution, however, it can spread aggressively if left untended.



The Purple Coneflower loves the heat and blooms most of the summer producing tons of mauve-purple daisy like flowers which will last for days when cut. It can grow to about five feet tall and will attract scores of butterflies.



Sedum is available in many drought resistant varieties and while most are grown for their blooms of white, pink, purple, red and yellow, some have beautiful variegated leaves which will add depth and definition to your beds from early spring and on through the summer.



## Fall Garden Planning By Tim Schreck, JCMG

Many people do not realize that fall gardening, especially in Southeast Texas, is very rewarding and definitely worth the effort. I've heard the excuse that the garden needs to rest during the fall and winter. This is hog wash. Gardens do not rest. All you need to do is add a little work and your garden will step up to the plate and willingly produce. Gardeners are really motivated in the spring after being cooped up in the house for a few months with no dirt under their fingernails. With just a little motivation and planning, you can have fresh vegetables, like lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts, and cauliflower, from your garden, to put on your plate at Christmas dinner. For the eager or those more willing to dare an early frost, you can have vegetables such tomatoes, beets, green beans, and eggplant.

Motivation and planning is all you need. With our hot summers extending into September you need some motivation to get out in the heat and get your seeds in the ground. Keep thinking, fresh vegetables for Thanksgiving and Christmas as your motivation. If that is not enough,

start seedlings in the house in a sunny window anytime from now to early September. Four to six weeks after starting them, you will have strong little plants begging you to put them in the ground. Any gardener, worth his weight in compost, would not want these little plants to get root bound and die. This is more motivation to take a couple late evenings and prepare your plot. If you are lucky to have the plants ready in September, do remember it can still be hot during the day so you will need to harden the plants off by slowly exposing them to the heat and sun over a week or

two. Then after planting in the ground you will need to make sure they do not dry out early on to give them a chance for the roots to establish. Don't be discouraged if you don't get the plants or seeds in the ground until October, you can still get a decent harvest. Most vegetables harvest in 40-60 days but in the fall that can take a little longer due to the decreased heat and sun. Fall gardening will not produce mounds of vegetables, like spring does, but there is nothing like fresh flavor of vegetables in the fall while everyone else is going to the grocery store bringing home styrofoam tomatoes and flavorless broccoli. I encourage you to pull out the seed magazine or get online and try a couple vegetables this fall.



# The Latest Dirt

Official Newsletter of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners

August 2012

“The Latest Dirt” is the official newsletter of the Jefferson County Master Gardeners. It will be published in February, May, August, and November. Members will receive color copies via e-mail. It will also be posted on our website at <http://jefferson-tx.tamu.edu>. Click on newsletters. Black and white copies will be available at the monthly meetings and at the office. Input is greatly appreciated. Call Micah Shanks at 409-749-0083 or e-mail your suggestions to [mshanks52@gmail.com](mailto:mshanks52@gmail.com).

Jefferson County Master Gardeners  
1225 Pearl Street, Suite 200  
Beaumont, TX 77701



Programs conducted by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the County Commissioners' Courts of Texas