

# TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

## EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AT THE HOME & GARDEN SHOW

*Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office*



PHOTO BY Herman Auer

The Master Gardener volunteers of the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office will be available at the Galveston Home & Show on March 2 & 3. Several educational programs on gardening will be presented by Dr. Brent Pemberton, Texas A&M Professor of Ornamental Horticulture, and Galveston County Master Gardener volunteers.

Be sure to pencil in a notation on your "Weekend-Things-To-Do List" to attend the upcoming 25th Annual Galveston Home & Garden Show at the Galveston Island Convention Center at San Luis (56th & Seawall Boulevard). The show will be held on Saturday, March 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 3, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This year's show will feature a wide variety of exhibitors representing home, garden and leisure businesses. Admission is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children 6-to-14

years old. Children 5 years and under are admitted free. The Galveston Home and Garden Show benefits the Galveston Island Humane Society on Galveston Island.

The Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office and Master Gardener volunteers are pleased to support this event. Several of my AgriLife colleagues will provide presentations at this year's show.

Dr. Brent Pemberton, Professor of Ornamental Horticulture in the Department of Horticulture at Texas A&M

University, will speak on the "Texas Superstar Program – Great Plants for Texas" on March 2 at 10:30 a.m. For 22 years, Texas A&M horticulturists have tested a plethora of plants in search of the very top performers—types that tolerate our Texas weather extremes with minimal soil preparation, watering and pesticide application.

They have deemed more than 50 plants—including trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and vegetables—as Texas Superstars. The list includes plants that scoffed at the miserable summer of 2011 and



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*News column printed in the Galveston Daily News, The Post, and other Galveston County Newspapers.*

withstood the harshness of winter freezes a few seasons ago.

A presentation entitled "Vegetable Gardening" will be provided on March 2 at 1:00 p.m. by Herman Auer, a Certified Texas Master Gardener since 1983 and a Texas City resident.

I and the Master Gardener volunteers can attest to the gardening expertise of Herman—he is an accomplished vegetable gardener. Herman has accumulated a wealth of knowledge and hands-on experience on home vegetable gardening.

Herman will also provide a presentation on "Citrus and Fruit Trees" at 4:30 p.m. that same day.

A presentation entitled "Kitchen Gardening" will be provided on March 2 at 2:30 p.m. by Mary Demeny who is also a Certified Texas Master Gardener. Mary has been successfully nurturing a plethora of herbs and vegetables for 66 years through old fashioned methods and techniques. Mary will share her home recipes for fertilizing, bug control and fungus problems and offer valuable insight on growing, gathering and cooking from the yard to the kitchen.

Now is the time to make preparations for a successful home vegetable season. Learn from horticulture experts, start with the right information now, dedicate some sweat equity and you can also enjoy the experience of eating fresh, crisp vegetables and fruits you grew yourself!

You will also be able to visit the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office booth #525 to talk with the Master Gardeners about your home gardening and landscape problems. Master Gardeners are members of our local community who provide valuable assistance in conducting a variety of educational programs on gardening and other horticulture-related topics.

As you can surmise, the staff of the Galveston County Extension Office and

many of our Master Gardener volunteers will be very busy this weekend. We're part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service which forms a Texas-sized partnership between a great educational institution—The Texas A&M University System—and each Texas County Commissioners Court.

From State Extension Specialists with statewide responsibilities, to District Extension Specialists, to County Extension Agents and Extension volunteers located within each county, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service personnel have the knowledge and research-based information it takes to successfully nurture things. Those "things" start with food and fiber products, but also include families, youth, economics, businesses, communities, and leaders. From Anderson County to Zavala County and the 252 other counties, including Galveston County, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service continues to build upon a near-century tradition of excellence in serving adults and youth throughout the state.

So come on out to the Galveston Home & Garden Show this weekend and be sure to drop by our booth.

*At a Glance [shaded inset]*

WHAT: 50 Ways to Live a Greener Life  
DATE: Tuesday, March 5, 2013  
TIME: 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
PLACE: Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office, 4102-B Main Street (Carbide Park), La Marque  
SPEAKER: Master Gardener Ken Steblein will discuss what it means to live green? Join in on this interactive presentation and learn how you can integrate environmentally positive changes into your lifestyle. By practicing simple and healthier lifestyle changes at work, home or in the community, you sometimes save money, conserve natural resources and can make a difference for future generations on the planet we call home.

