Week of April 6, 2012

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April 08
Sunday

APRIL SHOWERS bring
May Flowers
2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Corner of Cullen & Wheeler

April is here to bring buds to new plants! We will be doing a lot of planting and maintaining of the garden. I am looking forward to transforming the garden into a spring haven for our community and having some fun in the sun with everyone!

Follow US

Contact plquyen.mar@gmail.com or sarah_clouse@hotmail.com for more information
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**Interested in getting INVOLVED?**

EMAIL volunteer.greenuh@gmail.com TO SIGN UP
Recipe of the Week

Corn and Sun-Dried Tomato Quesadilla with Smoked Mozzarella

Ingredients:
- 1/4 teaspoon olive oil
- 2 (6-inch) corn tortillas
- Cooking spray
- 1/3 cup fresh or frozen, thawed, corn kernels
- 1 tablespoon chopped red onion
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sun-dried tomato sprinkles
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup (1 ounce) shredded smoked mozzarella

Directions:
Pour oil onto one side of a tortilla. Place second tortilla over oiled side of first tortilla, and rub tortillas together to spread oil evenly over both tortillas.

Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Coat pan with cooking spray. Add corn; cook 4 minutes or until lightly browned, stirring occasionally. Place corn in a bowl. Add onion, sun-dried tomato, salt, and pepper to pan; sauté 1 minute. Add to the corn mixture. Wipe pan with paper towels; recoat with cooking spray.

Heat pan over medium-high heat. Place one tortilla, oiled side down, in pan. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons cheese over tortilla; top with corn mixture. Sprinkle with remaining 2 tablespoons cheese; top with remaining tortilla, oiled side up. Cook 2 minutes on each side or until cheese melts and tortilla is crisp. Cut into 4 wedges.
THIS WEEK IN PHOTOS

Spring Harvest
Condensed version of the interview conducted with John Lloyd-Reilley from the “E.” Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center in Kingsville, Texas on February 10.

GreenUH: So what exactly do you do at the Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center?

John Lloyd-Reilley: I am the PMC Manager, and I’m responsible for coordinating research and managing the facility. My team works under the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and we mainly help private landowners such as farmers with data and land-use techniques that help protect and conserve our natural resources.

GreenUH: What work has your facility done in regards towards conservation and the environment?

John Lloyd-Reilley: Well we have managed to release to the commercial seed trade with our partner South Texas Natives from Texas A&M in Kingsville 16 native plant species that are now available to the general public for the restoration of wildlife habitat. We have published numerous fact sheets on the use of these native species, as well as guides on planting techniques for their establishment. We work primarily in the two ecoregions of Texas called the Gulf Coast Prairie and the South Texas Plains. We collect, evaluate and release native plant ecotypes for the restoration of Texas habitats. We also work on strategies for coastal shoreline stabilization, sand dune restoration and endangered species recovery.

GreenUH: So how would you compare your facility to other NRCSs?

John Lloyd-Reilley: Well the USDA’s plant facilities aren’t really competitive. We just conduct research projects based on our own particular regions. They’re very unique in what they do or even specialize in. We also don’t go in as contractors for firms, because there would be a conflict of interest, but we do provide assistance and guides that they could use for free. Texas has the most of any state with three facilities, Kingsville, Nacogdoches and Knox City.

GreenUH: Why would something like the NRCS be something with the USDA, and maybe not something like the EPA?

John Lloyd-Reilley: While the EPA does share similar goals in trying to promote conservation and better sustainability of our lands, as well as conducting some research, the EPA is more of an overall regulatory agency. The NRCS cooperates with landowners and farmers more directly in trying to reduce impacts on the environment. I guess you could say it’s somewhat analogous to being the USDA’s ‘green’ marketing office, with a heavy load of in-house research.

GreenUH: What got you interested in having this job?

John Lloyd-Reilley: As a child that grew up in Washington state, I’ve always had a thing for agriculture and nature. I went to the University of Missouri-Columbia, and moved onto Texas A&M College Station to get a degree in Soils & Range Management/Science. Since then, I managed to find work at the Plant Material Center and have been here for 20 years now. I really do love my job, even when I have to do the dreaded administrative tasks, but for the most part, I have a great amount of independence for my research.

GreenUH: From several of the things you have published, would you consider yourself a grass expert?

John Lloyd-Reilley: I wouldn’t really consider myself an expert. That’s a pretty big term, but I’d like to say I’m a grass specialist. I don’t have a particular favorite grass though, sideoats grama is the state grass of Texas.

GreenUH: Do you think hydroponics/aquaponics are the next wave in agriculture?

John Lloyd-Reilley: I think they make sense for perhaps specialty crops, but they have constraints in producing large commodities that would be viable economically. I believe that independent farming where farms are producing food will still be the backbone of American agriculture.

GreenUH: Last but not least, how do you think Texas has been doing in terms of conservation and sustainability?

John Lloyd-Reilley: Texas isn’t perfect, but we’ve made pretty good strides in recent decades. In south Texas, there’s been a lot of improvement in restoration of habitats on private lands. As I mentioned, our plant center has managed to reintroduce many native plant species back into the wild. These species are being used by Texas Department of Transportation for the revegetation of Texas right-of-ways. These species are also being used by the petroleum and wind energy industry for the revegetation of disturbed lands caused by roads and exploration.

Interview conducted by Michael Nguyen
UH Sustainability Internships

Sustainability Intern, Weingarten Realty
Intern will assist property management department with sustainability and green initiatives for Weingarten owned and managed properties. Internship pays $12 per hour. Candidates must be actively working on degree in real estate, environmental science/sustainability or related field. Master’s degree student preferred but not required. For more information, contact Dena Moon at dmoon@weingarten.com.

EPA, DC, Environmental Conflict Resolution Internship (Grad Students)
Seeking a student intern interested in environmental conflict resolution. CPRC houses EPA’s experts in environmental collaboration and conflict resolution and provides a range of services to EPA managers and staff, including access to professional mediators and facilitators, case intake and consultation, process design, conflict coaching, and training. Applicants are asked to submit a resume, cover letter, and project proposal. For more information, please visit http://www.internationalpeaceandconflict.org/forum/topic/show?id=780588%3ATopic%3A709969&xgs=1&xg_source=msg_share_topic

Green Build Education
Green building immersion opportunity: Volunteer with the Program Director of the City of Houston Green Building Resource Center serving the mission: “To enable the public to experience and learn more about healthy and energy, water, and material conserving design and construction; also known as Green Building.” Internship is offered for minimum 4 hrs/week, consecutively. Interested? Email the Director at steve.stelzer@houstontx.gov

Communications, Grant Writing: Keep Houston Beautiful
For 28 years, Keep Houston Beautiful has been reaching out to all segments of our community to educate and empower individuals to take greater responsibility for beautifying and enhancing Houston’s environment.

Job Duties:
Grant Writing; Assist community organizers with completing cleanup packets and registering their event with Keep Houston Beautiful and Site Box Score retrievals; Sending communications to KHB volunteer database; Assist with Adopt a Block processing.
For more information, email rbeaty@houstongbeautiful.org

Urban Harvest Business/ Accounting Intern
This position will include any or all of the following:
Accounts payable disbursements, schedules of disbursement in Excel, spreadsheets of expense reports, database management, comparison reports of budgets vs. actual, membership communications, department reports. We can work with you on the number of hours needed. juli@urbanharvest.org or call 713-880-5540

Urban Harvest Community Gardens Intern
Can include any or all of the following:
Gain/use knowledge of bioregional gardening, which includes information on vegetables, fruits, herbs and habitat plants; Assist community gardeners in maintaining gardens; Promote ecological pest management; Assist with managing gardens; Community building; Volunteer recruitment; Help build gardens. Physical requirements and working conditions apply. For more information contact Becky Blanton at becky@urbanharvest.org or call 713-682-9480

Urban Harvest Writer Intern
Writing is needed in all of our programs and can include any or all of the following:
Articles for our newsletter; class descriptions for our website; farmers Market descriptions for the website and weekly newsletter; fundraising assistance; advertising for classes, farmers markets and community gardens; spanish translation is needed periodically, but not a requirement for internship. We can work with you on the number of hours needed. Email gary@urbanharvest.org or call 832-656-2819 for more information.

Urban Harvest Farmers Market Intern
Responsibilities include general operations at any of our five farmers markets. Work with the intern coordinator to design a program specific to your strengths and needs. This can include any or all of the following: small business management; general accounting; digital communications; marketing. We can work with you on the number of hours needed. For more information contact Rebecca O’Brien at rebecca@urbanharvest.org or call 203-788-3886

Urban Harvest Youth Garden Instructor and Outreach Coordinator Intern
To Apply send resume and cover letter to schoolandyouth@urbanharvest.org or call Carol Burton at 281-865-1966. Twelve hours weekly, but can be negotiated to fit your needs. Internship can include any or all of the following: TEACHING, GARDEN SITE SUPPORT, and COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND OUTREACH.
Facebook

Green UH
https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/GreenUH/134243949929

Campus Community Garden
https://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=100001733434088

RecycleMania
https://www.facebook.com/#!/RecycleMania

Twitter
https://twitter.com/#!/GreenUH

Urban Harvest
http://www.urbanharvest.org/

Outdoor Adventure

Education
http://www.uhrecreation.com/outdoor-adventure/educational-series/

Trips
http://www.uhrecreation.com/outdoor-adventure/trips/