Introduction

SFA Gardens, continues as a recognized center within Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas, USA. SFA Gardens is a multi-faceted public garden developed within SFA’s Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture. The gardens are managed by Associate Director Dr. David Creech (1/2 time) and 4.5 FTE staff, both professional and classified, volunteers and student workers. 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. In addition, SFA Gardens plays a role in the maintenance and development of the 60-acre SFA’s Recreational Trails and Gardens, which is adjacent to the Gayla Mize Garden.

Community support is provided by a “Friends of SFA Gardens” group with about 200 members and the 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 endowments that support all of the gardens but the PNPC. A major capital campaign raised about $1 million dollars from private donors and Texas foundations to build the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building at the PNPC. The building demonstrates environmentally sensitive methods of construction and operation. A successful proposal to the Sun Club of Green Mountain Energy, Austin, Texas, led to a solar array which, by our latest estimates, provides about 60 percent of the structure’s energy needs.

A new development, the Jimmy Hinds Park, received funding in the past year from Barbara Finney, who was the daughter of Jimmy Hinds, the first Agricultural Professor at SFA. That gift will allow the development of a high visibility garden on a well-travelled thoroughfare in Nacogdoches, Austin Street. Development plans for the two acre property are on the SFA Gardens Pineywoods Native Plant Center home page.

Plant diversity and adaptability are key focal points 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.
Gardens Goals for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Mast Arboretum

Continue cooperation 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 and Ruby Mize Azalea Garden.
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.
Improve Elking Environment on southern side of Mast Arboretum.
Improve Ruth Williamson, Herb Garden and Elking Environment
Treat the wood in pavilion in the Jim and Beth Kingham Children’s Garden.
Paint the outdoor classroom in the shade garden.
Add nursery space on East end of N shade house by taking out deodar cedar and building a pad
Expand Kiwi planting
Take a leadership role in managing the new nursery at Grounds.
Take a leadership role in the Mum evaluation plantings at the Gayla Mize Garden.
Develop the rectangular plot on the South side of the Jim and Beth Kingham Children’s Garden Pavilion.
Develop a database for plants being trialed for companies.
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.
Add controllers and time clocks in the nursery
Continue to improve our social media presence with timely Facebook posts . . . Dawn and Dave

LaNana Creek Corridor

Add new Taxodium genotypes where space allows (Mast Arboretum and Ruby Mize side needs a transfusion)
Pruning lower limbs.
Collect data on two Taxodium research projects.
Continue brush control on banks of creek.
Continue timely weed control applications.

Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

Finish Garden shed and use it – paint the door. Put a good door knob on the building.
Add more plant labeling.
Continue support of Nacogdoches Azalea Trail activities.
Continue support of Little Miss Princess Tea Party.
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.
Work with Grounds to develop a plan to clean up the Heavy Equipment Yard area.

**Pinewoods Native Plant Center (PNPC)**

Propagate and grow as many saleable plants as possible to produce two successful plant sales to support the year’s financial needs of the PNPC.
Hire up to 10 student workers to help maintain the 42 acre PNPC grounds and nursery facility.
Install faucets in the CEB landscape.
Repair the broken bridge in bottom land.
Develop a parking plan to allow vertical parking.
Coordinate installation of three lights for the CEB
Installation of gutters and rainwater capture
Have signage made for visitor instructions, parking, etc.
Manage blueberries and muscadine plantings.
Complete *Ilex decidua* collection.
Enhance CEB landscape and improve sod.
Continue to battle Chinese privet, Chinese tallow, and other invasive plants in the Tucker Woods.
Install time clocks and controllers on the nursery
Develop a native plant list and then implement a plan to increase native plant diversity at the PNPC – focus on collections, new plants.
Develop an irrigation plan and implement it. Move more of the landscape to drip and faucet controllers.
Develop a mini campaign to install gutters and rainwater capture for the CEC.
Jimmy Hinds Park Project – boardwalk connections to treehenge and computer shack parking lot.
Install irrigation system and benches at Jimmy Hinds Park. Vineyard – add pergola structure

**Gayla Mize Garden**

Continue the application of crushed asphalt to trails.
Barb continues to map and label.
Again, find a creative way to finish the pavilion in the Gayla Mize Garden – adding a roof - Crinum collection expanded and labeled.
For Mum collection and other color, expand the entire front line of weeping balds.
Finish planting the few open areas left.
Add tours of this garden to annual Azalea Trail tours.
Environmental Education Program

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.
The big accomplishment for SFA Gardens in the past year was the construction of the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building at the Pineywoods Native Plant Center. This million dollar project honors our lead donor, Ms. Ina Brundrett, Tyler, Texas.

Side walks – Nov 2013

Dedication Day Jan 27, 2014
First class in the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building before we “found” the funding for furniture. Jan 15, 2014

A proposal to the Sun Club of Green Mountain Energy, Austin, Texas, was approved and with that came a solar array worth over $30,000. The array was installed in July 2014 and is currently providing about 60-70 percent of the energy needs of the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building.

April 5, 2014 Spring Garden Gala Day sale.
John Anderson and Dawn Stover bask in the first ever Sculpture for All event at SFA Gardens, a cooperative project with Jeff Brewer, Art Department, SFA. A juried show with a $20,000 campaign that showcases the work of renowned sculpture artists in the country.

The Keel

Visitors either loved the baby carriage or did not. Note the plus sized pacifier.
the North End of the PNPC we have added two rows of blueberries. Part of our evaluation program with USDA and other Universities. Many advanced selections. Deer continue to be a problem.

Tucker House during a rare snow, Jan 24, 2014

The Environmental Education Program touched the lives of 12,104 young kids and their parents. This aspect of our program is under the supervision of Elyce Rodewald and Kerry Lemon and an army of volunteers, interns, and student workers.
Bugs, Blossoms, Butterflies, Birds, Bees and Bats event brings several thousand children into an educational extravaganza. April 9, 2014.

We lost a special friend in April 2014 with the passing of George Millard. Friend, cooperator with our program for many years, a true jewel in our community. Naturally curious, George was quick to become a good market gardner with strawberries as a banner for his business on Woden Road.

Chandler was the best in our variety trials. George kept meticulous records. I took this image in my office just a few days before he left our community of citizens. George actually cared
Most things in life don’t turn out exactly like expected. In this case, the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden has exceeded everyone’s expectations. This garden has hit a stride that continues to amaze anyone blessed to land in the garden when all the colors are going. This is a click and shoot photo opportunity for anyone interested in plant combinations, color combinations, form and grace. Duke Pittman and crew get high marks for making A+ on maintenance.

April 7, 2014 – Orange Dream is the Japanese maple at the center of the image. SFA Gardens is home to over 300 varieties of Acer palmatum, Japanese maple. Considered by many as the aristocrat of small trees, they provide the perfect backdrop for a collection of over 7000 azaleas.

The Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden is an amazing jewel on the LaNana Creek necklace. This community of plants is quite home under the high canopy pine forest. Maintenance chores are easier now that plants have grown, prospered, filled in and said, “Hey, we’re here now – we own the place.”
PLANTS

SFA Gardens is responsible for reforesting the stretch of LaNana Creek as it courses ½ mile through the SFA campus. We have planted over one thousand Taxodium of known genotype on both sides of the creek. The collection is databased and mapped. April 13, 2014.

After three growing seasons, several hybrid Taxodiums exceed 18’ in plant height.
Prunus X ‘Purple Pride’ is our first patented plant and it is in production by several licensed growers.

Tim Woods, New Plants Specialist for Proven Winners, standing next to one of our Oakleaf Hydrangeas, Hydrangea quercifolia, selections.

New crape myrtle varieties have been planted under the high voltage lines by the Coliseum parking lot.
Our block of “new” crape myrtle varieties includes 15 varieties of the black leaf forms just now making waves in the mass market.

Our plot of the Mexico Mountain Sugar Maple is located at the Science Research Center and represents the largest USA planting of this endangered species. Promising for its heat, drought and alkalinity tolerance this is a first generation planting of seedlings from our large tree at the SFA Mast Arboretum. This planting is comprised of 277 seedlings and five have been cutting propagated, selected for form.
A bucket list plant, this is *Franklinia alatamaha*, which flowered for the first time in Texas at the Gayla Mize Garden, July 16 2014. This endangered plant was discovered almost three hundred years ago by William Bartram, but when he returned to the location it was gone. Fortunately, he saved the plant by planting it in Pennsylvania at his estate. Sensitive to drainage issues and susceptible to cotton root rot.

While the fruit wasn’t ripe for picking until Sept 9, 2014 – I am including this development in our 2013-2014 report.. Our first picking of golden kiwis at SFA and the first good crop of this species, *Actinidia chinensis*, in Texas. Two varieties: ‘Golden Drargon’ as the female and ‘CK3’ as the male proved to be successful in this first crop. These varieties are via a trialing agreement with Dr. Jay Spiers, Auburn University, Alabama.

Most fall Mums are poor garden performers. Dawn Stover leads a trialing program to evaluate over 50 heirloom mums for their garden potential, as well as their potential for the mass market.
This is Chrysanthemum ‘Ruby Mound’, an old timey perennial that has performed well in our trials.

Hayes Jackson, Anniston, Alabama, plantsmand and County Extension Horticulturists really liked our rare Mexico Quercus tamurhama. This oak is one of our rarest in our collection which is one of the finest plantings of western oaks in the South.
Aug 7, 2014 – Jimmy Hinds Park Development begins because of a wonderful gift from Barbara Finney. Located on the North end of the PNPC, this two acre development will be undergoing a transformation in the next few years.
DR. DAVE CREECH (Sept 1, 2013 – Aug 31, 2014)

INTERNATIONAL

China, Nov 9 – Dec 7, 2013. I was part of a four-member USDA team invited to China as part of a USDA/China Ministry of Agriculture Scientific Exchange team. Beijing, Nanjing, and Kunming focus. Part of six seminars with a total of 307 in audience.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS


Dec 18, 2013. Check presentation ceremony at the new CEC. $30,000 for a solar panel array via Green Mountain Energy.


Jan 30 – Feb 2, American Society for Horticultural Science Southern Region annual conference, Dallas, Texas:

**A Spatial Analysis of a Colony of *Hibiscus dasycalyx*, the Neches River Rose Mallow, Established in 1996 in Nacogdoches County, Texas.** David L. Creech*, David L. Kulhavy, Daniel R. Unger, and Matthew A. Wade, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (dcreech@sfasu.edu)

**Is Pictometry® a useful tool for tree, shrub and landscape evaluation?** David Creech*, David L. Kulhavy, Daniel R. Unger, and Matthew A. Wood, Arthur Temple College of Forestry and Agriculture, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX 75962. (dcreech@sfasu.edu)

**Overview of Recent New Crape Myrtle Cultivar releases.** Wells, Daniel, Allen Owings, and David Creech. LSU AgCenter, Hammond Research Station, 21549 Old Covington Highway, Hammond, LA 70430 and Stephen F. Austin State University, Department of Agriculture, 1924 Wilson Drive, Nacogdoches, TX 75962 (dwells@agcenter.lsu.edu )

SFA’s Horticulture judging team of Amny Rose, Jordan McGee, Gus Walker, and Ariel Jones put in a fine performance at the J.B. Storey Horticulture Judging Contest. The annual conference of the American Society for Horticultural Science Southern Region was held in Dallas, Texas, January 30 – February 2, 2014 annual conference. With seven University teams participating – four students per team - the SFA team took third place overall team award, second place greenhouse floral and foliage team - second place woody ornamentals team , and third place vegetable team. Jordan McGee second place overall high scoring individual and third place woody ornamentals individual - and finally, Amny Rose third place greenhouse and foliage individual award. Yeah!

Served as one of the three judges of the Warren Barham PhD Graduate Student Paper Competition.

Serve on the Executive Committee of ASHS-SR as a past-President.

Feb 6, 2014. The Natives are restless. Presentation to the Master Gardener class, Montgomery county, TX. 67 in attendance

As chair of the search committee, I managed the interview process for the new Assistant Professor of Horticulture position. 28 applicants, reduced to top three:
Andrew King, February 11-12, 2014
Catherine Simpson, February 16-17, 2014
Jared Barnes, February 18-9, 2014
Offered to Jared Barnes who accepted the position February 26, 2014

David Creech. Feb 19-21, 2014. Texas Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. The Year in Review. Fort Worth Botanical Garden, Fort Worth, Texas. 82 attending
David Creech.


Mar 1, 2014. Two presentations to the Gregg country Master Gardeners: Shrubs for the Pineywoods and China – Plants, Plans, People. 162 in attendance.


David Creech. April 8, 2014. China – the business of Agriculture. Presentation to Dr. Joe Ballenger’s International Marketing class. 31 in attendance.


Dave Creech. May 15, 2014. Short presentation at the annual Sugar Creek Garden Club, Sugarland, Texas, including thanks for scholarships for our students. 96 in attendance.

David Creech. May 22, 2014. Presentation to ATCOFA Advisory Board on PNPC, new Conservation Education Building.


Plant sale April 5 2014 – new record: $56,200

Invited reviewer of a proposal to National Geographic: Applicant's Name: Coffman, Gretchen C - Project Title: Restoration of Critically Endangered Cypress Trees of Laos

David Creech, David Kulhavy, Dan Unger, I-Kuai Hung and Dan Fyne. Neches River Rose Mallow, Hibiscus dasycalyx, Spatial Analysis and Survival. A poster at the Bright Ideas conference, SFASU, Nacogdoches, TX 05-06-2014
GREG GRANT — September 1, 2013-August 31, 2014

Presentations:

September 23, 2013. “Let Me Introduce You” to the Texas A&M Landscape Design Study Course in College Station. 135 in attendance.

November 2, 2013. “Lessons From my Grannies” at the Antique Rose Emporium Fall Festival of Roses in Independence, Texas. 150 in Attendance.

November 6, 2013. “Gardening for Love” to the Heritage Club in Nacogdoches. 17 in attendance.


February 8, 2014. “Vegetable Gardening 101” to the SFA Gardens weekend seminar in Nacogdoches. 15 in attendance.


March 7, 2014. “Gardening for Love” to the Texas Garden Clubs district meeting in Center. 125 in attendance.

March 8, 2014. “Lessons From my Grannies” to the Cherokee County Spring Gardening Symposium in Jacksonville. 114 in attendance.


April 29, 2014. “Gardening for the Birds and the Bees” to the Alabama State Master Gardener conference in Daphne, Alabama. 250 in attendance.

April 30, 2014. “Gardening for Love” to the Alabama State Master Gardener conference in Daphne, Alabama. 200 in attendance.


June 12, 2014. “Lessons from my Grannies” to the Nacogdoches County Master Gardeners lunch and learn in Nacogdoches. 50 in attendance.

June 26, 2014. “Gardening for Love” to the Dallas Woman’s Club in Dallas. 375 in attendance.

**Total Lecture Attendance: 2,240**

**Tours:**

September 14, 2013. SFA Gardens fall bulb tour in Arcadia. 55 in attendance.

October 6, 2013. Texas Rose Rustler tour in Arcadia. 15 in Attendance.

March 20, 2014. PNPC tour to Harrison County Master Gardeners. 12 in attendance.

March 26, 2014. PNPC tour to Gregg County and Cherokee County Master Gardeners. 17 in attendance.

March 27, 2014. PNPC tour to Smith County Master Gardeners. 14 in attendance.

March 29, 2014. Trillium tour to Smith County chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas in Arcadia. 8 in attendance.

June 10, 2014. PNPC tour to the Leona-Centerville Extension club. 10 people in attendance.

July 15, 2014. PNPC tour to the Texas Agrilife County Agent’s Association. 17 in attendance.

**Total Tour Attendance: 148**

**Publications:**


Grant, Greg. *Fire and Ice*. **Arbor Gate Blog**. February 2014.


Grant, Greg. *Nothing Bad Happens to a Writer*. **Arbor Gate Blog**. April 2014.

Grant, Greg. *Ready, Set, Go!* **Arbor Gate Blog**. May 2014.


Grant, Greg. *May I Have a Break?* **Arbor Gate Blog**. June 2014.


**Training/Events:**


October 8, 2013. Attended native plant luncheon at the History Center in Diboll.


December 19, 2103. Attended Dave Creech SFA Gardens Lecture Series on events of the past year.

January 9, 2014. Attended Jason Mckenzie SFA Gardens Lecture Series on Texas cottage gardens,


February 20-21, 2104. Attended the Texas Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta meeting at the Fort Worth Botanical Garden.

February 27-March 3, 2104. Attended the Southern Garden History Society annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia.


May 13-14, 2014. Attended TLL Temple Boggy Slough planning meeting.


August 14-16, 2104. Attended the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association trade show in San Antonio.

DAWN STOVER – September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014

Tours and Outreach

September 11, 2013 – Graduate student recruiting tour

September 12, 2013 – Women of Agriculture. 15 students

October 1, 2013 – SFA Agriculture College Day. 60 students

October 8, 2013 – Presentation about the SFA Gardens to Forestry 221 students for plans building. 30 students

October 16, 2013 – Mast Arboretum tour, Cypress Area Garden Clubs. 45 attendees

October 18, 203 – Mast Arboretum tour, Travel with Carole. 41 attendees

October 24, 2013 - Local Food Fair. SFA Campus

October 26, 2013 - Fall Fandango. SFA Gardens

November 1, 2013 – Mast Arboretum tour and reception, Pines Garden Club. 20 attendees

December 18, 2013 – SFA Gardens tour and visit, LSU faculty

November 17, 2013 – Bee habitat collaboration with SFA Biology, Dr. Dan Bennett

January 8, 2014 – Autism and gardening consultation with Dr. Ginger Kelso, SFA Human Services

January 31-Feb 1, 2014 – American Society of Horticultural Science, Southern Region, J.
Benton Storey - organize and host undergraduate judging competition, 100 students

February 7, 2014 – Pines Garden Club auction. 100 attendees

February 25, 2014 – Mast Arboretum tour, Diboll Garden Club. 15 attendees

March 8, 2014 – Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, FFA Nursery and Landscape CDE. 150 students

March 20, 2014 – Mast Arboretum tour, Cherokee County Master Gardeners. 30 attendees

March 27, 2014 – Mast Arboretum tour, Smith County Master Gardeners. 25 attendees

April 7, 2014 – SFA FFA Nursery and Landscape CDE. 125 students

April 22, 2014 – SFA Gifts officers – tour of SFA Gardens

May 14, 2014 – Mast Arboretum tour, Longview Greenstreet Garden Club. 18 attendees

May 16, 2014 – Brick Street News interview, SFA Gardens and Garden Capital of Texas

May 28, 2014 – Mast Arboretum tour, Forest Cove Garden Club

June 10, 2014 – Mast Arboretum tour, Leona-Centerville EE Club. 22 attendees

June 14, 2014 – developed self-guided tour of the Sculpture for All exhibit through the Mast Arboretum and Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden. 47 attendees

August 18, 2014 – Mast Arboretum and Ruby M. Mize Garden tours for visiting professors from Nanjing Forestry Institute

**Presentations and Workshops**

October 10, 2013 – “Perennials for the Landscape” - Lunch and Learn, Nacogdoches Agrilife Extension. 100 attendees

November 13, 2013 – “Sexy Plants” – Gregg County Agrilife Extension. 60 attendees

December 7, 2013 – “Deck the Halls” workshop. 30 attendees

December 11, 2013 – wreath demonstration, HRT 322. 12 attendees

January 13, 2014 – “Everything Including the Kitchen Sink” – presentation, FUMC Primetimers. 75 attendees
January 14, 2014 – “Sexy Plants” – Harrison County Agrilife Extension. 50 attendees

February 3, 2014 – “Mixed Border Design” – Gulf Coast Gardener workshop, Mercer Arboretum, 100 attendees

February 8, 2014 – “Veggies 101” – SFA Gardens workshop, 40 attendees

February 25, 2014 – “Annuals and Perennials” workshop, Nacogdoches County Master Gardener training. 15 attendees

March 13, 2014 – “Garden Gala Day Preview” – Les and Theresa Reeves Lecture series, 100 attendees

March 25, 2014 – “All You Ever Wanted to Know About the SFA Gardens” – Nacogdoches Rotary presentation, 35 attendees

August 19, 2014 – “SFA Gardens Fall Festival Preview” – Angelina County Master Gardener presentation, 31 attendees

Professional Development

January 31-Feb 1, 2014 – American Society of Horticultural Science, Southern Region


June 16-20, 2014 – All American Selections – Summer Summit, Asheville, NC

July 11-15, 2014 – AmericanHort Cultivate trade show and educational session, Columbus, OH

Les and Theresa Reeves Lecture Series – monthly lectures at the SFA Gardens

SFA Training:
Security Awareness Training

Hazcom standards training

Defensive driving and van certification

Intro to grant writing

Professional Achievements

Edit SFA Gardens News, quarterly newsletter for the SFA Garden’s members
Successfully completed fundraising campaign for outdoor sculpture competition and brought Sculpture for All exhibit to the SFA Gardens

Service

Nacogdoches Junior Forum: Corporate Sponsor Chair/board member, Outreach Committee member

Garden Capital of Texas Committee

Healthy Nacogdoches Coalition

Cub Scout Pack 161, Den leader

First United Methodist Church, children’s volunteer

BARBARA STUMP - September 1, 2013-August 31, 2014

Progress Toward Goals for 2014 Fiscal Year

For Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

Create a new event for fall to draw visitors to learn more about Japanese maples.—Yet to be defined.

Increase promotion of Azalea Trail events so annual Symposium and Little Princess Tea Party make money, and evaluate proposal to charge for guided Azalea Trail tours.—Friends of SFA Gardens Board Member Dr. Cheryl Boyette secured a sponsor for the Little Princess Tea Party so that net income for event was $457. No sponsor for Symposium and low participation netted a loss of $291.

Develop plan for correcting erosion on the southern bank of Burrows Creek, on the northern end of the garden.—Yet to be defined; some solutions suggested, but not approved to move forward to construction.
For Gayla Mize Garden

Complete plant stake and plant labeling of entire collection. Process of mapping and listing plants needing labels about 80% done; creation of labels about 2% done, due to mechanical issues and nomenclature accuracy concerns.

Assist in sourcing new deciduous azaleas.—Yet to be done

Create visitor map and brochure in time for spring visitors.—Very basic level version done.

**Completed Major Projects**

Received and installed six new 10-foot metal benches for Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden honoring major donor Dorothy Wisely.

Other duties as assigned and completed

Managed paperwork for Search committee for Assistant Professor of Horticulture.

Supported efforts to secure Jimmy Hinds Park project, procured sign and information about Jimmy Hinds for permanent signage.

Wrote grant for Conservation Educator Funds to private granting foundation. $10,000 secured to help maintain assistant education coordinator salary.

**Goals for FY 2015**

For Ruby M. Mize Azalea Garden

Lead organization and execution of national Azalea Society of America convention March 26-29.

Assist with Nacogdoches Azalea Trail tours as needed during Azalea Trail.

Get design proposal and cost estimate for roof to cover Council Ring. This would increase number of events that could be held there as well as reduce costs for Azalea Trail events. Budget permitting, begin construction.

Set up a graveled and signed parking area by ROTC tower for staff parking.

Improve irrigation in western-most bed (#45) and replace Encore® Azalea Collection losses.

Consider second pink “entrance sign” with map at western entrance to garden.
For Gayla Mize Garden

Complete Pavilion roof on raised area by asphalt walk by well so area can be used for picnics and other gatherings.

Purchase and install two metal benches in Pavilion.

Complete individual plant-stake signs for all unique plant taxa.

For Jimmy Hinds Park

Assist as needed, primarily by monitoring purchasing and ensuring six new metal benches are installed.

Published Papers


Talks, Presentations, and Tours


March 1-May 28, 2014. Stump, Barbara and three trained docents. Guided tours (11) 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. 351 in attendance.


**Service**

Member of Nacogdoches Garden Capital of Texas Committee, dedicated to beautification of Nacogdoches city and county.

National board member for the Azalea Society of America, including attendance at the national Azalea Society of America convention in Charleston, South Carolina, March 27-29, 2014.


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**ELYCE RODEWALD – September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014**

**Education Team**

Coordinator: Elyce Rodewald

Assistant Coordinator: Kerry Lemon

Student Workers: Brandy Sapp, Isis Waites, Ariel Jones, Anthony Rosborough, Morgen Huss, Trenton Stiefel, Mary Leigh Winkler, Jason Gray

Interns: Alexus Boyd, Nelly Cervantes, Cody Pruitt

Education Assistants: Vicki Baggett, Maya Lemon, Sarafina Feldman

SFA Garden Volunteers: Jackie Grant, Ray Goehring, Kathy Greer, Mary Beth Hagood, Ruth Heino, Kay Jeffrey, Mary Louise Jobe, Marianne Young

**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).

SFA Student Involvement

Environmental Education programs at SFA Gardens advanced the University mission by enhancing excellence in teaching, learning, creative work and service and by creating new learning opportunities for SFA students. Three students completed required internships by participating as teachers in the after-school program or summer camp experience. Students enrolled in Dr. Alan Soward’s and Leah Kahn’s science methods courses also gained hands-on experience in curriculum development and instruction in an outdoor classroom through their participation in Bugs, Bees, Butterflies and Blossoms and Wild About Science.

Community Partners

Training
At SFA, attended Receipts and Deposits, Property Management and Campus Programs for Minors training

Attended Certified Food Manager course through Texas AgriLife Extension

Service
Facilitated 3rd grade garden project for NISD

Grants and Funding
Received Green Mountain Energy Sun Club grant for solar array installation at the Ina Brundrett Conservation Education Building -- $30,000 +$15,000 in contributions from Encore Electric

Managed More Kids in the Pineywoods Grant from USFS

Received Texas Parks and Wildlife COOP Grant - $ 36,584

Managed SFA Garden Membership drive and supervised collection of fees for educational programs.
### SFA Gardens Environmental Education Program Data Summary

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Data shown are from September through August each year.
Nacogdoches Naturally Education Programs:

Twice weekly after-school programs for Boys and Girls Club Members and Raguet Elementary School students.

Family Fun Days:

September 7, 2013: Kick-off Day – PNPC

October 12, 2013: Blast from the Past – community event

October 27, 2013: Pirates in the Pineywoods – Gayla Mize Garden

November 16, 2013: Meet the Creepy Crawlers – PNPC

January 25, 2014: Kid Fish – community event

February 8, 2014: Family Gardening - PNPC

February 15, 2014: Bird Day – PNPC

April 5, 2014: Earth Day Celebration – PNPC

April 26, 2014: Farm and Forestry Day – SFA Beef Center

National Archery in the Schools program offered to Mike Moses Middle School – Outdoor Education Classes over a total of 12 days

March 6, 2014: Special Event – Healthy Activity Tailgate Party Carpenter Elementary School

March 22, 2014: Special Events – Spring Fling – community event

Little Princess Tea Party – Ruby Mize Azalea Garden

June-July 2014: 4 weeks of summer camp for children ages 4-15

Assisted with educational field trips
Presentations:
March 18, 2014 “Environmental Education at SFA Gardens” presented to Flora Garden Club

Grants and funding:
May 31, 2014: Applied for Texas Parks and Wildlife Community Outdoor Outreach Grant
August 1, 2014: Received notice of grant recipient award for TPWD COOP Grant

Trainings:
SFA CPM, SFA Banner, Wilderness First Responder recertification
February 26-28, 2014: Attended annual Informal Science Educators Association Conference

Other:
Participated in Science in the Public Interface Project sponsored by College of Forestry
Attended monthly SFA Sustainability Advocacy Coalition Meetings

DUKE PITTMAN – September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014

As the SFA Gardens Technician, Duke coordinates student workers, and handles garden installation and maintenance projects. He sets the pace and sees that projects are initiated and completed in a timely manner.