

How to Become a Master Gardener

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY **William M. Johnson**

The next Galveston County Master Gardener training course will begin in February 2016. The course curriculum will include a diverse variety of classroom and outdoor learning activities. Pictured is Lanny Dreesen (retired Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Urban Forester and Professor) discussing urban tree care to class members in the 2015 Master Gardener training course.

Gardeners by nature are great people and our Galveston County Master Gardeners volunteers exemplify the very best in unselfishly providing volunteer service that benefits the general public. The Galveston County Master Gardener program was started in 1982 and we are celebrating our 33rd anniversary this year. We are the second oldest county Master Gar-

dener program in the State of Texas. The number of counties implementing Master Gardener programs has grown significantly over the years and currently there are over 100 Texas counties with Master Gardener programs.

So, how does one become a Master Gardener? To learn more about the Galveston County

Master Gardener Program and how to become a Master Gardener, you are invited to attend a presentation entitled "What Is a Galveston County Master Gardener?" on Tuesday, November 17, at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main Street, La Marque) from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. A panel of 15 Master Gar-



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deners and I will provide a forum-style presentation where we will discuss the many facets of this volunteer program including the application process, the training course and what to expect after completion of the course. Pre-registration is requested to ensure availability of handouts (phone 281-309-5065 or e-mail GALV3@wt.net).

Texas Master Gardeners are a corps of highly trained volunteers who help people and communities through horticultural education. Texas Master Gardeners are people from the local community that have completed sixty-five hours of classroom instruction and provided 50 hours of volunteer service to help provide county programs on horticultural issues.

Most of the Master Gardener training classes are taught by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension professors who are widely recognized in their areas of expertise. The course curriculum will include botany, soils and soil fertility, plant propagation, plant disease identification and management, pesticide safety, weed identification and management, vegetables, insect identification and management, composting, turf grasses and home vegetable production.

Additionally, outdoor classroom training sessions are scheduled

including a field trip to Mercer Arboretum. Class participants will tour our Horticulture Research & Demonstration Garden in Carbide Park with certified Master Gardeners to continue their learning experiences and get a chance to witness the practical application of their newly gained knowledge.

The Master Gardener volunteer experience is all about learning and you will come away from the training much more knowledgeable than when you started. If you choose to join this organization, you will enjoy a learning experience that will last a lifetime.

The 18-session training program begins Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office until April 7. Applications will be made available during the "What Is a Galveston County Master Gardener?" presentation on November 17 and will be accepted until December 18. Don't miss this great opportunity.

At a Glance

WHAT: Herbs for the Garden
WHEN: Saturday, November 14, 2015
TIME: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
TOPICS: Program will cover herbs that work well for the Gulf

Coast Garden including growing tips, lore, propagation and uses. The audience is encouraged to share their experiences and participate in the discussion.

WHAT: Homeowners' FAQs on Growing Citrus
WHEN: Thursday, November 19, 2015

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
TOPICS: Nothing tastes better than homegrown fruit and this is especially true for citrus. Home citrus growers have expressed interest in an educational program that addresses the most commonly asked questions on how to grow productive and healthy citrus trees. Texas A&M Extension Program Specialist Monte Nesbitt will provide answers to the most commonly asked questions on growing citrus in the home landscape as well as provide an update on Citrus Greening in Texas. If you have a question you would like answered during this presentation, please submit your question(s) by email to GALV3@wt.net by Tuesday, November 17. If available, please attach a good quality photo or photos of plants.

LOCATION: Both programs will be conducted at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office located in Carbide Park (4102-B Main St. in La Marque). Pre-register by e-mail (GALV3@wt.net) or phone (281-534-3413, ext. 5065).

