



## *Happy Holidays!!*

*A&M Garden Club promotes the love of gardening, floral design, horticulture, civic responsibility, landscaping, environmental concerns and garden therapy for men, women and children and encourages participation and support in educational programs for both the very young and advanced students.*

*A garden always gives back  
more than it receives  
- Mara Beamish*



**A & M**  
**Garden Club**



*Members of National Garden Club ~  
South Central Region ~ Texas Garden Clubs*

# A&M GARDEN CLUB NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2021

### CLUB MEETINGS

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 - No Board Meeting**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Regular Meeting** @ Peace Lutheran Church - Short business meeting followed by Holiday Potluck

**September-May: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fridays - Regular Meetings** @ Peace Lutheran Church - 2201 Rio Grande Blvd, College Station from 9:30am-11:30am

### EVENTS & SOCIALS

**December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - AMGC December Annual Holiday Social-Potluck** @ Peace Lutheran Church - 2201 Rio Grande Blvd from 9:30am-11:30am

**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - December Coffee Social** @ Martha's Home - 411 East McAlpine, Navasota from 9:30am-11:30am

**December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - Pilgrimage to Old Fort Parker**, Groesbeck @ Old Fort Parker- 866 Park Road 35, Groesbeck from 10:30am-12:30pm

# *Message from the President!*

**From Michele Wehrheim:** After a delayed start, due to an uncooperative car battery, a car load of five club members made a seasonal shopping and lunch pilgrimage to the Brookwood Community in Brookshire on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day. There were masses of poinsettias, Christmas cacti and other beautiful plants in the nursery shop area. Khris Thurmond brought home several interesting plant specimens for her yard while I found several unique and artistic items in the gift shop for people on my shopping list. In the beautifully decorated cafe, the citizens with disabilities served us delicious crepes and salads and herbal beverages. Greta Merritt drove Sandy Williams, Helen Quinn, Khris and me and we had great conversations during the car ride.

The next pilgrimage will be on Saturday, December 18th to Christmas at Old Fort Parker in Groesbeck.

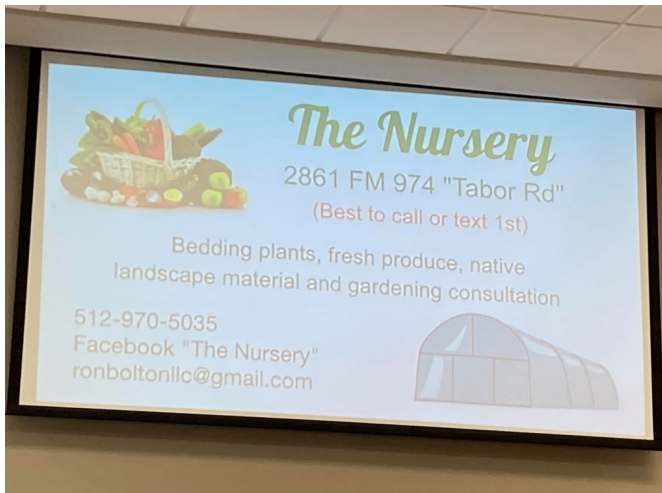




## ***November's Garden Club Meeting!***



Our Garden Club meeting was fun! We learned all about herbs; had nice plants & items at our Ways & Means table; had a special raffle to benefit our Guatemala gardening programs; and ate delicious snacks. We also discussed important issues during the business part of the meeting.



## ***Gardenista Trip to Guatamala! Lots of beautiful flowers and faces!***







*Gardenista Trip to Guatemala - The Flower Festival!  
(Flower Festival in Antigua, Guatemala) – Gorgeous  
photos!*



*Landscape Ornamental Plants at Finca  
Enon*



*Learning about Mayan agricultural  
systems at Ecofarm.*







The A&M Garden Club Guatemala Gardenista Trip looks amazing!! What stunning photos of the flowers, trees, fruits, and scenery! Helen and Michelle enjoy lunch under an umbrella and the club takes a tour of the Ecofarm. I've never seen such beautiful flowers before like the ones at Finca Enon! One day I will have to make it out there myself to see all this beauty!

***Texas Arbor Day was a success! We had plenty of Garden Club members who could make it to the event. Thanks for coming out!***



***Upcoming...***



## ***December Pilgimage!!***

**Where:** Old Fort Parker, Groesbeck,  
Texas - 866 Park Road 35

**When:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Time:** 10:30am-12:30pm

Members are encouraged to join! If you would like to come, please let Michele Wehrheim know at the Holiday Potluck. Please visit: <https://oldfortparker.org/> to learn more about this amazing site.



Photo courtesy of Trip Advisor – Old Fort Parker  
<https://tinyurl.com/57uepk6f>



## ***January Pilgimage!!***

**Where:** St. Francis Wolf Sanctuary,

**When:** January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**Time:** 10:30am-12:30pm

This site looks very exciting! Please join us if you can to see these amazing animals. More details to come.  
<https://saintfranciswolfsanctuary.org/>

## ***Coffee Social!***



December's Coffee Social will be held at Martha's Home at 411 East McAlpine St in Navasota, Texas. Please join us if you can! If you need a ride, please let one of the club members know and we'll be happy to come get you!



This is from November's Coffee Social at The Village Cafe, Bryan, on 11/19/21. Those in attendance were: Carmen Billings, Jill Dubec, Lois Hyndman, Greta Merritt, Jewel Rhea, Heather White, and Sandy Williams. We had a very interesting conversation about veterans, especially from WWII and the Vietnam Wars, life in the US and England during WWII, and missing our dads. There was a little garden talk too!



## What's Growing On?

**From Heather White:** at the Never Forget Garden Memorial for Veteran's Day. From Heather: 11/11/21 at Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial Park was the kick-off for the Never Forget Garden project. A&M GC is participating by having members on the committee and providing financial support. Garden Club members present were Jane Cohen, Sherry Ellison, Sherry McKenzie, Susie Ohlendalski, Judy Schafer, and Heather White. Donations to the project are being collected at monthly GC meetings. Thank you Heather! These are lovely.



Site of the Proposed Never Forget Garden

**Heather White:** Blue Star Memorial Marker placed years ago by A&M GC at Brazos Valley Memorial Park. The original installation was spearheaded by Idalia Aguilar, a longtime club member. The National Blue Star marker program was initiated through National Garden Clubs, Inc. This honors are servicemen.



Park Bench donated for seating across from the Never Forget Garden



SAR President Gaines, Chairman Never Forget Garden Committee Dr. Jane Cohen, Horticultur Professor G, Buerchner with proposed drawing at the site.



From Heather White: Rose won a combination planting from the November Speaker. Very cool!



**From Judith Shafer:** The Starfish now has two blooms, in the attachment with two blooms, the closest was two days after the first. The odor is very bad, like something dead, the other photo shows blow flies that soon showed up.

We have had this plant since early 1960s - found in yard of vacant house in Corpus Christi and took a piece of it. This is first time its bloomed in several years. You don't want to have it inside when it blooms due to odor. The blooms are 12 inches tip of petal to tip of petal. I have another relative of plant that has smaller maroon blooms that appear near base of its green parts. It does not seem to have the bad smell. Thanks Judith! These are quite interesting!



Two blooms (top)



Blow flies (left)



**From Sheila Fields:** My newest Amaryllis is blooming! I've loved/grown these beautiful plants for 25+ years. This is my first time to have two stalks and EIGHT blooms from one bulb. Makes me happy! 😊  
Sheila Fields



Just beautiful Sheila!!



**From Heather White:** I had the joy of going to the Mediterranean for 3 weeks.



The Oldest Bridge in Florence - check out that colorful landscape!



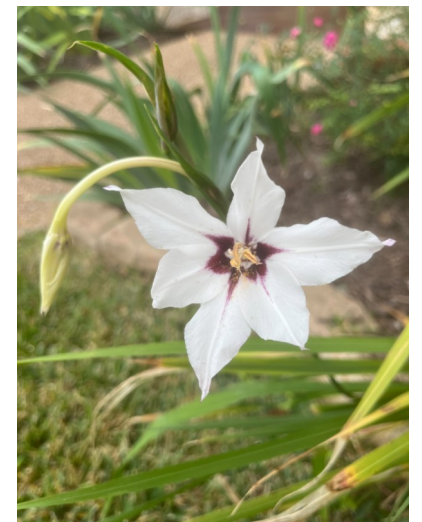
Ripe Olives ready for Pressing in Tuscany



Burano is know for its colorful houses - I loved the table “design” aspect of bringing color to the sidewalk cafe



Huge Lantana “trees” in Tuscany - yep those are cars next to it



Acidothera - Peacock Orchid  
Native to Africa, grows in clumps up to 3 ft tall from a bulbous orchid.

Love the design!



**From Jane Cohen:** District V meeting in Temple on Oct 27. A&M GC members with State President Gwen DeWitt (in center) and District Director Janice King (center right). A&M GC members attending, L-R: Helen Q, Michele W, Sandy W, Jane C, Khris T, and Sheila F (not pictured). Thanks to Michele for driving. And to Sheila for sharing Halloween treats. We all enjoyed shopping, too. Great way to meet other GC members, get ideas, and enjoy.

The second photo is from the Never Forget Garden Memorial kickoff. The Never Forget Garden Memorial was invited to introduce the NFG project at the future site in the 9 acre Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial (BVVM) at the BVVM Wall of Honor program on Nov 11, College Station Veterans Park & Athletic Complex. Over 300 attended. About 150 flyers distributed.

The NFG Memorial and monument will honor all missing and unknown service members who made the ultimate sacrifice, giving their lives and their identities to protect our freedoms and democracy. The NFG will include a monument, a NFG plaque, a memorial garden, and a park bench for reflection and "never forgetting" our patriots. Participating are local government agencies, parks, garden clubs and service organizations to promote the NFG and plant the gardens.

Thanks to the A&M Garden Club for supporting this community service. Garden Club members attending: Susie O, Heather W, Sherry E, Sherry McK, Judy S, Jane C.



***Thank you to everyone for sending in your photos!! It's amazing to see the kind of plants you all have in your gardens and where you travel. For all members: if there are any photos from trips, your garden or anything you find interesting, send them to me and I'll include them here. Another year is almost behind us, and a new one is soon to begin! I'm excited to see what we do next year as a Club. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all!***