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Bluebonnet Master Gardeners 2017 Training Class Information

Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington Counties

Are you interested in becoming a certified master gardener? Do you want to learn more about the art and science of landscape plants, gardens, fruit trees and more?

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association is offering a training program with weekly classes running from **January 19, 2017, to graduation on April 25, 2017**. Classes will be held on Thursday mornings at the Fayette County Agriculture Building in LaGrange. Topics for the class include plant growth and development, entomology, soils and plant fertility, landscape and fruit trees, plant pathology, vegetable gardening, lawn care and various aspects of environmental horticulture. Classes are taught by Texas AgriLife Extension specialists, agents and local experts.

The Texas Master Gardener program boasts the largest corps of Master Gardener volunteers in the nation. A love of gardening and search for knowledge is central to why Master Gardeners join the program. They remain Master Gardeners to enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of others who share their interests, to gain and share horticulture knowledge and to give back to the community.

The Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association spans four counties: Austin, Colorado, Fayette and Washington. Two open houses are scheduled to answer questions and provide more information about the Master Gardener Training Course.

January 10, 2017. 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Washington County Fairgrounds Sales Facility, 1305 E. Blue Bell Rd., Brenham, TX 77833. 979-277-6212

January 12, 2017. 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Fayette County Agriculture Building, 255 Svoboda Lane, LaGrange, TX 78945. 979-968-5831

For more information and to reserve your spot in the 2017 Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association Training Class please contact the Fayette County Extension Office at 979-968-5831. Space is limited and seats will not be reserved without payment, so don't delay, call today!

***25th Annual Gulf Coast
Grape Growers Field
Day***

**Cat Spring Agricultural
Society Hall
13035 Hall Road
Cat Spring, TX 78933**

**Friday, February 3, 2017
9am to 3:45pm
followed by a wine social**

**Please see flyer included
with this newsletter.**

***Upper Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference
Thursday, January 19th***

The 24th annual Upper Gulf Coast Grain Handlers Conference will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2017, at the El Campo Civic Center. Kicking off with registration at 8:00 a.m., the program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and should conclude around 4:00 p.m. A catered lunch will be provided. Five CEUs (2 IPM; 1 L&R; 2 General) will be offered to all TDA pesticide applicators that sign in at the beginning of the meeting and remain through the closing of the program. No structural credits offered.

The cost of the program is \$20.00 per person if pre-registered by January 13th or \$25.00 per person at the door. To pre-register, please contact the Colorado County Extension Office and they will send a form to you. A flyer and registration form can also be found on the internet at <http://colorado.agrilife.org>.

Program Topics Include:

Phosphine Management: Why are Insects Surviving Fumigation?
TDA Pesticide Laws and Regulations Update
Live Insect ID for Stored Grain
Fumigation Equipment Demonstration and Safety
Manlift Inspection, Maintenance and Safety
Fall Prevention and Proper Use of Equipment
IPM Speaker Panel: How to Stay “Bug-Free”

***Small Farms & Vegetable Conference
Friday, February 24th***

The Horticulture Committee of Austin County will be sponsoring a Small Farms and Vegetable Conference on Friday, February 24, 2017, at Cat Spring Ag Society Hall. Registration will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. with the program to follow. This year's program will focus on fruits, nuts and bee production for South Central Texas, and strategies related to raising, marketing and the economics of production. The program will begin at 9:00 a.m. and last until about 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be served and there will also be several snack breaks built-in to help get the blood flowing again. There will be a guarantee of 3 CEU's with a possible 5 CEU's offered pending TDA approval. Cost for the event is \$30.00 per person, which goes to cover speaker materials, meal cost and the handouts. To pre-register for the event, contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Office of Austin County at (979) 865-2072, or visit our website at <http://austin.agrilife.org>. Flyer included.

**Texas A&M AgriLife
Extension Service
Austin County**

**Travis Gonzales
County Extension Agent
Ag and Natural Resources**



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979-865-2072

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979-865-2065

<http://austin.agrilife.org>

***Colorado County Beef and Forage
5 CEU Conference
Friday, February 3rd***

The Beef and Forage Committee of Colorado County is hosting an educational seminar on Friday, February 3, 2017, at the Exhibit Hall within the Colorado County Fairgrounds.

The program will offer 5 CEU credits for those producers who possess a private pesticide applicator's license. This year, we are most excited to have the Texas State Climatologist, Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon, speaking at the event. His presentation will include how to read the weather and forecast for applying pesticides, better understanding your local forecast and his long-term weather and climate outlook.

There will also be a live demonstration of sprayer equipment, spray tips, booms, pressure regulation, pesticide mixing and more. Other topics include Understanding Pesticide Labels, Being the Voice for Pesticide Stewardship and a Laws and Regulations Update.

Those interested may pre-register by January 30, 2017, for \$25 per person and \$30 for couples. Registration at the event will be \$30 per person and \$35 for couples. To pre-register or for more information, call the Colorado County Extension Office at 979-732-2082.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

25TH ANNUAL GULF COAST GRAPE GROWER FIELD DAY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017

9:00 AM TO 3:30 PM

Cat Spring Agricultural Society Hall

13035 Hall Road

Cat Spring, TX 78933



**AUSTIN COUNTY
GRAPE GROWER
COMMITTEE**

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

AGENDA:

- 8:30-9:00** **Registration**
- 9-9:10** **Welcome**
 Travis Gonzales, Austin County Extension
- 9:10-9:40** **Gulf Coast Viticulture & Enology Report**
 Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 9:40-10:10** **Soil, Water, & Tissue Analyses**
 Fran Pontasch, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 10:10-10:40** **Overview of Grapevine Viruses**
 Sheila McBride, Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab
- 10:40-10:55** **BREAK**
- 10:55-11:25** **Preventing Grapevine Trunk Disease**
 Dr. David Appel, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 11:25-11:55** **Balanced Pruning**
 Jim Kamas, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 11:55-1:00** **LUNCH**
- 1-1:30** **Regional TWWGA Updates**
 Jon Bowdon, Stephen Morgan
- 1:30-2:00** **A Case Study of a Challenging Vineyard Site**
 Dr. George Ray McEachern, Texas A&M University
- 2-2:30** **Harvest from a Winery Perspective**
 Penny Adams, Winemaker/Viticulturist Wedding Oak Winery
- 2:30-3:30** **Harvest Chemistry & Wine Tasting of Blanc Du Bois**
 Dr. Justin Scheiner, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
- 3:30-3:40** **Concluding Remarks**
 Fran Pontasch
- 3:40** **Wine Social, BYOW**

REGISTRATION:

\$35 PER PERSON

**LUNCH AND WINE SOCIAL
INCLUDED**

**Registration is at the
door**

8:30 to 9:00AM

**Cash, checks, all major
credit cards accepted.**

**To RSVP, or for more
information:**

Contact:

**Fran Pontasch
(979)458-0131**

fmPontasch@tamu.edu

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. Dept. of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating.

Small Farms and Vegetable Conference

Topics

- Pecan Tree Calendar
- Olive Production in Texas
- Preserving & Canning for the Homeowner
- Bee's
- Berry Production

Travis Gonzales

Austin County

Extension Agent Ag/NR

979-865-2072

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3 CEU's Guaranteed

Possible 5 CEU's Pending TDA Approval

Please call or visit <http://austin.agrilife.org> to register.

February 24, 2017

Cat Spring Hall

(13035 Hall Rd., Cat Spring, TX 78933)

Registration: 8:30am-9:00am

Program: 9:00am-3:00pm

Fee: \$30.00

Hosted by: Austin County Horticulture Committee

