# What's Growing On?

**BASTROP COUNTY MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION**

May 2026

# 2026 MASTER GARDENER TRAINING BEGINS AUGUST 1ST

**By Debbie Mikel, Education Director**

Registration is now open for the Bastrop County Master Gardener 2026 Intern Training. Classes begin August 1st and run through November 7th. More details about the class and program can be found on our website at https://txmg.org/bastropcounty/ .

Former student Denise Niedzialek from the 2025 Intern Class says:

*"I joined because I didn't have a clue how to successfully grow flowers, maintain a healthy lawn, or even keep herbs thriving. After attending the classes and working in the Master Gardener demonstration gardens, I gained a much better understanding of plants and the gardening process. But the best part of the experience has been the new friendships I've made along the way."*

Want to know more? Join us June 23rd 6pm at Bastrop Community Center 15 American Legion Drive, Bastrop. During this session we will cover:

* What it means to be a Master Gardener
* Master Gardener Experience
* 2026 class schedule
* How to apply to upcoming intern class.

Unable to attend but have question? Contact us at class@bcmga78602.org

Debbie Mikel

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# Downtown Bastrop Planters Update

**By Joni Groom**



The downtown planters look wonderful and are holding steady thanks to the recent rains! A “mystery person” added a feature to the planter in front of the ReMax offices. It's the kind of surprise we enjoy discovering! The planter in front of 602 was knocked over (we think by a vehicle). It has happened before, but the plants have always managed to survive. We recently replanted some of the bedding plants at the Bastrop Utility Offices.

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
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Bastrop County

## BECOME A MASTER GARDENER!

*Grow with us.*
*Connect with your community & neighbors.*







### WHAT DOES IT TAKE?

To become a Bastrop County Master Gardener, you must complete the **14-week training program**, and complete **50 hours of volunteer** service.

Annually, to maintain your certification, you must complete 10 Continuing Education (CE) hours and 20 volunteer hours.

**Learn.** Acquire high-level horticulture science and practical skills.

**Attend.** Complete a rigorous, multi-topic training program.

**Share.** Teach others in the community what you've mastered.

**Serve.** Commit to meaningful volunteer hours as a certified expert.

### WHY JOIN US?

Grow your knowledge, connect with fellow garden lovers, and make a difference! You'll receive top-notch horticulture training from Texas A&M AgriLife and have opportunities to share your skills through fun, meaningful volunteer work.

**APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE!**

class@bcmga78602.org

www.txmg.org/bastropcounty

### WHAT IS A MASTER GARDENER?

The Bastrop County Master Gardeners are more than just enthusiasts; we are trained community educators.

In partnership with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, we provide research-based horticultural knowledge to our neighbors.

### 2026 INTERN CLASS

**BEGINS AUGUST 1ST**

**14-week course. We met in-person, weekly on Saturdays***

- Texas Superstar Plants
- Soil & Composting
- Landscape Design
- Water Conservation
- Integrated Pest Management
- Herbs
- EarthKind
- Plant Propagation
- Lawn Care & more!

**$185 FEE**

**REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 24TH!**

*You'll also help with the Fall & Spring Plant Sales, and Fall Symposium*

**There will be one Friday class.*

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

## Volunteering

Master Gardeners volunteer in the community to teach others about horticulture. We follow the research-based recommendations of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Members who complete 50 hours of volunteer service in the year after training earn the designation “Texas Master Gardener.” We use our title only when engaged in Texas A&M AgriLife Extension activities.

# Growing More Than Gardens

## By Dale Weiss, BCMGA President




One of the things I have been thinking about lately is that BCMGA grows far more than plants and gardens.

Yes, we build demonstration gardens, teach classes, hold plant sales, answer gardening questions, and work on community projects. Those things are important and visible to the public. But behind all of that is something even more important — people working together, sharing knowledge, supporting one another, and building community.

Over the past few months, I have watched members step up in ways both big and small. Some organize events. Some quietly pull weeds, move stones, water plants, or set up tables and chairs. Some teach. Some mentor newer members. Some simply show up with encouragement, cookies, and a willingness to help wherever needed.

That spirit is what keeps BCMGA growing.

Our work at Bob Bryant Park, including the new Pocket Prairie project, the Cedar Creek Butterfly and Succulent Gardens, Downtown Planters, Fisherman's Park, educational programs at the Senior Center, and outreach efforts throughout the county only happen because volunteers continue to give their time, experience, creativity, and heart to this organization.

We are also continuing to build partnerships throughout the community. Whether it is working alongside the City of Bastrop, supporting gardening education, or developing collaboration opportunities with the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry, these relationships help extend the reach of our mission beyond the garden gate.

I also think it is important that we continue honoring the people who helped build the foundation we stand on today. Our recent Emeritus recognitions are reminders that BCMGA did not happen overnight. It was built through years of dedication, leadership, and service from members who believed in creating something lasting for Bastrop County.

As President, one of the things that encourages me most is seeing newer and longtime members working side by side. That is where organizations stay healthy — when experience, new ideas, energy, and friendship all come together.

The public may see flowers blooming, gardens growing, and events taking place. What I see is the people behind them.

Thank you for everything you continue to do for BCMGA, for our community, and for each other.

— Dale Weiss
President, BCMGA 2026