



December 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)

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Number 6

Speakers' Bureau Puts CMG Front and Center

The Speakers' Bureau committee is currently working to help speakers prepare PowerPoint presentations that can be viewed on line. The on-line presentations are only made up of three slides and are meant to entice viewers to request the presentations. The committee is also working on compiling the names of the local garden clubs so that it can send a copy of the Speakers' Bureau brochure to all interested groups once the majority of CMG programs are on line. The list of programs available is posted on our web site (<http://mastergardener.comal.tx.us/>).

To date the following speakers have developed presentations: Richard Bradley, Sharon Carew, Lee Franzel, Martha McRae, Rosalie Meier, Juleen Randall, Melissa Skasik, Kathleen Scott and Michael and Donna Welch. CMGs have presented eleven programs so far, reaching 317 guests. Forty-seven Master Gardeners also attended sessions led by one of our speakers and received CE hours. The board considers this a great educational outreach, fulfilling one of our prime missions.

Through the Speakers' Bureau, Comal Master Gardeners offer presentations in three major categories. The largest is gardening, of course. Talks include *Attracting Hummingbirds in the Hill Country*, *Gardening for Butterflies*, *Container Gardening*, *Drip Irrigation*, *Earth Kind Roses*, *Gardening with Kids/Jr. Master Gardeners*, *Growing Daylilies in Comal County*, *Kids In Bloom*, *Pesticides*, *Plant Propagation and Seed Germination*, *Raised Garden Beds*, *Texas SuperStars*, *Toxic Plants*, *Vegetable Varieties for Comal County*, *Vegetable Gardening: Soil, Location and Planning*, *Vegetable Insects* and *Winterizing Your Garden*.

Another category of talks involves environmental issues and contains five different talks from *Composting Fundamentals* to *Rainwater Harvesting*. Animals in the garden, for better and worse, are also covered by CMG presentations like *Garden Insects – The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly* and *Wildscapes: Gardening for Wildlife*. Finally, there is a miscellaneous category that includes, among others, *Green Cleaners: Making Herbal Cleansers* and *Attracting Hummingbirds in the Hill Country*. The committee hopes that master gardeners can avail themselves of at least one of these educational experiences in the coming year.

CMG December Meeting

Christmas Party

6 pm Friday, December 10

Place: *Forke Store*

Educational programs of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin. Individuals with disabilities who require an auxiliary aid, service, or accommodation in order to participate in meetings are encouraged to contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 830-620-3440 for assistance. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names do not intend discrimination or imply endorsement by the Extension Service. Extension forbids employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, disability, or national origin in any term, condition, or privilege of employment.

•••Garden Posts•••

- Information about the December CMG Christmas party: CMG members, bring a covered dish or dessert. Both turkey and ham will be provided. In the spirit of giving, members can bring a few non-perishable items to the Christmas Party for the Food Bank. Music and door prizes will sweeten the evening. To find Forke Store, turn off Loop 337 North at Churchill Drive and follow it to Conservation Plaza.
- The Herb SIG will be having its Christmas party on December 13th. Please RSVP by December 3rd. Festivities will start at 11 am. It will be a potluck event, with no presentation. Please come for some Christmas cheer, a gift exchange and planning for next year. The gift exchange is optional; those wishing to participate are asked to bring a garden type gift valued between \$5-\$10. To make a reservation and receive details, contact Sally Ann at mustang_sally6@msn.com or 830-980-5645.
- From Treasurer Marlene Ballard: For November: Income, \$175. Expenses, \$105.81. Balance as of November 16th was \$10,013.14.
- Congratulations and welcome to Nancy Wickman, newly certified Comal Master Gardener. She is the twentieth certified member from this year's class. Way to go, Class of 2010!
- Do you know a friend who would be perfect for Comal Master Gardeners? The 2011 class will be held every Wednesday from 1:30 to 5 pm, beginning January 19 and ending May 11. Application deadline is December 15, 2010. The cost of the class is \$150.00. Twenty-two people have already signed up, but there is room for a few more. The details and an application are on line at <http://mastergardener.comal.tx.us> Applications are also available at the Extension Office.
- We are still in need of an Educational Enrichment Coordinator. The coordinator is the member of the Executive Board who finds the speakers for the monthly meetings.



News from the Extension Gardens

The berm has been laid and needs only a little work. The next time members are at the Extension Office, they can check out the wooden bridge along the dry creek bed. The committee received permission to use it by the Master Naturalists.

During this festive holiday season, while members are partying, the committee would like them to save any colored bottles of wine. They have plans to add a bottle tree to the gardens.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Newsletter Staff!

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

Lest We Forget

Hope Hospice Gardens

by Lu Allen, Peggy Hamm, Mary T. Salmón and Cindy Sansone

Hope Hospice's View of the Gardens: An Interview with Art Williams



Art Williams, a Billing Specialist at Hope Hospice and former Master Gardener project manager, reviewed a copy of the original landscaping plan for the gardens and is sure that Comal Master Gardeners helped with the design of the gardens when the current Hope Hospice building was constructed in 2001-2002. The gardens have evolved and grown even more attractive ever since with CMGs as the primary caretakers. Located on a street with little landscaping, the gardens at Hope Hospice are striking. They are also the most tempting tidbits around for the deer that wander in nightly. Pansies and petunias, favorites of the clients, have provided short-term beauty.

According to Art, there is an endless stream of compliments about how well the gardens are maintained and how beautiful they are. The staff often comments on how they love coming into the building through the gardens. Casual visitors are struck by the attractiveness of the grounds. Many of the older clients have fond memories of gardening and are particularly appreciative of the obviously care that is given to the Hope Hospice Gardens. Art says that the staff and clients tend to collect around the gardens at every outdoor event like barbecues. They are aware and appreciative of the care and enthusiasm that Harlan Kraft is fostering for the gardens. Art feels that at a facility associated with life events that are difficult to deal with, the gardens bring cheer and, yes, hope. PH

The Birth of the Gardens at Hope Hospice: An Interview with Jim Mosier

One of our oldest gardens is the one at Hope Hospice. Hope Hospice was established in 1984 at Eden Home and moved to many locations before finding its current site on Walnut Street. What is now the Hospice Thrift store was the last location before the great flood of '98 wiped them out. That tragedy turned into "hope" with a huge fund-raiser that culminated in the construction of the existing building across the parking lot from the thrift store.

Like most new construction, the landscaping was non-existent after the building was completed. Jim Moser remembers it was "just a building surrounded by dirt and debris." When the Comal Master Gardeners were approached for landscaping ideas and volunteers they did not hesitate. The request was met with great enthusiasm and a committee soon formed. About that time, Jim Moser was a student in Class III. The call for volunteers was just the stimulus Jim needed to fulfill volunteer hours and to feed his life-long commitment to serve others. So began Jim's close and lasting relationship with the Hospice Gardens.

Jim says that with generous donations, the plants, trees and shrubs were selected and delivered. Then he, along with fellow volunteers, got to work. Plants were placed around the area according to landscape drawings, and from there minor adjustments were made. The existing dirt was fortified with good soil and spread. It took three days to get most of the plants into the ground. Jim says that tons of mulch were then delivered, and workers had to spread it. All new plantings need a period of adjustment, so the committee set up a weekly schedule of watering, monitoring and maintenance. Not all of the original plants survived the initial planting so some were removed and replaced. Over time, some plants that grew too large or were inappropriate for the area in which they were planted had to be moved.

The Hospice Garden committee was divided into groups responsible for sections of the gardens. For instance, Jim's assignment became the parking lot area where two well-established pecan trees stood. Other groups were assigned to front entry gardens, side gardens and the display garden that contains a low brick wall at the entrance.

Jim's pride and joy is the Bush Morning Glory that he planted at the onset of his volunteer work. He had asked the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church for a cutting from the bush at the church. Jim thought the lavender flowers would add a nice touch to the gardens. The pastor did even better. He gave Jim a rooted plant that he had been growing in his greenhouse. The bush Jim planted close to a decade ago is still blooming beautiful lavender flowers. Of course it freezes in the winter but always comes back in spring. According to Jim, "A day does not go by that someone from inside Hope Hospice does not come out and tell me how beautiful that plant is and what it means to them."

Jim still works and cleans his original three beds. He goes once a week and has no plans of stopping. The Hope Hospice Gardens are very special to Jim not only because they were his first project but also because Hope Hospice means so much to him. "I support them. They are close to my heart. They help the community without charge. That's why it is so easy to work there. It is not really work. It is giving back a little to them, for they do so much for us." The gardens are, in that way, a reflection of Jim Moser—always thinking of service to others. MTS

Hope Hospice from 2004 to 2010: An Interview with Tom Carson

Tom Carson has been a member of Comal Master Gardeners since 2000. He was a member of Class III, and he served as president of CMGs during 2002-2003. When interviewed for the Special Edition of the July 2007 CMG Newsletter, Tom said his gardening interests included Japanese gardens, rock gardens and salvias.

He became Hope Hospice Chairman in 2004, following his executive committee responsibilities as immediate past president. Tom said that the Hope Hospice project was started during the 2001-2002 calendar year to improve the appearance of the Hospice facilities. The Hope Hospice committee wanted to achieve a welcoming atmosphere for all who came to the building and grounds. Because Hope Hospice is located on busy Walnut Avenue in New Braunfels, the committee wanted the gardens to provide a pleasing public view for all the traffic that passed by.

After his year as president, Tom felt that he needed to re-devote himself to his full time work functions, which involved quite a bit of travel. He found it hard to fit in the time needed to work in the gardens during the week, which meant it was difficult to achieve his annual volunteer hours. Because most of the other project hours were scheduled during the week, Tom found the Hope Hospice project uniquely fit his needs because it did not have regularly scheduled work activities. The members of the committee worked on individual gardens as their time permitted. He worked at the gardens on the weekends or at night to accommodate his normal work hours.

Tom said one night he was working in one of the gardens around 10 pm under the parking lights when a New Braunfels police officer pulled up in his patrol car. The officer asked what he was doing at the facility at that time of night. Tom showed the officer his CMG badge and garden tools. The police officer sat there and chatted quite some time while he weeded the gardens.

Because of Tom's job and heavy workload, he has had to go on the inactive list of the organization. We all hope that Tom will be able to return to us soon as an active member. LA

Hope Hospice Gardens Presently: Interview with Harlan Kraft, Volunteer Chair

Harlan, a sixth-generation native Texan, took over the coordination of the gardens from Tom Carson last summer, in July 2010. Harlan expressed his appreciation for the great CMG volunteers helping with the gardens and said that Jean Petersen has been particularly helpful in helping to keep track of all the workers

and their volunteer time. The last few months have found the volunteers doing mostly pruning and required extra watering during the dry summer. In addition, Catherine Hall has been running by between scheduled work days to make sure the plants have the water they need.

Harlan is in the process of gathering information about past drawings and plans at Hope Hospice so the group can integrate earlier plans into the future enhancement of the gardens. Like many other master gardeners, Harlan's love of plants and gardening was inherited from close family members, his Oma Elfreida and his mother Marinda. His favorite aspect so far in the garden project is getting to know his fellow Comal Master Gardeners. Harlan is planting the seeds of gardening appreciation in his two daughters, Katy, an NBHS senior, and Emily, a John Tyler College student working on her RN degree. Harlan encourages anyone interested in joining the group to call him. See further information in the CMG Committee Reports in the newsletter. CS

Meet Marlene Ballard, CMG Treasurer

by Laura Paulson

Like so many of us, Marlene moved to Comal County from elsewhere and needed some help learning to garden in her new home. In Marlene's case, the move was in 2008 from the coastal environs of Houston. She reasoned that becoming a Comal Master Gardener would be a big help with her new gardening challenges, and it was.

Raised in a family in which everyone, on both sides, grew something ornamental or edible, Marlene has gardened seriously for about twenty years. The gardens in her home in River Chase are informal. She co-exists with the deer by planting various areas with different strategies. The border around the house includes mostly native and adapted plants. Many are deer resistant, but she has tucked a few rose bushes – her favorite – behind the lavender and rosemary. She also has a large fenced vegetable and rose garden with a series of raised beds.

Marlene has volunteered in all of the CMG gardens at one time or another but hasn't settled on any one as a favored work site yet. Marlene is also a musician and plays flute and piano. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and needlework – and balancing a checkbook, of course! LP

November Herb SIG News

The Herb SIG concluded its year of exceptional programs with a presentation on November 8 at Forke's Store by Marty Hopmann and Patty Godfrey on *Herbal Skin Concoctions*. Patty first talked about growing the herbs necessary for these preparations, and then Marty elaborated on the recipes and concoctions she had prepared for the group. Those in attendance learned about herbal scrubs, creams, lotions, dry perfumes, soaps and powders, as well as men's aftershave lotions. Marty then discussed herbal baths and foot spas. She had samples of many of her recipes, and each participant took home a mug of choice for drinking some herbal tea, while relaxing in a soothing herbal bath preparation, given by the presenters. It was another herbally inspiring meeting. After the presentation, members gathered for a sack lunch, dessert and friendly chat.

The Master Gardener's Herb Special Interest Group (SIG) meets the second Monday of every month. It is open to anyone, Master Gardener or not, who is interested in learning about herbs. The group meets from 10 am until about noon. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy the group after the presentation. Drinks are provided. There is usually a nominal fee charged for supplies. An RSVP to Sally Ann Hnatiuk is required because the presenter and host must know how many to prepare for. Sally Ann will notify everyone who made a reservation by email, giving the place, special instructions and supply fee, if applicable. If you have any questions, please call Sally Ann Hnatiuk, mustang_sally6@msn.com or 830-980-5645.

CMGs interested in herbs are encouraged to join the Herb SIG and attend meetings. The presentation counts as CE, and the friendships made are as stimulating as the herbs discussed. Make plans to attend the group's meetings next year. For further information contact Sally Ann Hnatiuk at 830-980-5645 or mustang_sally6@msn.com

December Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

My lawn is turning brown, the leaves are falling off my fruit trees and the only saving grace my ornamental grasses offer is the sound they make in the wind. Every year I get anxious about fall and winter temperatures and forget how depressingly brown and monotone my landscape becomes.

I have avoided some monotony by planting snapdragons (which are especially stunning this year), pansies, violas, ornamental kale and cabbage and stock, with its nostalgic aroma. All of these annuals will endure temperatures down to around 8° when mulched. Pansy leaves might turn burgundy from the cold, but the plant itself will not die. When deadheading snapdragons, do not cut off the stem. Just pick the dead flowers, and you will see the beginnings of new blooms soon. If you haven't planted your bulbs by now, do so soon or it will be too late for optimum spring blooms.

One plant I'm sad I missed planting this season is Dianthus, known also as sweet William or pinks. This is an extremely hardy herbaceous biennial or perennial. In our climate it may stay evergreen. I planted deep red Dianthus last spring, and they were the most gorgeous eye-catching plants in my yard. They looked like they were made of velvet the color was so vibrant. The plant mounds up to about 10 inches wide by 12 inches tall, and it is comfortable in a pot as well as the ground. The flowers come in every solid or picoteed, with its dark border and lighter interior, color combination from pure white to solid burgundy to fuchsia. The petals are always deeply serrated, giving it a fringed look. This is a plant that actually does not mind our alkaline soil and will bloom as long as you let it. Note: I killed mine by letting my chrysanthemums take over the bed. Lesson learned!

Plant spring perennials like coreopsis, Shasta daisy, columbine and *Salvia greggii*. Look for two new *greggii* colors in 2011: deep purple and 'San Antonio,' which is an antique-looking color combination of peach and coral. Both plants are very striking.

December is the month to spray fruit trees with a copper fungicide. When the leaves fall off fruit trees, they expose hundreds of tiny openings, making them susceptible to many diseases. Before you spray, make sure the temperature is not going to rise above 80° and that the wind is calm.

I know it is hard, but refrain from pruning until early spring! Leave bare branches for added protection from frost. The exception is oak trees, which should be pruned in December, January or February and sealed to prevent oak wilt.

For more information on December chores, look at www.naturalgardeneraustin.com or a current copy of *Central Texas Gardener*.

Finally, have a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Wonderfully Happy New Year!

December 2010 Gardening Opportunities

Saturdays and Sundays, Ongoing, 8 am - 4 pm. Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Closed Holidays. Weekdays by appointment. Explore a place just minutes from downtown San Antonio. 10750 Pleasanton Rd. The entrance gate to the center is located on 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 questions answered on the air: 830-372-1580 or 1-800-361-1580.

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

December 2010 CE Opportunities

Friday, December 3 & Saturday, December 18, 10 – 11 am. “Watersaver Walk.” Information about planning, planting and maintaining low-water-use landscape year-round. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. Free with admission to SABOT. For information, call: 210-207-3261. **1 CE**

Saturday, December 4, 10 am - Noon. “Orchids 101,” by Wayne Marine. Learn how orchids grow in nature and how to grow them in your home. S.A. Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. Fee: \$20. Contact Sasha Kodet at 207-3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov **2 CE**

Saturday, December 4, 10 – 11 am. “Rain Gardens for Everyone,” by Cathy Nordstrom. Learn how to make your landscape more beautiful while harvesting rainwater and protecting the environment. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin, 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Saturday, December 11, 10 – 11 am. “What Makes Heirloom Plants So Great?” by Judy Barrett. She will discuss the importance and fun of growing old-fashioned vegetables, flowers and ornamentals of all kinds. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin, 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Monday, December 13, Noon – 3 pm. GVST Essentials of Gardening. Creating Living Interior-Scapes. Second topic to be determined, by Leslie Bacon Knopf. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. \$5 donation. For information, call 251-8101 or email: info@gardeningvolunteers.com **3 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. **1 CE**

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 flower beds 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/hortOnline.htm> **CE based on completion of course.**

CMG Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 1 at **9 am**, not the usual 10.

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The AgriLife Extension Gardens committee will meet only the first Tuesday, December 7th, for a planning session in the meeting room at 9 am. We will suspend workdays until January when we will resume on January 4th at 9 am. 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

The Conservation Plaza Rose Garden workers will take a well-deserved Christmas break. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

KIDS IN BLOOM

Kids in Bloom is growing, with new schools coming on board and old favorites still planting. KIB would like to offer a training class for any Master Gardeners who are interested in learning more about the KIB curriculum, what being a mentor for a local area school entails, and other important information. If you have wanted to get involved in KIB but don't really understand what that means, this is your opportunity! Come get involved in sharing your love of gardening with the younger generation – and their teachers. Contact Nancy Pappas (azop@gvtc.com/ or 210-385-5981) to coordinate with a school near you.

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

Our December workday will be on December 9 at 9 am instead of the usual 4th Thursday. We will resume our regular schedule on January 27, 2011. Contact Peggy Hamm (khamma@gvtc.com) or Lee Franzel (leefranzel@gvtc.com) for more information.

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Butterfly Garden workday is the second Monday, instead of the third, Dec 13 at 9 am. 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 GARDEN

The Fairgrounds Committee will not meet in December. For more information, contact Aleta Meyer (aleta_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929) or Jane Langley (830-620-4264).

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

The Lindheimer Garden workers will take a well-deserved Christmas break. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

NEWSLETTER

There will be no planning meeting for the January issue. Contact Editor Bonnie Leitch (830-660-2335 or bleach@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 (rejhs@gvtc.com or 830-885-2665).

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

The Hope Hospice workday will be Wednesday, December 15th at 9 am. For information, contact Harlan Kraft (210-846-5643 or harlankraft@gmail.com).

WEBSITE

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

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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 December CMG activities.

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9 am Exec Board Mtg	2	3	4
5	6	7 9 am Ext Off Gardens Planning Session	8	9 9 am Bulverde/SB Library Butterfly Gardens	10 6 pm Christmas Party Forke Store	11
12	13 9 am New Life Butterfly	14	15 9 am Hope Hospice	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31 County Holiday – Extension Office Closed	
				County Holidays – Extension Office Closed		