

# ART OF LIVING

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023 SECTION C

## Art of Words

Art Museum of Southeast Texas hosts quarterly book club

By Andy Coughlan  
CONTRIBUTOR

As the group wandered into the Art Museum of Southeast Texas's lecture hall and made their way to the lecture hall where long tables were set at right angles to each other, I pondered whether to sit by the food but decided against it. It was my first time at the museum's book club, so I didn't know what to expect. It turned out to be great way to relax at the end of a busy day.

Kasey Clay is AMSET's public relations coordinator and organizes the book club. The club started in 2018 and now it is on a quarterly schedule to give people plenty of time to read the book. In the first meeting after the pandemic only two people joined Clay and AMSET director Lynn Castle, but since then attendance has grown. At the meeting on April 18 there were 15 people, including the author.

Clay said the idea is to have an adult group to share a glass of wine and some food. Castle made a lovely crawfish dip in April and participants are welcome to contribute nibbles as well.

The museum's book club focuses specifically on art-related books, books written by artists or books about artists like biographies, Clay said.

"Nonfiction, fiction, we kind of alternate between the two," she said. "People like that because you come to the art museum, and you read a book about art, and you talk about art and it's something a little more unique than some other



Andy Coughlan/The Enterprise

Author Jeff Lanier, third from left, talks to the Art Museum of Southeast Texas book club about his novel, "For the Minds and Wills of Men," April 18 at the museum. (Bottom) Some of the previous books featured at the club, as well as the upcoming selection, "Leon Schulman Gaspard: The Real Story." The next free meeting is July 18 at 5:30 p.m.

general book clubs."

April's book was "For the Minds and Wills of Men," a thriller set in the Cold War-era and centered around New York's Abstract Expressionists and involving a stolen Jackson Pollock painting. Author Jeff Lanier lives in Houston, so he was able to travel down and join the conversation.

The book is well researched, and the discussion ranged from Abstract Expressionism to McCarthyism to the CIA

and the role of art in promoting American democracy around the world. Lanier did a great job pulling the disparate threads together into a noir-ish potboiler.

The book club is a diverse group, Clay said, with judges, teachers, and stay-at-home moms, as well as museum professionals and artists.

Some of the group had questions and comments, others just listened, but that is just

Club continues on C6



## Jesus calls us to become like children

By Sarah Herod  
CONTRIBUTOR

If you've had any experience with the psychology/therapy/counseling world, you've probably heard the term "inner child." It's used in different ways, but is commonly used as a way to contextualize taking care of yourself. You might hear someone say that your "inner child" just needs to know it's ok to feel fear, or that it needs to be comforted or given a break. Of course there's not a literal child inside of you, but sometimes it's easier for us to envision taking care of a child than it is to take care of ourselves.

Jesus spoke a lot about children during His ministry. He even told the adults around them that they needed to become like children in order to understand and experience the Kingdom of God. There is great wisdom in retreating to a child-like perspective at times.

As adults, in United States culture at least, we're taught a lot of things that aren't necessarily biblical or useful. We're taught to be completely independent, but the Bible teaches that we need to be completely dependent on God. We're taught to deny our emotions and push past "negative" feelings, but the Bible teaches to take all of our worries and anxieties to the feet of Jesus.

Let's take a look at how children match what the Bible asks us to do as full-adult Christians. Children, especially young ones, are com-

pletely dependent on the adults around them. Children don't know how to self-regulate, and so their big feelings turn into outward expressions and outbursts. Children may be resilient, but we also know that it is important to care for them well and avoid things that could be traumatizing to them.

Children (in a perfect world) understand that they have an adult who cares for them and who they can go to when they need help. They don't hesitate to go to them when they're struggling. They know when they're sad, or anxious, or upset that the adult will help them regulate the battle of emotions within them.

But none of us grow up in a perfect world, and as adults, we still have pieces of that child inside of us that needs some help — some grace in times of need. As adults we start to feel anxious or angry, and we deny ourselves the ability to feel them and push them away. However, displaced emotions may move around in our minds and bodies, but they never truly go away.

There's only one person who can truly handle all of our mess, and it's Jesus. He asked us to come to Him as a child — not with it all together, but a complete mess in need of help. With all of our emotions showing, so that He could point out the reason for each and each can come into alignment with Him. He's asked for dependence, wholly and completely, on the one who can handle it all.

## At Your Service

TO ADVERTISE:  
(409) 838-2888  
Classifieds@BeaumontEnterprise.com

Other

### POND STOCKING

1-800-362-3390



WWW.PARKERSFISHFARM.COM

#### HOME REMODEL | COMPLETE HOME REPAIR

• Interior/Exterior Painting • Siding • Fence Work  
• Dry Wall • Windows • Doors • Decks  
Senior Discount. Servicing Southeast Texas  
35 Year's Experience  
Contact Joe 409-433-3663

Other

### COMPLETE HOME REPAIR

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Siding
- Fence Work
- Dry Wall
- Windows
- Doors
- Decks
- Senior Discount
- Servicing Southeast Texas
- 35 Years' Experience

Contact Joe  
409-433-3663



PARKER'S FISH FARM  
✓ POND STOCKING  
WWW.PARKERSFISHFARM.COM  
1-800-362-3390

### Legal Notices

Legal Bids & Proposals

Legal Bids & Proposals

#### INVITATION TO BID

The Deweyville Independent School District Board of Trustees will now accept sealed bids on cafeteria food and non-food supplies. Sealed bids should be addressed to Deweyville ISD, Attn: Shirlene Hryhorchuk, CDN, PO Box 408 Deweyville, TX 77614 or in person delivery to 43200 Hwy 87 S, Orange, TX 77632.

All bids should be clearly marked "BID" on the front of the envelope indicated the item to be a bid. Sealed bids will be received in the Deweyville Administration Office, 43200 Hwy 87 S or P.O. Box 408, Deweyville, Texas 77614 until 8 A.M. on Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Bids will be opened at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday, June 14, 2023 and presented to the Deweyville ISD Board of Trustees for consideration at the regular board meeting on Monday, June 19, 2023.

Bid packets may be obtained by contacting the Deweyville ISD Administration office, 43200 Hwy 87 S, Orange, TX 77632-409-746-2685 ext 1 8:00AM-3:00PM M-F.

Legals/Public Notices

Legals/Public Notices

#### NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The Railroad Commission of Texas has disposed of equipment and/or hydrocarbons pursuant to Section 89.085 of the Texas Natural Resources Code. Any person with a legal or equitable ownership or security interest in the equipment or hydrocarbons that was in existence on the date the Commission entered into a contract to plug the following well(s) or clean the following leases/facilities may file a claim with the Commission. Contact the Houston District Office at 713-869-5001 to obtain a claim form.

SMP Code Number: 03-288521  
Operator Name: BYNG Energy Group, Inc. (118732)  
Lease Name: Kirby Lumber Co (05447)  
Well Number(s): #2 (API 199-31446)  
County: Hardin



Advertise your items in the  
**Beaumont Enterprise!**

For more information, call  
**409-838-2888**

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS**  
POWERED BY HEARST .com



# Ten pests that will wreck your tomato plants

By John Green

CERTIFIED TEXAS MASTER  
GARDENER

For this gardener, the physical act of gardening within moments relinquishes burden of daily life and its challenges: A hectic schedule, pursuing a career, managing a farm and juggling cumbersome people (not literally, though the thought has crossed my mind). Gardening for me is an outlet and provides me the ability to transcend the uniformity of modern life, and an easily-accessible escape route (a personal reset). Gardening satisfies a primal urge and allows me to become present in the moment, using all my senses. The sights and sounds, but most importantly to me the smell of warm-moist earth (or soil), is an intoxicating elixir dissolving life's transgressions providing me regeneration and for but a moment, the memories of a childhood in Germany with Oma and Opa.

As gardeners, we typically have diverse gardening interests — flower beds and hanging baskets to vegetable gardens and more nuanced specialty plants, like exotics requiring highly-focused, specific care. Our fascination is with plant growth cycles, nurturing them while watching them grow. It's the process of gardening that we find alluring. I'm certain the flower and vegetable gardens you planted recently look fantastic! Everything is performing well in your personal plant paradise, but then you notice something a bit off in the tomato patch. Some of the tomato leaves appear yellow, or a few of the fruits have blemishes or holes in them, and small insects abound or debris on leaves. What is a gardener to



Kim Brent/Beaumont Enterprise

**Deqwan Keller, Alaiyna Hawkins and Unied Way's Janie Johnson watch as Master Gardener Ellis Allen shows them how to plant tomato plants as first graders at Booker T. Washington learn about worms and help plant in the West Port Arthur Community Garden on March 31.**

do?

In my humble opinion, homegrown tomatoes are the most wonderful gift a gardener can receive from their garden, since the fruit has an incredible flavor straight off the plant — when all goes to plan! But there are numerous hurdles (pests) a gardener must combat before enjoying the fruit. So, while there are many pests, let's review the top 10 tomato pests for our locale and how to manage them:

**Nematodes** are by far the most problematic tomato pests, and there are tens of thousands of the species, with the root-knot nematode creating the most havoc. This nematode prevents the plant from getting nutrients from the soil by making galls and a knobby root system. Typically, plant discoloration is the first sign of nematode infestation. There are many 'beneficial' nematodes which play an important role in controlling garden pests. So, the best defense against root-knot nematodes is through crop

rotation and/or selecting nematode-resistant tomato varieties.

**Cutworms** are caterpillars that chew through tomato (including numerous other nightshade and basilica plant) stems. They are extremely aggressive larvae requiring little time to decimate newly-planted tomatoes. Beige in color, they can be located anywhere on the plant, though normally at the soil surface. This gardener wraps the base of each tomato plant with a thin, 1-inch strip of aluminum foil as a deterrent, which has never failed.

**Aphids** are sap-sucking insects that affect tomatoes, though a few aphids are harmless. Aphids find strength in numbers, so having a large aphid population will inhibit tomato growth and fruiting. Check the undersides of the plants' leaves regularly for small green or black insects and remove the affected leaves.

**Fruit worms** are pale-yellow moth larvae and burrow tiny holes into the fruit. Check the plants' leaves for small



Kim Brent/Beaumont Enterprise

**A student plants a tomato plant as first graders at Booker T. Washington learn about worms and help plant in the West Port Arthur Community Garden on March 31.**

white eggs and remove the affected leaves as they can go undetected until your tomatoes begin to rot.

**Hornworms** are very large, green caterpillars with voracious appetites that are perfectly camouflaged by the tomato plants' green foliage. They leave dropping trails (poop) on plant leaves and are easily removed by plucking from the plant and destroying.

**Leaf-Footed Bugs** include stink bugs and squash bugs, which are extremely common and the arch nemesis of gardeners. They enjoy hot, humid weather conditions and enjoy the Southeast Texas environment! Numerous species look similar in appearance with green or brown hues and are under an inch in length. They carry viruses and affect fruit quality by deforming immature fruit. Speaking from personal experience, planting companion plants such as basil, garlic, rosemary and others aid in reducing the stink bug population, followed by then pluck and squish method to remove the remaining insects as they are located.

**Psyllids** are plant lice,

which jump from plant-to-plant quickly and are sap-sucking insects which inflict considerable damage to tomato plants. Psyllid saliva is toxic to tomato plants creating "psyllid yellows" and causing foliage to yellow and fall off the plant. Eradication occurs most often naturally by having a cold winter since they cannot survive harsh conditions.

**Beetles** There are multiple species of that can threaten tomatoes. Make a habit of thoroughly inspecting tomato plants. Beetles have a variety of appearances, such as Blister beetles are black with red heads, Colorado potato beetles have alternating black and yellow stripes and flea beetles are solid black entirely. There's no simple solution to eliminate beetles, as each type of beetle responds to different methods, so research the specific type of beetle and always wear gloves before handling them!

**Thrips** are very tiny, narrow insects with four wings, but unlike other tomato pests, cause damage through transmission of the tomato wilt virus they carry. Their telltale sign is trails of brown spots on tomato leaves. It's best to remove infected plants and infested foliage.

**Whiteflies** are small, sap-sucking insects, that carry viruses, spreading from plant to plant. They are easily spotted against a red tomato or green foliage and simply treated by removing infected foliage.

So long for now fellow gardeners, let's go out and grow ourselves a greener, more sustainable world, one plant at a time! If you have gardening questions, email me: jon-green57@gmail.com or phone the Orange County Master Gardeners Helpline: (409) 882-7010.

## How to attract pollinators to your Houston garden

By Brandi Keller

CORRESPONDENT

Not to be dramatic, but our existence depends on pollination. The transfer of pollen between anther and stigma is crucial to U.S. agriculture, food security and the economy. Insects and animal pollinators need flowers for food and energy, while 90 percent of flowering plants need pollinators to produce seeds and fruit.

### Who are these pollinators?

Western (or European) honeybees tend to get the A-list celebrity news coverage, but they are not the only pollinators, nor the most numerous. With over 800 species of native bees in Texas, they should have more notoriety, but advocates are increasing awareness.

Around 70 percent of native bees burrow underground and are solitary, living a much different life than social bees. Molly Keck, AgriLife Extension integrated pest management specialist and entomologist, says

that some native bee species are 17 times more efficient as pollinators than honeybees. Mulching is an important cultural practice, but gardeners should remember to leave spaces mulch-free (or mulch with compost) to provide habitat for these friends to ensure they are near.

Most native bees are generalists, but some have favorites. Sweat and longhorn bees both adore the Asteraceae family of plants. Leafcutter bees enjoy *Bidens alba*, frogfruit and penstemon. Bumblebees frequent American basket flower and Indian blanket. And mason bees love blue bonnets. The beauty of a garden is its diversity, though. Celebrated creatures like hummingbirds, butterflies and moths rub elbows with unsung ants, flies, beetles and wasps. Unlikely flower wanderers include orthopterans: grasshoppers, katydids and crickets.

### Wildflowers are pollinator plants

Pollination affects gardens, beyond growing tomatoes and



Elizabeth Conley/Staff photographer

**A honeybee perches on a Texas frogfruit flower.**

peach trees. Native plants directly support native wildlife; both of which support local food webs. Pollinator plants come in all colors, shapes, scents, sizes and seasons, and variety is exactly what pollinators need when searching for food, water and shelter. Wildflowers are among this assortment. They serve wildlife, are dynamic succession flowers and bring joy. They can be purchased at garden centers, grown from seeds planted in the fall, or are already underfoot without your notice.

Powderpuff is a matting ground cover perennial (up to 8

inches tall with flowers) that blooms March through August. Bees and butterflies visit the pink puffy ball flowers with yellow pollen adorning the stamen tips. Leaves close at night, during rain and when touched, which makes it a fun observation with kids. It's a host plant for the little sulphur butterfly.

Indian blanket is an annual, or short-lived perennial, blooming May to September and potentially longer. Orange and yellow flowers are especially attractive to native bees. It grows to 2 feet tall.

Texas dandelion, or false dandelion, is an annual that blooms each morning and closes midday from February to June. It is a pollinator hot spot for nectar, especially in early spring. Considered a weed, it is not typically planted on purpose. However, its value as a pollinator plant is worth mentioning.

Frogfruit is a native perennial that produces small flowers May through October. The 3- to 6-inch mat-like growth makes for an interesting lawn alternative.

Butterflies and other pollinators visit for nectar. It serves as a larval host for Phaon crescent-spot, buckeye and white peacock butterflies.

### Tips for attracting pollinators

Reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals. Always identify the weed, pest or undesirable before you act. A small population of pests is not always a terrible thing since beneficials need prey.

Plant for each of the seasons and consider layers (trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and ground covers).

Incorporate host plants for butterflies you are trying to attract.

Add a clean water source for pollinators. Include small rocks or sand so they can land and drink safely.

Provide shelter. Leave areas free of mulch for native bees and avoid cleaning up every dead branch or hollow stem.

Choose native or appropriate nonnative pollinator-friendly plants.

## CLUB

From page C5

fine, Clay said.

"It's a really wide range of people and I've had new people come to me before and say, 'I didn't talk a lot, but I just liked being here and I liked being around being in the group and hearing people talk,'" Clay said. "We don't want to force anyone to do anything we're not comfortable with. So, if you're comfortable just coming and sitting and listening, then I still encourage those people to come."

"When we don't have an author, I try not to micromanage in any type of way, so I'll usually suggest topics of discussion or ask questions to the group, and we just let the conversation flow."

The books are selected by the group from a list or can just be suggested by anyone. And Clay said people don't need to feel like they need a background in art to participate.

"I have no prior knowledge of the art world and the different time periods and the artists," she said. "So, part of it



Andy Coughlan/The Enterprise

**Author Jeff Lanier, second from left, joined the Art Museum of Southeast Texas book club as they discussed his novel, "For the Minds and Wills of Men," April 18 at the museum.**

for me is that I really enjoy is learning from other people in the group. I like hearing about their knowledge and what they know about topics. It's helped me get a greater appreciation for different art move-

ments and different artists, and even just reading about art and artists in general. That was never the type of book I would look at and pick up right away. Since being a part of the club, it's really made me

look at books on those topics in a different way."

People are busy and sometimes it may be hard to finish the book but that shouldn't stop people from attending, Clay said.

"I'm bad about finishing books, so it really forces me to finish them," she said. "I've always been a book club kid. I actually started my own book club when I was in middle school. So, I think they're great. And I think it's a great way for people to socialize, too. And you learn something."

The Book Club starts at 5:30 p.m. with socializing and runs until 7 p.m. Anyone is welcome to the free event.

"We are definitely a relaxed group," Clay said. "You don't have to be a member of the club. You can pick and choose whenever you come or whatever books you want to read. So, say you don't like next book we're reading, that's okay. Maybe we'll get you on the next one."

The next book club will be Tuesday, July 18 at 5:30 p.m. The book is "Leon Shulman Gaspard: The Real Story" by Elena Ivanova. Gaspard's work is featured in the Stark Museum of Art's collection and Ivanova is scheduled to join the group by Zoom.

AMSET is located at 500 Main St. in downtown Beaumont. For more, visit amset.org.