

Discovery Garden to be a Hub of Activity on Thursday

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO CREDIT: Dr. William M. Johnson



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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>.

Master Gardeners will offer another opportunity for the public to purchase a variety of vegetable transplants in addition fruit tree, citrus trees and perennials at the Discovery Garden in Carbide Park on Thursday, February 21, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.

The Master Gardener volunteers sponsored a spring plant seminar and sale last Saturday at the Rodeo Area at the County Fairgrounds. Weather conditions on the day of a sale are always a concern. Our bar for ideal weather for the spring

plant sale is quite low: no freezing temperatures, no hail, no high winds. We dodged those weather factors but alas foggy conditions had set in on the morning of the sale.

Even so, prior sales have experienced hail,

heavy rain, bitter cold and other unfavorable weather. Enthusiastic gardeners are not deterred by weather conditions when it comes to a plant sale. Despite the heavy fog early in the morning, 697 customers were standing in

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



line when the gates to the sale were opened at 8:58 a.m. An additional 1,214 customers came before closing time to shop at a less frantic pace.

Customers came to the sale looking for plants that would brighten landscapes over the coming gardening season. Customers commented on the quality of the fruit trees on hand as well as the quantity. Home tomato growers were able to select from a wide array of tomato varieties as well as different types of tomatoes (such as heirlooms, hybrids, determinate, indeterminate and bush types).

If you were not able to attend this year's spring plant sale, you will be afforded a second opportunity to purchase citrus and fruit trees as well as spring vegetable transplants at the Discovery Garden from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 21. The Discovery Garden is located in Carbide Park (4102 Main Street) in La Marque. Visit the Master Gardeners' website (<http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/galveston/>) for additional details or contact the County Extension Office by e-mail (galvcountymgs@gmail.com) or by phone (281-309-5065).

Peach Tree Pruning . . . a hands-on demonstration

Master Gardener Robert Marshall will provide a hands-on

pruning demonstration on Thursday, February 21, from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Robert will demonstrate how to properly prune your peach trees and other stone fruit trees to create a proper scaffold and to prepare for next year's fruit production. This program will be conducted at the Discovery Garden & Orchard located inside Carbide Park (4102 Main Street, La Marque). Reservations are not required.

Rose Pruning . . . a hands-on demonstration Master Gardener John Jons will provide a hands-on pruning demonstration on Thursday, February 21, from 11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon.

John is also American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian and will lead a hands-on pruning demonstration for properly pruning roses. This program will be conducted at the Discovery Garden & Orchard located inside Carbide Park (4102 Main Street, La Marque). Reservations are not required. Gardeners are invited to bring their own gloves and pruners to practice.

Gulf Coast Herb Fair

The Friends of Moody Gardens Seventh Annual Gulf Coast Herb Fair takes place in the Moody Gardens Rainforest Pyramid atrium from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6. The Herb Fair will feature cooking demonstrations, selected herb education

and a variety of vendors, including Galveston County Master Gardeners, showcasing their herbs, books, food items and gifts available for sale.

The Herb Fair will be celebrating garlic for this fair's theme herb. The highlight of the Herb Fair is the luncheon at 11:30, featuring Concetta Maceo-Sims, of the Maceo Spice & Import Co. Ms. Maceo-Sims, who favors garlic on everything, will discuss how she includes and uses this seasoning fresh, whole, roasted, ground and diced.

Proceeds from the Herb Fair and luncheon benefit Galveston's children and seniors by planting seeds of education. All funds from this event will be used to bring local school children on field trips to the Aquarium and Rainforest Pyramids at Moody Gardens and to send outreach programs to seniors and preschools throughout the Galveston area.

Admission to the morning events is free, and the luncheon tickets are available for \$35 per person, \$45 at the door. Reservations must be postmarked by February 28, and include payment made to The Friends of Moody Gardens and mailed to Ellen Perry, 2903 Dominique Dr., Galveston, TX 77551.

