

# 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



**March 05, 2014**



**The Master Gardener volunteers of the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office will be available at the Galveston Home and Show on March 8 & 9. The roster of speakers at this year's show will provide an impressive diversity of gardening expertise and information.**

Be sure to pencil in a notation on your "Weekend-Things-To-Do List" to attend the upcoming 26th Annual Galveston Home and Garden Show at the Galveston Island Convention Center at San Luis (56th & Seawall Boulevard). The show will be held on Saturday, March 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, March 9, 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 \$8.00 for adults

and is free for children 5 years and under. 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 and will conduct a number of educational programs for the public. The roster of speakers at this year's show will provide an impressive diversity of gardening expertise

and information. A presentation entitled "A User-friendly Garden for the Not So Green Thumb" will be provided by Jan Brick on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Jan has been a Certified Galveston County Master Gardener since 2001. Jane is an Island resident and a good friend. She is also the author of "The Island Garden" in which she lists plants for Galveston Island landscapes that she has found particularly easy to grow and maintain

Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit his website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

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while exerting a minimum of effort and time.

I and the Master Gardener volunteers can also attest to the gardening expertise of Tom LeRoy — he is an accomplished vegetable gardener and his expertise on growing fruit trees is widely recognized. Tom recently retired as a County Extension Agent for Horticulture in Montgomery County.

Tom sponsored the first Master Gardener program conducted in Texas and he and I often collaborate on gardening matters. His presentations are scheduled for Saturday at 11:30 a.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Roses are a favorite shrub in Gulf Coast landscapes. Baxter Williams is a leading authority on growing roses on the Gulf Coast and a lifetime member of the Houston Rose Society. I have seen Baxter's home landscape which contains more than 400 rose bushes — one has to amass an awesome store of knowledge over time growing such a variety of roses. Baxter will share his 'green thumb' expertise which is based in large measure on growing roses in his own home garden.

Brenda Beust Smith is a columnist and is also known as "The Lazy Gardener." She is the author of "The Lazy Gardener's Guide – What to Do Each Month." I've had the privilege of conducting numerous radio programs with Brenda. She focuses on utilizing native plants in the landscape. Her presentation will focus on how to maintain a beautiful garden with ease.

Chris Wiesinger earned his BS degree from the Department of Horticulture at Texas A&M in College Station. His passion with bulbs

started with the purchase of daffodil bulbs as a youngster. Chris has been on a passionate mission to locate and identify native or naturalized bulbs across Texas.

Cemeteries and abandoned homesteads provided a treasure trove of bulbs that have withstood Texas-tough weather conditions over generations. He is the founder of Southern Bulb Company and author of "The Bulb Hunter."

The New York Times says, "Mr. Wiesinger makes a living finding pretty things in ravaged places. In many ways Mr. Wiesinger represents plant hunting's latest iteration." Chris will be speaking on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and on Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

Now is the time to make preparations for a successful home vegetable season and to renovate the home landscape. Learn from the horticultural experts, start with the right information now, dedicate some sweat equity and you can enjoy a spring filled with tasty harvests from the home garden and refreshing color in the home landscape.

You will also be able to visit the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office booth #621 to talk with the Master Gardeners about your home gardening and landscape interests. 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.

That tradition of excellence with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and each County Commissioners Court started in 1914 and thus we are celebrating our 100th birthday this year. So come on out to the Galveston Home & Garden Show this weekend and be sure to visit the Master Gardeners' booth.

