

# people

## Agrilife Extension Service news



By Jeanna C. Godfrey  
Aransas/San Patricio Master Gardener

### Fun gardening tips shared

Gardening is a pleasurable past time enjoyed by many local residents. Here are a few tips to make gardening tasks easier, more efficient, or more economical.

1. To get inspiration for color combinations for containers and garden beds, examine a piece of fabric that you love. Take small pieces of the fabric with you to the nursery to help with choosing blooming plants.
2. If you are an impulse plant purchaser, keep a couple of Frisbees in your car trunk. Slip them under freshly watered nursery plants to prevent wet spots on your car carpet.
3. Keep plant tags handy for reference by punching a hole in them (make sure to avoid punching holes in information areas) then feed them onto a metal ring that opens in the middle (look in the school or office supply area). Hang the ring from a nail in your garden or tool shed.
4. If you use a kneeling pad when weeding your beds, make sure to use two, placed side by side. You can weed along the bed without having to hop up and down to move a single pad.
5. If you loan your garden tools to friends or neighbors, place a return address label on the handle to remind the recipient of the rightful owner.
6. If the factory foam falls off the handles of your garden tools, replace it with tennis racket tape. It will usually last a couple of years and can easily be replaced as needed. Most sporting goods stores carry the tape.
7. If you water your plants using a watering can with a spout, always carry it with the spout facing backwards to prevent water sloshing on your shoes.
8. Use a plastic sweater storage box filled with mini Christmas lights beneath your seed starting trays as an inexpensive alternative to heating mats.
9. If you have little time for gardening due to work or other commitments but would love to have fresh homegrown tomatoes, plant some in the ground or in a five-gallon pot near a frequently used door. You'll see the plants daily and can check on the ripening fruit.
10. If you use weed sprays in your garden beds, protect desirable plants by cutting the rim of a 20 ounce disposable cup at a 45 degree angle, then cutting a hole in the bottom just large enough to insert the spray nozzle. Set the angled rim of the cup over the weed and spray. The cup will contain any drifting spray. Remember to always follow the label. It is the law.
11. If you purchase roasted chicken from a local grocery, keep the plastic domed container it comes in. After a thorough wash, they make great seed-starting greenhouses and can be used repeatedly.
12. Nail one side of a funnel to the wall of your garden or toolshed and place your garden twine inside. Feed the end of the twine through the small opening. This prevents the twine from tangling.
13. When it comes time to cut back ornamental grasses in late winter, bundle the grass with duct tape or a bungee cord, then cut near the base using an electric hedge trimmer. Use the cut grass for mulch.
14. Fishermen attach a thin measuring tape to their rods, allowing them to measure fish they catch, ensuring they are legal size. Attach one to the handle of your shovel to make it easier to measure the diameter and depth of holes dug in the garden.
15. Place an old mailbox on a post in your garden to hold frequently used garden tools. A 3 pound coffee can, screwed to a fence post, may be used instead.
16. Check your garden at least weekly for miniature pools of water that mosquitoes are using to multiple their numbers. Simple suggestions like those above, will make gardening a much more rewarding experience, and the time-saving suggestions will take the hassle out of a wonderful hobby.

### Meetings

**South Rockport Neighbors:** will hold a candidate forum for the Aransas County Navigation District at 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20 at 732 S. Pearl St. For more information, call 729-6100.

## ARANSAS COUNTY S-T-R-O-N-G

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## History Mystery

### Who has contributed to the record of early peoples in Aransas County?

By PAM STRANAHAN  
Chair, AC Historical Commission

Archeology is a relatively new discipline, only defined in the U.S. in the 1950s, but people have been curious about artifacts and the people who left them for a very long time.

In the coastal bend Martin and Potter made early surveys in the 1920s. Those records were privately published. In the 1920s and 1930s a father and step-son, Harold Pape and John Tunnell, began an extensive survey, making detailed notes as they collected artifacts. This collection was published by their son and grand-son recently.

In the late 1940s T. N. Campbell from UT-Austin conducted local excavations and published in the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological Society. He continued his research and synthesis through the 1960s. In the 1960s, university trained archeologist Jim Corbin (who grew up in Ingleside) added to the interpretation of data from the coastal bend. Archeologist Bob Ricklis became the dean of coastal archeology as he investigated many regional sites while serving as senior archaeologist at TRC Environmental Corporation and president of Coastal Archaeological Research in Corpus Christi.

More recently members of the THC Archeological Stewards network, including Pat Braun and others, have continued to document site and finds in the region and report to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at UT-Austin where the central depository of data and artifacts is housed. A group from the Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria, has recorded and preserved sites in the

region. Texas Tech professor Tamra Walter on the mission sites near Victoria has conducted historic archeology.

The stories of these investigations will be told in an exhibit, "Archeology: Early Peoples" that will be on display from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays, Sept. 22 thru mid-January, with bi-weekly programs on Sunday afternoons at the History Center for Aransas County (801 E. Cedar St.)



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