

# SFA Gardens NEWS

## Notes from the Director

By Dr. David Creech

For those who garden, it's always humbling when Mother Nature explains who is really the boss. While this is no 2010-11 (yet), May 2018 in Nacogdoches was dry as a bone, and the heat the last half of the month was cringeworthy. Needing rain ties us fellow gardeners together. Our plan is to hunker down and save plants. SFA Gardens is a big place with a large collection of plant species and varieties. Getting water by drips or sprinklers to a thirsty young plant is critical. In fact, it's that first year that results in a long life or a quick death.

It's the young, rare, never-before-grown-in-Texas cultivar that sometimes lives on the dry side just a day too long. With solid set sprinklers, there are always plants on the fringe that get cheated. We call it the rain shadow problem. Plants and branches that block water mean dry spots. Sprinklers need a wide, unobstructed rain pattern to get good results. With drip watering, critters, such as squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, deer and pigs, are the main problem. I'm not sure if they are on a mission for water or just gnawing pipe to aggravate us. We keep pans out to provide our furry guests a nice watering station. Still, the leaks

continue. Whether a geyser or slow drip, it's a mess. There are wandering lines, which can mean emitters are a few feet from a young plant.

Clogged emitters are another disaster if not discovered in time. Duke Pittman and student assistants work daily to make the system work for the most plants. Older woody plants are less worrisome. It's amazing to me many woody plants that barely made it past the first year or two now own the place. It's all about survival and a smart establishment phase.

We do other things besides fight droughts. There's been great progress at SFA Gardens. We're proud of our new nursery pad on the north side of the Pineywoods Native Plant Center's horticulture facility, and we're close to firing up the irrigation system there. A new greenhouse is on the horizon with a 60-by-100-foot gutter-connected Quonset finding a home next to the existing Quonset at the PNPC horticulture facility. Stay tuned.

At the Science Research

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**Above left:** Mexico mountain sugar maples have been dug and prepared for transportation as part of a mega project to move the trees from the Science Research Center to Fort Worth and Houston. **Center:** The trees were loaded on a trailer and transported from Nacogdoches. **Right:** A new nursery pad is underway on the north side of the PNPC’s horticulture facility.

Center, a mega project to move 200 large Mexico mountain sugar maples, *Acer saccharum ssp. skutchii*, is underway. The 30-foot trees are finding a home in Fort Worth and Houston as part of a fascinating genotype X environment study being facilitated by Environmental Design. We will own a documented collection of trees with data that goes back to the original planting in 2011. Each tree carries its own label, and a map is being created to track three colonies.

Anne Sullivan initiated the installation of three new outdoor lights at the Brundrett Conservation Education Building and is developing a facilities use policy for the place. Elyce Rodewald is on leave, and we fortunately found the funds to bring Kerry Lemon on board part time for a few months. Jocelyn Moore remains on a mission to educate our youngest citizens, and the summer camps are thriving.

We’re in year two of the Texas Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Block Grant to support our kiwifruit research and have high hopes for year three. We’re relieved we have a good crop on the older vines, and the new plantings look strong. We’re connected with cooperators in Mount Pleasant, Tyler, College Station and Simonton to add some significant trial plantings, all using ‘Bruno’ as the rootstock. This project is shared with Tim Hartmann of Texas A&M University. At Jimmy Hinds Park, we’ve created a kiwifruit nursery complete with a deer-proof fence. In addition to wearing a kiwifruit hat, Malcolm Turner maintains the muscadine grape vineyard, the blueberry patch and our fig collection at the intramural field planting.

Our Moody Gardens project continues with new plants and a few on-the-ground adjustments. This project enjoys about two acres of rows dedicated to evaluating a wide range of woody ornamentals in a salt- and wind-challenged location. Drs. Ken Farrish, Steve Wagner and Josephine

Taylor have interesting graduate and undergraduate student projects in place, and the results are now coming in.

We think we’ve got a rough three months ahead. We’re here to help plants not just survive but also thrive. Recently, I was hunkered over a stretch of irrigation in the Gayla Mize Garden making some patches and replacing a few failing emitters. A couple with grandkids stopped nearby and asked if I worked here. I said, “Yes, I do. I’m in charge of plumbing.” They were avid gardeners from Houston and had visited the garden. They wanted me to tell whomever is in charge that they really liked the garden and it had a lot of interesting plants. They also noted the place was bigger than they expected. I thanked them and said I’d pass the word on to the boss. Until next time, let’s water something.



**Above:** Malcolm Turner keeps the Moody Gardens research plots in fine shape. **Right:** Students work in our new kiwifruit nursery in Jimmy Hinds Park.



## Yellow Mountains

By Dr. David Creech

Professor Yin Yunlong, a longtime friend at the Nanjing Botanical Garden, surprised me in Shanghai in April. While my head was still spinning from the flight, I learned I was off for a two-day adventure on Yellow Mountains! It's a bucket-list spot on Earth. Dr. Jianfeng Hua and Shi Qin joined, which only made the surprise better.

Last year, Dr. Hua was a visiting scientist at SFA with his wife and son, so it was great to reconnect. Shi Qin is Professor Yin's young, enthusiastic technician who epitomizes what the young generation in China is all about.

To stay on the mountain is a bit arduous. From our Huangshan hotel, it was a brisk 30-minute walk to the bus station. The bus climbs the mountain for about 30 minutes up to the cable car station, which is followed by a 30-minute steep ride to the base station. From there, it was a two-hour walk to the Shilin, a wonderful hotel where everything is carried in.

The Yellow Mountains are 60 square miles of an amazing collection of craggy peaks. China has prudently set aside 190 square miles as a buffer zone around the range to protect the site from development. The formation lies in Eastern China in the southern part of Anhui province. It's a World Heritage Site and as eerie a landscape as one can imagine with steep cliff sides and sharp, grotesque peaks reaching to more than 6,000 feet. The mountains are the backdrop to ethereal cloud blankets that roll in during the night. Looking down on the sea of clouds during an early morning sunrise is worth the trip. I didn't see

the mysterious "Buddha's Lights," which are strange circular rainbows that appear usually after a snowfall. The three tallest and best-known peaks are Lotus, Bright and Celestial Peak, and their steep rocky summits and windswept pines look like they belong in "The Hobbit." One expects to see



While in China, Dr. David Creech, director of SFA Gardens, hiked the Yellow Mountains, which are 60 square miles of craggy peaks.

a sky full of flying dragons and strange bird/animal creatures scurrying about. The mountains were created approximately 100 million years ago in the Mesozoic era when an ancient sea disappeared due to uplift. During the Quaternary Period, powerful glaciers shaped and carved the mountains into what we see today.

Vegetation varies with elevation. Mesic forests cover the landscape below 3,000 feet. Deciduous forests stretch from 3,000 feet to the tree line at 5,600 feet. Above that point, the vegetation consists of alpine grasslands. While the range enjoys great diversity, it's the odd-shaped pines that dominate the visual joy of the mountains, clouds and sunshine. The Huangshan pine (*Pinus hwangshanensis*) is perhaps the range's icon. It represents durability

and strength simply because the trees thrive with such a tricky start, basically growing from tiny cracks in the rocks. It's not a good start in life. However, those that survive and make it into the hundreds of years are shaped by wind and sun into beautiful forms. The pines

vary in shape and size with the most crooked wind-sculpted specimens considered the most attractive.

During our hikes, we encountered many plant standouts, including *Magnolia cylindrica* in fine flower, large *Cornus controversa* trees, *Rhododendron ovatum*, *R. anhweiense*, *Malus hupehensis* in bloom, giant *Pterostyrax corymbosa*,

*Enkianthus chinensis*, *Tilia japonica*, *Eurya saxicola* and trees reported to be *Dendrobenthamia japonica*, which look identical to *Cornus kousa*. The area is home to 1,452 plant species and one-third of China's bryophyte families. More than half of its fern families are represented in the mountains. Huangshan's moist climate also allows for tea production, and the lower slopes are known as one of China's premier green-tea-growing mountains.

It was a great trip made better by my Chinese friends who were unconcerned about my ability to go straight from an exhausting flight into a mountain-hiking adventure. After 21,000 steps and 119 floors climbed, I could have laid down on a board and been happy.



## Nacogdoches Naturally Inspires Healthy Fun

By Jocelyn Moore

SFA Gardens' afterschool program, Nacogdoches Naturally, finished another inspiring year of outdoor adventures and healthy fun. Students learned many cooking, gardening and outdoor skills. Highlights included building a log hop in the Secret Garden, planting native edibles like elderberry, squash and peppers, and cooking a multitude of healthy dishes.

Many students took these new skills home and inspired their parents. Early in the spring, we sent students home with pots, soil, a few veggie starts and seeds. For some families, this has been the start of their first garden. For others, it brought back memories of their parents' and grandparents' gardens. More than half of our families expanded their gardening efforts beyond a single five-gallon pot and built raised beds for vegetables. To say we are proud outdoor educators is an understatement! Seeing the happy faces and dirty hands of our students hard at work in their backyards has brought us much joy.

Why do we care so much about teaching edible gardening to kids? Besides getting to spend more time outdoors and learning valuable skills, it is amazing to see how excited kids are to try foods they have grown. Sneaking student-grown greens into scrambled eggs and including sweet peas and cucumbers into salads have made trying new vegetables (like bok choy) an enlivening experience. Without fail, children are more open-minded



about trying new foods when they've helped grow and cook them. What a delight to witness this time and time again.

These benefits aren't isolated to SFA Gardens' afterschool program.

In Nacogdoches, more than a dozen school and community programs have taken off and had similar results. Volunteers or busy teachers run many of these programs, so help from new volunteers is a constant need.



Contact Jocelyn Moore, SFA Gardens assistant environmental education program coordinator, at (936) 468-1863 or [moorejv@sfasu.edu](mailto:moorejv@sfasu.edu) to get involved with a school or community garden.

## Will the Real Milkweed Please Stand Up?

By Dawn Stover

When it comes to pollinators, there's perhaps no better poster child than the monarch butterfly. While butterflies in general are terrible pollinators, it's nice to have the monarch as a spectacular representative for the rest of the not-so-attractive pollinators. The plight of the monarch is well known, and the importance of planting milkweed as a larval food source is not lost on any gardener wishing to

aid in monarch conservation.

However, "just planting" milkweed is easier said than done. Milkweed species in general are notoriously hard to propagate, transplant and establish. One species, *Asclepias curassavica*, or Tropical Milkweed, is easy to germinate, plant and establish in warm climates (think Department of Agriculture hardiness zones eight to 10). Tropical Milkweed



is probably the most widely grown milkweed in the South, yet it is riddled with the greatest controversy.

Tropical Milkweed can be evergreen in mild climates — encouraging monarchs to lay eggs outside of their breeding season, which can disrupt their migratory pattern. Overwintering Tropical Milkweed can harbor *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*, or OE, a protozoan pathogen that can infect and kill monarch caterpillars that linger on milkweed species that don't naturally go dormant. All of our native milkweed go dormant in time to thwart both threats, so there are no worries for the monarchs visiting appropriately planted species from our eco region. So, what should we grow? There are a number of native milkweed in Texas, a good handful in the eastern part of Texas, and some that are relatively easy to grow.

One of the showiest and most notoriously difficult to establish is the Butterfly Milkweed, *Asclepias tuberosa*. It's tricky in the nursery, as it takes a long time to produce a mature plant, and they are extremely sensitive to transplanting and overwatering. This is likely why gardeners choose to plant the easy-to-grow Tropical Milkweed instead. In the landscape, Butterfly Milkweed prefer a sunny, well-drained environment with no disturbance. They also can go into a bit of transplant shock, going dormant after planting, so mark the spot and watch for the plant to re-sprout after acclimation. The foliage doesn't contain the milky sap with the toxic cardenolides that give monarchs protection from their predators, but the flowers are excellent nectar sources for monarchs and other native pollinators. Plus, its vibrant orange flowers are the showiest of the milkweeds in our area.

One of the most prolific

milkweeds is perhaps one that is overlooked. *Asclepias viridis*, Green Milkweed, is quite camouflaged in its surroundings since the flowers are green. Close up, they are stunning works of art, but from a distance, you have to know what you're looking for to distinguish them from all the other green. Once you've learned to spot them, you'll see them everywhere. Like the Butterfly Milkweed, they can be tricky in the nursery, but once their tubers reach some size, they are nearly bulletproof and exceptionally drought tolerant. I've seen it growing in a variety of soil conditions and have seen it blooming on and off from summer into fall. We've successfully transplanted some plants that were growing in a path to certain destruction. I'm quite fond of this species and am working to plant as much as I can at the PNPC.

A new-to-me species is the Redring Milkweed, *Asclepias variegata*. As I take more frequent treks in the wilderness, I'm seeing this plant growing in the shade. I'm excited for the opportunity to bring a shade-loving perennial into the native plant palette at SFA Gardens. I have not attempted to grow this yet, so a report on the ease of establishment is forthcoming. Now that I've found local seed sources, I'm excited to give this beauty a try. The inflorescences are stunning in nearly every stage with many individuals making up spherical umbels creating a snowball effect. Immature flowers look like little puckered, white buttons and then burst open with a purple ring between the petals and corona, hence the name, Redring Milkweed.

Finally, there's the ethereal Clasping Milkweed, *Asclepias amplexicaulis*. I was excited when I found this flower. It's strikingly unusual, and despite it not

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Butterfly Milkweed is one of the showier species with its bright orange flowers.



Green Milkweed is camouflaged in its surroundings since the flowers are green.



Redring Milkweed is unique in that it prefers to grow in the shade.



There is a remarkable inflorescence in the Clasping Milkweed.



looking like any commercial milkweed I've ever seen, I knew exactly what it was. The flowers are held on loose umbels with longish pedicels, so the inflorescence looks like a giant firework burst. It's at home in dry, sandy soils in bright shade. This is another milkweed I have little experience growing, so we'll keep working on it.

In addition to drawing in a host of pollinators, milkweed is irresistible to the oleander aphid, and you will often find plants covered with these small orange bugs. Using pesticides is out of the question, so I tend to let nature take its course. Some recommend blasting aphids off plants with a strong burst of water, but you

run the risk of blasting monarch eggs and tiny caterpillars off. Additionally, several beneficial insects parasitize oleander aphids, and getting rid of the aphids also will get rid of the good bugs. Planting a variety of flowers with different shapes, colors and seasons will encourage beneficial insects to come to your garden.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department published a comprehensive publication detailing milkweed species native to Texas. A free PDF titled "Identification of Milkweeds in Texas" can be found on the TPWD website.

Keep attending our plant sales. As



we encounter more local populations of native milkweeds, we'll be making them available at the sales. This fall, we'll have Green Milkweed from a Nacogdoches population.

## Lessons Learned While Sauntering Through China

By Dr. David Creech



Jim Berry at Yong Feng Nursery in Ninghai, China, with a colorful leaf sweet olive

I've always liked the word sauntering. It suggests walking in a slow, relaxed and unhurried manner. It's only slightly different from ambling or strolling. An old saying goes, "Come to China for a week, write an article. Come to China for a month, write a book. Come to China for a year, you can write nothing." With 25 trips to China in the past two decades, I get the implication. In China, there's always a surprise right around the corner. My time in

China is essentially divided into three arenas: 1) bald cypress breeding and improvement and mega projects to extend its use 2) a dynamic and growing blueberry industry and 3) nursery-related activities primarily with woody ornamentals.

If I had to call somewhere a base in China it would have to be the Nanjing Botanical Garden. Professor Yin Yunlong is my longtime collaborator and now a great friend. He is at the forefront of *Taxodium* research in China. I have watched his program grow from a few graduate students to a team of doctors and technicians, all working hard on a range of bald cypress projects. As part of his program, he is connected to many mega projects and works closely with the private/government nurseries to produce trees. All are cuttings grown from selections made in the past by Yin's program. I enjoyed a busy schedule of visits focusing on the huge *Taxodium* nursery and large-scale plantings in the Jiangsu and Anhui provinces.



Old *Podocarpus* topiary at the Hongyue Nursery in Haining, China

My second collaborator is Professor Yu Hong, who is responsible for blueberry research and development. She has been working many years as a scientist with this new crop in China. Remember this is a North American crop now being challenged to grow



in a different environment with new challenges. However, blueberries have grown from almost nothing to mega plantations and processing factories, and there's a growing middle class wanting to buy blueberries. As a blueberry scientist, Yu Hong has lined out seedlings of the better varieties and selected superior forms. We have six of her creations under evaluation at SFA Gardens. We spent a busy four days in the Yunnan province visiting field and protected culture blueberries of the no-chilled, low chill arena.

My third work arena in China is associated with the nursery industry. During my time in China, I attended the World Garden Show in Haining. China sets a high bar when it comes to conferences and conventions. Lavish banquets, entertainment and well-organized educational sessions are the norm. This conference was unique for me in that it provided "simultaneous translation." That is, every attendee got headphones and chose a language. Someone is doing a great job of translating on the fly. Add in the endless seas of horticultural displays and unique plants and we're talking quick information overload. Zhejiang Hongyue Horticultural Corporation was the primary sponsor, and its headquarters includes a hotel, convention center, outdoor and under tent exhibits, lavish display gardens, and a large nursery of varied woody and herbaceous landscape plants. The company cuts a broad swath. It is involved in the acquisition of agricultural and sideline products, technological research and development, consultancy, and technical training for flower and forest tree seedling production. The company also is unique in China by capitalizing on sales via a number of online platforms. It has alliances with internationally renowned companies and is poised to meet the development of the fast-growing gardening market

in China.

I was on the dais at the conference with some good friends, all of us invited to preach the gospel of adventuresome horticulture to our Chinese friends. Jim Berry (J Berry Nursery), Cecil Pounders (Innovative Plants, formerly of Mississippi State University), Gary Knox (University of Florida) and I had the opportunity to connect with great planters and some fascinating plants yet to call the U.S. home.

So, what was on the convention floor that surprised me? Big bonsais were beautiful, but their price tags shocked me. Big sculpted ancient specimens are revered as a way to convey family pride, make a business stand out or to say, "Hey, I have a lot of money."

Often dug from the wild in front of development projects, the biggest and best specimens make their way into owner's landscapes who are willing to pay for it. That happens a lot in China. At the Hongyue Hotel

entrance, two crepe myrtle specimens meticulously pruned and shaped to create a vase left Jim and me shaking our heads. A surprising amount of branded nursery product is making waves with the attendees. With so many balconies and limited garden space, it was exciting to see beautiful

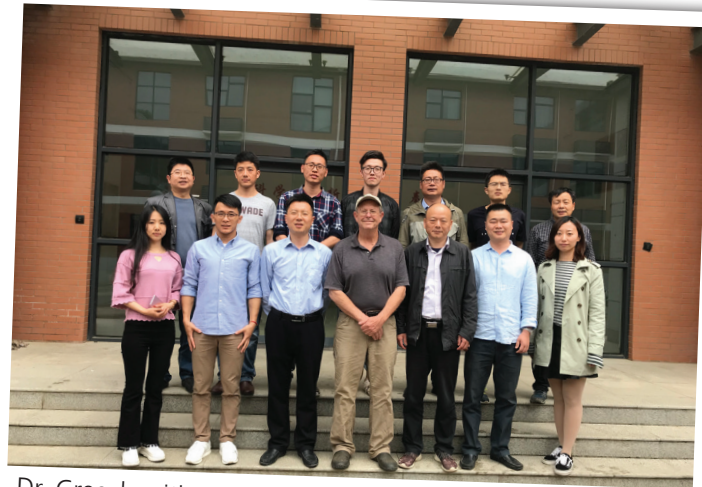
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Ancient sweet olives at the world Garden conference in Haining, China



Harvesting blueberries in China



Dr. Creech with Professor Yunlong's Taxodium improvement team at the Nanjing Botanical Gardens



Protected culture early ripening blueberries in the Yunnan province

displays of mixed succulents, annuals and perennials available for the growing consumer base.

Ever a tree person, I really liked a maroon and golden *Liquidambar formosana* at one booth. They absolutely need to find a spot in Texas. There's an ever-increasing demand for new and unusual products. The Chinese love color, and the displays of annuals and herbaceous perennials were first class. Another big surprise was how strong internet sales are becoming in China. A plant is only one click and one day away from your door.

If one word could describe China's horticulture, it would be dynamic. It's as if the whole country decided at once to

run outside and plant something. Reforesting the country is a mission from the central and provincial government, and it's happening at a pace we can hardly understand. With 650 million citizens now lifted into the middle class and with a millionaire being created each day, China is poised to become a global horticultural powerhouse. The opportunities for collaborations and joint ventures remain enormous, and it shouldn't be a surprise that many countries are coming to China to see how they can fit in and get a piece of the pie. It's complicated. Until next time, let's keep planting.

## Simple Flower Anatomy

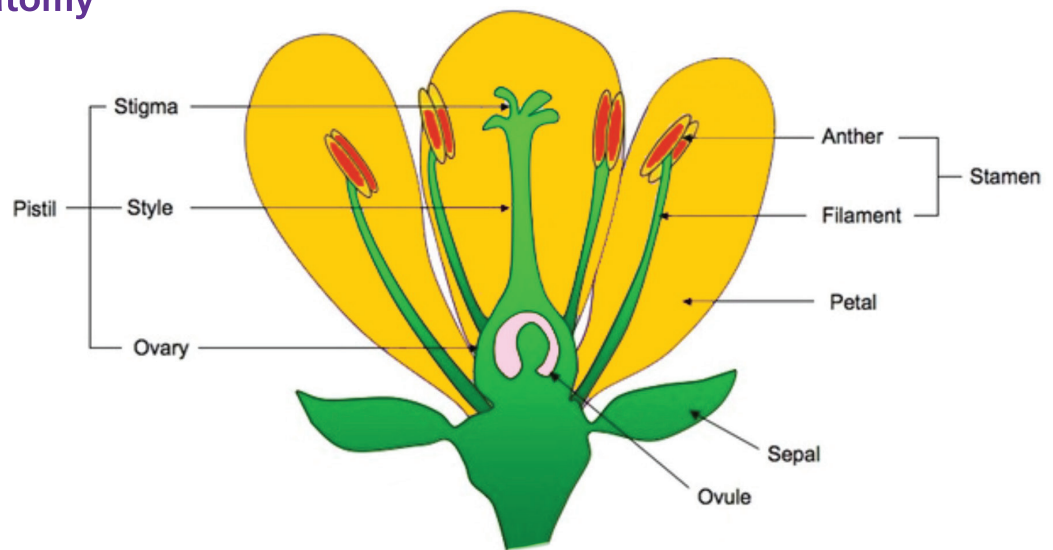
By Jordan Cunningham

Flowers are easily the most recognized part of a plant, but most people are not familiar with simple flower anatomy. To learn about the different parts of a flower, review the diagram to the right.

The petals aren't hard to find in this picture. Below them are the sepals. They look like small leaves under the petals. The sepals cover and protect the flower when it is still a bud developing into a bloom. When the flower blooms, the sepals remain at the base of the flower. Some flowers have showy sepals and no petals, like a dogwood. There also are flowers with neither. It's hard to imagine, but plants that are mostly wind pollinated don't need showy petals to attract pollinators. Many different kinds of grasses and trees have flowers with no petals or sepals.



Flowers from this sugar maple have no sepals or petals.



The most important parts of a flower are its male and female structures. For a flower to become a fruit or to produce seeds, the flower must be pollinated. This takes the cooperation of both the male and female structures.

The male structures of the flower in the diagram are tall and thin just inside the petals. The entire structure is called a stamen. The top part that holds the pollen is the anther, and the filament holds up the anther. Flowers can have many stamens or just a few. The stamen can be different colors and sizes. The pollen on the anther can be many different colors, too.

The female part of the flower, as a whole, is called the pistil, which is the structure in the middle. The stigma, style and ovary make up the pistil and, like the stamen, it can come in many shapes and colors. There can be a single pistil or several.

For pollination to occur, pollen from the stamen, specifically the anther, must be moved either by the wind, a pollinator or some other method to the sticky stigma on top of the pistil. From there the pollen travels down the style and into the ovary where fertilization occurs. This whole process





has to happen for a plant to complete its life cycle and for new plants to be produced.

These are the basic parts of every flower, but there are many different variations. Some plants have flowers without petals or sepals. Others have flowers with their petals fused together so it looks like one big petal, like a salvia. Some plants have flowers with both a stamen and a pistil. Various plants have flowers with many pistils that can each produce a seed, like a sunflower. Additional plants have flowers with stamen and separate flowers with

a pistil, like squash plants. Other plants have only flowers with stamen, and a different plant of the same kind will have flowers with only pistils, such as a holly. There are flowers without a stamen or a pistil, such as a double flowering quince.

No matter the color, shape or size, the beautiful flowers that surround us can all be described using some variation of these four parts. It is their differences that make up all the unique flowers we enjoy!

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**Food Al Fresco: Fresh Watermelon and Mint**  
By Anne Sullivan

This is not really a recipe but a combining of two wonderful summer ingredients: watermelon and mint. You'll need one seedless watermelon and one bunch of fresh mint leaves roughly chopped.

Cut the watermelon into pizza slices and sprinkle with mint. These are great for a summer picnic! For a refreshing summer libation, whirl up watermelon in your blender, add a sprig of mint to each glass and enjoy!

This idea came from my Mother's Day gift, "Kathryn at Home: A Guide to Simple Entertaining," by Kathryn Ireland. She's my favorite decorator. I first saw her on a show titled "Million Dollar Decorators." She was a total mess — disorganized, quirky, colorful and very Bohemian in her approach to decorating indoors and out. I loved her. The show was full of drama, including deadlines, demanding clients and decorating near disasters.

I researched Kathryn and fell in love with her easy Bohemian chic style in flowers, fabrics and home décor. I tried the above combinations, and they are great and easy. That's what summer is all about. Enjoy!





## My Favorite Reds

By Jordan Cunningham

Since I was a child, I have loved the color red. Red is a bold color representing love, anger and passion. Red is an eye catcher. Red is a warning. Red is unapologetic. Flowers that are red perfectly embody all of these things. They are dying to be seen and appreciated! Here are a few of my favorite red flowers.

1



*Rosa 'Don Juan'*

First, the classic red rose. The red rose is always a Valentine's Day favorite. They are perfect for a date night or a just-to-say-I-love-you gift. And yet, as much as we use them, red roses are never over used or out of date. Red roses fill us with warm feelings and put smiles on our faces. Never underestimate the power of the red rose.

This is *Rosa 'Don Juan,'* a popular red beauty. There are many different red roses, some are red-orange or pinky red, but 'Don Juan' is a true red. This rose thrives in heat and humidity. It also has a classic rose fragrance, prefers a sunny spot and a structure to climb up.

2



*Papaver rhoeas*

I love to feel the petals of different flowers. Each flower has a unique texture and softness. The softest petals I've found are the petals of a poppy. In the U.S., Red Poppies are used as a symbol of remembrance for soldiers who lost their lives in battle.

Red Poppies also can symbolize sacrifice, sleep and peace in death. How appropriate for a flower so bold yet so soft to the touch. There are many different kinds of poppies, but I recommend *Papaver rhoeas* for our heat and humidity.

3



*Gaillardia pulchella*

My mother's favorite flower is a Blanket Flower, *Gaillardia pulchella*. Her favorite time of year is when these colorful little guys start popping up on our Texas roadsides. *Gaillardia*

4



*Coral Bean*  
*Erythrina herbacea*

Another great red native is our lovely Coral Bean, *Erythrina herbacea*. In mid-spring, the Coral Bean first sends up simple spikes with showy red tubular flowers, simple but easy to spot in the many greens of the piney woods. Arrowhead-shaped leaves later follow the flower spikes. Watch out for the small yet serious prickles under the stems.

As is often the case with brightly colored plants in nature, the bright red flowers and seeds of Coral Bean signal that they are poisonous. Coral Bean can be a great addition to a garden, but always supervise young children and pets in the area.

5



*Cardinal flower*  
*Lobelia cardinalis*

Looking for a red flower that likes having wet feet? Look no further than *Lobelia cardinalis*, Cardinal Flower. Like the bird of its namesake, the Cardinal Flower is a fabulous red. The tubular flowers are great for attracting hummingbirds. *Lobelia* is known for flowering in the heat of the summer without faltering. In good growing

conditions, this bold perennial will bloom from May to October. This makes it a valuable nectar source. *Lobelia cardinalis* put on a great show last year in our fall sale!

So whether it's classic or something new, try red in your garden. It might become your favorite color, too!



# Upcoming Events

## PINEYWOODS SUMMER CAMPS



There is a waiting list for the June camps. Sign up your children and grandchildren early in the spring next year to ensure a spot. Camps include:

**WONDER WOODS**  
Cost \$85 for ages 4 to 6

**JACK CREEK CAMP SESSIONS  
ONE AND TWO**  
Cost \$120 for ages 7 to 11

**JULY 16 TO 20: WILDERNESS  
ADVENTURES**  
Cost \$250 for ages 12 to 15



Spots are still available for the Wilderness Adventures camp.

For more information about our summer camps, contact Jocelyn Moore at (936) 468-1863 or [moorejv@sfasu.edu](mailto:moorejv@sfasu.edu).



**JULY 12: THERESA AND LES  
REEVES LECTURE SERIES**  
Listen as Janet Carson from the University of Arkansas elaborates on "Blinding Color in the Garden."



**AUG. 9: THERESA AND LES  
REEVES LECTURE SERIES**  
Enjoy Jay Spiers from Auburn University discuss "Alternative Fruit Crops for a Changing Gulf South: What's on the Horizon?"



**AUG. 18: LANDSCAPE  
DESIGN SEMINAR**  
Join SFA horticulture alumna Emily Cauble as she explains the principles of landscape design, including planning, space utilization and plant selection, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Brundrett Conservation Education Building at 2900 Raguet St. The seminar is \$25 for SFA Gardens members and \$30 for non-members.



**SEPT. 13: THERESA AND LES  
REEVES LECTURE SERIES**  
Listen to Kathryn Fontenot from Louisiana State University present "You Say Tomato, I Say Tomahto: Let's Cut the Whole Thing Off."

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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*“The art of composing a garden is a question first of selection and then of emphasis.”*

– “The Education of a Gardener” by Russell Page

