



August 2010

COMAL GARDENER

Promoting Knowledge and Volunteerism

A monthly publication of the Comal Master Gardeners Association through the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Comal County, 325 Resource Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78132 (830-620-3440)

Volume XIII

<http://mastergardener.comal.tx.us/>

Number 2

From President Larry Williamson

I have a few announcements to make.

Lee Franzel has agreed to be the new Volunteer Services Coordinator, succeeding Michael Welch, our new President Elect.

Elizabeth Bowerman, Class of 2002, was elected to the Bylaws committee by the Executive Board and will bring her executive experiences with Raven Star to the committee.

Becky Pinkerton is our new Volunteer Hours Timekeeper and can be reached by sending your hours to cmgtime@gmail.com

For some time now we have needed someone to be an advocate for our members. Myles Peinemann has agreed to be our Membership Counsel and make sure we are all aware of any difficulties some of our members might be having.

Glenn Avriett has indicated that progress is being made on establishing a vegetable garden at the Extension Office, and he is ready to put up a fence. I have asked Harold Voges to meet with Glenn to make sure our needs are met. Stay tuned for more updates.

There are members of our organization who for health reasons or family difficulties are not able to meet the certification requirements at the present time. As you know, Harold Voges is our only member to reach Emeritus Status, granted in 2007 by President Viola Espinosa. The Board feels that we should consider other members for that honor. Ray Elizondo, Harold Voges and Jean Petersen have agreed to serve on this year's committee. For more information, read the article outlining the Emeritus provisions for CMG.

CMG August Meeting

6 pm Tuesday, August 24

Place: *Bulverde Library*

Speaker: *Nyta Brown, Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologist*

Topic: *Brazilian Free Tailed Bats*

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•••Garden Posts•••

- A “high five” to our president, Larry Williamson, for obtaining a much-needed berm for the Extension Gardens. The Extension Garden co-chairs will meet with Glenn Avriett so construction can begin in the fall.
- On August 9 the Herb SIG will take a field trip to Boggy Creek Farm. This is a completely organic vegetable and fruit farm. There will be a charge for the tour. RSVP to Sally Ann Hnatiuk at mustang_sally6@msn.com by Monday, August 2, and she will send you further information. Any interested person is invited to attend the meetings.

The Herb SIG met at the Antique Rose Emporium in July to make herbal swags. Robbi Will and Mary Salmon demonstrated different techniques. We used two tables overflowing with herbs to make swags for their kitchens, baths and doorways. The fragrance was heady and the laughter rich. We also learned how to make wreaths to flavor soups and stews. It was a great time with many creations, each as individual as the people who made them.

- Congratulations to newly certified Comal Master Gardeners Rosalie Meier and Julia and Tom Anders, recent graduates of the Class of 2010!
- The Fairgrounds Committee reminds everyone to start saving seeds and four-inch plants to give away at the Master Gardener booth at the Comal County Fair, September 24-26. Don't forget the Fajita Social Sunday, September 19, either. The September issue will have more information on the social. If you didn't get a chance to sign up for the social or duty during the fair, you can sign up at the August meeting or, if you wish, contact Aleta Meyer (aleta_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929).
- From Treasurer Marlene Ballard: Balance for July: \$10,117.76. Expenses: \$1103.00 and income: \$2066.00.
- The hostesses for the August meeting are Edie Zaiontz, Glenda Janca, Mary Moses and Linda Sickles.
- Rosalie Meier will be collecting any significant or historical CMG documents or photos for the newly-formed archives. Judy Chantos and Angie Martinez will assist with the project. One of the committee will be at all of the meetings, or members may drop their material off at the Extension Office.
- Mark your calendars for the Master Gardener Regional Conference October 9 in Schertz. For more information, go to www.tcmastergardeners.org
- Whew! Evelyn Nielsen, her faithful crew and new member Allie Wallace will continue the fun-filled Comal County Fair Parade Float that spreads the word about our program to so many people. This year's float has essentially already been created, and we also have a '52 Chevy pickup for a base of operations.
- One of our most visible gardens, the Conservation Plaza, needs a leader – or leaders. A small but mighty group of CMGs is forming a leadership committee to oversee the gardens. Would you consider being part of this worthy activity? Think about it, and if you are interested, contact Volunteer Coordinator Lee Franzel (lee Franzel@gvvc.com).

Report your CE and Volunteer Hours!

Send your CE hours to Don Tuff. Send to **CERecorder@MasterGardener.Comal.TX.US** Be sure to include title of talk, speaker's name, date and time of talk, location, CE hours and sponsoring organization.

Chairs, send volunteer hours to Becky Pinkerton, **CMGtime@gmail.com**

Nominations Open for CMG Emeritus Status

CMG President Larry Williamson has announced that nominations for members to be considered as Comal Master Gardener Emeritus are being accepted. **Nominations must be submitted to Larry by September 1, 2010.**

The emeritus status in the Texas Master Gardener Association is an honorary title awarded to a retired Master Gardener volunteer for distinguished service to Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

The emeritus status is a distinctive honor, not a right. Such status is limited to certified Texas Master Gardeners. A Master Gardener Emeritus is no longer required to complete yearly requirements or pay dues to remain a participating member.

Emeritus status is considered when a member can no longer perform the organization's required service and continuing education hours and thus cannot maintain certification. It is not granted solely for years of membership or because members state that they are retiring. In order to be considered, the member should have five or more years of service and membership in the organization. The member's contributions to the organization should be the main consideration in nominating a member for emeritus status. Having held an office in the organization is not a requirement. It is service and overall contributions to the organization that are the principal considerations.

Nominations should include reasons that the person nominated deserves consideration and the honor of emeritus standing. The nominations will be forwarded to a committee consisting of Ray Elizondo (chair), Jean Peterson and Harold Voges. The committee will consult with Extension Agent Glenn Avriett and forward its recommendations to the Comal Master Gardener board for approval and final action.

CMG Board Okays Hiatus Status

Certified Master Gardeners who wish to become inactive due to personal circumstances may apply for hiatus status, rather than being forced to drop out of Comal Master Gardeners.

The hiatus status is for those certified Master Gardeners who wish to become inactive due to personal or family illness, temporary time limitations or work commitments, or any other unusual circumstances. All Comal Master Gardeners who find themselves in any of the above situations, but want to continue their membership in the organization, may send a letter to the CMG president or secretary, asking to be placed on Hiatus Membership Status.

The hiatus request must be approved by the Comal Master Gardener board. The board will notify the requesting Master Gardener of its decision by letter.

Hiatus status is granted for one fiscal year and may be renewed each year, up to three years. A hiatus member will pay dues and receive the newsletter. A hiatus member has no volunteer, CE or attendance requirements, but may work on any project.

At any time during the three years, a hiatus member may convert to regular membership status by following the recertification requirements. At the end of the third year, any member who has not returned to full membership will be dropped from Comal Master Gardener membership.

What a desolate place would be a world without a flower! It would be a face without a smile, a feast without a welcome. Are not flowers the stars of the earth, and are not our stars the flowers of the heaven.

A.J. Balfour

Use Your CMG Mementos to Fill the Archives

As it was announced in the July CMG newsletter, a committee has been formed for the purpose of creating an archives/history of the organization. The committee consists of Rosalie Meier, Angie Martinez and Judy Chantos.

An archive has been created to collect, preserve, and organize a group of items. In this case that group consists primarily of documents that together tell the story of the Comal Master Gardeners from inception to the present. To that end, the committee would appreciate any items CMG members might have regarding the activities of the organization. At least one member of the committee should be at every meeting and will be happy to receive your contribution. You may also leave anything at the extension office.

We already have a collection of the newsletters and organizational documents, but there is very little else. Useful items include newspaper articles, photographs, programs, awards or anything else that might add to the history of Comal Master Gardeners. Everything should be dated, if possible. Photographs should also include names of those pictured, as well as a brief description of the activity shown. If you are able to provide any of these items, please include your name and contact information should we have questions for you.

August Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

This is another slow gardening month. Enjoy those plants that are surviving this incredible humidity.

If you have some weedy areas you would like to clear for future vegetables and/or landscaping, now would be the perfect time to think about solarization. This is where our hot Texas sun comes in handy and saves us money on grass and weed killers!

First water the area and cover with a good clear plastic, anchoring the sides with rocks. Let this sit for two weeks. Lift the plastic and till. Replace the plastic for another two weeks. A note: tough grasses such as Bermuda may take another two weeks. Continue covering until the grass no longer sprouts. At this point begin adding compost and any other needed amendments. This should give you a very nice bed for fall. Keep a close eye on this area later to catch any weeds or grass trying to reappear.

For those of you who already have your fall beds prepared: The first half of the month is the last chance to sow seeds outdoors for corn, beans, cucumbers and summer squash. Pick a sunny spot indoors and start your broccoli, beets, chard, rutabagas and cauliflower. The second half of August is a good time to begin collards, endive, lettuce and winter squash.

Get your plants and beds ready for fall color. Now is the time to trim, shape and fertilize the plants that will produce fall blooms, like the Copper Canyon Daisy, Lion's Tail and fall Asters. If you want to plant summer annuals for fall color, now is a good time to do bed preparation by incorporating some compost and amendments so they have time to mellow before you plant. Zinnias, Cosmos and other summer annuals will still give you a great show in the cooler temperatures of fall.

Remember to water infrequently but deeply and mulch, mulch, mulch. Established trees will need an inch of water if there is no any rain for four to six weeks. Trees and shrubs in the ground less than two years need water every two weeks. Of course, these general rules are dependent upon the type of soil in which they are planted. Clay soils hold water longer than rocky soils, so be sure to dig your finger into the soil at least an inch first to see if it really needs watering.

August 2010 Gardening Opportunities

Ongoing, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Explore the natural world just minutes from downtown San Antonio. 10750 Pleasanton Rd. The entrance gate to the Center is located in south San Antonio, off of Moursund Blvd. Take loop 410, exit 46, Moursund Blvd and go south 0.7 mile. The gate is on the left. Call 210-628-1639 or email mlac@audubon.org

Ongoing, 9:30 am – 6 pm. Butterfly Haus at Wildseed Farms, Fredericksburg. Hundreds of native Texas butterflies inhabit the 3,000 square foot Butterfly Haus. Open 7 days a week. Call 800-848-0078 for more information.

Saturdays, Ongoing, 9 am. Lawn and Garden Show, KWED Radio 1580 AM. Call the Show and get your gardening question answered on the air: 830-372-1580 or 1-800-361-1580.

Ongoing, Wednesday and Saturday, Boggy Creek Farm. Open Year-Round 9 am - 1 pm. For more information, go to <http://www.boggycreekfarm.com/>

August 2010 CE Opportunities

Friday, August 6 & Saturday, August 21, 10 – 11 am. “Watersaver Walk.” Information about planning, planting and maintaining xeriscapes year-round. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. Free with admission to SABOT. For information call 210-207-3261. **1 CE**

Saturday, August 7, 9 - 10 am. “Maintaining Your Native Landscape,” by Colleen Dieter. Answers questions like how often to water yaupons or how to prune salvias. No registration is required, but it is a very popular class, so be sure to come early. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Saturday, August 14, 9 am - Noon. “Rainwater Harvest Workshop,” by John Kight. The latest technological and the most practical advice. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself! Members: \$25/person; non-members \$35/person. Limited to 30. Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616. Location: Cibolo Nature Center Auditorium and visit to Kight installation. **3 CE**

Saturday, August 14, 1 - 3 pm. “Earth-Kind Landscape Series: Tomatoes, Peppers and More,” by David Rodriguez. S.A. Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. \$20. To register by Aug 13th, contact Sasha Kodet at 210-207-3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov **2 CE**

Monday, August 16, Noon - 3:15 pm. GVST Essentials of Gardening. (Topic To Be Announced.) San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. \$5 donation. Call 210-251-8101 or email info@gardeningvolunteers.com **3.25 CE**

Saturday, August 21, 9 - 10 am. “Organic Lawn Maintenance 101,” by Teresa Stephens. No registration is required, but it is a very popular class, so be sure to come early. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Saturday, August 28, 9 - 10 am. “Edible Landscape Design,” by Amy Crowell. Amy will cover the basics, including design, to consider before installing veggie gardens, fruit trees and other edibles in the landscape. No registration is required, but it is a very popular class, so be sure to come early. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

ON-LINE CEU OFFERINGS:

Tomato Growing 101 - New! Spring 2010 The best garden is a well-planned garden, so while you wait for spring, get ready for the best tomato harvest by taking the new online course Tomato 101 - The Basics of Growing Tomatoes. This course teaches all aspects of growing tomatoes in a home garden, at your own pace and in your own home.

The course covers: Garden and soil preparation, Plant selection and training, Fertilization, Irrigation, Weed, disease and insect control, and General care. A short quiz at the end of each section lets you review what you learned before moving on, and at the completion of the course generates a certificate for you (one hour CEU credit). So, take a seat by your computer and dream about those summer tomatoes while you go through Tomato 101.

Available at: www-horticulture.tamu.edu/extension/ Creating a free use account is required to participate.

Ohio State University Plant Pathology Training Course. It is labeled "New Non-Credit Course: Sick Plants in a Hungry World." What is this course? It is a ten module (not highly technical) information course you take at your own pace, within a ten week time limit after starting, at a cost of \$35. Time spent on your computer taking the modules, reading the supplied reading assignments, and taking the self-tests, can count as Master Gardener Advanced Training hours. To learn more about the class, go to: Online Plant Pathology Training Course Info. To register for the class, visit: Online Plant Pathology Training Course Registration. **CE based on completion of course.**

National Gardening Association's horticulturists created the Learning Garden, a series of online courses on plants and gardening for every gardener. The course fees range from \$14.95 (for Perennials, Vegetables & Annual Flowers) to \$35 (for Botany I, Botany II,). Go to <http://store.yahoo.com/nga-gardenshop/lg.html> CE base on credit earned.

Cornell University, Department of Horticulture, offers Organic Gardening, an on-line 8-week course. The course covers one topic during each of the 8 weeks. With a strong foundation in soil health and its impact on plant health, students then explore tried-and-true and cutting-edge techniques for all different kinds of garden plants – annuals and perennials, food plants and ornamentals. Be prepared to spend 2-4 hours a week completing the course. Being an active participant in the discussion boards brings the subject to life, and enriches the learning for all. This course is aimed at those with some basic gardening experience. It includes a number of hands-on activities as well as a group discussion board, quizzes, and readings. Through on-line discussion students share their experiences and contribute to everyone's learning experience. Cost: \$300. The course is non-credit. Certificate of completion to all who participate and finish the course. <http://hort.cals.cornell.edu/cals/hort/teaching/distance-learning/organic-gardening.cfm> **CE based on completion of course.**

TAMU AgriLife Extension's Earth Kind program has on-line curriculum presenting core information on environmental stewardship with 12 on-line training modules. Progress is tracked automatically, and results are forwarded to the MG Coordinator. Go to <http://earthkind.tamu.edu/MGtraining.html>. **CE based on class hours, unless otherwise specified by course.**

Horticulture Gardening Institute at Michigan State University in partnership with **Learn 2Grow**. Fees range from \$19.99 to \$29.99 per course. On-line courses of the titles range from specialty topics and general gardening how-to's. Go to <http://www.gardeninginstitute.com>. **CE credit based on proof of completion of course.**

Irrigation Tutorials. Free. Tutorials provide information on sprinkler/drip irrigation design, installation, filters, pumping systems & scheduling. Go to <http://www.irrigationtutorials.com> **CE based on completion of course.**

University of Vermont, non-credit course, “**Herbaceous Garden Plants On-line,**” which covers common annual & perennial flowers of temperate climates and herbaceous garden plant groups (ornamental grasses, roses, aquatics, ferns, bulbs, & wildflowers). Self-paced & available for one year following receipt of access codes. Course fee: \$99; notes and CD: \$10. <http://pss.uvm.edu/ppp/hgpo/hgpo.htm> .**CE credit based on proof of completion of course.**

Virginia Tech. Annuals and Perennials. Diane Relf, Professor. The course is self-paced and is available for one year following registration. This lesson provides an introduction to annuals and perennials. Successful completion of the lesson requires no prior knowledge of the subject area. This course is a collection of resources categorized by annuals, bulbs, perennials, and monthly gardening tips. Upon completion of this lesson you should be able to: Understand the specific needs of annuals, perennials, and bulbs. Cultivate healthy gardens by properly sowing, handling, and propagating plants. Utilize each month of the year to foster attractive, blooming flowers. Creatively design flowerbeds using color, a variety of gardening techniques, and proper care for specific plant needs. <http://alumni.iddl.vt.edu/course.php?id=325> \$25. **1 CE with proof of completion of course.**

Dept of Horticulture at Cornell University offers on-line lectures, virtual field trips, discussion, & quizzes to engage you in history, botanical principles, & horticultural applications. <http://hosts.cce.cornell.edu/hortdl/> **CE based on completion of course**

Online Botany Module offered by Oregon State University Extension Service; excellent Basic Botany refresher. <http://irrigationtutorials.com/> Free Irrigation Tutorials provide information on sprinkler/drip irrigation design, installation, filters, pumping systems & scheduling. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/botany/> **CE based on completion of course**

Iowa State University offers an online, non-credit course Horticultural Series; see website for dates. <http://www.lifelearner.iastate.edu/learners/hortOnlie.htm> **CE based on completion of course**

CMG Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 4 at 10 am.

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The AgriLife Landscape Committee will continue to meet at 8 am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, August 3 and 17. We will still be in maintenance mode. Weeding and deadheading will be our primary focus. If you wish to volunteer to work in the gardens and to obtain first hand emails about on going projects, contact Linda Valdez (ldvaldez@satx.rr.com) or co-chair Sally Ann Hnatiuk (mustang_sally6@msn.com).

NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS

Our August workdays will be Wednesday, August 11 and August 25 at 8 am. Bring a bucket for your clippings and two bypass pruners. We sterilize the pruners between each bush to control plant diseases. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

KIDS IN BLOOM

Contact Nancy Pappas (azop@gvtc.com/ or 210-385-5981) or Lee Franzel (lee Franzel@gvtc.com) for more information.

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

The summer schedule for the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden is the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 am. August 26 will be the next workday. Contact Peggy Hamm (khamma@gvtc.com) or Lee Franzel (lee Franzel@gvtc.com) for more information.

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, August 16 at 8:30 am. We will be weeding and planting a few things. For more information, contact Peggy Carmody (830-226-5216 or carmody@gvtc.com) or co-chair Lois Ricci (poepjr@aol.com or 830-899-5362).

COMAL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

The Fairground workday will be the third Thursday, August 19 at 8 am. We will meet as usual by the Grant St. entrance. Contact Aleta Meyer if you have any questions, (aleta_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929).

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

Lindheimer Gardens workday will be on the second Tuesday, August 10 at 8 am. We will do general maintenance. Please join us. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

NEWSLETTER

Contact Editor Bonnie Leitch (830-660-2335 or bleitch@earthlink.net) for information about contributing to the newsletter. If you have any information about other gardening activities that should be in the newsletter, contact Julie Siliven (rejh@gvtc.com or 830-885-2665).

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

The next workday will be the third Wednesday, August 18, at 8 am. We plan to mulch. Everyone is welcome to come on out! For further information, contact Harlan Kraft (210-846-5643 or harlankraft@gmail.com).

There was a good turn out at the Hope Hospice Workday in July. Thanks to Joel Stevens, Janis Womack, Jan Waguespack, Jean Petersen and Meredith Nyman for their help pruning and weeding. We are starting to plan for the fall and would like to add a few plants later to fill in some areas. We need some liquid stump remover.

WEBSITE

Check the website on-line at the website <http://mastergardener.comal.tx.us/> for new “how to” videos.

Comal Gardener

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Comal Master Gardeners Association Bylaws

“Members must complete recertification once every year. Recertification will include 12 hours of training, 12 hours of approved volunteer work and attendance at a minimum of two general membership meetings.” (Article III, Section 4)

Post the following calendar for easy reference to August CMG activities.

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 8 am Extension Gardens	4 10 am Exec Bd Mtg	5	6	7
8	9 10 am Herb SIG	10 8 am Lindheimer Gardens	11 8 am Conservation Plaza	12	13	14
15	16 8:30 am New Life Gardens	17 8 am Extension Gardens	18 8 am Hope Hospice Garden	19 8 am Fairgrounds Garden	20	21
22	23	24 6 pm - CMG Mtg Bulverde Library	25 8 am Conservation Plaza	26 8 am Bulverde/Spring Branch Library	27	28
29	30	31		Call Janet for Phone Bank Duty Tuesdays 9 am – Noon Thursdays 2 – 5 pm		