

# SFA Gardens NEWS

## Notes from the Director

By Dr. David Creech

A while ago, I was sauntering in the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden thinking the fall 2018 maple show wasn't going to be that great. Things didn't look right. Maybe we've finally had too much shade in that garden. Perhaps the summer drought beat the foliage back too much, particularly the dissectums. Too much rain in October made the place soggy, and maybe that weakened the plants. Well, I was wrong. Thanksgiving arrived and during the next few days, the place decided to explode. Our Facebook friends began posting views, and by the time I got back from Thanksgiving, the place was at peak show. Wendy Floyd's Facebook pictures of the place are to die for, and Tim Howell, an avid gardener, photographer, plant enthusiast and garden booster, let us share one of his best (See Page 2).

The big news is we have a brand new greenhouse for Christmas. After two years campaigning to raise the funds and two years of planning, the Atlas Quonset greenhouse was constructed in nine days in November by a savvy team from Georgia. We can't wait to move into this gutter-connected, two-bay, 60- by-100-foot poly house, which is heated and cooled and features 8-foot sidewalls.

It's going to be a mean, green plant-producing machine. Everything flowed smoothly with Bill Richardson and Cox Contractors managing the project. Good things happen to those who are patient, persistent and socially skilled. Dawn Stover said I'm two out of three, which isn't all that bad. A big thank you goes out to all who donated to this project with special thanks to the Moody Endowment as the lead gift.

For the Texas Forestry Association annual conference held in October, our Moody Gardens research project was showcased as a preconference seminar and follow-up tour of the research plots. Drs. Steve Wagner and Josephine Taylor presented their interesting work with mycorrhiza and salt tolerance impact. Daniel Morgan, graduate research assistant, under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Farrish, director of SFA's Division of Environmental Science, presented his master's work on treatments to ameliorate the salt burden in the soil. It's been three years since we created the plots and the highest tides

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Photo by Tim Howell

have yet to intrude into the plots. When that happens — and it will — that will be the first significant torture test for this amazing collection of woody ornamentals. Thanks go out to the Moody Endowment for funding this exciting project and Malcolm Turner for tackling the burden of plot maintenance in such fine fashion.

As part of the 2018 kiwifruit crop, we undertook a consumer preference survey with 110 respondents. See our results in the graphic to the right. Our conclusion is our golden kiwifruit crop passed muster. Quality and consumer acceptance is not a problem. The problem is consistent production. This project is supported by a Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops block grant, and in March 2019, we will be planting five new fields with cooperating farmers. I am pleased to announce that the TDA has awarded the project a third year of funding, and we're excited to be working with Tim Hartmann at Texas A&M University and our five new cooperating farmers in Texas.

We're perfectly poised for a great

year. The new greenhouse tops the list. Getting that project off our plate and settling into the new outdoor nursery has been disruptive — the gorilla in the room — but all that is about to change. SFA Gardens staff members Dawn and Jordan Cunningham are making sure the plant sale next April will be one of our best. Duke, Malcolm and John, SFA Gardens staff members, are on the ground checking off the never-ending list of routine chores, as well as tackling some exciting new projects. The 2019 Theresa and Les Reeves lecture series is in place. We've got a plethora of seminars and workshops planned. Anne Sullivan, our administrative assistant, does a remarkable job of dealing with proposal details, purchasing and budget headaches, and keeping her boss out of the doghouse. Elyce Rodewald and Jocelyn Moore continue to carry the mission of environmental and horticultural education to thousands of our youngest citizens. Thank you for supporting this great garden adventure in Nacogdoches. Until next time, let's keep planting.

## Kiwifruit Survey Results

- 1) Only 21 percent had ever eaten golden kiwifruit.
- 2) On a 0-10 scale, golden kiwifruit averaged 8.72 on an overall quality index.
- 3) Of those who ate the golden kiwifruit, 83 percent thought eating the skin was fine.
- 4) About 72 percent preferred golden kiwifruit over green kiwifruit.
- 5) Approximately 96 percent said they would buy the fruit in the store.



**From left:** A group tours the SFA Gardens Moody Gardens research plot at the Texas Forestry Association Conference in Galveston. Drs. Steve Wagner and Josephine Taylor from SFA's Department of Biology explain their research on mycorrhiza at the Moody Gardens research plots. In November, the construction of the Atlas Quonset greenhouse was completed.



## Creativity Without Borders

By Kylie Blevins

I believe most can agree that we live in a generation where curiosity is shutdown. Through the use of teaching methods like memorization and formula sheets, kids are taught from a young age that an answer is either right or wrong. When kids believe this, they become timid to logical discovery and thoughtful exploration — the most precious gifts life has to offer.

Wouldn't it make more sense to nurture a child's inquisitive nature and allow it to take root? At Nacogdoches Naturally, we do exactly that! During our afterschool program, children are asked questions and challenged to rationalize, not memorize. They are given the opportunity to explore for themselves.

This fall, Nacogdoches Naturally students were given the opportunity to get their hands a little dirty, find

objects in nature and simply create anything they wished by designing stunning eco-art. As students shared their pieces with their group mates, their peers accepted it without judgment as a work-of-art — creativity without borders.

As someone who has experienced teaching in the public school system in South Carolina, has worked at a youth adventure camp in Texas and is now a counselor for Nacogdoches Naturally, I have seen firsthand that a child's curiosity is at the center of all learning. I also have learned that a child's curiosity can become dulled if it is not fed. This is why the day we created eco-art was such a precious day for me as a counselor and caretaker of children.

From digging in the dirt to making a healthy smoothie on the blender bike or creating art from leaves and playing tag, children are allowed to discover life. You wouldn't imagine the smiles on their faces when they get to do so!

- Blevins is a junior majoring in English and a student assistant at SFA Gardens.



## I'm Thankful for my Neighbor's *Acer barbatum*

By Anne Sullivan

OK, I admit I'm a little intimidated writing articles in the same newsletter with Dr. Creech, Dawn Stover and Elyce Rodewald, all of whom are excellent writers and experts in their fields of horticulture and outdoor education. But one thing I've got going for me is that I love trees, so what I lack in knowledge about horticulture hopefully I make up for with a passion and appreciation for trees.

During the Thanksgiving break, I spent quite a bit of time looking out my kitchen window, pacing myself in preparation for the holiday meal scheduled for Saturday of that week,



not Thursday, due to family scheduling issues. I also was stressing about how I was going to fit a growing number of family and guests into my little house for the big event. As the week progressed, I couldn't help but notice from my kitchen window a beautiful golden tree in my neighbor's yard, just beyond my driveway and hedge. It was in full fall regalia, and I enjoyed watching it change a little more each day as I executed that day's culinary challenge. The tree was nothing short of stunning. Dr. Creech identified a picture of it as *Acer saccharum* var. *floridanum*, also known as *Acer barbatum*, our native maple then turning yellow and

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showing off in Nacogdoches in time for Thanksgiving.

I was so inspired by the beauty of that tree that, after checking the Weather Channel to confirm Saturday's forecast as 70-ish, I decided that tree could be the perfect backdrop for a children's Thanksgiving table outside my little house on the driveway where there was plenty of room. Six little girls ages 3 to 11 had their own children's table outside on the driveway framed by that gorgeous native maple. And they all stayed and played outside, while the adults enjoyed an adult Thanksgiving dinner inside with plenty of room and quiet. Next year, if the timing of the tree's turning and the weather are in sync, we'll all eat outside. This year, I was especially thankful for the perfect timing of our local fall foliage, a warm day and my neighbor's *Acer barbatum*. Next plant sale, I'll be sure to get one of my own.



## Falling Into Winter

By Dawn Stover



Shumard oak,  
*Quercus shumardii*



White oak, *Quercus alba*

It may seem odd reading about fall color in the winter newsletter, but when “fall” color occurs on the cusp of November and December in the SFA gardens, it's not too far from the mark. Every year, beginning in late September and early October, I get calls, emails and Facebook messages asking about the timing of the gorgeous fall color in our gardens. I'm often met with incredulity and doubt as my answer is always, “after Thanksgiving.” It's often well into December before we're graced with the explosion of color when our foliage reaches its potential.

The Gulf South is not generally heralded for its fall color, although we have plenty of brilliant yellow and coppery-bronze foliage to contrast with our ever

present, evergreen pine curtain. I think we simply yearn for the brilliant shades of red and purple folks in the Northeast regularly enjoy. While those colors are a bit rare here and can wildly fluctuate from year to year, we do have claim to some spectacularly good years of color — even if it happens as fall is ending and winter begins.

To think about fall foliage in the South, we first have to start with the pigment that provides the colors abundant in our region. Carotenoids produce the yellows and oranges with which we are most familiar. They are present in foliage, although their colors are masked by the green produced by chlorophyll during photosynthesis — the process in which plants create energy from sunlight, carbon dioxide and water. In fall, as days shorten and trees begin entering dormancy, photosynthesis ceases and chlorophyll molecules begin to break down, removing the green mask that hides the carotenoid pigments present in leaves. Sweet gum, elm, hackberry, sassafras, red bud, Southern sugar maple and hickory are reliable examples of brilliant yellow color in East Texas. As much as I appreciate the rare reds and purples, they pale without the contrasting golden tones we take for granted.

At this point, there's the potential to see a spectacular show of brilliant reds and purples. Or not. Anthocyanins are the pigments responsible for those colors that we don't dare take for granted. They don't exist in foliage year round, but are produced in fall as cooler temperatures



occur. It is suspected that anthocyanins are produced as a sort of “sunscreen” to help prevent sunburn to the leaves as trees reabsorb nutrients from the aging leaves. Other theories suggest that the red color is a deterrent to pests. No matter what the physiological explanation might be, we sure do enjoy the view.

Anthocyanins are only produced when conditions are favorable. Ideal conditions include cool temperatures, especially at night, sunny days and dry conditions that follow adequate summer moisture. After the prolonged hot and dry end to this summer, my bets weren’t on a good show of foliage. The early fall rains and two cold snaps before Thanksgiving must have done the trick because the foliage everywhere is spectacular — even in the forests

where there is not supplemental irrigation.

There are more than a few Japanese maples that provide the vibrant red and purple colors we often covet, but many other plants put on a good show. This year, reddish fall color is exceptionally spectacular with dogwood, black gum, farkleberry, red and chalk maple, shumard and white oak, and oakleaf hydrangea.

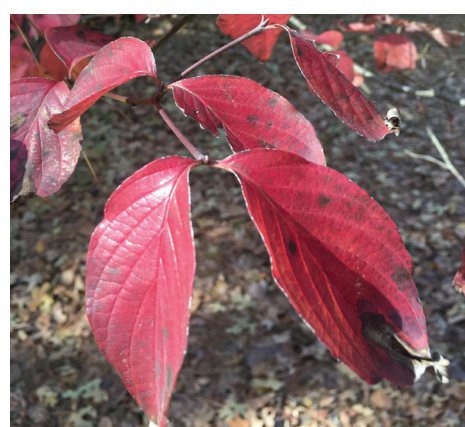
The show will be over by the time this newsletter reaches you, but you can mark your calendars for Thanksgiving of next year with a reminder to start looking out for the colorful foliage in the SFA gardens. In the meantime, our camellias are coming into season, so there are still plenty of beautiful reasons to visit the garden. I’ll see you around!



Oakleaf hydrangea, *Hydrangea quercifolia*



Farkleberry, *Vaccinium arboreum*



Dogwood, *Cornus florida*

## Collaborative Project Educates Students on Outdoor Education

By Elyce Rodewald



One of SFA’s overarching goals is to provide transformative experiences for SFA students. This fall, SFA Gardens education staff members partnered with SFA’s Department of Elementary Education and Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture to offer students opportunities for high-impact, experiential learning.

Pre-service teachers from assistant professors Drs. Leah Kahn’s and

Paula Griffin’s science methods classes participated in Wild About Science, a hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning excursion at SFA’s

Pineywoods Native Plant Center. In class, students were certified to teach the Project Learning Tree curriculum. They researched, prepared and shared PLT lessons to area fourth and fifth graders. While fourth and fifth graders were learning about energy flow through food webs, adaptations, camouflage and tree anatomy, SFA students were learning about classroom management in an outdoor setting, engaging students in experiential learning, adjusting to weather conditions and the importance of preparation and flexibility.

Griffin included this experience in the coursework for her online students.

“Online teacher candidates have limited opportunities to engage with students. Wild About Science provided specific and focused time with whole classes of students during which they implemented inquiry-based instructional strategies and assessment techniques, monitored and adjusted instruction repeatedly, and practiced classroom

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management skills,” Griffin said.

This project for Griffin’s online class provided a unique teaching opportunity for distance education students. “Teaching in the outdoor classroom is like nothing they have ever experienced,” Griffin added. “Feedback from online teacher candidates is overwhelmingly positive, and the majority report they will continue to look for ways to use the outdoor classroom in their future teaching assignments.”

Kahn included this event in her course to encourage students to teach outdoors and to expose them to an invaluable resource in the community.

“My hope is that the students will remember their experience at the PNPC and the impact it had on students and will then pursue these kinds of opportunities in their own communities,” Kahn said.

SFA pre-service teachers involved in Wild About Science also gave positive feedback on their experiences.

“SFA should continue to offer these types of field experiences to education students. This event prepares future educators by requiring them to plan, practice and implement activities in an unconventional location. These field experiences give students the opportunity to practice their teaching and learn from the experience.”

Another student said, “I learned that when science is experienced outside, it makes it way better. We had kids look at trees and observe the differences and attributes. It felt so special to teach outdoors.”

Dr. Pat Stephens Williams, associate professor in the SFA Department of Forestry, certified her forest recreation students to teach the Project WILD curriculum in class. One of the students, Keenon Lindsay, saw an opportunity to share his new knowledge with children in the SFA Gardens afterschool program, Nacogdoches Naturally. He encouraged classmates to commit to teaching lessons, and available teaching opportunities filled quickly. Nacogdoches Naturally students were excited to learn with the forestry students about owl pellets, how energy moves through a food chain, carrying capacity of habitats, animal tracks



SFA elementary education and forestry students worked with area fourth and fifth graders on a collaborative project involving outdoor education.

and wildlife sampling techniques. Nacogdoches Naturally students benefited from in-depth science lessons and also from interacting with SFA students who are passionate about their profession.

At SFA Gardens, we are proud to facilitate these SFA-community partnerships. Experiential learning for Lumberjacks leads to experiential learning for future Lumberjacks. We continue to plant seeds and change lives one student at a time.

## Planting 101

By Dr. David Creech

In the early years of the SFA Arboretum, students planted most of the trees and shrubs in labs. I would put the plants out before the lab, make a few demonstrations, and then the students were off planting. Of all the steps to woody tree establishment, it’s my guess that the No. 1 problem is planting too deep. In general, it’s always best to plant trees and shrubs so the top of the root ball is at or just slightly above grade. Of course, it depends a bit on the species.

Bald cypress, being swamp lovers, are quite tolerant to

deep planting. On the other end, blueberries planted just 2 to 4 inches too deep often die in the first year. In 2010, Dr. Michael Arnold, Texas A&M University horticulturist, and colleagues published an article investigating the effects of transplant season, irrigation and planting depth effects on landscape establishment of bald cypress and sycamore (Arboriculture and Urban Forestry 36(2):57-65.) As you might have guessed, bald cypress was quite tolerant of being planted a bit too deep. The sycamore was not. In





other studies, Mike's team proved the value of planting at grade or slightly above, and there's real value in a thin inch-or-two-wide layer of mulch and watching to make sure you don't overdo it at the base of the tree.

It's not uncommon to find even trained horticulturists underestimating the degree of "sink" that might occur with a too-deep planting hole. Whether dug by hand or by using a PTO-driven auger on a tractor or Bobcat, it's important to take into account plant sink. If you're on top of a strong tractor working a PTO-driven auger, it's easy to drill too deep. A deep planting hole with loose soil is prone to settle and with it the newly planted tree. After things have settled in a few months, if you can't see the flare at the bottom of the tree, something is wrong. On too many planting efforts, I often find myself returning to the plots later and having to "lift" plants to get them right. Lesson: Don't plant too deep, take into account settling, and dig a hole no deeper than the root ball.

My conclusions for how to plant a tree are personal. Some people like a \$10 plant in a \$50 hole. Some like a hole for a nickel. Need for speed is another driving force. If you have a thousand 3-gallon azaleas to plant, and "Bobby" is spending a half hour per plant making it perfect, well, it's time for a conversation.

It's good to have some general rules. Do we always follow them? No, but we try. I have long ago accepted that when you get 10 horticulturists around a peach tree to prune or a planting hole to plant, well, there's likely to be an epic battle of opinions. Never forget what Reginald Farrer said: "The shed blood of disagreeing enthusiasts is the seed of the garden, and the hostilities of gardeners seem only equaled in righteous acrimony by those of patriarchs and popes, Anglican bishops and other persons of profession presumably holy." The great enthusiasm and joy of gardening is there's room for everyone. It's your plant, so plant it and appreciate all the free advice you've been given.



## Tips and tricks for better plant establishment

- 1.** Plant in late fall. In our region, in most cases, this makes sense. However, if the plant is a bit winter-freeze sensitive, it's best to plant in the spring, such as figs.
- 2.** Dig a wide planting hole that's no deeper than the root ball.
- 3.** The width of the planting hole should be two to three times the width of the root ball. On tighter soils, take the high end. On good horticultural soils, you can make your circle a little smaller.
- 4.** Break up a root ball that is root bound. Cut the winding roots. Four slice cuts on really tight root balls can get roots going in the right direction.
- 5.** Backfill with parent soil and water in.
- 6.** On tight soils or waterlogged soils, it's best to berm up slightly. Be aware of the bathtub effect with tight soils; water by rain or irrigation quickly fills your planting hole and then it takes forever to drain away. If this is the case, woodies should be planted on slight berms or on gently sloped mounds. Do not make a steep volcano.
- 7.** Use amendments if you wish. We generally don't. We want the new plant to get used to its new home right away. We might add a little peat moss or composted pine bark fines to the planting hole, but try to keep this down to 10 percent or less.
- 8.** Mulch. We believe in it. We like pine bark and pine straw. For bark, go for a wide circle, a thin layer, 1-to-2 inches max and avoid too much mulch near the root collar.
- 9.** Use fire ant control from planting through the first year or two. Fire ants love new plants. They dry out root balls and remain a chronic landscape issue in East Texas.
- 10.** Keep a wide, weed-free circle the first year.
- 11.** If you have deer, you have my sympathies. A 4-foot chicken wire tube around the plant secured to a tee post seems to work. A frisky buck thrashing his rack can destroy trees quickly.
- 12.** Pay attention to irrigation the first year or two. Irrigation depends on the species.



## Jump Start Spring Fever with SFA Gardens' Winter Seed Swap

By Jocelyn Moore

Winter is the best time to spark your spring fever with a hot cup of tea, seed catalog and wish list in hand. SFA Gardens welcomes fellow spring fever sufferers to join in Nacogdoches' fourth annual Seed Swap beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Brundrett Conservation Education Building at the PNPC.

"The seed swap is great because I always come home with something I've thought about growing but never actually bought before. You get to talk to the grower and learn how a particular crop does around here," said seed saver Ryan Ragsdale.

The seed swap tradition is not only about gleaning seeds, but it also is about sharing stories, tips and resources. It's about strengthening the garden capital community of gardeners and seed savers. This year, swappers are invited to share stories of saved seeds with SFA historian Dr. Perky Beisel in a recording studio that will be next to the swap.

Leftover seeds will be donated to the Nacogdoches Public Library Seed Library and shared among school, community and individual gardens.

"The purpose of the NPL Seed Library is to develop a collection of heirloom seeds that grow best in this area and to revive endangered seeds," said Elia Ali, circulation clerk and organizer of the NPL Seed Library.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations are accepted and support Nacogdoches Naturally, the SFA Gardens afterschool gardening program. For more information, contact Jocelyn Moore, assistant environmental education program coordinator, at [moorejv@sfasu.edu](mailto:moorejv@sfasu.edu).



### How the Nacogdoches Seed Swap Works:

All viable flower, herb, vegetable and tree seeds may be swapped, whether purchased at a nursery or saved from your own garden. Viable seeds are typically not more than a few years old and have been stored in a dark, dry and cool environment. Saved seeds that thrive in the East Texas climate are highly encouraged.

Participants should bring their seeds labeled with the variety, region and year collected or bought. Seeds do not need to be individually packaged. They can be brought in their existing packets or containers. Envelopes will be provided for attendees to take home small samples of seeds.

Volunteers will help attendees display their seeds on appropriate tables — vegetable, herb, flower, tree, mystery, etc. After all the seeds are displayed, swapping begins. There's no limit to the number of seeds participants may take home, but generally, participants should bring home about as many seeds as they brought to the swap.

New to gardening and don't have any seeds to bring? That's OK! There are always plenty of seeds to go around, and newcomers are welcome to take home what they need to begin their garden.



## Mistletoe in Early Texas

By Anne Sullivan

I have a favorite book I put out at Christmas called, "Christmas in Texas." I found it at an antique store downtown, Brick Street Antiques, and I use it as a coffee table book at Christmas. Besides being attractive and festive, the book tells all about Texas history, old ways, our Texas heritage and the holidays. I opened it the

other day, and here's what I learned about mistletoe's place in Texas history.

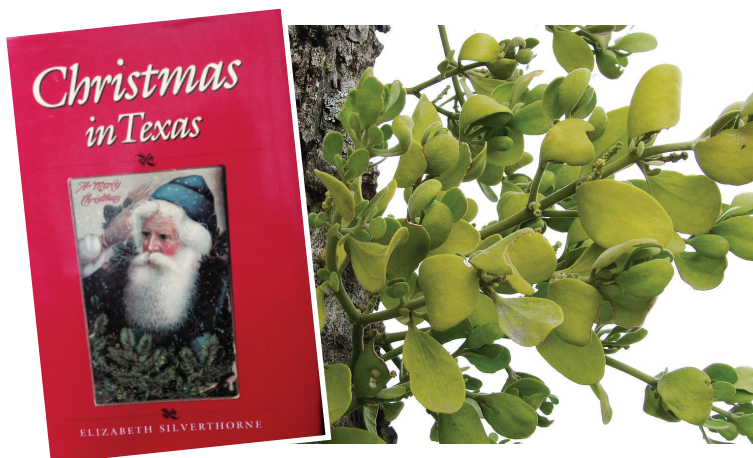
When the early British settlers arrived in Texas, they found mistletoe plentifully growing. At Christmas, they used it in their decorating. They combined it with greenery into a "kissing bough." The Celtic druids



regarded mistletoe as a sacred plant and hung sprigs over doors to ward off evil spirits and ensure fertility. This may have something to do with the idea of permitting a license to kiss under its boughs. In any case, the custom quickly spread in 19th century Texas, as it seems people needed more of an excuse to kiss than in recent times.

Early German settlers to Texas also found ways to incorporate mistletoe into their Christmas décor. Back in their home country, the plant had long been regarded as having magical properties. So, they were pleased to find it in large quantities in Central Texas and used it in their holiday decorating.

Just exactly how mistletoe became part of the Christmas tradition is too far back in history to know for sure. Sacred to the druids and used for decoration by the early Germans, the Vikings believed mistletoe protected



Mistletoe is a holiday staple with a unique history. Today, 95 percent of the world's crop is grown in Central Texas.

their houses from fire. The Swedes believed in placing mistletoe in their horse stalls to prevent witches from riding or injuring their steeds. Nowadays, Texas Scandinavians and other Europeans, Canadians and Americans use mistletoe as a charming holiday decoration with romantic overtones.

Today, 95 percent of the world's crop of mistletoe is grown in

Central Texas. Harvest time is the first two weeks of December. The harvest produces half a million pounds of this parasitic plant, which is removed from mesquite, oak, blackjack, chinaberry and other tree hosts. It is then graded, packed and shipped around the world.

Who would have thought that such a common plant would have such an interesting history? I'm adding a touch of mistletoe to my holiday décor. Merry Christmas, and happy 2019!



## Snapshots of fall



Photos by Robin Johnson and Kasi Dickerson

Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture





*Camellia japonica*,  
'Georgia National Fair'



*Camellia sasanqua*,  
'Moonshadow'



*Camellia japonica*,  
'Tama-no-ura'



*Camellia sasanqua*,  
'Midnight Maroon'

## Winter Beauties

By Jordan Cunningham

Winter can be gray and sad. The sky is gray, the trees are bare, and most of our flowers are hiding dormant underground. But a walk through our gardens will show that not everyone is sleeping! Our camellias are showing off right now. Camellias are known as the tea plant. They are native to Asia, China and Japan, but they are well adapted here. We know them as evergreen shrubs or small trees that become covered in flowers. Camellias grow best in part shade under our trees where they are protected from high winds and our blazing Texas heat. Most species of camellia prefer moist, well-drained, slightly acidic soils. There are many species of camellia. Here are a few of the great ones.



*Camellia sasanqua*,  
'Pink Butterfly'

*Camellia sasanqua* is always the first to catch my eye. They bloom first, showing off from fall in September to early winter in December. This is one of the smaller camellias. Usually, the leaves are 1-to-2 inches long. The flowers are often small, about 2-to-4 inches wide, and the overall growth

habit is tight. The flowers may be small but they are very profuse. The blossoms can be single or double and range in color from white to many different shades of pink. The ground around these camellias often is littered with the petals of spent flowers.



*Camellia sinensis*

*Camellia sinensis* is the original tea plant, which is where we get the tea we drink. The leaves are harvested by hand at various stages of maturity to make white, green and black teas. *Camellia sinensis* also flowers in the fall or as early as October through December. We have a

few in the shade garden at SFA. The flowers are small, single white blossoms with a yellow center. I had heard rumors about the fragrance of these little blossoms, but I had to smell them for myself to be sure. The flowers of *Camellia sinensis* smell just like fresh, warm tortilla chips!



*Camellia japonica*,  
'Frank Houser'

*Camellia japonica* blooms later, from December until spring, usually around March. Camellias of the japonica species are, overall, usually larger. Their leaves are about 4 inches long, and the flowers are 3-to-5 inches wide. The overall growth habit is larger and more sprawling. The flowers can be single or double and have

a much wider range of colors from white and pink to shades of red, lavender and yellow. When the flowers have finished and fall from the plant, they usually fall to the ground in one piece. *Camellia japonica* is more common in the landscape. It grows much slower than other species of camellia, but the large blooms make it worth the wait.

These are only a few example cultivars of *Camellia sasanqua*, *Camellia sinensis* and *Camellia japonica*. There also are many other species of camellia that are equally if not much more beautiful than these. The unique fall and winter bloom time makes camellia a great addition to a garden. In the cool of fall and the cold of winter, these lovely flowers in shades of white, pink, red and lavender are nature's little reminder that spring is just around the corner.



# Upcoming Events



## **JAN. 10: THERESA AND LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES**

Hear Jay White from Texas Gardener magazine discuss "Home Garden Trends: Average Gardeners, Mean Vegetables and Distributed Benefits."



## **JAN. 26: SEED SWAP**

Bring viable seeds to our seed swap from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Brundrett Conservation Education Building, located at 2900 Raguet St. This event is free, but donations to Nacogdoches Naturally, SFA Gardens' afterschool program, are appreciated.



## **FEB. 9: GIFTS FROM THE GARDEN**

Learn to create personal care products from natural materials with Dr. Jodi and Duke Pittman of Pittman Farms in Garrison from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brundrett Conservation Education Building. Cost is \$25 for SFA Gardens members and \$35 for non-members.



## **FEB. 14: THERESA AND LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES**

Listen as Linda Gay from Arbogate in Tomball explains how to use, "Climbers, Twisters and Viners: Using Vertical Space."



## **FEB. 16: GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT AND BIRD DAY**

Join members of the Pineywoods Audubon Society, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and National Association of Interpretation for a day meeting the birds of East Texas from 9 a.m. to noon at the PNPC. Participate in bird olympics, birdwatching, counting and more.



## **MARCH 8 TO 9: BIOBLITZ**

Team up with volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers and community members from noon Friday to 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the PNPC to

find as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi and other organisms as possible. This family friendly event will feature hands-on activities and games.



## **MARCH 9: FLOWER POWER**

Learn the basics of floral design and create your own arrangement with Jordan Cunningham, SFA Gardens greenhouse technician, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brundrett Conservation Education Building. Cost is \$25 for SFA Gardens members and \$35 for non-members.



## **MARCH 14: THERESA AND LES REEVES LECTURE SERIES**

Enjoy taking a "Walk through the Houston Botanic Garden: The Global Garden Revealed" presented by Joy Columbus, director of horticulture at the garden.



## **MARCH 15 TO APRIL 15: AZALEA TRAIL**

Follow the Nacogdoches Azalea Trail through our gardens. For more information and bloom reports, contact the Nacogdoches Convention and Visitors Bureau at [visitnacogdoches.org](http://visitnacogdoches.org).



## **MARCH 30: LITTLE PRINCESS TEA PARTY**

Enjoy tea party seatings at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. This is a gathering for mothers, grandmothers and friends to share with their little princesses, ages 3 to 10. Event costs \$35 per person. Make reservations online at [sfagardens.sfasu.edu](http://sfagardens.sfasu.edu) beginning Feb. 1.

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The free lecture series events will begin at 7 p.m. in the Brundrett Conservation Education Building. A drawing for plants from SFA Gardens will follow.

*For more information, contact SFA Gardens at (936) 468-4129 or [sfagardens@sfasu.edu](mailto:sfagardens@sfasu.edu).*



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WITH US.

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*“A forest of these trees is a spectacle too  
much for one man to see.”*

– David Douglas

