

# **SFA GARDENS ANNUAL REPORT**

**JAN – DEC 2018**



**SFA Gardens  
2900 Raguet Street  
Pineywoods Native Plant Center  
Nacogdoches, TX 75965**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	3
SFA GARDENS MAP	5
PLANT SALES – SPRING 2018 AND FALL 2018	6
LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES AND GARDEN EDUCATIONAL EVENTS	7
SFA GARDENS EDUCATION NUMBERS FOR 2018	8
STATUS OF GARDEN GOALS SET FOR LAST YEAR	9
GARDEN GOALS FOR 2019	12
STAFF ANNUAL REPORTS:	
DAVE CREECH	16
DAWN STOVER	23
JORDAN CUNNINGHAM	24
ELYCE RODEWALD	22
JOCELYN MOORE	26
DUKE PITTMAN	29
JOHN DILDAY	30
ANNE SULLIVAN	31
MALCOLM TURNER	32
A PICTORIAL HISTORY – 2018	34

## **INTRODUCTION**

SFA Gardens continues as a recognized center within Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, USA. SFA Gardens is a multi-faceted public garden developed within SFA's Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. The gardens are managed by Associate Director Dr. David Creech (1/2 time) and 7.0 staff, both professional and classified, volunteers and student workers. This report documents activities January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018.



SFA Gardens cover 68 acres on the SFA campus -10 acres in the Mast Arboretum and Jim and Beth Kingham Children's Garden, eight acres in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, eight acres in the Gayla Mize Garden, and 42 acres in the Pineywoods Native Plant Center and Jimmy Hinds Park. SFA Gardens also plays a role in the maintenance and development of SFA's 60-acre SFA's Recreational Trails and Gardens, which is adjacent to the Gayla Mize Garden. SFA Gardens manages an interesting LaNana creek streamside planting of bald cypress genotypes. In addition, SFA Gardens is an umbrella for projects at the Science Research Center and the City of Nacogdoches park system.



Community support is provided by a “Friends of SFA Gardens” group with about 88 members and the SFA Gardens Advisory Board, which meets quarterly. SFA Gardens enjoys a great corps of volunteers. In 12 months, the SFA Gardens Environmental Education volunteers generated 1981.75 hours’ worth \$46,367.10. The SFA Gardens Volunteer Corps generated 1160 volunteer hours, worth \$27,144.00, with most of the focus on growing and managing the two plant sales per year. Thus, the total volunteer hours for the SFA Gardens set a record this past year: 3141.75 hours’ worth \$73,511.10.

While State of Texas funding assists with operations and maintenance expenses, the gardens staff raise significant funds through plant sales, a robust grant-seeking effort, and six endowments that support the gardens. The Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building was constructed at the PNPC in 2014 after a successful campaign to raise about one million dollars in funding. In the past year, we have added additional outdoor lighting to facilitate parking and visitor access during evening programs. In the past twelve months, the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building has hosted 93 events, meetings, workshops, seminars and, of course, the Les Reeves Lecture series. Most important, the building is a great teaching example of environmentally sensitive methods of construction and operation. The solar panel array via a Green Mountain Energy grant provided 87% of the past year’s electrical needs for this facility.

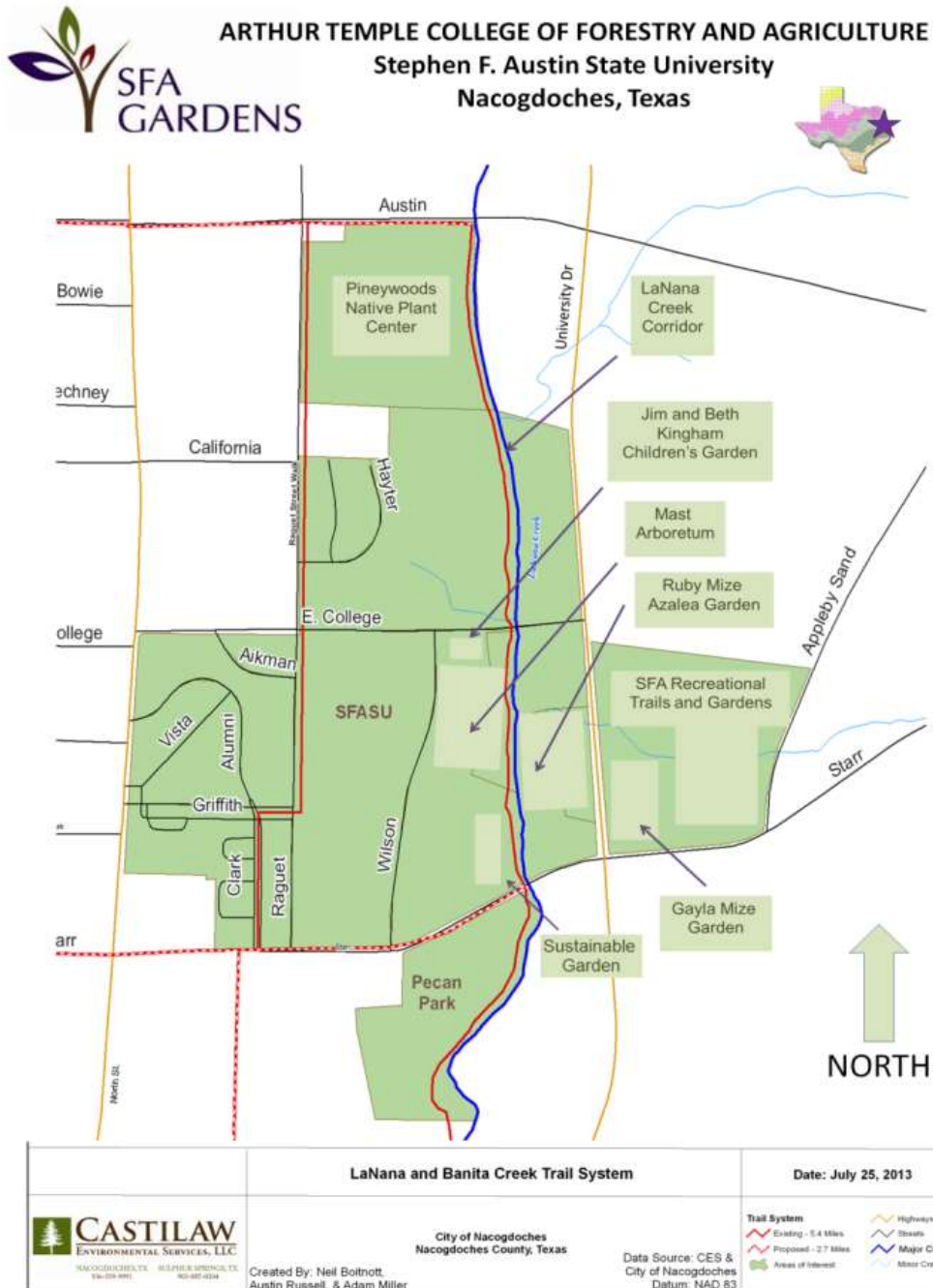
A new development since 2014, the Jimmy Hinds Park, again received funding in the past year from Barbara Finney, the daughter of the late Jimmy Hinds, the first Agriculture Professor at SFA. A kiwifruit nursery was established, deer proofed, and irrigation installed. The coming year will focus on expanding the vineyard and adding plantings of woody ornamentals with a focus on flowers and foliage color.

A Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops block grant funded the second year of a kiwifruit research project and we received notification that our proposal for a third year has been approved (Jan 2019 – March 2020). We were fortunate to have a good crop in late August 2018 and have generated the rootstocks needed for five cooperating farms to be planted in early 2019. This is a cooperative project with Tim Hartmann, TAMU Extension, College Station, Texas.

A Moody Foundation grant for evaluating new plant materials on Galveston Island has finished the third year. Two drip irrigated acres are in place, and the plot has served as the foundation for three MSc thesis projects, and numerous research paper presentations. The project area is a fine long-term platform for woody plant evaluation and various trials to ameliorate the difficulties of aerial and soil salt in the plant environment.

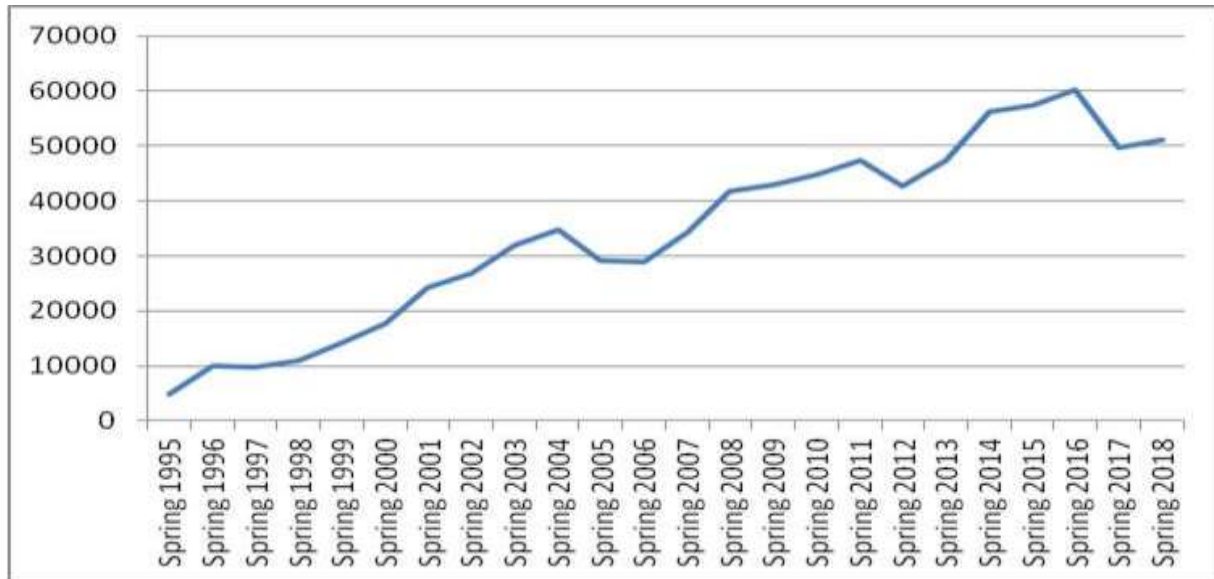
Plant diversity and adaptability are key focal points in developments for each of the four main gardens, offerings in the two plant sales and in the public outreach by staff through lectures, public events, publications and tours. Environmental education for future

generations is another main initiative that reaches over 12,000 per year in a broad spectrum of programs for ages K-adult.

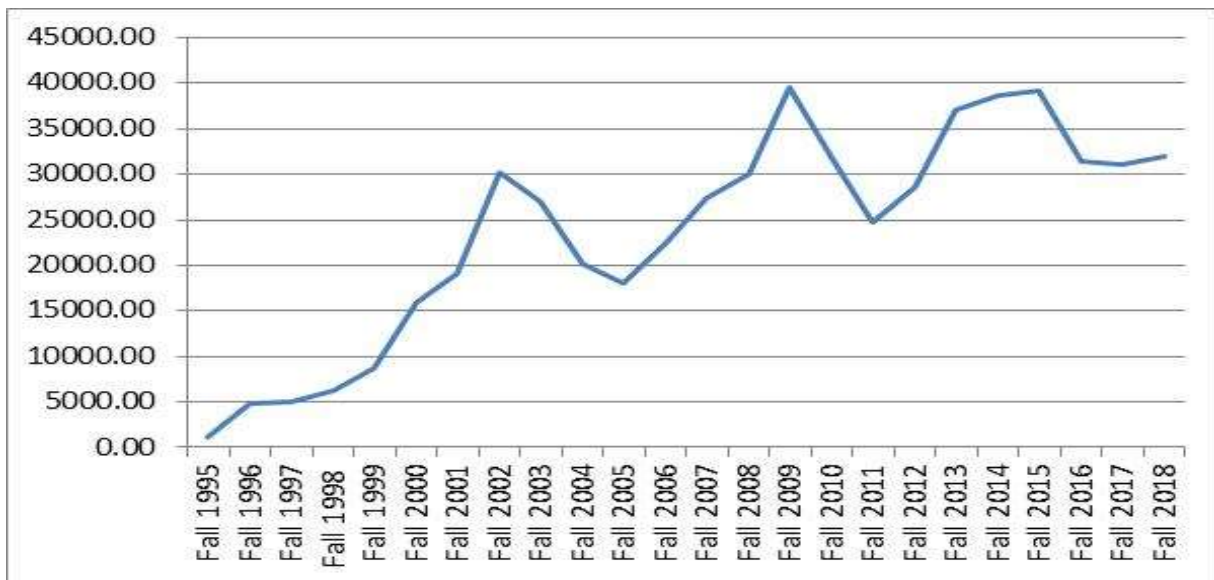


## PLANT SALES

### SPRING 2018 PLANT SALE (\$51,589)



### FALL 2018 PLANT SALE (\$31,989)



## 2018 LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES

Jan 11 Danny Carson, Moody Gardens, Galveston, TX. "Behind the scenes at Moody Gardens; why 1100 employees is never enough." - [dcarson@moodygardens.org](mailto:dcarson@moodygardens.org)

Feb 8 Cindy McClimans, Landscaper, Houston, TX, "Creating Unique Landscapes by Cindy McClimans.:" - [cindy@petalorganic.com](mailto:cindy@petalorganic.com)

Mar 8 Frantisek Majs, SFA Soils Laboratory Director, "For better fruits, vegetables and landscapes, Test Your Soil: Taking care of soils of all ages." [majsf@sfasu.edu](mailto:majsf@sfasu.edu)

April 12 Amanda McWhirt, University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR – "I have a thorny issue to discuss: Blackberry Basics" [amcwhirt@uaex.edu](mailto:amcwhirt@uaex.edu)

May 10 James Wilhite of Wilhite Landscaping, Tyler, TX. "Planting by the moon; rhyme or reason." [jwilhite@wilhitelandscape.com](mailto:jwilhite@wilhitelandscape.com)

June 14 Darren Duling, Mercer Arboretum, Houston, TX "Orchids Underfoot; Flora of the Island of Crete." [DDuling@hcp4.net](mailto:DDuling@hcp4.net)

Jul 12 Janet Carson, Extension Horticulture Specialist, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas - "Blinding color in the garden" - [jcarson@uaex.edu](mailto:jcarson@uaex.edu)

Aug 9 Jay Spiers, Auburn, AL. "Alternative fruit crops for a changing Gulf South; what's on the horizon." [Jds0017@auburn.edu](mailto:Jds0017@auburn.edu)

Sept 13 Kathryn Fontenot, LSU, Baton Rouge, LA – "You say tomato; I say tomahto; let's cut the whole thing off." [kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu](mailto:kkfontenot@agcenter.lsu.edu)

Oct 11 Andrew King, TAMU, "You Can Take the Boy out of East Texas but you can't take the Azaleas out of his Garden; Growing Ornamentals in a Challenging Environment." [aking@tamu.edu](mailto:aking@tamu.edu)

Nov 8 David Creech, SFA Gardens, Nacogdoches, TX. "SFA Gardens, Where Good Ideas Meet Insurmountable Obstacles." [dcreech@sfasu.edu](mailto:dcreech@sfasu.edu)

Dec 13 Mark Weathington, JCR Arboretum, Raleigh, NC – "Beyond Tire Planters, Gardening in the South." [mweathi@yahoo.com](mailto:mweathi@yahoo.com)

### Saturday Seminars/Activities

January 20 – Seed Swap, 1-4 pm

January 27 – Grafting with Dr. David Creech, 9 a.m. – noon

February 3 – Fermentation with Dr. Darla O'Dwyer, 9 a.m. - noon

February 10 – Family Bird Day, 9 a.m. – noon  
 March 24 – Little Princess Tea Party, various seatings  
 April 7 – Garden Gala Day plant sale and Earth Day, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
 May – Saturday Seminar TBD  
 August – Garden Design with Emily Cauble, date TBD  
 September 22 – Pollinator Gardening and Wildscaping with Dawn Stover, 9 a.m. – noon.  
 October 6 – Fabulous Fall Festival plant sale, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
 October – Saturday Seminar TBD  
 November 3 – Soap Making with Elyce Rodewald, 9 a.m. – noon  
 December 1 – Deck the Halls wreath and garland making with Dawn Stover, 9 a.m. – noon

## SFA GARDENS EDUCATION NUMBERS

	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017*	2018**
<b>Adult Programs</b>																	
Arboretum/Azalea Garden/PNPC Tours	744	744	768	1334	1214	1343	863	1244	1499	908	460	1278	912	690	599	346	134
Les Reeves Lecture Series	980	860	709	823	922	751	824	789	811	780	802	809	982	820	788	921	619
Garden Seminars	83	158	184	175	32	45	57	65	32	145	396	142	206	178	115	216	116
Educator Workshops	24	186	23	121	183	225	455	110	160	30	43	88	0	147	60	18	185
Volunteer Training	25	35	13	45	29	11	30	18	10	8	12	26	11	0	2	5	1
Adult Special Events	1285	1927	1070	1508	1200	3281	1862	1350	1020	987	300	254	0	88	150	555	202
Lectures-outreach							3179	4232	2905	2388	3437	4738	5169	6189	2000	2150	2603
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3141</b>	<b>3910</b>	<b>2767</b>	<b>4006</b>	<b>3580</b>	<b>5656</b>	<b>7270</b>	<b>7808</b>	<b>6437</b>	<b>5246</b>	<b>5450</b>	<b>7335</b>	<b>7280</b>	<b>8112</b>	<b>3714</b>	<b>4211</b>	<b>3860</b>
<b>Children's Programs</b>																	
Arboretum Adventures	917	546	820	733	1048	1120	771	1162	1377	784	546	514	588	543	626	611	763
Trees Are Terrific	2320	1246	962	622	1784	1750	2072	1795	552	921	717	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Awareness						450	600	1050	1200	1900	535	613	600	571	415	534	546
GardenQuest	398	644	381	0	525	182	316	80	320	175	0	28	120	130	182	0	0
Go Wild	174	690	924	549	711	772	803	752	549	540	499	473	495	521	538	742	534
Wild About Science (Go Native Field Day)	0	0	250	300	594	594	508	351	483	479	525	452	446	455	425	931	888
Earth Science Exploration						475	475	612	1076	869	796	447	462	520	557	852	648
School Gardening	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0	0	473	495	0	0	0	89
Bugs, Bees, Butterflies and Blossoms	500	1000	2025	2640	2574	2816	2800	2800	2477	3292	3301	3523	3279	3395	3553	3500	2225
Pineywoods Day Camps	26	26	36	58	63	67	74	77	77	83	87	87	91	92	82	77	82
Children's Special Activities	571	1056	1538	1756	2004	200	350	800	882	115	804	2120	1902	1023	500	667	841
Wild About Wetlands	0	0	0	87	154	395	111	46	19	28	27	30	100	106	88	88	0
Nacogdoches Naturally-Family Day								193	520	500	893	1753	1888	1040	424	864	366
CDE (Career Development Education)						700	686	511	704	772	897	845	700	800	996	784	1406
Nacogdoches Naturally-After school									503	495	648	1138	938	916	347	517	376
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>4972</b>	<b>5208</b>	<b>6936</b>	<b>6745</b>	<b>9457</b>	<b>9521</b>	<b>9566</b>	<b>10349</b>	<b>10739</b>	<b>10953</b>	<b>10275</b>	<b>12496</b>	<b>12104</b>	<b>10112</b>	<b>8733</b>	<b>10167</b>	<b>8764</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8113</b>	<b>9118</b>	<b>9703</b>	<b>10751</b>	<b>13037</b>	<b>15177</b>	<b>16836</b>	<b>18157</b>	<b>17176</b>	<b>16199</b>	<b>15725</b>	<b>19831</b>	<b>19384</b>	<b>18224</b>	<b>12447</b>	<b>14378</b>	<b>12624</b>
Data shown are from September through August each year.																	
*Sept 2016-December 2017																	
**Calendar year																	



## **STATUS OF GOALS SET FOR 2018**

### Dave Creech goals:

The major goal for 2018 will be constructing a three bay Quonset greenhouse at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center. DONE

Submit a proposal for continued funding of the Moody Project - SUBMITTED - BUT NOT FUNDED – unless other funds arrive, the project ends.

Submit a proposal for continued funding of the SFA/TAMU TDA Kiwifruit project. SUBMITTED AND APPROVED

In early 2018, we will steward a project and a proposal forward to the Walsh foundation and further a collaborative strategy with Environmental Design, Tomball, Texas. SUBMITTED AND PENDING

We will move the small portable building (not being utilized) at the Ruby Mize Garden to the PNPC to serve as a center piece of a planned Children's Garden. NOT DONE.

We will clear a few trees in the PNPC bottomland to create four or five sunlit glades and prepare them for Fall 2018 planting. NOT ACCOMPLISHED

We will improve the sunlight situation at the blueberry research plots, north end of the PNPC. NOT ACCOMPLISHED

The Jimmy Hinds park will receive a transfusion of flowering trees and shrubs. NOT ACCOMPLISHED.

SFA Gardens will put increased attention on general garden maintenance with particular attention to the numerous "faces" of the gardens. NEEDS ATTENTION

At the Brundrett Conservation Education building, we will embark on a project for rainwater capture. NOT ACCOMPLISHED; PLANNING FOR A CAMPAIGN

Construction of a lean-to shed for PNPC hort facility. NOT ACCOMPLISHED

Bring our Cub tractor back to its former glory. NOT ACCOMPLISHED

Construction of a shade house at the pnp - NOT ACCOMPLISHED

### Dawn Stover:

Like Dr. Creech, I have high hopes to actually see the greenhouse project come to completion. ACCOMPLISHED

Travel and network more

Expand contract growing opportunities.

Continue to source local genotypes into our program.

With the Oncor high voltage line renovation now firm, we can return to filling the trial garden at the north end of the Mast Arboretum.

Elyce Rodewald:

- 1) Investigate grant funding for a Nature Explore Classroom—done, attended meeting; no funding available at this time
- 2) Streamline storage in room 103 of CEB—done—still more possibilities
- 3) Investigate grant funding for assistant education coordinator position—will be applying for TPWD grant in 2019
- 4) Collaborate with Ag dept professors and students to develop and execute educational Lumberjack Pumpkin Patch event at Walter C.Todd—project put on hold due to loss of farm manager

Jocelyn Moore:

- 1) Continue to develop internship opportunities for Nacogdoches Naturally.
- 2) Expand intern recruitment from nutrition program to horticulture students as well.
- 3) Find sponsorship for food costs for Earth Day Celebration.
- 4) Collaborate with other faculty and student groups for Earth Day to encourage more student attendance and engagement and ongoing collaborative projects.
- 5) Develop and offer edible garden 101 training for NISD teachers and volunteers who have started or would like to start a school garden.

Duke Pittman:

While we have a good start, we need to improve the main drainway channel in the Gayla Mize Garden. This will require lowering the one culvert six inches and cleaning out and further defining the V-ditch started this past year. ACCOMPLISHED

More attention in the Gayla Mize Garden needs to be paid to individual plant maintenance (implement an improved mulching strategy, tackling rogue weed seedlings at the base of plants early, before they are entrenched, adjusting emitter placement when needed, pruning away low hangers, moving labels that are girdling trunks up into

the plant, correcting leaning trees while they are young, staking /caging plants to minimize deer damage and removing pine straw and other debris that has accumulated in plants. WORK IN PROGRESS

In the spring 2018, in the Gayla Mize Garden we will implement a thorough and careful treatment of plants with 21-0-0 to increase growth rate. ACCOMPLISHED

Anne Sullivan:

Promote more weddings and receptions for up to 100 guests in the gardens and Brundrett facility, both resources in and for our community and an income source for the gardens. A garden wedding brochure was designed and distributed to campus and community locations. ACCOMPLISHED

The acquisition and installation of additional outdoor lighting is on the wish list for the enhancement and safety of evening events held at the Brundrett building. This past year saw the addition of a gate and pathway extending from the newly renovated north parking lot at Raguet Elementary, which provided easy access to an additional 40-plus parking spots right next door to the PNPC. Additional lighting will encourage and enhance the use of this parking resource as well as events held at the Brundrett facility at the PNPC. ACCOMPLISHED

Malcolm Turner:

Keep maintenance at a high level in assigned areas, expand the Kiwifruit garden, add five rows to the Muscadines.

With a ditch witch, we will need to create additional mainlines and drip lines in several research plot projects.

Finish planting the beds at Moody Gardens in early 2018; give the entire project a good mulching. WORK IN PROGRESS, PLOTS MULCHED AND IN GOOD SHAPE

Jordan Cunningham:

I look forward to a new greenhouse and cold frame so we have space to increase our production;

I will keep better records of propagation and production;

Organize to make plant sale preparation go even smoother

Redo outdoor sun pad irrigation systems to have zones that will decrease over-watering problems.

## **GOALS FOR 2019**

### Dave Creech:

Construct a shade house at PNPC to replace that lost at Agriculture building Horticultural facility.

Associated with above, construct rat-proof cold frames for seedling production from acorns/woody seed and for liner protection. 300 square feet goal.

Not accomplished last year, move small portable building to PNPC.

Deer proofing the blueberry patch, JH Park, and Kiwi orchard on Starr Avenue. Hog proofing?

Plant SRC to a woody tree crop using one to five gallon material.

More sunlight to the blueberry research plot.

More sunlight to the Ruby Mize Garden.

Bring the Cub tractor back to former glory

Rework GM Garden to shrub riser placed to capture most of the plant material. Rework the valve boxes so we can have a riser with hose that we can use if needed.

Plant JH Park to dogwoods and redbuds utilizing a slightly raised berm strategy for this bottomland.

Create a rare and endangered plant "trail" along Sara's branch with signage utilizing Montgomery fund.

### Dawn Stover:

Travel and network more.

Improve record keeping for contract-grow projects.

Continue to source local ecotypes of native plants.

Improve trial garden.

Begin to pull together propagation data – maybe begin writing a guide?

Explore restoring Pineywoods Nacogdoches/Lufkin chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.



Jordan Cunningham:

New cold frame – acorns/woody seeds/liner overwintering, 300 square feet. Use our polycarbonate panels.

Implement watering zones in our outdoor sun pad irrigation systems to fill the needs of different watering requirements

Update the entrances to the Pineywoods Native Plant Center

Implement a new design in the front yard beds of the Tucker House

Anne Sullivan:

Continue to promote SFA Gardens as a wedding and event venue for the University and community and as an income source for SFA Gardens Education Programs. This past year saw the development of a wedding brochure which was distributed throughout the campus and community.

Helping to improve the “face” of the PNPC, Tucker House grounds and Brundrett facility as a way to promote SFA Gardens as an attractive venue for University and community events.

Participate in SFA’s Showcase Saturdays with information on the gardens, weddings and other opportunities for students coming to SFA.

Adding additional outdoor lighting (acorn lights) continues to be a goal of this position for the enhancement and safety of evening events held at the Brundrett building and PNPC. This improvement will help facilitate the use of after school and evening parking resources available at Raguet Elementary, adjacent to the PNPC.

Facilitate repairs needed inside the Brundrett Conservation Education building.

Elyce Rodewald:

Apply for TPWD COOP grant to support summer camp program

Renew NASP, angler education and TEEAC certification

Develop plan for natural playscape, Children’s Garden, Petrified wood amphitheater.

Investigate/improve acoustics in Ina Brundrett Building

Update signage at Pineywoods Native Plant Center, Mast Arboretum and Ruby M. Mize Garden

Update garden brochures

Jocelyn Moore:

Improve volunteer sign-in logs for tracking volunteer hours.

Offer teaching opportunities for SFA Junior and Senior students in any of the departments of Forestry, Education, Hospitality, and/or Nutrition.

Provide monthly trainings to Nacogdoches Naturally for ongoing professional development (First Aid, photography, mental health/suicide awareness, Aldo Leopold/Sharing Nature with Children philosophies, Nutrition: In Defense of Food Screening)

Recruit Hospitality and Forestry/Horticulture staff for hiring in August 2019

Retain current freshman and sophomore Nacogdoches Naturally staff for 2019-2020 school year.

Receive training to better understand the Environmental Education budgets, use of banner, and grant writing.

Share a minimum of 12 Facebook posts highlighting our family days, afterschool programming, Pineywoods Summer Camps, and SFA college student involvement throughout 2019.

Complete infrastructure design and implement needs for playscape.

Duke Pittmann:

Primary emphasis on taking maintenance up a notch in the Ruby Mize and Gayla Mize Gardens.

More efficient mulch teams.

Renovate the face of the Gayla Mize Garden with more color

Drainage improved in the Gayla Mize Garden. Precision placement of some new berms.

Plant more of the Gayla Mize Garden wetland to Hibiscus dasycalyx.

Rework the Gayla Mize Garden irrigation system.

Renovate the Ruby Mize Garden irrigation system to have live hoses available for the council ring.

Renovate the Ruby Mize council ring.

Ruby Mize Garden, South side, cutting back the Magnolia screen to 6' and removing all side limbs.

Ruby Mize Garden tunnel of weeping bald. Cutting out all the steel superstructure.

Remove and store all poly drip pipe on LaNana creek.

Malcolm Turner:

Fruit plots protected from deer and hog attacks.

Work with five Kiwifruit Research Project cooperators to establish plantings utilizing 'Bruno' rootstocks grown at SFA Gardens

Expand kiwifruit research plot with new rows on east side of our oldest plantings on Starr avenue.

Mar/April 2019 – Insure that our Moody research plots in excellent shape for our exit from that project.

John Dilday:

With primary responsibilities in the Mast Arboretum, the major goal for 2019 is to renovate the Elking Environment and bring it back to its former glory.

Take maintenance up a notch with an effort to a stronger mulching program.

## DAVE CREECH – DIRECTOR SFA GARDENS

### International

China. April 17-May 4, 2018.

Consultancy with Nanjing Botanical Garden with trips to Yunnan, Jiangsu, Hunan, and Zhejiang provinces.

Taxodium, Blueberry consultancy, and one presentation at the Hongyue World Garden Show and Conference, Haining, China. Trees and Shubs for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. 75 participants.

Sept 16 – 21, 2018. Host for New Zealanders Ross Stevenson and Murray Malone, Miko Asia, Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand. Spent week visiting Kiwifruit cooperator sites, including Simonton, TAMU College Station, Tyler, Daingerfield and Mt. Pleasant. Miko Asia, Ltd., is interested in a golden kiwifruit venture in East Texas.



### Publications and Presentations

Creech, David. 2018. Status of Blueberry Production in China. Invited lecture to the SE Fruit and Vegetable conference, Savannah, Georgia. Jan 11-14, 2018. 110 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. New Woody Trees and Shrubs: The Perspective from Texas. Wintergreen Trade Show and Convention, Duluth, Georgia. Jan 24-26, 2018. 60 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Grafting Workshop. Brundrett Conservation Education Building, SFA Gardens, Nacogdoches, TX. Jan 27, 2018. 30 attendees.

David Creech and Tim Hartmann. 2018. Status of Kiwifruit Research in Texas. Presentation at the annual conference of the Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Science, Jacksonville, Florida. February 3-5, 2018. 20 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. SFA Gardens/SFA campus. Presentation to Dr. Kulhavy's class, Feb 12, 2018. 11 students in attendance.



Creech, David. 2018. The Natives are Restless. Three hour training presentation to the Montgomery County Master Gardeners, Feb 13, 2018. 65 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Horticulture in a Changing World. **TNLA Green** 20(1): 47-48

Creech, David. 2018. Woody Ornamentals for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Landscape: A Texas Perspective. **Proceedings of International Plant Propagators' Society** 66: 349-352. ISBN 978-94-6261-170-2

Creech, David. 2018. Twenty Years Sauntering in China: People, Plants and Plans. Special Lecture Presentation to the Bill Welch Landscape Design School, George Bush Library, Texas A and M University, College Station, Texas, Feb 26, 2018. 92 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Alternative Fruits for East Texas/Native Plants. Training session (3 hrs) to the Mt. Pleasant Master Gardeners, Mt. Pleasant, Texas. February 27, 2018. 52 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Trees for NW Louisiana - an East Texas Perspective. Presentation to the Allen Owings Horticulture Symposium, American Rose Center, Shreveport, LA. March 9, 2018. 145 in attendance.

Bradford, Nicole. 2018. Bundled for a Roadtrip; Research project leaves town, bound for urban landscape (cover story on *Acer skutchii* project). The Daily Sentinel page one, March 15, 2018.

Creech, David. 2018. Winning trees and shrubs for a post Harvey world. Arbogate presentation. Mar 22, 2018. 47 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Is there life after live oaks? Landscape Architecture Continuing Education Seminar, Tomball, TX. Mar 24, 2018. \$1500 donation to SFA Gardens. 22 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Tour of SFA Gardens for the Korean Presbyterian Church group, Houston, TX. Mar 24, 2018. 52 in attendance.

Submitted a proposal to the Moody Foundation to renew the Moody Grant for another three years (April 2, 2018) – NOT APPROVED.

At beginning of year, we began second year of Texas Department of Agriculture grant (awarded Fall 2017) for kiwifruit research (TAMU/SFASU)

Submitted a proposal for a third year of funding by Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Block Grant for kiwifruit research by SFA/TAMU. \$101,680 requested. Notified that grant awarded and will begin in 2019.

Relationship with Environmental Design (Tomball, TX) has evolved to extend our research outreach with *Acer skutchii*, the Mexico mountain sugar maple. Project began with digging 200 large trees planted in January 2011 at the Science Research Center. Trees averaged 30' tall and 6" diameter. Trees destined for Fort Worth and Houston with 40-50 left behind as a germplasm repository. Contract will include payment for trees.

Submitted a trails grant to Texas Parks and Wildlife (Dawnella Rust, College of Education, PI) for a trail project from the Mast Arboretum, under College Avenue and then north to the PNPC. Total project \$229,264 NOT FUNDED . . . match question marks and some

Proposal submitted to the Walsh Foundation (Fort Worth, Texas) was submitted in 2018 and is pending. The proposal requests \$911,164 for a three year project and involves other faculty at SFASU. It's a multi-faceted project with a focus on trees.

At the close of this year, SFA Gardens has a brand new greenhouse. A 60' X 100' two bay, poly covered roof and sides, polycarbonate on end wall, cooling pads, exhaust fans, HAF fans, and a good controller. It's going to be a mean green plant producing machine. \$185,000 raised in a campaign for this project. Ultimate cost known only by those higher up in this administration.

Creech, David. 2018. Climate Change Friendly Woody Ornamentals for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Texas. Two presentations at the annual conference of the Texas Master Gardeners, College Station, Texas. April 4-6, 2018. 132 in two presentations.

Creech, David. April 12, 2018. I led a tour of 18 San Jacinto Master Gardeners through the PNPC, Ruby Mize and Mast Arboretum.

Creech, David. 2018. My Native is Good; Your Native is Bad. **TNLA Green** 20 (2): 19-21.

Hosted the Texas Fruit Growers Association Conference at the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building. Presentation on the "Wonderful World of Fruits at SFASU". April 13-14, 2018. 24 participants.

Hosted Dr. Mike Arnold TAMU graduate class for a tour of the gardens. April 13, 2018. 13 on tour.

Creech, David. May/June 2018. Is there Life After Live Oaks? **TNLA Green** 20(3): 23-24.

Creech, David. July/Aug 2018. China Showcases Dynamic Horticulture at World Garden Show. **TNLA Green** 20 (4): 49-51.

Creech, David. Figs for Home and Farm. Presentation at the East Texas Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Overton, TX. Aug 15, 2018. 45 participants

Creech, David. Woody Ornamentals for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Texas; It's a Brand New World. Presentation at the annual Texas Nursery Landscape Association convention, San Antonio, Texas. August 17, 2018. 47 in attendance.

SFA Gardens' Kiwifruit crops yields impressive harvest. Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel, Sept 9, 2018, Lifestyle section.

Sept 12, 2018. The China Connection. Presentation to San Augustine Rotary Club, 20 in attendance.

Sept 21, 2018 - Kiwifruit conference and field day. Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building, SFASU, Nacogdoches, TX. Four speakers.

Sept 22, 2018 - Creech, David. Woody Ornamentals for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Gulf South. Mobile Botanical Gardens, the first Marion Drummond Lecture. 100 in audience

Oct 5, 2018 - Plants and their Tall Tales. Southern Garden History Society annual conference, Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches, TX. 71 in audience.

Fall plant sale \$31,989 gross.

Creech, David. Blueberry Production in Containers - Opportunity or Headache? Presentation to the Texas Fruit Growers Association annual conference, New Braunfels, TX. Oct 16, 2018. 93 in audience.

Creech, David. Climate change friendly plants for a 21<sup>st</sup> century Galveston Island. Texas Forestry Association annual meeting, preconference presentation (with SFA Professors Steve Wagner, Jo Taylor, and Ken Farrish), Galveston, Texas. Oct 17, 2018. 12 participants.

Oct 20-24, 2018. International Plant Propagators Society Southern Region (IPPS-SR) annual conference, Chattanooga, TN. Served as President this year - Moderator for overall educational program. Very successful conference with 220 registrants. Trip made with two staff and two undergraduate students.

Nov 8 David Creech, SFA Gardens, Nacogdoches, TX. "SFA Gardens, Where Good Ideas Meet Insurmountable Obstacles." 45 in attendance.

Creech, David. 2018. Underutilized Trees for Houston. Urban Tree Conference, Harris County. November 16, 2018. 35 in attendance.

Dec 4, 2018. Tour of SFA Gardens to the San Jacinto Master Gardeners. 10AM-3:30 PM. 15 participants.

Creech, David. Nov/Dec 2018. The Brown Marmorated Stink Bug - More Than Just Another Bad Smell. TNLA Green 21(4): 32 - 33.

Fuller, Sarah 2018. SFA Gardens' Kiwfruit Crop Yields Impressive Harvest. **Sawdust** Winter 2018 vol 45 (3): 35.

## **DAWN STOVER – RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**

Greenhouse Technician: **Jordan Cunningham**

Student Workers: Laura Glenn, Casity King Lindsey Buggi, Peyton Button, Sarah Weatherford

Volunteers: Charles Bradberry, David and Linda Parish, Ken Braddock, Barbara Blackwell, Brenda and Harry Mansfield, Margie and Jimmy Rodriguez, Sherrie Randall, Peg Kern, Lil McInniss, Joyce Adams, Don Parsons, Don and Bonnie Orr, Gerry and Ramona Peacock, Jerrell and Derrell Durham, Mary Beth Hagood, Carol Dowd, Dawnella Rust, Jeff and Angie Brewer, Tammy Welch, Betsey Lowe, George and Pauline Patterson



## Garden Team

Gardens Supervisor: Duke Pittman

Gardens Technicians: Malcolm Turner John Dilday



Student Workers: Thomas Dimmitt, Samantha Holding, Cody Foster, Christopher Vondergroeben, Justin Blakely, Cody King, Calvin King, Cade Smith, Abby Dixon, Robert Morgan, Elzanne Naude

Community Partners: Garden Capital of Texas Committee, Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, Winston 8 Ranch, Four Seasons Garden Club, Flora Garden Club, Pines Garden Club, Texas A&M Forest Service, Nacogdoches Parks and Recreation Department

### Training

SFA: Receipts and Deposits, P-card refresher training, Ethics, Payment Card, Property Management Training,

Professional conferences: Perennial Plant Association, Industry Day

Professional Affiliations: Perennial Plant Association, Native Plant Society of Texas

### Presentations and Outreach:

January 5, 2018: "SFA Gardens Overview" presentation to Pines Garden Club, 25 attendees

January 11, 2018: "Pollinators and Pollinator Gardening" presentation to Rayburn Bloomers Garden Club, 26 attendees

January 15, 2018: "The Year of the Pollinator" presentation to Daughters of the American Revolution, 50 attendees

February 13, 2018: "Native Plants of the Pineywoods" presentation to Four Seasons Garden Club, 30 attendees

February 15, 2018: "Gardening for Pollinators" presentation to Conroe ISD Retired Teachers Association, 65 attendees

March 2, 2018: Host FFA Nursery/Landscape Career Development Event at Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, 150 students

March 20, 2018: Annuals and Perennials course for Rusk and Angelina County Master Gardeners, 30 attendees

March 21, 2018: "SFA Gardens Overview" presentation to statewide event planners through Nacogdoches CVB, 35 attendees

March 22, 2018: Garden tours with Smith County Master Gardeners, 22 attendees

April 5, 2018: Garden tours with Gregg and Harrison County Master Gardeners, 18 attendees

April 11, 2018: Garden tours with San Jacinto County Master Gardeners

April 12, 2018: Azalea tour, 20 attendees

April 24, 2018: Garden tours with Garden Club of Houston, 45 attendees

July 14, 2018: "Welcome to the Dark Side: Life Behind the Pine Curtain" Texas Discovery Gardens Native Plant Conference, 125 attendees

July 17, 2018: "Gardening for Pollinators" public presentation at Angelina County Agrilife Extension Office, 30 attendees

August 28, 2018: "Sexy Plants" presentation at Moore Farms Botanical Gardens, Lake City, South Carolina, 40 attendees

November 5, 2018: "Exploring the Fire Managed Forest" presentation to Smith County chapter Native Plant Society of Texas

November 28, 2018: Greenhouse tour with Huntington ISD ag students, 10 attendees

#### Garden Accomplishments:

Facilitated construction of gutter-connected greenhouse range

Facilitated SFA Gardens Kiwifruit Field Day and Wild about Woodies conferences

Increased diversity in the SFA Pineywoods Native Plant Center and Mast Arboretum plant evaluation trials

Continued development of East Texas sandy lands demonstration garden

Contract grow project for Environmental Design and other Nurseries in need of difficult to find species.

## **JORDAN CUNNINGHAM - GREENHOUSE TECHNICIAN**

I was hired in April of 2017. My job is to help manage the production in the greenhouses and the sun pads. I take care of all our crops for plant sales, as well as our seed and cutting propagation. I also help Dawn supervise the student workers.

### Training:

Industry Days in Overton and Nacogdoches June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

International Plant Propagators Society Southern Region 2018 Conference October 20<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>

### This Year's Accomplishments:

Two very successful plant sales!

Assisted in the hiring of student workers

Coordinated tasks for the student workers

Assisted in the hiring of our newest Senior garden staff

Developed a better system for tracking and locating crops in the nursery. This also made our plant sale preparations much easier

Stayed on top of propagation and production records

We have a new greenhouse now!!



## ELYCE RODEWALD – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

### Education Team

Coordinator: Elyce Rodewald

Assistant Coordinator: Jocelyn Moore

Student Workers: Yasmine Abdallh, Ron Clark, Kylie Blevins, Estrella Gonzalez, McKenzie Lucas, Alex Marquez, Dontavia Roberts, Mallory Smith, BreAnna Jackson, Tesla Rickman, Tara Nathanson, Brittini White, Victoria Williams

Interns and honor students: Tom Knapp, Beth Adams, Brittney Dunbar, Paige Coffey, Molly Smith, Gray Matthews

Education Assistants: Jim Lemon, Kerry Lemon, Chelsea Mouton, Kara Gordon, Zach Garvin and Jackson Weihe.

SFA Garden Volunteers: Ray Goehring, Ruth Heino, Mary Louise Jobe, Cindy Bashaw, Kerry Barnes, Rick Schafer, Ray Cole, Jessica Pruneda, Cliff Shackelford, Julie Shackelford, Robin Shackelford, Brent Burt, Jim Lemon, Michael Moore, Lana Welford, Jessica Pruneda, Jessica Mattox, Madison Law, Ryan Burns, Eamonn Thupmond, Michael Thornbill, Brendan Leland, Dan Chilek, Nick Peckham, Jeremy Lybrand, Sherrie Randall, Barb Stump, Mary Clifton, Terri Eastepp, Brittany Dunbar, Paige Coffey, Molly Smith, Gray Matthews, John Cornett, Jesse Wilkins, Candace McGinty, Justin Coleman, Chris Williamson, Hayden Campbell, Micah Wright, Jesse Wilkins, Asa Low, Collin Clark, Stacey Coesger, Elizabeth Davidson,



### Presentations

Coordinated and/or presented educational programs for SFA Gardens for over 10,000 participants. See table below.

Highlights include weekly after-school programs for Boys and Girls Club Members, hands-on environmental education field trips for all Nacogdoches ISD elementary students grades K-5, outdoor family fun days, bi-monthly garden seminars, four weeks

of summer camps and special events including the Little Princess Tea Party and five FFA Career Development Events (horticulture judging contests).

5-1-18: Environmental Education at SFA Gardens. Presentation to Rotary Club, Nacogdoches, TX.

9-10-18: Sharing Nature with Children. Presentation to Jasper Master Gardeners, Jasper, TX.

10-8-18: Environmental Education at SFA Gardens. Presentation to international educational leadership exchange group from Belize, Nacogdoches, TX.

10-23-18: Sharing Nature with Children. Presentation to forest recreation classes (FOR 251), Nacogdoches, TX.

11-5-18 and 11-12-18: Project Wild activity training. Presentation to forest recreation students, Nacogdoches, TX.

#### SFA Student Involvement

Environmental Education programs at SFA Gardens advanced the University mission by enhancing excellence in teaching, learning, creative work and service and by creating new learning opportunities for SFA students. Six students completed required internships and honors class projects by participating as teachers in the after-school program, family days or summer camp experience. Over 200 students enrolled in science methods courses taught by Drs. Alan Sowards, Leah Kahn and Paula Griffin also gained hands-on experience in curriculum development and instruction in an outdoor classroom through their participation in Bugs, Bees, Butterflies and Blossoms and Wild About Science.

#### Community Partners and Volunteers

Pineywoods Audubon Society, Boys and Girls Club of Nacogdoches, Texas A & M Forest Service, Boyette Consulting, City of Nacogdoches Parks and Recreation Department, Keep Nacogdoches Beautiful, Pineywoods Beekeepers Association, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, US Forest Service, Nacogdoches Junior Forum, Nacogdoches Boys and Girls Club, NRCS

Community Partners and volunteers donated 1,981.5 hours of service to SFA Gardens in 2018. This donated service is valued at \$46, 367.10.

#### Training

At SFA, attended payment card refresher training, human trafficking awareness training and ethics online training.

2-24-18 Nature Explore Workshop, Houston, TX. This educator **workshop presented**, inspiring, research-based **curriculum that** supports comprehensive learning with **nature**.

#### FMLA

Leave taken May 1-September 8

### **JOCELYN MOORE – ASSISTANT COORDINATOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

#### Nacogdoches Naturally Education Program:

Once weekly after school program for 20 Boys and Girls Club Members grades 2-5 during 2018.

#### Family fun days:

January 20, 2018: Nacogdoches 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seed Swap at PNPC

February-November, 2018: Assisted with weekly educational field trips for students grades 2-5

February 17, 2018: Bird Day – community event at PNPC

April 7, 2018: Earth Day with Spring Plant Sale – community event at PNPC

April 28, 2018: Breakfast on the Farm – community event at the SFA Beef Farm

June-July, 2018: Pineywoods Summer Camp Programs for children ages 4-15

September 29, 2018: Nacogdoches Naturally and Nac Gardens Service Learning Project Family Work Day in the PNPC children's outdoor learning playscape

October 5-6, 2018: Facilitated outdoor education games and camping at the Nacogdoches Public Library's BIG READ kick-off Camp Out at Festival Park





October 24, 2018: Healthy Halloween “Insects and Pollinators” booth – family event at Festival Park

November 29, 2018: Family Harvest Feast for Nacogdoches Naturally – students, staff, parents and family members welcome to share a meal students prepared at the CEB building at PNPC

#### Presentations/Outreach:

January-December, 2018: Weekly garden education program offered for 20 students, grades 2-5 at Carpenter Elementary School Garden.

January – December, 2018: Attended monthly dinner meetings to collaborate with the East Texas Cultural Alliance (Caddo Mounds, Stone Fort Museum, Lufkin Forestry Museum, Nacogdoches Public Library, Texas Forest Trails and SFA Gardens) for best practices and resource sharing. Current project is planning collaborative volunteer recruitment and training program.

February 16, 2018: School Garden Teacher Training – facilitated teacher training in collaboration with Texas A&M AgriLife Eat, Learn, Grow, Go! at PNPC.

November, 2018: Held Outdoor Education for Children and Project WILD trainings for Dr. Stevens’ class Rec and Human Development. Twenty SFA students then taught Project WILD lessons to Nacogdoches Naturally.

May 4, 2018: Implemented Water Catchment System at Carpenter School Garden with SFA school garden intern.

June 2, 2018: Offered free public gardening class at the Nacogdoches Public Library: “Beginner Garden Questions”.

July 6, 2018: Offered DIY worm bin lesson to students and families at Dunbar Primary “Summer Book Worm” event.

June 23, 2018: Presented the design and utilization of the growing playscape of Nacogdoches Naturally during the Permaculture Design Course Graduation.

October 21, 2018: Facilitated Nac Gardens Service Learning Project at Carpenter Elementary School Garden with SFA fraternity students.

November 10, 2018: Facilitated Nac Gardens Service Learning Project at Caddo Mounds to build native seed stock for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Seed Swap.



### Grants and funding:

January – December, 2018 2018: Received in kind donations from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to support Nacogdoches Naturally gardening and cooking programming.

April 7, 2018: Recipient of Sustainability Committee funding of \$538.49 for Earth Day food.

June, 2018: Recipient of a scholarship donation from Resilient Nacogdoches totaling \$250.

December, 2018: Hopeful recipient of \$1,500 Project Learning Tree GreenWorks! Grant for children's outdoor learning playscape projects.

### Trainings:

January 13-14, 2018: Intensive weekend training on Trees and Forest Systems

February 16, 2018: School Garden Teacher Training – SFA Gardens Outdoor Education with Children and Gardening Basics and Texas A&M AgriLife Eat, Learn, Grow, Go! at PNPC

February 17-18, 2018: Intensive weekend training on Urban Design

March 17-18, 2018: Intensive weekend training on Earthworks Design

April 21-22, 2018: Intensive weekend training on Natural Building

May 26-27, 2018: Intensive weekend training on Final Project Design

June 4-8, 2018: Pinewoods Summer Camp/Outdoor Education Training

October 6, 2018: Foraging hike and cooking with Meriwether at Caddo Mounds

November 7, 2018: Invited and hosted National Association of Interpretation president Jessica Maddox to train Nacogdoches Naturally education team about the app iNaturalist

November 2, 2018: Social media and digital organization training with Marty Price of Texas Forest Trails, member of the East Texas Collaborative Alliance

### Other:

January-June, 2018: Worked weekly with SFA school garden intern, Tom Knapp, to help support Nacogdoches Naturally and other school gardening programs.

July 11-15, 2018: Attended 2018 National Children & Youth Garden Symposium at Cornell University.

January-December 2018: Attended monthly Healthy Nacogdoches Coalition meetings, facilitating meetings for the School and Community Gardening committee Nac Gardens.

November 28, 2018: Hosted four interns from the SFA Hospitality and Nutrition programs to help with our family feast.

September-December 2018: Hosted Urban Forestry volunteer weekly for Nacogdoches Naturally gardening and cooking projects.

### **DUKE PITTMANN – SFA GARDENS SUPERVISOR**

I am the SFA Gardens Supervisor and have been on staff since October 2009. I'm an SFA Horticulture graduate (2008). I grew up in Mexia, Texas and developed an early love for gardening before graduating from Mexia High School. Most of my duties are associated with garden maintenance and managing a number of garden projects. Most of my maintenance responsibilities are in the Ruby Mize Garden and Gayla Mize Garden which include irrigation management, weed control and removing dead/dying plant material. I have prepped beds for planting. I was partially responsible for a drainage improvement project in the Gayla Mize Garden, a work in progress. I have assisted in planting many trees and shrubs.



## **JOHN DILDAY – GARDEN TECHNICIAN**

I earned my Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Stephen F. Austin State University in May of 2018. While at SFASU I worked as an intern under Dr. Jared Barnes as a trials and research manager. After I graduated I came to SFA Gardens as a Garden Technician to work primarily in the Mast Arboretum, dealing with maintenance issues such as irrigation, construction of new garden beds, removal of dead/dying plant materials, and being quick on my feet when new challenges present themselves in the gardens.

In the past few months, I have been knocking out one area at a time throughout the arboretum as the summer came to a close and winter began. On a broad scale, I have been cleaning up areas from normal maintenance issues, but a large part of what has been done is the aftermath work of seasonal floods along the creek. Drainage improvement has been a constant goal and will be a constant goal for the months to come. Another major step I am taking is on the south end of the Agriculture building on campus called the Elking Environment. So far I have improved the look of the east entrance of the garden and plan on the continuation of improving the Elking Environment.

My goals, looking forward to 2019, include the continual pressure to make the Elking Environment a beautiful outdoor space again and match the aesthetic of the rest of the Mast Arboretum, as well as giving the area its own flare. As for the rest of the arboretum, my goals are to keep overall looks of the gardens beautiful, as well as safe for visitors.





## ANNE SULLIVAN – PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

The Program Associate position was created in May, 2016 for support and expansion of existing programs including membership; booking, contracts, scheduling and oversight of events including weddings in the Brundrett Conservation Education Building; coordinating the quarterly SFA Gardens Newsletter between staff and marketing; preparing for quarterly Board of Advisors meetings; contracts and accommodations for speakers for the Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series; coordinating garden bench memorials; assisting with garden accounts, grants, publications and travel; and other duties as assigned. During the 2017-18 fiscal year, garden memberships totaled 82 members, fewer than last year, but with more expected after the end of the year.



Two acorn lights were installed at the Brundrett Conservation Education Building for the enhancement and safety of evening events at that facility. Garden memorial benches increased in 2018 following an article in the newsletter about donating a bench in honor of a loved one. A wedding brochure was designed and distributed around campus and in the community promoting SFA Gardens wedding opportunities.

Over 93 SFA and community meetings, luncheons, seminars, lectures and workshops were held during the year in the Brundrett Conservation Education Building attended by over 1500 people, in addition to outdoor education lessons and activities conducted by Education Coordinator, Elyce Rodewald for area school children and families, and garden seminars conducted by SFA Gardens staff and guest lecturers. The 2018 Theresa and Les Reeves Lecture Series was attended by approximately 500 guests.

Trainings completed in 2018 include: 1) P-Card Refresher training, 2) Receipts and Deposits, 3) Payment card training, 4) EEO Laws and Discrimination Prevention, and 5) training for participation in SFA Marketplace after implementation of that service was facilitated for SFA Gardens memberships.

## MALCOLM TURNER – GARDEN TECHNICIAN

I began working at SFA Gardens in March of 2017. My responsibility is to oversee the work being done with kiwifruit, muscadine grapes, blueberries, figs and the Moody Gardens trial beds on Galveston Island. I now have several student workers assisting me in taking care of these projects which means managing their time and efforts as well.

Since starting here, I have been given the opportunity on several occasions to travel to local and regional conferences. This has allowed me to meet many well-respected garden, nursery and landscape professionals and given me new insight into how others in our industry operate.

Much of my work in 2019 will be a carryover from 2018.

We began fencing in a little less than one acre in the Jimmy Hinds Park on Austin Street in 2018 to prevent the local deer population from eating our young kiwifruit. Shortly, we will begin expanding the fence to encompass the muscadine grape vineyard and allow for several more rows of kiwifruit rootstock.

For much of the same reason, we fenced in the original kiwifruit orchard on Starr Avenue, between the Grounds Transportation Department and Lanana Creek. We worked with Drewery during the new bridge construction and with Oncor for the new overhead power lines installation to limit any loss on the present kiwi orchard trellising system. This coming year we will be expanding the orchard by adding several rows. The trellis will be strengthened to correct for some structure removal that was necessary to accommodate the new bridge.

The blueberry plot located next to the Music Preparatory building on Raguet will also be fenced soon. Once done, we will be replacing some of the original plants with newer varieties to expand the number of cultivars we currently have in the ground. We will also be trialing growing blueberries in SmartPots, 20 gallon fabric pots, that will sit on top of ground.



The fig plot is mostly maintenance at this point. We will be filling in some open spots with new plants this spring.

The Moody Gardens trial beds in Galveston looked wonderful throughout most of 2018. Sadly, due to security concerns of their own, the airport installed a new fence which resulted in the loss of nearly 1000 linear feet of planting space for us. We still have 500+ feet of open space to be planted. There are also several plants that will need to be removed and relocated as they have reached or exceeded the maximum height we are allowed there.

Lastly, I have a small nursery pad at the Grounds Transportation department where many of the plants reside until I have need of them. This year I expect to change the irrigation system to be a little more flexible so that when I am watering trees I am not simultaneously drowning small plants.



## GARDEN BEAUTIES



*Parrotia subaequalis*, Chinese witchhazel



*Calycanthus floridanus* 'Burgundy Spice'



*Quercus virginiana* 'Grandview Gold'



*Franklinia alatamaha*





*Clematis 'Sapphire Indigo'*



*Lobelia puberula*



*Monarda fruticosa*



*Gaillardia 'Lemon Drop'*



## WE BUILD A NEW SUN NURSERY PAD

With the new greenhouse coming at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center - and the decision made that we must build on the east side of the existing Jaderloon poly Quonset house – SFA Gardens cheerfully faced the costs and labor needed to build a new nursery pad on the N side of the Horticulture facility. The nursery pad utilizes ADS drainage pipe to insure water leaves the site quickly.



## A NEW GREENHOUSE ARRIVES!

After a two year campaign and two years of SFA greenhouse committee work, we have a brand new two-bay poly Quonset greenhouse. This Atlas house covers 6000 square feet and enjoys 8' side walls. It's heated and cooled and uses a Wadsworth temperature control system.





## ONCOR MAKES A VISIT

On the major disruptor end of things, ONCOR's high voltage line in Nacogdoches received an upgrade in 2018. New pylons and wire were installed with a really gentle touch on the property. We lost very few woody trees in the right of way and ONCOR was very accommodating to the SFA Gardens collection nearby.



ONCOR uses large fiberglass mats to hold up heavy equipment on water saturated bottomland soils. While we lost a couple of trees in the weeping bald cypress tunnel, the damage was minimal. Thank you to Travis Davidson and the ONCOR team for bringing this project in with our garden integrity in mind!



## VOLUNTEERS

Without volunteers SFA Gardens doesn't exist. Plant sales, garden and nursery maintenance, environmental education, and event management, the volunteers to it all.





## EDUCATING ADULTS

We had many visitors last year, including . Master Gardeners, Garden clubs and school age kids. The Theresa and Les Reeves lecture series continues to bring in a good crowd once per month, every second Thursday.









## EDUCATING OUR YOUNGEST CITIZENS

Nacogdoches Naturally



SFA Gardens educates students across Nacogdoches and surrounding counties during field trips, summer camps and an afterschool program. Homegrown and kid-cooked feast to share with Nacogdoches Naturally families, with the help of SFA Nutrition and Hospitality students!



Nacogdoches Naturally student discovers a rodent skull in an owl pellet during a Project WILD lesson. SFA students in the Intro to Rec and Human Dimensions class became Project WILD certified while helping to teach our after-school program a series of environmental activities.



#### LITTLE PRINCESS TEA PARTY MARCH 2018





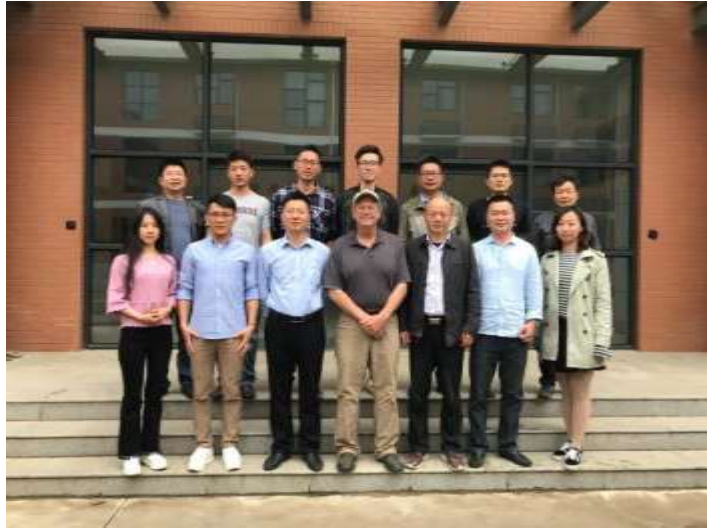
## CHINA APRIL/MAY 2018

Dr. Creech's itinerary included a presentation at the World Horticulture Conference, trekking Yellow mountains, visiting blueberry enterprises in the Yunan, Taxodium extension projects and woody ornamental production.





Professor Yin Yunlong's Taxodium Improvement team, Nanjing Botanical Garden, Nanjing China.



Taxodium is a heavily utilized tree in China. Roads, parks, highways, canals and wetland projects are wide spread.

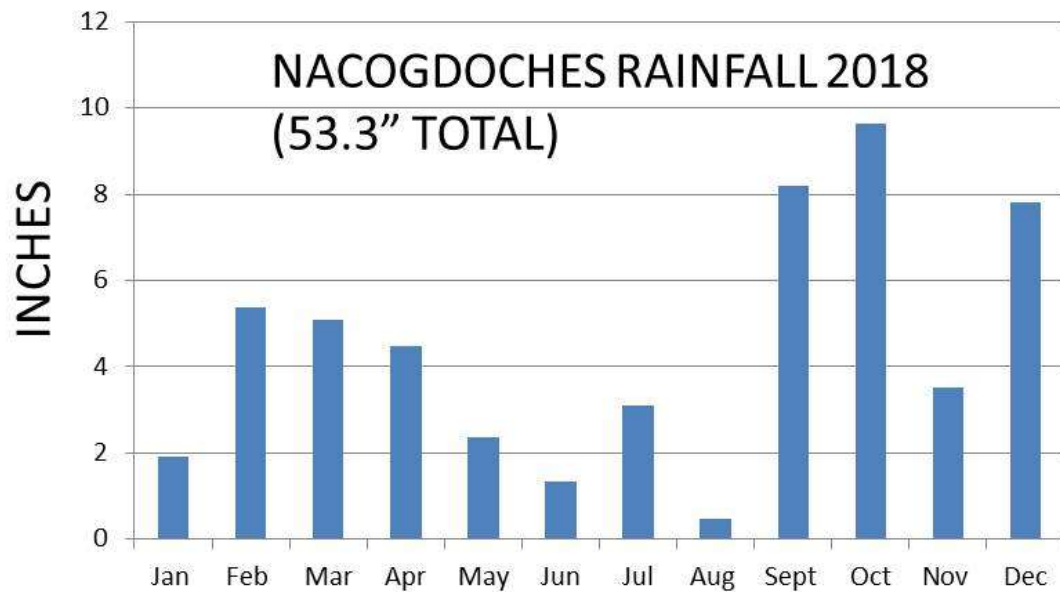


Blueberry production in the Yunnan is on the rise in both open field and protected culture strategies.

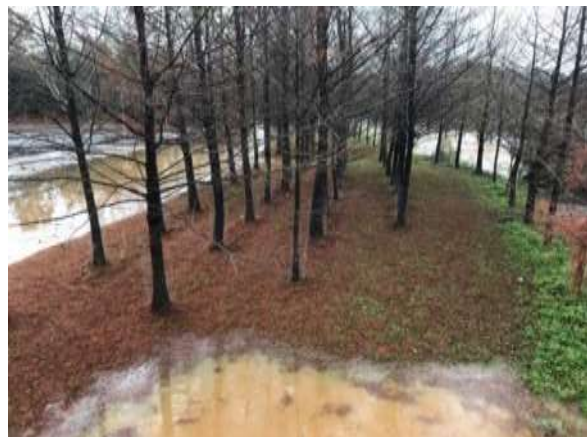


## CLIMATE

Climate in 2018 included a long cold winter (1050 hrs < 45F), a hot, dry summer and a mild rainy Fall and early winter.



In mid-January 2018, temperatures fell to 10F for two nights in a row. Two floods in December 2018 wreaked havoc on our LaNana Creek plantings.





## MOODY GARDENS RESEARCH PROJECT

2018 was the third year of this interesting project to evaluate new salt tolerant woody ornamentals for Galveston Island.





## KIWIFRUIT RESEARCH AT SFA GARDENS

A bumper crops of golden kiwifruit produced big excitement on our small research plot. Our plantgrowing efforts have resulted in partnerships with five cooperating farmers with a foundation of rootstocks. Project is supported by a Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Block Grant with TAMU's Tim Hartmann, our partner on this adventure.





**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kiwifruit Field Day**  
**Pineywoods Native Plant Center**  
**2900 Raguet Street**  
**Stephen F. Austin State University**  
**Nacogdoches, TX 75962**  
**Sept 21, 2018**



9-10 Dave Creech, Director SFA Gardens  
 10-11 Tim Hartmann, TAMU Extension Horticulture  
 11-11:30 David Anderson, Anderson Food Sales and Marketing  
 11:30 -12 Ross Stevenson, Miko Asia, Rotura, New Zealand  
 12-1 Lunch at the PNPC  
 1-4 Tour nursery and research plots

Registration is \$25. For more information: [dawnstover@sfasu.edu](mailto:dawnstover@sfasu.edu) or 936-468-4404



Mr. Tim Hartmann has part of his PhD work here at Jimmy Hinds Park. Tim is testing a range of varieties for their performance both here and at College Station, Texas.





**OTHER FRUIT PROJECTS:** The muscadine planting is progressing at Jimmy Hinds Park with over 60 varieties in the evaluation program. Deer remain a problem and the planting will be deerproofed in 2019. Cooperation with UGA and USDA Poplarville has led to testing several promising selections.



The SFA Gardens blueberry evaluation plots are at the north end of the Pineywoods Native Plant Center.



**Fig planting at SFA Gardens (60 varieties) survived the January cold snap although a good number died to the ground to send up shoots in the spring.**





## MEXICO SUGAR MAPLE PROJECT

Two hundred of our Mexico Mountain Sugar maples (*Acer saccharum* ssp. *Skutchii*) were dug and are being moved into colonies near Fort Worth and Houston, Texas by Environmental Design, LLC., Tomball, TX. The skutch maple is drought tolerant, fast growing and has good alkalinity tolerance. This project is a long term genotype X environment study of this interesting species.



*Acer skutchii* at Walsh City near Fort Worth, Texas