

# SFA Gardens NEWS

## Notes from the Director By Dr. David Creech

Once again, the weather, pandemic and budget issues continue to dominate our work life. The mega freeze in February is still leaving its mark, but that's ancient news. In May, it seemed storms and resultant flooding were part of our weekly routine. We need webbed feet. Still, I'm convinced the rain has laid a healing blanket on all our wounded landscapes. Plants do want to grow. Our crew members Duke Pittman, Devin Theisen and Thomas Dimmitt — when not working on removing the debris from the ice/snow/freeze torture test — are managing to stay ahead of the weeds and keep our many projects moving forward. From my perch, it seems we continue to make progress in spite of a reduced student assistant labor pool and obstacles of every kind. Surely, things will improve soon, and I tell staff members daily that I can see the light at the end of this COVID-19 tunnel. Dawn Stover wants to know if I'm sure that's not a freight train coming our way.

There's no doubt our staffing picture has changed. In early 2020, SFA Gardens had 10 staff members. It won't be long before we're down to six. We have submitted the justification letter

to rehire the environmental education coordinator position held by Elyce Rodewald for 20 years. While Elyce retired in 2020, that position was closed for a good reason. After all, we went from 12,000 kids per year to zero. No kids of course means no position. Now that the world is opening back up and folks are calling, we are hopeful we will be allowed to fill that important position. To add to the complexity of SFA Gardens, we now have two staff members leaving our team. Anne Adams, after five years as our program associate, retired effective June 4, and Malcolm Turner, our kiwifruit project and Moody Gardens technician, has accepted a position with Twinwood Farms, one of our kiwifruit cooperators on a Texas Department of Agriculture specialty crop grant. Malcolm's new position starts in September and will focus on developing a large commercial field of golden kiwifruit in Simonton, Texas. It's a great job and kind of a stamp of promise for the long-term potential of this fruit in Texas.

*Continued on Page 2* »

## In This Issue:

- 3 | Moody Gardens Project
- 3 | Native Plant Spotlight: Pinewoods Lily
- 4 | The Ruth Williamson Color Garden
- 6 | How Cold Was It?
- 7 | Kiwis for Texas
- 8 | Partnering for Pollinators
- 11 | Volunteers Needed







Cleanup was extensive after the epic February arctic blast.



Volunteers Mike McClean and Charles Bradbury picking up donated plants in Alabama.



Dawn Stover designed and managed the plant sale protocol.

Since the last newsletter, I've mastered all things Zoom. I may know enough to be dangerous. Besides board meetings, I've sauntered through a good number of presentations at various Zoom-held conferences, including the annual Texas Master Gardener Association conference, the Azaleas Society of America annual conference, and others. While Zoom works and is efficient, I still miss speaking to people face to face. I think everyone is ready for a return to normalcy. In fact, I was slated in May to give my first face-to-face presentation since March 2020 for the Louisiana State Horticultural Society. I was ready for a road trip and happy to see old friends. But wouldn't you know it, the conference was canceled due to flooding in Lake Charles. Karma, I guess.

It's no secret that the income from our plant sales funds salaries. So, with the loss of our greenhouse crop to the freeze, we faced a crisis. We reached out to our nurserymen friends for help. We owe a big debt of gratitude to Maarten van der Giessen of Van Der Giessen Nursery in Wilmer, Alabama. Maarten is a longtime friend of the garden. He heard of our arctic blast plight through Facebook and offered us a load of plants. I had one of those "Let me think about it, YES!" moments. Volunteers Dr. Mike McClean, Charles Bradberry and I made the trek to Alabama in March with Mike's Ford Raptor pulling my 18-foot trailer, and we returned fully loaded with a great collection of azaleas for the sale. For that, Maarten gets the Citizen of the Year Award from our gardens. Also, three 70 year olds running the roads looking for plants is a dangerous thing.

Dawn and Jordan Cunningham designed and pulled off a week-long, COVID-19-compliant plant sale in April that brought in much needed funds. Because of safety protocols, it was an online registration management headache. Yet still, a total of 400 people registered for the seven-day event. Given that plant sale income funds salaries, staff member enthusiasm was excellent. While not the excitement, chaos or fun of our normal annual plant sales, it's what we could do safely. We are so looking forward to the fall plant sale, which by all indications will be back to normal. I'm insisting on a band for entertainment.

One aspect of this pandemic is the dramatic impact it's had on our volunteer numbers. We went from 2.3 years' worth of volunteer hours in 2019 to close to zero in 2020. Now that things are getting back to normal, we are encouraging our gardening friends to return to the fold. Those interested in volunteering can reach out to Dawn Stover at (936) 468-4404. There's greenhouse, nursery and garden work and not enough hours in the day to make it all happen. Join in our gardening adventure. There are more interesting plants in this garden than most. While the university world has been particularly complicated during the pandemic, I predict we will return to our former glory and take this place to the next level. As gardeners, we tend to learn patience. We keep our focus on the old saying, "It takes 100 years to build a good garden, and 200 if you don't rush it." That's some solace, and all along the way, we'll keep planting.





Ilaf Ilhan, an SFA graduate research assistant of Dr. Steve Wagner, works in her bald cypress plots.



## Native Plant Spotlight: Pinewoods Lily, *Alophia drummondii*

By Dawn Stover

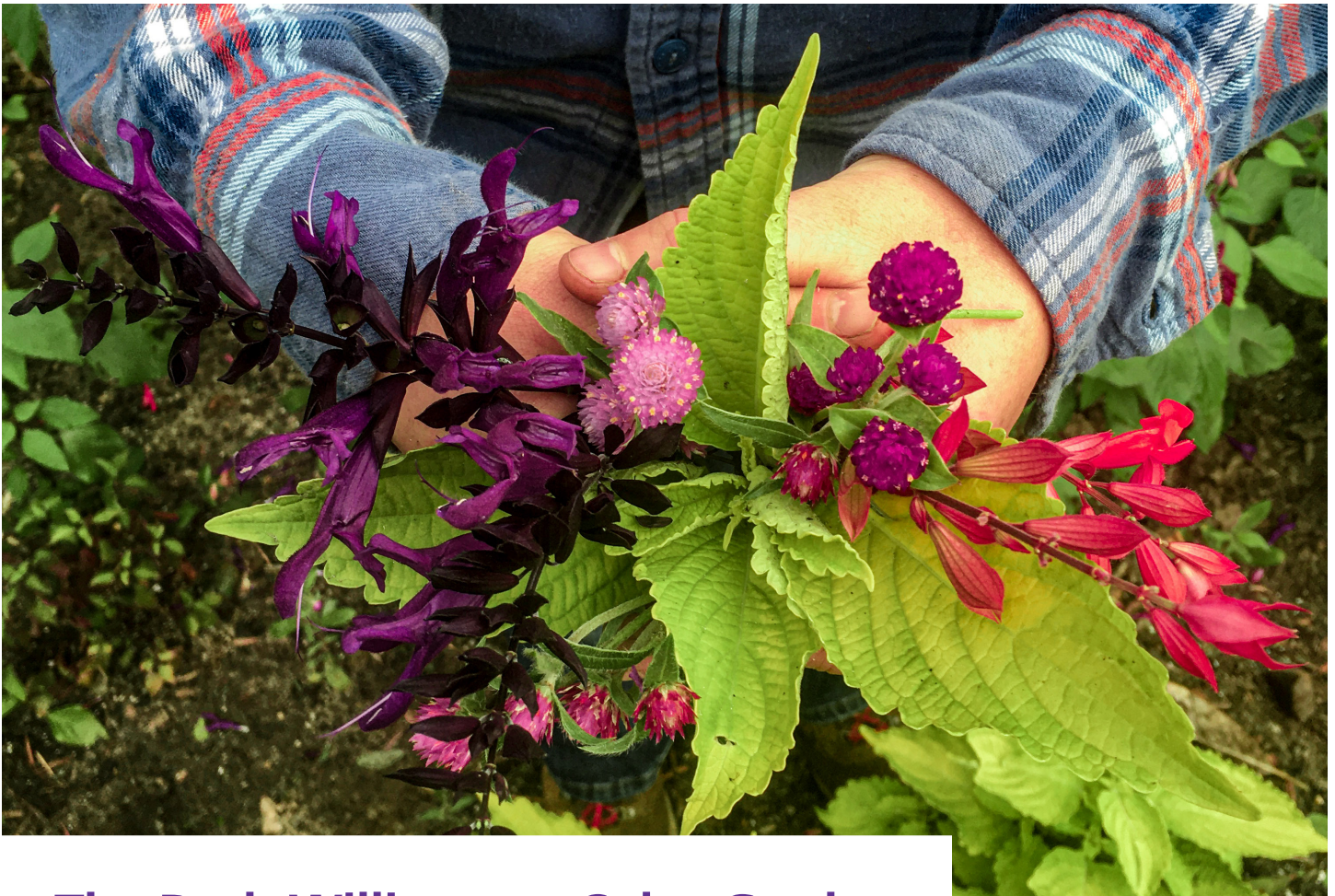
There are those catch-your-breath moments when, while wandering through the pines, you see the first annual blooms of a particularly lovely plant. I do admit, there are some quite lovely flowers to which I may turn a disinterested eye, but there are some that are so spectacular I cherish them with renewed or greater enthusiasm every year. Pinewoods lily is one of those, and as the rains finally dissipated and the heat of summer kicked in around the first part of June, I looked forward to my first sighting.

Most of our natives have offered more abundant blooms this year, and pinewoods lily is no exception. This charming member of the iris family is found in southeast Texas, Louisiana and a few counties in Mississippi. It produces intriguing, 1.5- to 2-inch-wide flowers with dark purple petals sporting a speckled yellow center. The flowers are produced in clusters atop thin stems and open one at a time over a period of days. Plants have a delicate yet durable sort of feel to them, both visually and tangibly, and are easily found in sandy soils along the forest edge. Once the eye has been trained to spot them, you'll find them everywhere.

## Moody Gardens Project

SFA Gardens has had an interesting project at Moody Gardens on Galveston Island since 2016. Essentially, our research plot rests on acres located about 100 yards from the bay. Three feet down, the salinity is toxic. Aerial salt is a constant challenge. The wind never stops. The mosquitoes can carry you off if the wind is still. It's a torture to test plant anything. We're there to find new shrubs and trees for a 21st-century Galveston Island. I look at it as a rotating nursery. Plants stay three or four years and make the cut or don't. Those that are promising are moved to civic projects around the island, and those that don't are destroyed. Kudos to the Moody Gardens staff and Priscilla Files of the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy for their work finding our trees and shrubs new homes. I have visited the city parks and school grounds that have accepted trees, and they appear happy in their new location. We are starting fresh. We have two graduate students working on this project with their thesis work. Ilaf Ilhan, graduate research assistant for SFA biology Professor Dr. Steve Wagner, is continuing an interesting mycorrhizal inoculation study with our collection of bald cypress in the plots. Rachel Murray, graduate research assistant for SFA's Department of Environmental Science Director Dr. Kenneth Farrish, is doing a soil salinity study across the island, something that has never been done. The temperature did fall to 17 degrees Fahrenheit, and the impact was cruel to a number of our trial species, but that's just part of science. We know how to move on and how to keep planting.





'Lime Time' Coleus bouquet

## The Ruth Williamson Color Garden

By Jordan Cunningham

Of all the things I do here as SFA Gardens Greenhouse Technician one of my favorite jobs is designing and planting the Ruth Williamson Color Garden. Whether it is in preparation for winter with broccoli and pansies, or planning for summer with salvia and zinnias, I look forward to my time in the little garden.

The Ruth Williamson Color Garden is located behind the glass greenhouse just down the hill from the Agriculture building on Wilson street. It can be found tucked between the 'Sprout' garden and the Mast Arboretum parking lot. This garden was named in memory of the hardworking volunteer Ruth Williamson.

A quick search of Ruth's name and SFA Gardens will pull up a few of Dr. Creech's newsletters from 1996 and 1997 where he praises the work of Mrs. Williamson.

*"The 'Perennial Border' had a terrific year in 1995. Ruth Williamson served as the curator and the best testimony I can give is this, I never pulled a weed there last year."*

*"Ruth Williamson is remarkable; her every-Tuesday attack on the perennial border is a joy to behold. Place is shining"*

These are big shoes to fill but every year I try to carry out her tradition of hard work and remarkability in the garden that bears her name.

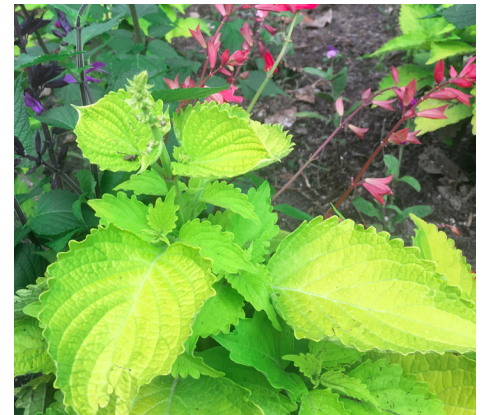
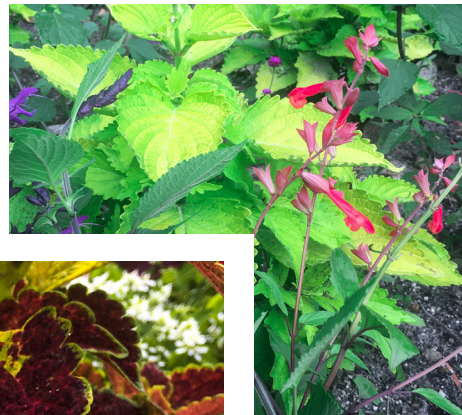
This year the Color Garden has a theme of warm colors as seen in the use of plants like *Zinnia* 'Profusion Double Hot Cherry'; sundrops, *Turnera ulmifolia*; and mexican flame vine, *Pseudogynoxus chenopodioides*. Combinations of color, texture, and shape were used to bring this garden to life. Take a look at a few of the eye-catching combinations that are sure to thrill both people and pollinators.

Just as you walk into the garden, towards the edge of the first bed, a white angels trumpet, *Brugmansia spp.*, is popping up for the warm weather. At its base is a gold monkey grass, *Liriope muscari* 'Pee Dee Ingot.' The monkey grass is perennial, so it is in the garden year-round. It is fun to pair something new with it every year. This year the hummingbird plant, *Dicliptera suberecta*, was interplanted with the monkey grass. The gentle gray foliage of the *Dicliptera* contrasts nicely with the hot gold monkey grass. Texture is an important feature here as the *Dicliptera* has leaves that are soft to the touch and to the eye while the monkey grass looks sleek and rigid.

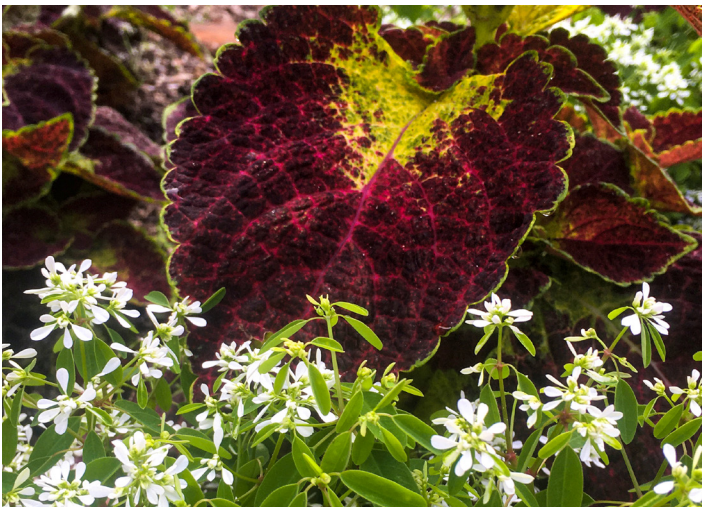




Hummingbird plant and 'Pee Dee Ingot' liriopis



'Lime Time' Coleus and complementary plants



'Dipt in Wine' coleus and 'Diamond Snow' euphorbia

The contrasting foliage caught my eye as I began to bring in plant material to start designing. I never would have put the two together if I had not dropped the pots of *Dicliptera* next to the monkey grass by happenstance.

Across the small nook is a bed with a mixed planting of coleus, *Plectranthus scutellarioides* ColorBlaze® 'Dipt in Wine' and *Euphorbia* 'Diamond Snow®'. The pair display strong juxtaposition between the large, deep coleus leaves and the soft, light euphorbia, like two sisters who are nothing alike but get along. Hopefully these siblings will grow and mesh together. These two plants traveled next to each other on the truck over to the color garden. That is when we noticed the way the large, red leaves of the coleus provided the perfect background for the small light-colored leaves and flowers of the euphorbia. The light airy texture of the euphorbia could easily get lost in a busy garden, but the shape and color of the coleus help it to stand out.

In the larger bed near the pond is a mixed planting of salvias, coleus and gomphrena. Step carefully around the yucca to see where bright chartreuse coleus, *Plectranthus scutellarioides* ColorBlaze® 'Lime Time®' is used as the backdrop for a magical mix of pink and purple. The salvias include *Salvia* 'Windy's Wish' (pink) and *Salvia* 'Amante' (purple). The gomphrenas are *Gomphrena globosa* 'Las Vegas Purple', *Gomphrena globosa* 'Audray Pink,' and there may be some *Gomphrena haageana* 'Carmine' in there too (also pink).

The pinks, purples and lime green of this mix became friends on the color wheel. Red and green are opposite on the color wheel making them complementary (think red and green for Christmas time). By using a lighter shade of red (pink) and a lighter shade of green (lime green) this bed demonstrates a play on traditionally complementing colors. The purple joins in by way of the yellow in the lime green coleus. Purple and yellow are also opposite and complementary, so purple blooms really bring out the 'lime' in 'Lime Time'. Complementing colors are exciting to the eye so this garden bed is sure to thrill.

Although Ms. Williamson mainly worked in the perennial border at SFA Gardens, it is my hope that our garden patrons can enjoy the Color Garden as they once enjoyed the well-kept borders of Mrs. Williamson. These are just a few examples of design elements used in our current planting of the color garden. For a full view of the Ruth Williamson Color Garden stop by and see it in person on campus.

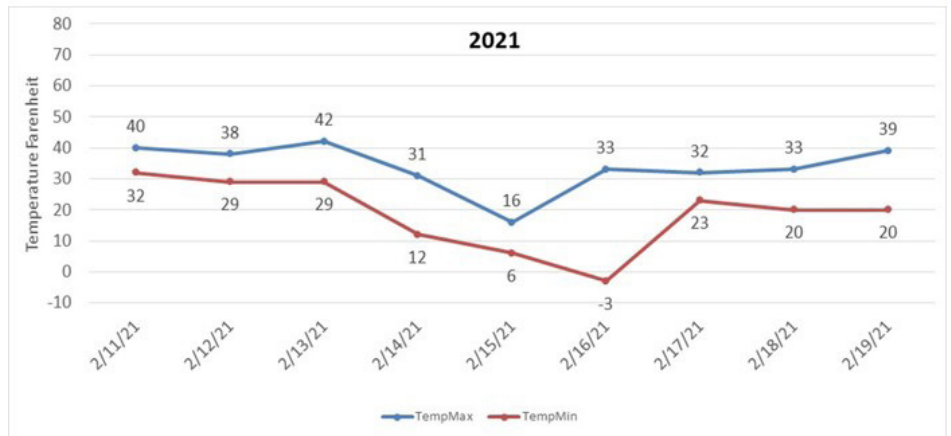
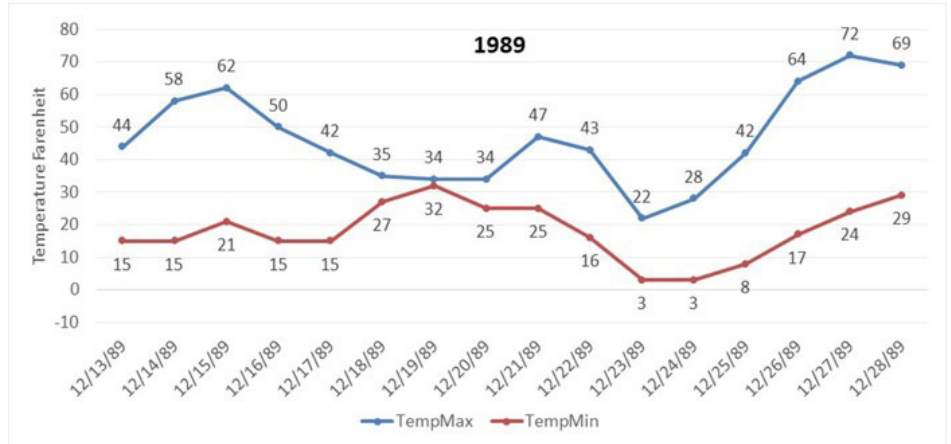
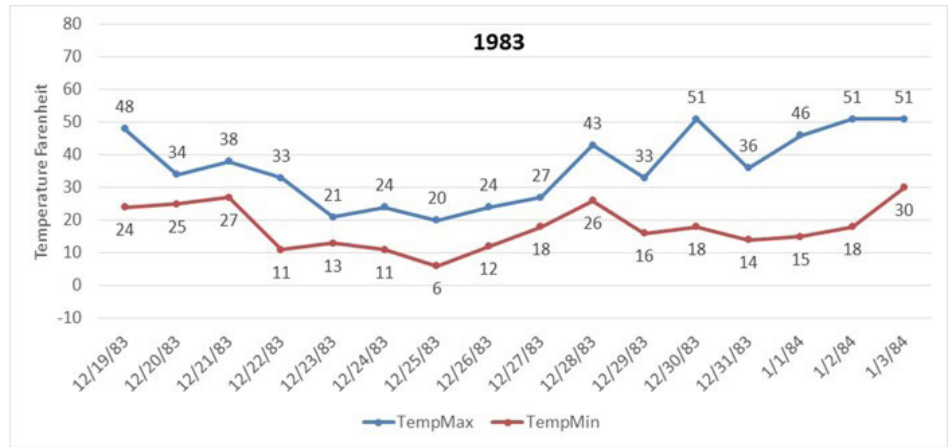


# How Cold Was It?

By Dr. David Creech

The SFA Gardens' focus has changed from addressing the aftereffects of the arctic freeze in mid-February to "Where is all this rain coming from?" In some ways, pardon the pun, it's been a little bit of a perfect storm. For the last four months, the aftermath of the freeze on campus and in SFA Gardens has been in our crosshairs. Tree removals and limb removals have been epic. In some cases, the ice load was too much, and dozens of old patriarch pines and oaks lost the battle. SFA Gardens staff members and employees from the university's grounds crew ultimately moved the debris lay strewn on the garden floor to a pile at the SFA Recreational Trails and Gardens. It didn't take long for that mountain to become overwhelming, so we contracted a giant tub grinder on a tractor trailer to reduce that mass to a mountain of mulch. For SFA Gardens, we maintained a policy not to remove our landscape plants until all the freeze rating data was in. We're getting close to wrapping that up and can begin bringing the landscape back to good form.

Gardeners tend to revel in the details of how much rain, violent storms, or temperature fluctuations their plants endured. If you go back 40 years, it's clear how much the 1983 and 1989 December freezes were game changers. This year's freeze will be the same. If you compare those two events with 2021, a few things stand out. First, the 1983 and 1989 freezes were in December while the 2021 freeze was in February, which is a big difference. Second, the 1980s freezes both involved a stretch of 15 days in a row below freezing. The 2021 freeze was only eight days in a row below freezing. Third, in terms of low temperature reached in Nacogdoches, 2021 wins the medal with a scary -3 °F on Feb. 16. Fourth, the 2021 hard freeze also was accompanied by 6 to 8 inches of snow and ice, which tore up the forest but may have protected the base of many plants from the harshest effects of low temperatures.



We will be sharing our results with Dr. Mengmeng Gu at Texas A&M University as we attempt to capture the results of the freeze. The commodities in our business (*Loropetalum*, Indian Hawthorns and others) are easy — after all that occurred, they are still staring at us from our landscapes. However, the SFA Gardens' collection includes many rarely encountered genera, species and varieties. The impact of this freeze needs to be documented for future horticulturists. After all, zone denial usually doesn't kick in until several years have passed. Memories are short. I'm already guilty of saying in public that we will never ever see -3 °F again in our piney woods home. I could be wrong.



# Kiwis for Texas

By Dr. David Creech

Tim Hartmann, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service specialist, has been our partner for many years on the kiwifruit project. We both expected the aftermath of the mega freeze in February would be ugly on our kiwifruit, but it wasn't. In fact, for the most part, the kiwifruit plants came through in fine form. Yes, we have damage, mostly on the green varieties, but when the dust settled, we're looking at a good crop on our older vines. Reports from our friends in other regions of the world suggested temperatures under 10 degrees Fahrenheit would be damaging, especially for young plants. In fact, in early November 2019, a very early first freeze with the low temperature in the low 20s killed most of the young vines all the way to the ground. The vines weren't acclimated. This mid-February freeze found the plants rock-hard dormant. It's all about timing.

Malcolm Turner brought in bees for the flower pollination season in March and April, and also secured pollen from a California source. Malcolm used a battery



Malcolm Turner blows pollen on kiwifruit female flowers to enhance fruit set.

charged "pollen gun" to dust the female flowers with pollen. Humans have become the bee. Kiwifruit are mainly dioecious, male plants and female plants, and good crosspollination is important. Not only that, the timing has to be right. The male plant needs to shed pollen when the female flower stigmas are receptive. It's finicky. Hand pollination can cost about \$1,000 per acre plus the labor. The process is fairly quick commercially, normally involving a small ATV driving each row and blowing the pollen on three or four times during the flowering season.

Kiwifruit are an interesting crop. When this season is over, SFA Gardens will have had six crops out of eight. That's not a bad record. Peach and blueberry growers might envy those statistics. The olive, fig and pomegranate crowd would definitely agree. While kiwifruit have problems, it's apparent they're a bit more tolerant of winter cold than we thought. The Texas Department of Agriculture's specialty crop grant will be coming to an end in September, but I am optimistic we will find the funding to continue. Tim and I are convinced there's potential. No, it won't be easy, but there's reason for optimism. Time will tell.



Golden kiwifruit will be ready for harvest in September.





## Partnering for Pollinators

By Dawn Stover

The more I work with native plants, the more interesting people I meet. My world seems to be filled with more acronyms than I can count, with all manner of agency-type affiliations, but a singular focus for quality habitat conservation and preservation gives us all a common denominator. In this regard, we can share ideas for projects and recommend each other's expertise when a project comes our way that might be slightly out of our wheelhouse. That's how we came to be involved with five monarch butterfly garden installations in Lufkin and Nacogdoches.

With a good repertoire of hard-to-find natives and lots of horticultural skills, several fingers pointed to the SFA Gardens when Rebeca Quiñonez-Piñón, monarch outreach coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation,

approached folks in our area looking for places to install monarch gardens with interpretative opportunities.

Several years ago, then-mayor Shelley Brophy signed the NWF Mayor's Monarch Pledge when the Texas Pollinator PowWow hosted their annual conference in Nacogdoches. Quiñonez-Piñón was a speaker at the conference and remembered East Texas with fondness. When it came time for NWF outreach coordination in East Texas, Nacogdoches and Lufkin were given priority, and now we are more than halfway through the process of completing the five monarch butterfly gardens. SFA Gardens provided not only expertise in the way of proper native plant selections, but also the plant material appropriate for each location. The NWF project provided additional funding for the gardens as the grants paid for the plant material.





I worked to incorporate good principles of pollinator gardens in each habitat. Plants should provide early-, mid- and late-season nectar sources, host plants for caterpillars, and bunch grasses for habitat and shelter. Additionally, these gardens may not have consistent staff members or volunteers available for maintenance, so they need to be easy to care for. Plants shouldn't be fussy, and their water requirements should match each other and the situation. Gardens also should be situated in full sun, not only because many of our flowering perennials require full sun, but also because insects are cold blooded and choose sunny spots for basking.

We finished out our spring plantings at Splashadoches, the newly minted spray pad at Maroney Park in Nacogdoches. The landscape here is significantly different in that the area is in a watershed, and the soil can hold water with significant rainfall. Also, I had to consider the busy little hands and feet of the young park patrons that will be enjoying the facilities. I chose plants that were vigorous and durable, and maybe even a little aggressive in case a stampede of little feet runs through the garden. Wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*; showy goldenrod, *Solidago speciosa*; and blue mistflower,

*Conoclinium coelestinum* will be allowed to spread around the garden, while ivyleaf thoroughwort, *Chromolaena ivifolia*; cardinal flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*; and Stokes' aster, *Stokesia laevis* will be allowed to reseed. For dramatic effect, I included vertical interest with Joe-pye weed, *Eutrochium fistulosum*; giant coneflower, *Rudbeckia maxima*; and prairie blazing star, *Liatis pycnostachya*. The color palette in this garden was tertiary to form and function, so it's a happy mix of all kinds of flower color and foliage texture.

Continued on Page 10 »



At the Texas Forestry Museum in Lufkin, we planted the garden outside of big windows in one of the galleries. I designed the garden so that the swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, was against the windows so families could view the caterpillars up close without putting the critters in harm's way. The garden was designed with a mostly cool color palette, with pops of bright yellow here and there, and included plants that could tolerate a heavy, loamy soil. Nectar plants include Joe-pye weed, *Eutrochium fistulosum*; mealy cup sage, *Salvia farinacea* 'Henry Duelberg'; fall aster, *Symphotrichum oblongifolium*; rough coneflower, *Rudbeckia grandiflora*; Stokes aster, *Stokesia laevis*; wrinkleleaf goldenrod, *Solidago rugosa*; and foxglove beardtongue, *Penstemon digitalis*. I used Gulf Coast muhly grass, *Muhlenbergia capillaris*, for shelter and incorporated blue-eyed grass, *Sysirinchium xerophyllum*, and purple love grass, *Eragrostis spectabilis*, in the groundcover matrix to help with weed suppression.

I had a bit of fun with the garden at the Nacogdoches Railroad Depot. Many of you know I'm a sucker for blue and have a really hard time with vivid, warm colors like red and orange. However, I simply felt the calling for those bright, in-your-face colors and designed the space accordingly. I used possum haw holly, *Ilex decidua* 'Warren's Red,' and red buckeye, *Aesculus pavia*, for anchors. The holly is an important early season nectar source for many early bee species, and its berries provide winter forage for many birds. You may not want to park close by if you see a flock of cedar waxwings near the hollies and would like to avoid berry-fueled deposits. The red buckeye, along with several coral honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*, planted along the fence will provide nectar for spring migrating, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Texas lantana, *Lantana urticoides*, scarlet catchfly, *Silene subciliata*, and Turk's cap, *Malvaviscus drummondii*, will not only provide summer and fall nectar for the hummingbirds, but are excellent nectar sources for a variety of insect pollinators, as well. A few yellow highlights appear with wrinkle-leaf goldenrod, *Solidago rugosa*, and St. Andrew's cross, *Hypericum hypericoides*. Nodding yucca, *Yucca cernua*, will provide a little drama with its upright towers of creamy-white blossoms, and the soft inflorescence of 'Purple Tears' switchgrass, *Panicum virgatum*, will add habitat as well as soft texture. I took the liberty of using purple



as a neutral, as it is a balance of both warm and cool, and there are some great, purple-flowered nectar plants, including Topeka purple coneflower, *Echinacea atrorubens*; prairie blazing star, *Liatris pycnostachya*; and hybrid beebalm, *Monarda* 'Peter's Purple.' Purple love grass is the foundation in the groundcover layer, and I chose the brilliant orange butterfly milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, for our monarch host milkweed. Volunteers from the City of Nacogdoches and Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful worked with SFA students during SFA's Big Event to plant this garden.

We are set to work on the next garden throughout the summer for a mid-fall planting at the South Pecan Street entrance to Festival Park, just south of downtown Nacogdoches. I'm hoping to do something a little out of the ordinary and create a butterfly-shaped flowerbed, while keeping ease-of-maintenance in mind. There is no irrigation at the site, so I will carefully choose plants found in the drier uplands of East Texas, and a few selections from the western part of the state. Bright yellow flowers of soft greeneyes, *Berlandiera pumila*, and brilliant magenta flowers of woodland poppy mallow, *Callirhoe papaver*, will lend cheerful notes to the garden. Texas lantana and mealy cup sage will lend a West Texas influence, and butterfly milkweed will be used here as well due to its drought tolerance and vibrant orange flowers. Stay tuned for the final project that will be planted in mid-October.



And finally, something a little out of the box. We will be planting native plugs in the demonstration prairie area in the northern portion of the Lanana Creek Trail. Native seeds, purchased courtesy of the Pineywoods Audubon Society, were sowed last winter, and we'll go in this fall with more flowering forbs to provide nectar for pollinators. The circle of life isn't all hand-holding and kumbaya singing, so many of those insect pollinators will serve as a food source for native and migrating birds. This site will require plants that tolerate wetter conditions and will include giant coneflower, *Rudbeckia maxima*; roughleaf coneflower, *Rudbeckia scabrifolia*; Joe-pye weed, *Eutrochium fistulosum*; narrowleaf mountain mint, *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium*; clustered bushmint, *Hyptis alata*; ivyleaf thoroughwort, *Chromolaena ivifolia*; and blue mistflower, *Conoclinium coelestinum*. I will aim for aquatic milkweed, *Asclepias perennis*, and swamp milkweed, *Asclepias incarnata*, for the monarch larval hosts. I also will cross my fingers in the hopes I will be able to source some red milkweed, *Asclepias rubra*, for the project. The good folks at the East Texas Plant Materials Center and East Texas Natives are helping with the grass component. Specifically, they're providing direction on which species to plant and tips on the eradication of pesky ryegrass and Johnson grass.

## Interested in Volunteering?

We would love to have partners volunteer for planting in the latter two gardens this fall, so send me a note at [dawnstover@sfasu.edu](mailto:dawnstover@sfasu.edu) if that's something you, or a group you are involved in might want to lend a hand with. Read the article below on volunteering throughout the year at the SFA Gardens.

I'll leave you with a final partner opportunity: the Pineywoods Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas is becoming more active as COVID-19 restrictions are eased. Our chapter is more of a "Let's get together and go see plants" kind of group, and it's a fun way to learn more about our native flora. You can find more details at [npsot.org](http://npsot.org), or on Facebook by searching @pineywoodsnpsot.

## Volunteers Needed

By Dawn Stover

We are looking for a few, ok a bunch, of good hands! With in-person interaction being much more possible now than a year ago, we've had a fair number of requests for volunteer opportunities. It's a great time for us to reimagine volunteering in the gardens, especially as we have had significant staff member changes and changes to garden needs.

We've seen such an increase in visitors to SFA Gardens over the last year. That was a wonderful salve during a time of quarantine and isolation, but we're ready to start engaging with folks on a steady basis. We're still gardening like crazy, evaluating new trial material, growing plants for sales and projects, collecting new material, and even talking about in-person events again. With the loss of two staff positions, the rest of us are scratching our heads on how to resurrect programing, find new funding sources and getting everything done in the gardens in the meantime.

If you'd like to be a part of this dynamic and exciting team, we likely have a place for you. Whether you're a



whiz in the office or have any shade of a green thumb, we'd like to have you on board. Visit our website to learn about ways to volunteer and to sign up.





COME GROW  
WITH US.

Stephen F. Austin State University  
Arthur Temple College of  
Forestry and Agriculture  
P.O. Box 13000  
Nacogdoches, TX 75962  
(936) 468-4404  
sfagardens@sfasu.edu  
sfagardens.sfasu.edu  
Facebook: SFA Gardens

Arthur Temple College of  
Forestry and Agriculture  
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*“Study nature, love nature, stay close  
to nature. It will never fail you.”*

*Frank Lloyd Wright*

