



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article      April 25, 2016

### A Pollinator's Dream

by Lydia Holley

There were two types of milkweeds available at the Henderson County Master Gardener Plant Sale last Saturday, April 23. Monarchs rely upon milkweeds being available to lay their eggs. With the decline in the monarch population, Henderson County Master Gardeners hope the spread of milkweed plants will make a small difference.

Passionflower, a host plant for the Gulf fritillary butterfly, was also offered. Additionally, bronze fennel, one of the host plants for the Eastern Black Swallowtail, was available at the sale. This plant is a beautiful addition to most any garden with its coppery coloring and feathery foliage.



Favorite butterfly nectar plants including coneflowers (Echinacea), turk's cap (Malvaviscus), numerous salvias, chaste tree (Vitex), rock rose (Pavonia), and several types of lantana were available. There were also numerous blanket flowers (Gaillardia), which are one of the favorite nectar plants of both honey bees and native bees as well as butterflies. Master Gardener Karla Odom donated several pots of a scarce white and maroon gaillardia which is a native of Texas.

There were many other plants at the sale which would be attractive to a butterfly, or to a gardener putting in a butterfly garden. Master Gardener Wayne Stafford was on hand to answer any questions about butterflies or butterfly attracting plants.

Thanks to each Master Gardener that donated their favorite plants for the sale, there were hundreds, if not thousands, of other plants available. Plants were also not limited to those that attracted pollinators. Herbs, vegetables, bulbs, succulents, foliage plants, shrubs, trees, tropicals, and even houseplants were plentiful and varied.

The Henderson County Master Gardeners would like to thank each and every person that came to the sale. If you missed it, you will want to be certain you attend the annual sale next year.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).