



**SOMERVELL  
COUNTY  
MASTER  
GARDENERS  
ASSOCIATION**

**SCMGA  
Officers 2010-2012**

President:  
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Donna Hagar

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Bonnah Boyd

Treasurer:  
Kathy Gosdin

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Bob Lancaster

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Newsletter Editor:  
Donna Hagar

*SCMGA Newsletter*

# *THE GREEN PIECE*



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## *Aquaponics!*

### *SCMGA Community Horticulture Education Program*

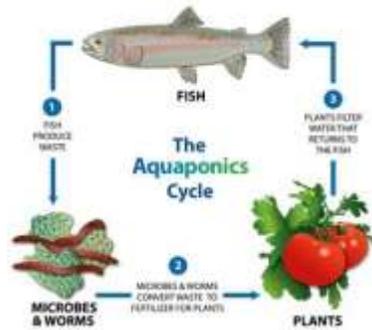
*Monday, June 11, 2012, 6:30 PM*

*Somervell County Citizen Center, 209 SW Barnard*

*Free and Open to the Public*

Monday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the Glen Rose Citizen Center, the Somervell County Master Gardeners, are pleased to have Adam Cohen present a program on "Aquaponics". One definition of aquaponics is, "The cultivation of fish and plants

together in a constructed, re-circulating ecosystem utilizing natural bacterial cycles to convert fish wastes to plant nutrients. This is a natural food growing method that harnesses the best attributes of aquaculture and hydroponics without the need to discard any



water of filtrate or add chemical fertilizers."

Adam is a north Texas science teacher and aquaponics enthusiast whose website, [Green-PhoenixFarms.com](http://Green-PhoenixFarms.com) posts articles of interest and gives advice and offers assistance to anyone interested in

the subject. He also established the DFW Aquaponics Meet up group and lectures to many organizations throughout Texas.

So come join us and learn how to grow your own fish and salad together.

## *SCMGA Brings Home Multiple Awards!*



TMGA President Brenda Cunningham, SCMGA VP Donna Hagar and SCMGA Treas. Kathy Gosdin

The Somervell County Master Gardeners brought home 5 (FIVE!) awards from the 2012 Texas Master Gardener Conference, held in San Antonio in May. The Awards won were; 1st Place - Newsletter, 1st Place - Outstanding Association, 1st Place - Website Education, 2nd Place - Outstanding Individual Master Gardener-Donna Hagar and 2nd Place - Project-Joint Submission with Lake Granbury Master Gardeners for the 2011 TMGA Conference. SCMGA Vice-President Donna Hagar and Treasurer Kathy Gosdin were on hand to accept these exciting and prestigious awards for our association.

## Wade's WallyWorm Word - "Bokashi"

*Submitted by Wade Moore, Somervell County Master Gardener*

WallyWorm is visiting his buddies at the local vermi-composting facility. They are feasting on the local kitchen scraps. "These orts are OK but boring; I would also like to have some meat and cheese, but our composting menu does not allow such." complains one of Wallyworm's buddies

"Well, just wait until your overseer kicks in a little batch of BOKASHI for your enjoyment." Wallyworm responds

"BOKASHI? Never heard of it. Is this some exotic dessert?" asks his pal

"Exotic? Perhaps. Being a composting method developed in Japan in the early 1980s; Dr. Teuro Higo isolated certain micro-organisms and developed an inoculant for the production of BOKASHI. By inoculating most any fine organic grain, such as wheat bran, rice hulls and the like with these microbes, that flourish in an anaerobic and acidic environment, a fermented compost starter can be produced." WallyWorm begins

"The process requires effective organisms to be purchased or personally produced. A little research on the internet can supply this information. These organisms, mixed with molasses and water, are used to wet the medium. This medium is pressed into an airtight container, sealed, and allowed to ferment for a month,

then dried and stored in dry sealable containers. This product is the inoculant for BOKASHI compost." continues WallyWorm

"To compost kitchen scraps, including meat and cheese, cut the scraps into small pieces. Place a thin layer of the inoculant on the bottom of a five gallon plastic bucket, fitted with a drain at the bottom. Mix a little inoculant with the scraps and add to the bucket, then sprinkle a thin layer of inoculant over that, pressing out any air pockets, and then seal the bucket. When enough scraps have been added (and the "tea" drained during fermentation) to fill the bucket, set it aside for two weeks: you have BOKASHI. This compost is quite acidic, so if it is incorporated directly into the soil, allow at least a month to finish composting before planting in the location. Adding BOKASHI to worm compost or outdoor compost piles is the norm." concludes WallyWorm



This information ingested, digested, and disgorged from [www.composterconnection.com](http://www.composterconnection.com)



## What is Texas AgriLife Extension Service?

*By Cody Gfeller, CEA-Ag/NR, Somervell County*

Texas AgriLife Extension Service works hand-in-hand with its Texas A&M System partners, the state legislature, and the communities it serves. The mission of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to serve Texans through community-based education has remained unchanged for almost a century.

With a vast network of 250 county Extension offices and some 900 professional educators, the expertise provided by AgriLife Extension is available to every resident in every Texas county.

The mission of AgriLife Extension is a seemingly simple one: improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities

across Texas and beyond through high-quality, relevant education.

Texas AgriLife Extension coordinates some locally-known programs such as the Master Gardeners and 4-H programs. Extension educators are well-aware that a program offered in Dallas might not be relevant in

*See AgriLife(Continued on page 3)*

## AgriLife

(Continued from page 2)

the Rio Grande Valley. AgriLife Extension custom-designs its programs to different areas of the state, significantly depending on residents for input and program delivery.

Somervell County Master Gardener's offer horticulture programs monthly at the Senior Citizens Center. Check out their website for upcoming events at <http://txmq.org/somervell/>

Somervell County 4-H offers many opportunities for young people to stay active. Our 4-H program offers opportunities in livestock projects, food and nu-

trition projects, horticulture, shooting sports, a horsemanship clinic and many other activities. Volunteers are what build a 4-H program, and we are always looking for volunteers who have an interest in educating our youth of Somervell County.

Today's AgriLife Extension is known for its leadership, dedication, expertise, responsiveness, and trustworthiness. Texans turn to AgriLife Extension for solutions, and its agents and specialists respond not only with answers, but with a significant return on investment to boost

the Texas economy. If you need answers about horticulture issues, turf management, land management practices, or any other agriculturally related topic, contact the Somervell County Texas AgriLife Extension office at:

1405 Texas Drive  
P.O. Box 895  
Glen Rose, Tx 76043  
254-897-2809

<http://somervell.agrilife.org/>

Or  
Cody Gfeller  
CEA-Ag/NR  
Somervell County  
[crgfeller@aq.tamu.edu](mailto:crgfeller@aq.tamu.edu)

## *Favorite Plants Of Master Gardeners*

### *Jerusalem Sage*

*By Sandi Stringer, Somervell County Master Gardener*

Common/Scientific Name: Jerusalem Sage/Phlomis fruticosa

Native/Adapted: Herbaceous perennial Mediterranean native that is well adapted to our area

Height: 2-3 feet

Spread: 3-4 feet

Evergreen/Deciduous: Evergreen, may need trimming after heavy frost

Seasonal Interest: Spring but can bloom on into September, bright unusual yellow blooms that are multi-tiered (2-3 whorls) on tall spikes.

Water: low water once established

Maintenance: remove spent flower spikes

Wildlife: Deer resistant, leaf hoppers sometimes a slight problem

Comments: I like this plant because it adds a different look to my garden with its tall stalks of yellow whorls and fuzzy gray-green velvety leaves. The leaves look a bit like sage leaves and are aromatic; hence how it got its common name, but it is not a sage. It is heat, drought and cold tolerant. Does well in full sun but can tolerate light shade and still bloom. It also likes moderately well-drained soil. Flowers dry well for indoor arrangements. Propagate this plant by division in the spring or fall.

Sources: *Native and Adapted Landscape Plants for Central Texas*

*Texas Gardener Magazine: "5 Drought-Proof Plants for Texas Gardens"*



## Raising Daisies

by Merilyn Cranford, Somervell County Master Gardener

Shasta Daisies have long been sunny garden favorites, both in beds and, with their long, stiff stems, as cut flowers. They're a cinch to grow, they bloom for a long time and they attract butterflies, but not deer.

One of the more familiar types is known as 'Becky', a heavy bloomer with an upright habit. It starts to flower in July and keeps it up straight through to September. It's true that 'Becky' is a great favorite of many people, but there are others as well.

Plenty of the new cultivars sport larger flowers, with more eye-catching petals than the older Shastas. One that might catch your eye is named 'Fluffy' because of its double flowers sprouting threadlike petals. Another is 'Fiona Coghill', with its audacious pompon flowers. The stout stems are strong enough to hold heavy blooms, even when they are wet after watering or rain. Additionally, 'Crazy Daisy' is a 30-inch tall Shasta that adds a playful attitude to the garden and the haphazard arrangement of petals is as endearing as its name.

There is a size to fit everyone's taste. Some Shasta cultivars range in height from 10 to



40 inches and flower size from 2 to almost 5 inches across. For the most part white is the color of Shasta daisies, though there are a few that claim yellow petals. Two of these are named 'Sunshine' and 'Cobham Gold' which is closer to a soft butter-cream color.

Because of their inherently rugged nature and the range of plant sizes, there are many different uses for Shasta daisies. Some may look well at the center or back of the flowerbed. Or a large grouping makes a big impact, especially when you view it from a distance. If you're not crazy about dead-heading all those daisies, place the bed at the far end of the yard

where a few faded blooms aren't as noticeable. Or grow them in containers. Give them full sun and even moisture, but make sure the potting mix is well-drained, so the roots don't rot.

So try a few Shastas – you'll soon be hooked. Because however you use them, Shastas add a touch of magic to your garden, along with tons of fresh white blooms, from simple to simply splendid!

## June Tips - Planning

by Kathy Gosdin, Somervell County Master Gardener

Gardening is a task that to some is a "job" while to others it is the connecting to nature. Which ever for you the case may be, should you find yourself with the desire for planting there are a few things to consider. The first step in gardening should be the planning process. The site and plants themselves should be considered. What vegetables are liked to be eaten, how much is needed, what grows best in this area, and what about the soil, nutrition, sun and water needs for the plants to be grown.

There is so much information available to us via the internet these days but it can be a daunting task trying to find information specific to your location. Texas AgriLife Extension Service,

Texas A&M System has a wonderful site with articles that give good information for this process. So why not utilize the Texas AgrLIFE to help in this matter.

Below are links that have a vast amount of information for the gardener wishing to plan a site and choose the vegetables for our area.

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/>

[http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/easygardening/E-289\\_planning.pdf](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/publications/easygardening/E-289_planning.pdf)

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/archives/parsons/earthkind/ekgarden.pdf>



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Cody Gfeller, CEA AG/NR  
Texas AgriLife Extension  
Service  
Somervell County  
P. O. Box 895  
Glen Rose, TX 76043  
[http://somervell-  
co.tamu.edu](http://somervell-co.tamu.edu)

Phone: 254-897-2809  
Fax: 254-897-9323  
E-mail:  
[somervellmg@gmail.com](mailto:somervellmg@gmail.com)

We're on the web!

<http://www.somervellmastergardeners.org>

The Somervell County Master Gardeners are volunteers who work with the AgriLIFE Extension to improve gardening skills throughout the community. Program objectives are implemented through the training of local volunteers known as Master Gardeners. We collaborate with Extension to conduct youth and community education; establish and maintain demonstration gardens; and provide a speakers bureau. We work with special audiences in the community for youth and community outreach of a horticultural nature. We recruit and educate new Master Gardener candidates for effective volunteering.

The training for Somervell County is held in combination with Hood and Johnson Counties and is currently held only every other odd year. The next training for our area will be held in the spring of 2013. If you are interested in the SCMGA, we would like to invite and encourage you to visit one of our monthly meetings, so that you might learn more about our various projects and activities. Our regular monthly business meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the Somervell County Extension Office. For more information, please contact Cody Gfeller, Somervell County Extension agent at 254-897-2809 or [crgfeller@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:crgfeller@ag.tamu.edu) or you may email the SCMGA at [somervellmg@gmail.com](mailto:somervellmg@gmail.com).



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