



# Marion County Texas



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## May 2008 Texas AgriLife Extension Service Programs:

Date/Day	Program	Time/Location
1st/ Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Aquatic Ecology and Management &amp; Ichthyology</i>	T.B.A.
6th/ Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board meeting	6:00 PM/ Kellyville
9th/ Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Sustainable Development – Is It Going Mainstream?</i>	10:00 AM/ Kellyville
13th/ Tuesday	Youth Board meeting	Kellyville
15th/ Thursday	<i>AARP – Cinco de Mayo Celebration</i> – Jessie Peralta, Manager, Don Juan's Restaurant	2:00 PM/ Don Juan's Restaurant
15th/ Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Herpetology &amp; Wildlife and Vegetative Communities of the Cypress Basin</i>	T.B.A.
27th/ Tuesday	Pesticide Class, 2 CEUs	Kellyville

## Bioenergy and Trees

By Brock Fry

Yes. That is correct. Many things can be made from trees including ethanol, just like what they make out of corn. This is not new technology, but how it is extracted and handled has shown great improvements in recent times. Other products like plastics, latex, and ink can be made from trees as well.

It is important, as stewards of our natural resources, that we use them and not waste materials in production agriculture. In 2003, logging operations in the State of Texas produced 1.4 million dry tons of forest residues. These residues can be

used for more than burning or decomposing in the ground. In a short time forestry experts are expecting new markets and uses for this waste products.

If you are interested in more information about this topic attend the Northeast Texas Woody Bioenergy Symposium on June 4-6 here in Jefferson, TX. The Symposium has a website:

<http://grovesite.com/page.asp?o=tamu&s=ntbs&p=261992>

## From the Garden - May Moon Phases

5th, Monday, New Moon

12th, Monday, First Quarter

20th, Tuesday, Full Moon

28th, Wednesday, Last Quarter



## Growing the Tomato

By Brock Fry

Where did Tomatoes come from? The tomato came from Western Coast of South Africa, present-day Peru. Eight species still grow wild in the Andes Mountains. The tomato was an important crop for the New World Indians by the 15th century.

In 1781 Thomas Jefferson brought tomatoes to his table, along with french fries. He is given credit, by many, for popularizing tomato use in North American culture. Okay! Enough with the trivia. Here is how to grow great tomatoes!

First, select recommended varieties and plant them at the right time. You will also need proper soil preparation and fertilization. And then last, but not least, soil moisture.

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The location is important. The site must receive 8 plus hours of sunlight per day. Soil must have good internal and external drainage. We want the site to be free from competition and away from buildings and other large plants.

Temperature is important, night time temps below 50° F delays time from pollination causing flowers to drop. Night time temps above 70° F disrupts pollen shed causing flower drop on large-fruited varieties. You want to incorporate ¼ to ½ cups of complete, slow release fertilizer at planting.



Picture 1

For increased production wrap tomato cages with row cover (Picture 1).



Picture 2

Apply a weekly foliar spray of water soluble fertilizer with micro-nutrients (Picture 2).



Picture 3

Work in 2-4 Tbs. of high nitrogen fertilizer when first clusters of fruit set (Picture 3).

Good Luck this growing season!

## Mosquitoes

By Brock Fry

Mosquitoes cause more human suffering than any other organism. Over one million people die worldwide from mosquito-borne diseases every year.



About 55 species of mosquito exists in our area. The mosquito is a disease vector carrying West Nile virus, dog heartworm (dirofilariasis) and yellow fever, dengue and malaria - once prevalent in US, but now rare.

The mosquitoes' entire life process, from egg to adult, takes as little as 7 days in mid-summer. Life span of adult mosquitoes varies from 2 weeks to several months.

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Female mosquitoes require a blood meal to develop fertile eggs. Throughout a season, females can lay several batches of eggs, requiring a blood meal for each batch. Each batch can contain as many as 200 eggs.

Males do not bite. Other than for reproduction, mosquitoes normally feed on nectar from plants or flowers.

### Mosquito Controls

**Indoors** use a fly-swatter and/or over the counter aerosols.

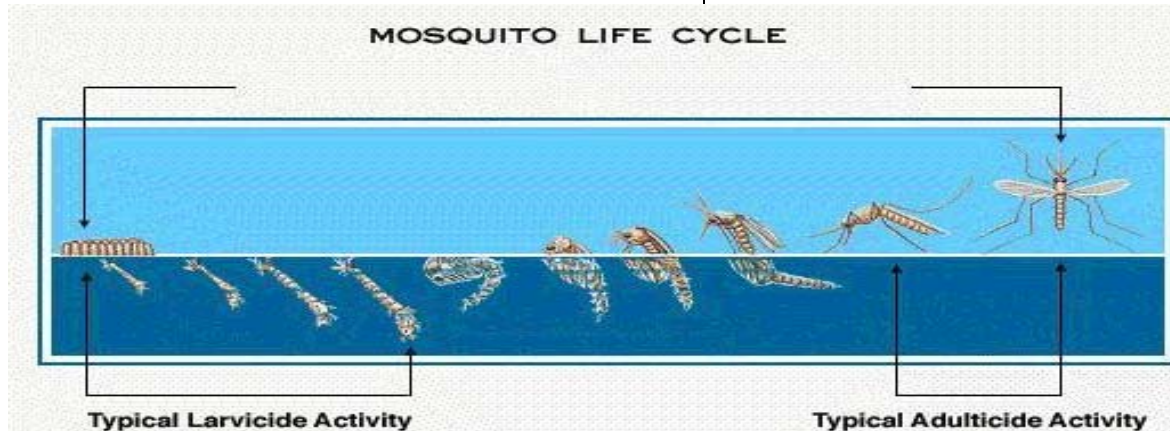
**Outdoors** use an over the counter fogger or sprays directed at mosquito resting areas.

For a more effective, long-term control, discard/drain water-holding containers in the yard to reduce the mosquito population in the immediate area. Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots or similar water-holding containers.

Remove all discarded tires on your property. Drill holes in bottoms of recycling containers kept outdoors. Insure roof gutters drain properly and clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall. Turn over plastic wading pools and wheelbarrows when not in use.

Change the water in bird baths. Clean vegetation and debris from the edges of ponds.

Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and



hot tubs. Drain water from pool covers. Use landscaping to eliminate stagnant water that collects on your property.

**Caution: Always read container label safety precautions and follow directions while using all pesticides.**

## Reflections on Last Month

### Building Communities Webinar Educational Series

By Paulette Cooper

The Web session for the month of April was canceled due to flooding and bad weather in Wisconsin causing the instructor to be absent. However the time was used to visit with each site and evaluate where class participants felt the next sessions needed to focus. Respondents were able to ask questions and share answers with other people from around the United States finding that many of us share the same issues. Leadership Development programs were offered as a solution to many of the issues defining the need for more trained leaders to work toward the process of brainstorming for new ideas and bringing more people into the decision making process.

The session will be re-scheduled at a later date.

### May Building Communities Webinar Educational Series

By Paulette Cooper

The May Webinar session is set to address "Sustainable Development-Is It Going Main Stream?" Professor Jerry Hembd explores the emerging topic of sustainable development. What challenges and lessons does it offer to those of us working to enhance our communities? What does it suggest in terms of new ways of doing business? Jerry shares his research on the sustainable development movement and how we might employ key elements in our community development efforts.

The classes are open to the public and co-sponsored by JEDCO and Bird Lumber of Jefferson. Those planning to attend should call the office and pre-register in order to have your copy of the study guide prepared and mailed prior to the session. The class meets at Kellyville May 9th from 10:00 to 11:00 AM.



## Reflections on Last Month

### AARP – Diabetes Program Successful

By Paulette Cooper

Those in attendance at the monthly program of the AARP/Diabetes group were introduced to a variety of services provided by the American Cancer society. The program was conducted by Ms. Shree Williams and information and services provided by her office can be accessed by calling 800-227-2345 or [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

### AARP – Cinco de Mayo

By Paulette Cooper

This month the group will be celebrating Cinco de Mayo with the manager of Don Juan's as the speaker. The Program begins at 1:00 PM. For more information call AgriLIFE Extension office at 903-665-2421.

### Kid's Free Fish Day

By Brock Fry



This is a FREE event presented by the Pine Cone Fishing Club & Lake O' The Pines Chamber of Commerce on June 7, 2008. It is the 9th Annual Kid's Free Fish Day. It happens at Hurricane Creek on FM 729 – North Shore Lake O' The Pines.

There is a FREE gift for the first 300 kids registered. There are 5 age-classes including: 2-4 years; 5-6 years; 7-9 years; 10-12 years; 13-16 years. Each age class competes for trophies for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd. Awards are based on total weight of top 5 fish caught. You can also enter THE BIG FISH POT for \$1.00. Three kids with the top three fish split the pot 50%, 30%, and 20%. Trophies are scheduled to be presented at 1:30 PM.



Registration begins at 8:00 AM. Fishing time and weight-in is from 9:00 AM 'til 12:00 noon. Lunch is FREE at 12:00 noon.

Bring your own pole, the bait is provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Bank fishing only – no boats.

For more information call 903-755-2006, 903-932-0589, or 936-203-2510.

Lake O' The Pines Chamber of Commerce, the Pine Cone Fishing Club, U.S. Corps of Engineers and associates are not responsible for personal injury. **Be Safe** while you are fishing, do not stand on rocks or wade out far from the bank. Watch your hooks, so you don't hook a neighboring fisher or yourself or parent. No running around other fishers or on docks.

### May is Older American Month

By Paulette Cooper

Be the best person that you can be by doing a good deed for a senior. (Regardless of if they are 60 or more) I know some of us want to be left out. Seniors, pamper your self by making sure you've had the annual health exams and have rescheduled the new ones. For more information, call your doctor or health care provider.

### AARP Announces Trip

By Paulette Cooper

This year the Annual trip will be to the Bob Bullock Museum in Austin Texas. The group will leave on July 24, at 6:am and return back around midnight. The trip is a fun filled day of activities and the bus is filled on a first come first pay basis. For more information call members, Mrs. Robinson at 903-665-3218, Don and Mary Oatman, Mrs. Letha Northcutt, Mrs. Mary Harvey or the Extension office at 903-665-2421 or go to <http://marion-tx.tamu.edu/> for the flyer.

## Wild Life Food Plots

By Brock Fry

The food plots planted on September 7, 2007 are recovering slowly with temperature increase and spring rains. Animals are continuing to put pressure on them. You can see that in these pictures:



The clover in these control cages have really been growing with some vigor. They cover a little more than half the cage height. The animals have been eating around the cage not allowing the plants to grow much outside. The uncontrolled areas of each plot have different amounts of cover and were from no coverage to about 20%. I would expect in the days to come that more and more plants will grow and cover more of the plots.

## 2008 Calendar of Upcoming Events

(Watch the calendar monthly for additions and changes.)

<b>May</b>		
1st, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Aquatic Ecology and Management &amp; Ichthyology</i>	T.B.A.
6th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board meeting	Kellyville
9th, Friday	Building Communities Series – <i>Sustainable Development – Is It Going Mainstream?</i>	Kellyville
13th, Tuesday	Youth Board meeting	Kellyville
15th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Cinco de Mayo Celebration</i> – Jessie Peralta, Manager, Don Juan's Restaurant	Don Juan's Restaurant
15th, Thursday	Texas Master Naturalist – <i>Herpetology &amp; Wildlife and Vegetative Communities of the Cypress Basin</i>	T.B.A.
27th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class, 2 CEUs	Kellyville
29th, Thursday	<i>Northeast Texas Woody Bio-Energy</i> Symposium – Dr. Eric Taylor	Cypress Valley Alliance (CVA) Jefferson TX
<b>June</b>		
2nd, Monday	Ag Programs Committee Meeting	Kellyville
4th-6th, Wed-Fri	<i>Northeast Texas Woody Bio-Fuel Symposium</i> – Train-the-Trainer, Conference, and Workshops	Kellyville
7th, Saturday	Pine Cone Fishing Club & Lake O' the Pines Chamber of Commerce – <i>9th Annual Kids Free Fish Day</i>	Hurricane Creek Lake O' the Pines
13th, Friday	<i>Building Communities Series</i> – Final Class: <i>The Art and Science of Putting It All Together</i>	Kellyville
24th, Tuesday	<i>Forestry Tour</i> Program – Dr. Eric Taylor	T.B.A.
30th, Monday	<i>Bob Bullock Museum</i> Trip – Gladys Jenkins	Austin TX
<b>July</b>		
	<i>AARP</i> – No Meeting	
15th, Tuesday	<i>Disaster Management</i> Program	Kellyville
29th, Tuesday	<i>Garden</i> Program	Kellyville
<b>August</b>		
T.B.A.	<i>AARP – Defensive Driving</i>	Kellyville
26th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class, 2 CEUs	Kellyville
<b>September</b>		
9th, Tuesday	Leadership Advisory Board Meeting	Kellyville
23rd, Tuesday	<i>Hay Show</i> – Dr. Gerold Evers	Kellyville
25th, Thursday	<i>AARP – Elder Care</i> Conference – Agency Vendors, Health and Services Fair, USDA Housing Program	Kellyville

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## October

7th, Tuesday	<b>Cattle Raisers</b> Meeting – Chute Side – Dr. Jason Banta	David Smith Ranch
16th, Thursday	<b>AARP – Gardening: Preparing for the Future Harvest</b> – Dave Shimic, Shimic's Gardening, and <b>Planting Fruit Trees</b> – Brock Fry, Extension Agent	Kellyville
28th, Tuesday	<b>Wildlife</b> Program	Kellyville

## November

T.B.A.	<b>Equine Brood Mares</b> – Dr. Brett Scott	Kellyville
18th, Tuesday	<b>Animal Issues</b> Committee Meeting	Kellyville
20th, Thursday	<b>AARP – Health Care Interpretations</b>	Kellyville

## December

16th, Tuesday	Pesticide Class, 2 CEUs	Kellyville
18th, Thursday	<b>AARP – Celebration</b>	Kellyville

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**“Improving Lives. Improving Texas”**