

Open House at the County Extension Office on Dec. 11

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY William M. Johnson

The Galveston County Master Gardener Training program is accepting applications. The course curriculum will include a diverse variety of classroom and outdoor learning activities. Pictured is Lanny Dreesen (retired Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Forester and Professor) discussing urban tree care to class members in the 2014 Master Gardener training course.

The staff of the Galveston County Extension Office extends an invitation to all area residents to attend our Open House on Thursday, December 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come meet the County Extension Office staff and our volunteers including Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, Fruit & Pecan Committee members and 4-H leaders. The Galveston County Extension Office is located in Carbide Park (4102 -B Main St.) in La Marque (phone 281-534-3413, ext. 12). The Extension Office has four County Extension Agents including Bill Holcombe who has

overall program responsibility for the county 4-H program; Julie K. Massey who has program responsibility for Coastal and Marine Resources; Phoenix Rogers who has program responsibilities for agriculture and 4-H animal projects; and Jymann Davis who has program responsibilities for family and consumer sciences projects. We will all be available during the Open House. The Master Gardener volunteers will also be available at the County Extension Office to discuss gardening problems and questions. The Mas-

ter Gardener Horticulture Research & Demonstration Garden in Carbide Park will also be open for touring. You are also invited to bring samples of insect, disease and other plant pest problems for a free diagnosis. You may also bring lawn weeds for identification. Be sure to include your name and address with each sample. All samples should be enclosed in a plastic or paper bag to avoid drying out. The staff of the Galveston County Extension Office and our Extension volunteers welcome you to come look us



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over. 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 System—and each Texas County Commissioners Court.

AgriLife Extension is the educational outreach arm of The Texas A&M System. From State Extension Specialists with statewide responsibilities, to District Extension Specialists, to County Extension Agents and Extension volunteers located within each county, Extension 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 its century-long tradition of excellence in serving adults and youth throughout the state.

So be sure to pencil in a notation on your "Things-To-Do List" to get acquainted with our staff and volunteers at the Galveston County Extension Office during our Open House and to tour our facilities and Horticulture Demonstration Garden.

2015 Master Gardener Training Course Scheduled

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 fifty hours of classroom instruction and provided fifty hours of volunteer service to help provide county programs on horticultural issues.

Most of the 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.

Outdoor classroom trainings are also scheduled including a field trip to Mercer Arboretum. Class participants will tour our Horticulture Research & Demonstration Gardens with certified Master Gardeners to continue their learning experiences and get a chance to see 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. The Master Gardener volunteer experience also focus on fellowship and forging friendships with other Master Gardeners.

To learn more about the Galveston County Master Gardener Program and how to become a Master Gardener, you are invited to attend a presentation on What Is a Galveston County Master Gardener?...It takes a village! I and a panel of 12 Master Gardeners will provide a forum-style presentation today [\[or on Wednesday, December 10, depending on publication date\]](#) at the Galveston County AgriLife Extension Office in Carbide Park (4102-B Main Street, La Marque) from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration is not needed to attend. We will discuss the many facets of this volunteer program including the application process, the training course and what Master Gardeners do.

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. 12, 2015. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Extension Office until April 9. Applications are now available (e-mail GALV3@wt.net or phone 281-534-3413, ext. 12) and will be accepted until January 15. Don't miss this great opportunity.