SFA GARDENS ANNUAL REPORT 2013
9-01-2012 to 8-31-2013

Introduction

SFA Gardens is a recognized center within Stephen F. Austin State University and a multi-faceted public garden developed by SFA’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. SFA Gardens cover 68 acres on the SFA campus—10 acres in the Mast Arboretum and Jim and Beth Kingham Children’s Garden, eight acres in the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden, eight acres in the Gayla Mize Garden, and 42 acres in the Pineywoods Native Plant Center. The gardens are managed by Associate Director Dr. David Creech and 4.5 FTE staff, both professional and classified, as well as student workers. Community support is provided by a membership group (of about 200 members) and a Friends of SFA Gardens Advisory Board, which meets quarterly. While State of Texas funding assists with operations and maintenance expenses, the gardens staff raise significant funds through two plant sales per year, a robust grant-seeking effort, and four major endowments that support all of the gardens but the PNPC. Plant diversity and adaptability are key in developments in each of the four main gardens, offerings in the two plant sales, and in the public outreach by staff through lectures, public events, publications, and tours. Environmental education for future generations is another main initiative that reaches nearly 20,000 a year in a broad spectrum of programs for ages K-adult. A high point in the past year has been the construction of the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Center which is the result of 6 years of capital campaign to raise the funds. Completion is planned for Dec 2014.

Gardens Goals for Fiscal Year 2014

Mast Arboretum

Cooperate with colleagues and friends in the Art Department and the community to create a high profile Sculpture for All juried competition in the Mast Arboretum.
Conduct regional native grass trial; trials of blueberries, pomegranates, kiwis, and with the Takii Corporation, canna hardiness.
Do a better job of posting plant performance information on the web. Improve reporting.
Design new Children’s Garden area on north side of Mast Arboretum by College Avenue and develop a campaign to get it funded.
Expand fruit collection in the community garden near the SFA Intramural Field.
Improve Elking Environment on southern side of Mast Arboretum.
Treat the wood in pavilion in the Jim and Beth Kingham Children’s Garden.
Paint the outdoor classroom in the shade garden.
Paint the entrance gates
Paint the pergola supporting the weeping Celtis sinensis on South side of glasshouse
Add nursery space on East end of N shade house
Bring all six mist beds in glasshouse into full functionality.
Develop a plan for improving the “look” of the front compartment of the glasshouse and implement it.
Develop a location for taking care of cuttings that are coming out of the mist bed. Install a time clocked watering system.
Controllers and time clocks in the nursery
Develop a plan for the Sustainable garden with the new faculty member.
Improve our social media presence with timely Facebook posts . . . Dawn and Dave

LaNana Creek Corridor

Add new Taxodium genotypes where space allows (Mast Arboretum, Ruby Mize side needs a transfusion)
Pruning lower limbs.
Collect data on two Taxodium research projects.

Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

Finish Garden shed and use it – paint the door. Put a good door knob on the building.
More plant labeling.
Continue support of Nacogdoches Azalea Trail activities.
Move the nursery out of the Tower area
Work with the administration to see if there’s a mechanism to move the ROTC tower to a more suitable location.

Pineywoods Native Plant Center (PNPC)

Treat all bridges and boardwalks with paint.
Time clocks and controllers on the nursery
Improve the mist system so it’s functional all the way to the end.
Renovate the bottom heat system for the mist propagation bed.
Develop a native plant list and then implement a plan to increase native plant diversity – focus on collections, new plants.
Develop an irrigation plan and implement it . . . . move trees to drip and use sprinklers only on beds.
Add two rows of blueberry selections.
Landscape design and installation for the CEC.
Develop a mini campaign to install gutters and rainwater capture for the CEC.
Begin the Jimmy Hinds Park Project with a goal of completion of that plan one year after all funding is in place.

Gayla Mize Garden

Finish up with applying crushed asphalt to trails.
Finish pavilion in the Gayla Mize Garden – adding a roof - and add more unique plant collections.
Crinum collection expanded and labeled.
Paint the boardwalks in the Gayla Mize Garden.
Enterance bed expanded along the entire front line of weeping balds.
Finish planting the few open areas left.
Bring well on line.
Add tours of this garden to annual Azalea Trail tours.

Environmental Education Program
Move into the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Center at the PNPC. Headhouse goes back to PNPC. Continue environmental education programming, wide-ranging horticultural outreach through speaker series at SFA and in other gardening venues across the US. Implement program assessment for all public programs.

**Special Items/Goals**

Install a public access bathroom on the northern side of the Mast Arboretum near the Jim and Beth Kingham's Children's Garden Pavilion.

Improve accessibility issues on southern end of the Mast Arboretum.

Purchase a new Gator to replace 15-year old one – Heaf Request.

Purchase a small Kubota tractor – Heaf Request

**Funding Section of 2013 Annual Report**

US Forest Service More Kids in the Woods grant (2012, $41,000) for Nacogdoches Naturally afterschool program supplies and staff.

George and Fay Young Foundation—Pineywoods Native Plant Center Funds ($10,000) for asphalted trail to Spider Lily Colony and a full-time temporary hire for time Greg Grant was on medical leave Summer of 2013.

Grant application submitted to Green Mountain Energy for a solar project at the new Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Center. Site visit completed August 21; final decision was made in September 2013 and we were awarded a solar panel roof, value $30,000 (not in the fiscal year of this report). 200 submitted, funded ten.

Cooperative Projects

Memorial Hospital Achieve Grant to NISD ($5,000) for 3rd Grade Gardens program; assisted by SFA Gardens environmental education and PNPC staff.

Completed Grants

Texas Parks & Wildlife Grant (2011-2012, $42,000) for Nacogdoches Naturally supplies and staff.

George and Fay Young Foundation (2012, $12,500) for Education coordinator salary.

Nacogdoches Junior Forum (2013, $1,700) for supplies for summer camps.

SFA Faculty Research Grant (2012, $12,491) for three rain gardens at the PNPC, with Drs. Matthew McBroom and Yanli Zhang.
SFA GARDENS 2013 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

SFA MAST ARBORETUM

Rain Garden development on the East side of the Mast Arboretum Nursery. Catches all the runoff from a sprinkler irrigated sunny nursery yard.

The Blue Bunny is gone . . . but King Crow rules. The wonderful work of Jeff Brewer, SFASU Art, arrived in August 2013

Another piece in the SFA Mast Arboretum that’ I’ve named “Yellow Ring” via Jeff Brewer.
The Sustainable Garden is on the south side of the SFA Mast Arboretum, a work in progress.

Tomato variety evaluation at SFA Gardens. Here’s Charles Bradberry, one of our stellar volunteers helping out with data collection. Our learning curve has been steep.

Dawn surveying the many tomato varieties from the SFA Gardens SustainableGarden. Salsa anyone?
RUBY M. MIZE AZALEA GARDEN

Our new Entrance sign at the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. Barb spent a decade on the design, years in the making! Beeyootiful!

Rhododendron X ‘Stonewall Jackson’

THE PINYWOODS NATIVE PLANT CENTER

The Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Center, August 2013 with a completion date by Jan 2014 dedication.

Controlled burn at the PNPC, January 23, 2013. Texas Forest Service, Nacogdoches Fire Department, ATCOFA. This has become a wonderfully easy process after all these years.

Petrified wood, a wonderful gift from Diane Avriett. These outstanding pieces belonged to her father and came from sites in southeast Texas.
Bruce Partain of the Nacogdoches Chamber of Commerce making remarks at the July 30, 2013 dedication of Nacogdoches as the Garden Capital of Texas.

**GAYLA MIZE GARDEN**

With Ryan Cupit, Ray Mize’s grandson helping out immensely, here’s Duke Pittman putting the finishing touches on the Gayla Mize Garden pavilion rafters, May 28, 2013. All custom cut cedar beams.

The next step in this unique pavilion will be a roof, still in the design phase.
The first deep well at SFA is now online and services the drip irrigation system at the Gayla Mize Garden. With a variable speed pump, we have a capacity of 57 gallons per minute and can take care of the entire eight acres with one set!

OUTREACH

James Spivey, Peerless Farms, San Antonio, TX with Greg Grant visiting the Acer skutchii plots at the Science Research Center on the Loop at Nacogdoches, TX. Over 277 seedlings of our big skutch maple, a rare Mexico mountain sugar maple that has strong drought and alkalinity tolerance, fast growth and is proving to be well adapted to central Texas where sugar maples do not grow.
Prunus ‘Purple Pride’ PP 23742 is SFA Gardens first patented plant. Image is of the variety at Hope, Arkansas as part of the University of Arkansas Woody Ornamental Evaluation Program. Image in mid-August 2013 – planted as small one gallon plants in March 2012. Fast growing, burgundy foliage with native Chickasaw genetics!

The LaNana Creek Corridor. Image taken August 27, 2013 of the clone, T406. Planted in January 2012 as three and four foot tall plants and irrigated about one to two gallons per plant per day.

How many black foliaged crapemyrtle varieties are enough? Well, we’re here to sort through the deluge of new varieties. We are planting these and other new varieties on the East Side of the Coliseum parking lot. Those three on this end are ‘Delta Jazz’ the first variety released several years ago by PDSI, Loxley, Alabama. The smaller plants are three plants each of five varieties of Black Diamond crapes, which are making a huge mark in the market at this time.
Just to the South of our “new” crape myrtle planting is a patch of ground dedicated to seedlings of Callicarpa Americana ‘Welch’s Pink’, a pink-berried American Beautyberry, which was discovered by former student Matt Welch . . . and seedlings of an Eve

EDUCATING YOUNGSTERS

2013 MLK Day of Service: SFA Students take a short break from building raised bed gardens for third grade classrooms at Brooks Quinn Jones Elementary School.

Dr. David Kulhavy, Professor of Forestry, and students at Mill Creek Gardens and our Hibiscus dasycalyx, Neches river rose mallow, plots. An endangered species, this rare mallow was planted by Stacy Scott, Graduate Research Assistant, in 2004 as part of a thesis research project. On the earthen spillway of Mill Creek lake, the plants have grown from 96 plants to over 600 as they have expanded into this special habitat. David Kulhavy, Matt Wade. Duncan Hibler. Matthew Entrokin. Catie Northen, Ryan Svehla, Kim Sierra
One of the beautiful flowers of the many plants blooming at Mill Creek Gardens. Plots planted in 1996. 96 planted, now 477 plants. Colony is thriving.

Elyce Rodewald receiving the Agricultural Educator of the Year Award from Corey Beasley with Citizens 1st Bank, which sponsors the award. Photo by Kristin Gardner

STAFF REPORTS

David L. Creech, Director, SFA Gardens - Sept 1, 2012 to Aug 31, 2013

International:

China, Nov 10 – Nov 29, 2012. Continued with ongoing collaboration with three Professors at Nanjing Botanical Gardens: Professors Yin Yunlong, He Shanan, and Yu Hong. Taxodium and blueberry related projects. This year, I was an invited speaker and a session moderator at the International Association of Botanical Gardens (IABG) which was held in Guangzhou. Several blueberry and USA nursery related talks. Note presentations listed below in November.

Mexico, Mar 6-13, 2013. Taxodium, bald cypress focus. Host was Dr. Teobaldo Equiluz, Mexico City, President of the the Taxodium salvation project and nurseryman. Three Chinese colleagues flew in for the week. Three Americans. Dr. Todd Lasseigne, Mr. Mark Weathington, and I. Meetings, two seminars, and visited various Taxodium sites. A first for a China, Mexico, USA scholarly group focused on Taxodium.

Presentations and Publications


October 10, 2012. How many maples are enough? Lecture to the Dallas Arboretum symposium on landscaping. – 150. I spoke after Peter Gregory, which is like speaking after the King of the world of maples. From Westonbirt Arboretum in England, he wrote the book.

October 10-16, 2012 – host for four Chinese visitors. Professor Yin Yunlong and three others. For a week.


David Creech, 2013. New Woody Ornamentals for the Yunnan. Seminar to the Landscape and Parks Department, government officials, and researchers in Kunming, China. 36 in attendance.

David Creech, 2013. Landscape Design Trends in the Southern USA. Two hour seminar to a group at the Jiling Agriculture and Science Technology University, Nanjing China. 296 landscape design undergraduate students in attendance + 7 faculty.

David Creech, 2013. Blueberry harvest and post harvest strategies. Seminar presentation to a small group of Nanjing Botanical Garden researchers, growers, and extension personnel. 20 in attendance.


Jan 10, 2013. “China connection, SFA Gardens update, and why we are, could be, and just might be the Garden Capital of Texas if Barb and Diana have their way.”. Presentation to the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners ‘Lunch n Learn’, Nacogdoches, TX – 85 in attendance

Feb 15-18, 2013. Cool Plants for a Hot Climate. Presentation to the Gulf Coast Horticultural Expo, Mobile, AL – 82 in attendance.
February 1-4, 2013: I served as President of the Southern Region American Society for Horticultural Sciences in Orlando, Florida. Delivered the Presidential address, “Lessons Learned” to the assembly at the General Session. 140 in attendance.

SFA Horticulture students competed in the J.Benton Storey Horticulture Judging Contest at the 2013 Southern Region meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science, which was held this year in Orlando, Florida, February 1-4, 2013. With six University Horticulture judging teams competing, SFA came up with a number of awards. The contest is a two hour test of student skills in four classes, which involves identifying and judging woody ornamentals, greenhouse and floral crops, fruits and nuts, and vegetables. SFA was #2 overall team award (Texas A and M University was 1st). In the four classes, SFA was #1 team for Woody Ornamentals, #3 team for Vegetable Crops, and #3 team for Greenhouse Floral and Foliage. In the individual awards, Felicia English was the #1 high scoring individual, Greenhouse Floral and Foliage Plants and Vegetables. Rounding out the team, Eric Golstan was the #1 high scoring individual, Fruit and Nut Crops and Ken Moyer, #2 high scoring individual Woody Ornamentals.

Spence Simmons competed in the Edmund Undergraduate Research Competition. Did not place but gave a fine 12 minute presentation.

Spence Simmons*, Dave Creech, Leon Young, and Lacey Russell. Influence of N Source and Rate on Growth and Leaf Nutrient Content of a Taxodium Clone. SFA Gardens, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75961. HortScience 48(9) (Supplement): S16

Feb 12, 2013 – The Natives are Restless. Montgomery County Master Gardner training, 3 hrs, Conroe, TX 52 in attendance

Feb 14, 2013 – The Natives are Restless. Walker County Master Gardener Training, 3 hrs, Huntsville, TX – 32 in attendance


Mar 1 – 6, 2013 – Expedition to Mexico with two other USA scientists (Todd Lasseigne of Tulsa Botanical Garden and Mark Weathington of NCSU, Raleigh), and three Chinese scientists. Host: Dr. Teobaldo Equluz of Genfor.com.
March 4, 2013 – presentation to the Botanical Garden, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico – Taxodium Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University – 36

Mar 6, 2013. Visit of Nanjing Kindergarten officials – Assisting a possible collaboration with Southeastern University in Nanjing and Dr. Abbott, Dean, College of Education

March 18, 2013 – Best Natives for East Texas Landscapes, presentation seminar for the Angelina County Master Gardeners, Lufkin, TX – 42 in attendance.

Mar 26, 2013 – Cliff Sunda thesis defense

Apr 12, 2013 – Trip to Jasper Arboretum with 11 Azalea Society of America Texas Chapter members, board meeting


May 4, 2013. Best Plants for the Southern Garden. Lecture at the Calendar Garden, Houston, TX. 11 attendees

May 14, 2014. Visit of James Spivey, Peerless Farms, San Antonio, TX


May 21-28, 2013 – Visit of Zhang Xi He and Wang Xiaonang, YongFeng Nursery and Greening Company, Ninghai, China.

May 24, 2013. Best Trees and Shrubs for the Gulf Coast. Lecture at the first Margie Jenkins Lecture Series, Hammond, La. 64 in attendance.

Jun 1, 2013 – Are 250 Hydrangea Varieties Really Enough? Presentation to the Mid-South Hydrangea Society, Memphis, Tennessee – 214 in attendance


June 6, 2013. SFA Gardens Board of Advisors meeting.

July 30, 2013. Dedication and Recognition of Nacogdoches as the Garden Capital of Texas, as decreed by the Texas legislature. Travis Clardy, State Representative, SFA administration and a group of friends at an event at the Healing Garden, PNPC.
Aug 5-8, 2013. Taxodium Evaluation at SFA Gardens. Presentation and proceedings article for Research Conference at the Southern Nurserymen’s Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 46 in attendance.

Aug 14-16, 2013 – The Best Small Flowering Trees for Southern Landscapes – oral presentation, Education session, to the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association, Dallas, TX – 103 in attendance


Aug 22-25, 2013 – April Jackson, PhD student, Rutgers University, New Jersey, was here for four days collecting Acer growth for DNA Analysis as part of her PhD program. Assisted her in collections of Acer barbatum and Acer leucoderme from various provenances in the Pineywoods, and assisted in her collections of tissue from Acer skutchii, collected from our plots at SFA’s Science Research Center.

Other:

In the past year, a patent was issued for *Prunus* X ‘Purple Pride’, a burgundy foliaged trunk forming Chickasaw plum. Currently being grown by four nurseries, and being considered for Greenleaf’s “Garden Debut” brand.
Greg Grant, Research Associate PNPC

Presentations:


October 16, 2012. “Gardening Naturally with Native Plants” to Caddo Wildflower Chapter program in Linden. 180 in attendance.

October 20, 21012. “My Garden, My First Rose” to a public audience at the Farmer’s Branch Rose Garden. 55 in attendance.


October 25, 2012. “Gardening for Love” to the Louisiana State Master Gardener Conference in Lake Charles. 112 in attendance.

October 14, 2012. “Gardening for Love” to the Center Garden Club. 25 in attendance.

October 20, 2012. “Dogtrot Houses” to the Shelby County Historical Society in Center. 20 in attendance.

January 9, 2013. “Let Me Introduce You” to the Louisiana Horticulture Society in Lake Charles. 50 in attendance.

January 12, 2013. “Sweet Dreams” to the Nacogdoches Heritage Syrup Festival. 25 in attendance.


March 2, 2013. “Home Landscaping” and “Heirloom Gardening” to a Gregg County Master Gardener public seminar in Longview. 300 in attendance.
March 5, 2013. “Basic Landscape Design” to the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners. 12 in attendance.

April 5, 2013. “Gardening with Natives” to the Pines Garden Club in Nacogdoches. 15 in attendance.

May 15, 2013. “Native Plants and Spring Bulbs” to the Methodist Church luncheon in Garrison. 25 in attendance.

**Total Lecture Attendance: 1,327**

**Tours:**


February 12, 2013. Garden tour to the Four Seasons Garden Club. 21 in attendance.

February 28, 2013. Garden tour to the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners. 20 in attendance.


March 27, 2013. Garden tour to the Gregg County Master Gardeners. 10 in attendance.

April 6, 2013. Garden tour at the annual Briarwood Picnic in Saline Louisiana. 50 in attendance.

**Total Tour Attendance: 146**

**Publications:**


**Total Magazine Circulation: 216,000**

**Training:**


October 18, 2012. Attended Dawn Stover SFA Gardens Lecture Series on Dr. Creech’s contributions.

November 16-17. Attended Cliff Shackelford Birding 101 class in Nacogdoches.

December 20. Attended Dave Creech SFA Gardens Lecture Series on the year in review.


February 8, 2013. Attended Texas A&M forest pest seminar training in Lufkin.
May 3-6, 2013. Attended the Southern Garden History Society board meeting and annual meeting in Lynburg, Virginia.
May 21, 2013. Attended the Longleaf Pine field day in Jasper.
July 18, 2013. Attended Julie Shackelford SFA Gardens Lecture Series on her wildscape.
August 2013. Completed SFA EEO training.
August 2013. Completed SFA MUV training.

Other:
December 20, 2012. Appeared as a guest on PBS Central Texas Gardener in Austin.
April 26. Hosted the SFA Gardens volunteers for an appreciation lunch Arcadia. 20 in attendance.
July/August 2013. Featured in an article and on the cover of Texas Gardener magazine.
Awarded 2012 Silver Award for Heirloom Gardening in the South: Yesterday’s Plants for Today’s Gardens by the Garden Writer’s Association.
Dawn Stover, Research Associate, SFA Gardens

Outreach: talks and garden tours

September 13, 2012 - Nacogdoches County Master Gardener Lunch and Learn presentation

October 6, 2013 – coordinate SFA Gardens Fabulous Fall Festival

October 23, 2012 – Led volunteer trip to Dallas Arboretum for the Chihuly Exhibit

November 3, 2012 – Hosted the SFA Gardens Fall Fandango

November 28, 2012 – Wreath making class for SFA floriculture students

December 1, 2012 – Led Deck the Halls class, SFA Gardens Saturday Seminar

January 19, 2013 – Led Gardening 101 class and workshop, SFA Gardens Saturday Seminar

February 1-4, 2013 – American Society of Horticulture Science, Southern Region annual meeting

February 14, 2013 – Houston County Master Gardeners, presented annuals and perennials course

February 16, 2013 – Rainwater Harvesting, SFA Gardens Saturday Seminar

February 19, 2013 – Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners, presented annuals and perennials course

February 21, 2013 – Tyler Garden Club, presentation about the SFA Gardens

February 26, 2013 – SFA NAEP, garden tour

March 2, 2013 – Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, superintendent FFA CDE Nursery and Landscape
March 5, 2013 – Cherokee County Master Gardeners, tour of Mast Arboretum

March 5, 2013 – Angelina County Master Gardeners, presented annuals and perennials course

March 7, 2013 – Nacogdoches High School, Construction in the Workplace class tour of Mast Arboretum

March 9, 2013 – Jacksonville Spring Symposium, keynote

March 19, 2013 – Houston County Master Gardeners, tour of Mast Arboretum

March 23, 2013 – host site for SFA’s The Big Event, coordinated over 60 volunteers

March 26, 2013 – FFA Career Development Event, coordinate Nursery and Landscape contest

April 4, 2013 – Harrison County Master Gardener, tour of Mast Arboretum

April 11, 2013 – Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners, Lunch and Learn presentation

April 18, 2013 – Leadership Nacogdoches, presentation and virtual tour

April 20, 2013 – coordinate SFA Gardens Garden Gala Day

May 22, 2013 – Louisiana State Horticulture Society, Mast Arboretum and greenhouse tour

June 6, 2013 – El Camino House, tour of Mast Arboretum

June 22, 2013 – SFA Gardens Saturday Seminar, Canning and Preserving

August 6, 2013 – Harris County Master Gardeners, presentation

Consulting

Seasons of Hope Center
Texas Small Farmers and Ranchers
SFA Forestry graduate rain garden project
Nacogdoches County Jail

Collaboration

SFA School of Art, Sculpture for All
SFA Biology, Dr. Dan Bennett bee survey
Landscaper’s Choice
Nacogdoches H.O.P.E.

**Major Projects**

- Fall Fandango
- Fabulous Fall Festival
- Garden Gala Day
- Sculpture for All
- SFA Sustainable Community Education Garden
- All American Selections Vegetable Trial Site
- Implemented a successful farmer’s market at the arboretum

**Service**

- NJF, Corporate Sponsor Chair
- Healthy Nacogdoches Coalition, Nutrition Committee
- First United Methodist Church, Sunday school volunteer

**Goals**

- Continued success with plant sales
- More travel
- Develop children’s garden, with successful fundraising campaign
- Learn to write grants
Barbara Stump, Research Associate Azalea Garden ½ time

Published Papers


Talks, Presentations, and Tours


March 1-April 23, 2013. Stump, Barbara. Guided tours (18) of Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden during Nacogdoches Azalea Trail, Nacogdoches, Texas. Groups ranged from Lone Star College and church groups from Houston to garden tour groups from Tyler and a group from the STEM Conference held at SFA, and the local Neuro Support Group, and regional master gardeners. 581 in attendance.

June 6, 2013. Stump, Barbara. The Truth about the Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. Luncheon presentation to the Cancer Support Group, Nacogdoches Medical Center. 9 in attendance.

**Other Major Projects**

Six new 10-foot metal benches for Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden (awaiting delivery).

Helped develop information for city of Nacogdoches application to be the Garden Capital of Texas—with a consortium of city and community members and a local engineering firm.

**Service**


National board member for the Azalea Society of America, including attendance at the national American Rhododendron Society-Azalea Society of America convention in Athens, Georgia, May 2013.

Co-chair of 2015 national Azalea Society of America convention to be held in Nacogdoches, “Texas Forestry Country—Azalea Trails and Gardens.”
Elyce Rodewald - Environmental Education Programming

Education Team

Coordinator: Elyce Rodewald
Assistant Coordinator: Kerry Lemon
Student Workers: Bryent Daughtery, Briana DeLeon, Desiree Holloway, Aly Hudspeth, Carter Hudspeth, Lizzie Lewis, Ashley Sanchez, Brandy Sapp, Lauren Pratt, Michelle Turnipseed, Sarafina Feldman, Ben Christopher, Frankie Presta, Isis Waites, Vicki Baggett, Ariel Jones, Rachel Suarez, Lucas Kahn, Mita Coker

Presentations

Coordinated and/or presented educational programs for SFA Gardens for over 19,000 participants. See table below.

Highlights include twice weekly after-school programs for Boys and Girls Club Members and Raguet Elementary School students, hands-on environmental education field trips for all Nacogdoches ISD elementary students grades K-5, monthly outdoor family fun days, bi-monthly garden seminars, four weeks of summer camps and special events including the Little Princess Tea Party and two FFA Career Development Events (horticulture judging contests).

Presented “Symbiosis: Public Schools, Community Resources, EE and University Teacher Programs” at NAAEE conference, October 2012

Kerry Lemon presented a workshop at the Informal Science Education Association of Texas at the UT Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas on March 4-6 2013. The title of the presentation was “Using Feathered Friends to promote science learning”.

Presented “Strategies for Teaching Environmental Education to Pre-K and Early Elementary Students” to Jasper Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists, Feb 2013
Training

At SFA, attended Safety Training, Receipts and Deposits, Security, Motor Vehicle Training, and Property Management.

Attended NAAEE conference in Oakland, CA, October 2012

Service

Currently serve as co-chair of Pre-Service Advisory Council for North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).
Facilitated 3rd grade garden project for NISD including professional development for NISD third grade teachers and installation of 25 raised bed vegetable gardens on 7 campuses.

**Grants and Funding**

Managed More Kids in the Pineywoods Grant from USFS, Nacogdoches Naturally Staff Support from George and Fay Young Foundation, and Nacogdoches Naturally from TPWD Coop Grant Program.

Managed SFA Garden Membership drive and supervised collection of fees for educational programs.