



February 2009

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 7

Twenty-nine Students Set for Class 12

Twenty-eight students will begin the Comal Master Gardener Training Class on February 4. The day will begin with a luncheon at noon and will conclude with Dr. Don Tuff's lecture on "EarthKind™: Environmental Stewardship Programs for the Urban Landscape." Glenn Avriett will explain the connection between Texas A&M, Texas AgriLife Extension Service and Master Gardeners, plus give some of the history of the organization. Karen Scherrer will present a PowerPoint presentation that shows the projects and gardens of Comal Master Gardeners, as well as some of the social events. Michael and Donna Welch will discuss the course requirements and the handbook. The new trainees include Julia Anders, Marlene Ballard, Stephanie Burch, Judy Chantos, Linda Dufour, Lee Franzel, Chris Gaskill, Margaret Harris, Jodi Hawthorne, Sonja Howard, Rebecca Johnson, Harlan Kraft, Patty Malek, Glynn Mann, Carol McWilliams, Mark Miller, Mary Helen Phillips, Becky Pinkerton, Juleen Randall, Whitley Reddell, Judy Rothell, Linda Sanchez, Joyce Stephens, James Teeling, Merri Veritas, Alan Welch, Janis Womack, Cathy Wonish and Sharon Wright.

Fifteen mentors will work with the new students to help and to encourage them through the class and the service requirements. Mentors include Tim Barker, Donna Lehr, Evelyn Nielson, Lois Ricci, Mary Salmón, Karen Scherrer, Linda Sickles, Marlene Skaggs, Mikki Tharp, Nancy Wackerbarth, Beverly Williamson, Larry Williamson, Pat Williford, Donna Welch and Michael Welch. The group met on January 21 to divide the student mentees among the mentors and to discuss ways to keep the new students in the class. The Mentor Program is part of the Texas Master Gardeners' Five-Year Plan and will be evaluated at the end of the course by a state evaluation form. Mentors receive service hours for working with the new students.

Angie Martinez, Evelyn Nielson, Linda Ray, Judie Waechter and Pat Williford have agreed to be Class 12 Assistants. They met on January 14 to prepare the new handbooks and to plan the luncheon for the first class day. Michael and Donna Welch are coordinators of Class 12.

CMG February General Meeting

Tuesday, February 24 at 6 pm

Speaker: Gene Chollett, Bee Expert

Topic: *Changes in our Bee Population*

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 at (830) 620-3440 for assistance. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names are made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Extension Service is implied. 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•••

- The positions of Chairperson for the Herb Gardens and the Cactus Gardens at the Extension Office are still open. If interested, please contact Karen Scherrer at kascherrer@yahoo.com or 512-581-2542.
- The February Herb SIG will meet at Mary Moses' home on Monday, February 9, at 10:00 am. Mary's topic is *Body and Soul - Lotions, Potions and More*. RSVP to Marty Hopmann at chrishop@gvtc.com by Monday February 2, 2009, if you would like to join the fun. We will provide further details when members RSVP.
- The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden Committee met on January 13th and started the design phase. Members toured the New Life Butterfly Gardens on January 20. For more information, see the CMG Committee Reports.
- The Herb Affair will be held on May 9, 2009, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Antique Rose Emporium. Mark your calendars! The theme this year is *Herbs in the Home*. Mary Moses and Ray Elizondo have agreed to co-chair the event this year. If you are interesting in helping this year, please notify Mary at marycm@satx.rr.com or 210-279-5748.
- Five CMG members earned 10-year pins. Theresa Frasch, Marty Godfrey, Cindy Burch and Willie Hagan were honored for their decade of service as Master Gardeners. Earning 5-year pins, members of Class VI, Sara Bruner, Nancy Horne, Donna Lehr, Bonnie Leitch, Lois Ricci, Ruth Rumelhart and Judie Waechter, were recognized, also. Class I member, Margaret Brazle, who was unable to attend last year's ceremony, received her 10-year pin.

Speakers Bureau Gaining Support

Comal Master Gardeners have been volunteering for the newly created speaker's bureau. Topics for talks now include Container Gardening, Carefree Roses, Oak Wilt, Rainwater Harvesting, Pest Management, Harmful and Beneficial Insects, Composting, Farmer's Almanac, Plant Propagation and Seed Germination, Gardening with Kids, Topiary and Nature Printing.

Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Polera-Burch is looking for any CMG who might want to join those who have already volunteered to share their gardening expertise. She asks that CMGs e-mail her at cynthia.burch@sbcglobal.net with any gardening topic they would like to talk to groups about so she can add them to the speaker's bureau list. Cindy would like to get information out to the media by March 1. This is a great way to let the community know about Comal Master Gardeners and to fulfill part of our mission to educate others about good gardening practices.

Oak Run Learns through KIB

Oak Run Middle School recently joined the Kids In Bloom program, thanks to the efforts of teacher David Heefner and his enthusiastic classes. CMG graduate Haskell Hart was asked to help plan a grape vineyard, but there are other exciting gardening activities at the school. Mr. Heefner received a grant that funded a 36-tree fruit orchard, which is fenced against the deer. His classes mulched and pruned the trees. Then the students planted adapted landscape plants donated from Hart's garden in 30 minutes, thanks to the power of teamwork.

They grew a successful, deer-proof winter vegetable garden, and want to incorporate a tropical garden in the school landscape. Finally, they have a wetlands area that could be developed into a learning center. This project could use some more Master Gardeners, in association with Kids In Bloom, especially those with expertise in tropicals or in wetlands and ponds. The school is located just north of Hwy 46 about half a mile outside Loop 337.

Junior Master Gardener: Growing Good Kids

At the January meeting, Natalie Pogue, Youth Program Assistant for the Comal County Extension Service, introduced members to the Junior Master Gardener program. JMG is an international youth gardening program of the University Extension network. Its mission, according to Ms. Pogue, is “to grow good kids by igniting a passion for learning, success and service through a unique gardening education” through a collaboration between Master Gardeners, County Extension staffs and schools.

Junior Master Gardeners work to help children gain independent and group learning experiences using life skill and career exploration. JMG works to provide opportunities that combine service and learning with a correlation to state teaching standards. Through their experience with JMG, students use what they have learned to be of service to others. Some examples of service projects initiated by JMG groups include growing produce for donation to food banks, participating in community beautification projects, and initiating class businesses to generate funds for local charities. JMGs completing requirements in a given chapter or for the overall program earn a certification awarded by National JMG Program Office and JMG state program partners.

The program partners with a number of state and national organizations, including the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, The Texas A&M University System, AmeriCorps, the National Wildlife Federation, Learn & Serve America, Schools to Careers, Master Gardener Associations and Children's Better Health Institute.

There are Several Different Parts to JMG. It's Not Just Science Anymore! Programs include Literature in the Garden, Health & Nutrition from the Garden and the Wildlife Gardener. The JMG program is already aligned to the TEKS, so it fits into various school curricula well. In addition, it creates natural beauty on JMG campuses and gives children the opportunity to learn from Master Gardeners, a mentorship that will shape and influence children's lives.

With the many resources on the website www.jmgkids.us and the many activities provided by the curriculum, students in classes involved with JMG will enjoy themselves while learning about gardening, service, independence, leadership, friendship and team building. All of these values are what 4-H stands for and is built on. As one teacher said, “Students learn about plant growth and development, become Wildlife Gardeners, or connect great books to the garden in a study of literature in the Garden – and now there's research that shows that this program increases science achievement. I love this program!”

New Class Schedules February Topics

February 4, 3:45-5:00. EarthKind: Environmental Stewardship Programs for the Urban Landscape. Overview. Dr. Don Tuff. **1 CE**.

February 11, 1:30-5:00. Plant Growth and Development; Nomenclature. Andrea Wakefield, Texas State University. **3 CE**.

February 18, 1:30-5:00. Roses – Planting, Pruning, and Pests. Antique Rose Emporium. Robbi Will. **3 CE**.

February 25, 1:30-5:00. Turf Grasses, Lawn Care. Dr. David Chalmers, TAMU. **3 CE**.

Keep Up-to-Date on CE and Volunteer Hours!

Send your CE hours to Don Tuff. **He needs to know when, where and how many CE hours were earned. Send to d_tuff@hotmail.com Be sure to include all of the following: title of talk, speaker's name, date and time of talk, location and organization sponsoring the lecture.**

Committee Chairpersons should submit all volunteer hours to **Richard Wackerbarth**, gardener@dataplex.net

February Gardening Opportunities

Friday-Sunday, February 6-8, Texas Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association present From The Ground Up symposium and workshop. Many topics to choose from during the conference. Noted speakers such as Malcolm Beck, Dr. Tom Harris, Dr. Novak TCMU, with special Saturday Night guest speaker, Joel Salatin, a fulltime farmer in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Killeen Civic and Conference Center, Killen, TX. Go to www.tofga.org or email info@tofga.org or call 1-877-766-0006 for more information.

Saturday, February 21, 9:00 am – 5:30 pm. Wildflower Days™ Preview. See 2009 T-shirts, art prints and other selected spring merchandise and save 20 percent on early purchases of these items at the store. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin. Call 512- 232-0131 or see <http://www.wildflower.org/events/>.

Ongoing, 9:30 am – 6:00 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. The Lone Star State is home to more than 400 species of butterflies. Explore the magnificent beauty of these incredible creatures in the Butterfly Haus at Wildseed Farms. Share the wonder and awe of their amazing life cycle- from tiny eggs, to caterpillars, to chrysalises and then into graceful Adults. Call 800-848-0078 for more information.

Saturdays, Ongoing, 9:05 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.

Art in the Garden through June 2009, Icelandic sculptor Steinunn Thóraninsdóttir's exhibit "Horizons" is on display at the Garden. Steinunn's freestanding cast iron and glass sculptures will grace the Texas Native Trail area of the Garden through June 2009. Susan Budge's exhibit, "Myths and Mysteries" which opened in July remains on display. Free with admission to the Garden. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston, San Antonio. 210-829-5100.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Explore a place where nature is continually renewing itself. Where birds, insects, and wild plants surprise you with a new spectacle around every corner. A place where families, school groups and individuals can reflect and learn about the natural world just minutes from downtown San Antonio. 10750 Pleasanton Rd. in San Antonio, Texas. The entrance gate to the Center is located in south San Antonio, on Moursund Blvd. Take loop 410, exit 46, Moursund Blvd and go south 0.7 mile. The gate is on the left. 210-628-1639.

Boggy Creek Farm. Open Year-Round, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Go to <http://www.boggycreekfarm.com/> for more information.

February 2009 CE Opportunities

Tuesday, February 3, 10, 17, 24, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. "Botany of Food Plants." Learn about plant taxonomy/morphology of food and medicinal plants and explore origins, history, wild ancestry, domestication and lore of major food plants. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin. 512-471-9683 or <http://www.wildflower.gonativeu/> \$80 or \$65 if member; \$20 supply fee. Must attend all sessions. **8 CE**

Wednesday, February 4, 9:30 – 11:00 am. "The Beauty of Orchids." Learn about the most rapidly (genetically) changing group of plants on earth. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio. Call 210-824-9981 or <http://www.sanantoniogardencenter.org/> Donation. **1.5 CE** for meeting and lecture.

Wednesday, February 4, “Fruit Production.” Dr. Jim Kamas, Extension Horticulturalist. 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. Hays County Master Gardeners Training Class. Hays County Extension Office, 1253 Civic Center Loop in San Marcos. The course completion date will be May 20, 2009. RSVP and more information at 512-393-2120. **1 CE** for each hour of lecture.

Wednesday, February 4, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. \$16.00. “Planning Your Spring Vegetable Garden.” Robyn Leland. Warren High School, Room A 112, 9411 Military Dr., San Antonio. Call 210-397-8100 or <http://www.nisd.net/ace/> **2 CE**

Friday, February 6, 10:00 -11:00 am. Watersaver Walk. Information on planting and maintaining low water use in year-round landscaping. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Ave., San Antonio. Free with admission. 210-207-3261. **1 CE**

Saturday, February 7, 9:00 – 11:00 am. “Soil Preparation, Planting and Mulching to Make Your Spring Garden the Best Ever.” Charles Bartlett, owner of Green Haven Industries, Inc. The program concludes with a practical demonstration of advanced gardening techniques and a garden walk. Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Rd., San Antonio. The entrance gate is located in south San Antonio, 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. Free, but RSVP required. **2 CE**

Monday, February 9, 1:30 – 3:30 pm. “ABCs of Gardening Here: It Ain’t Like it Was Back Home.” Dr. Tom Harris. Boerne Community Center, 820 Adler St., Boerne. To register go to www.clubed.net or call 830-895-4386. \$19. See web site for other CE opportunities. **2CE**

Monday, February 9, 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Topic to be announced. San Antonio Rose Society Meeting. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio. For more information, call Ed Bradley at 210-658-8074. Free. **1 CE**

Monday, February 9, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Drip Irrigation: You Can Do This.” Dr. Tom Harris . Learn how to design, build and install your own system. O’Connor High School, 12221 Leslie Rd., San Antonio. Call 210-397-8100 or go to <http://www.nisd.net/ace/> \$16. **2 CE**

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Landscape Design--From Dirt to Design,” David Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. **2 CE**

Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 pm “Invasives of Texas.” Travis Gallo, Invaders of Texas Program Coordinator from Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Guadalupe County Chapter of the Native Plant Society (NPSOT). Guadalupe County Annex, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz. Plant/seed exchange followed by the program. For more information contact: guadalupecounty@npsot.org **1 CE** or length of lecture.

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Planning a Xeriscape.” David Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. **2 CE**

Thursday, February 12, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “A Time for Roses.” Ed Bradley, SA Rose Society. Untangle the mysteries of type, location, selection, planting, feeding and pruning. Clark High School, Room C 113, 5150 DeZavala Rd., San Antonio. To register, call 210-397-8100 or go to <http://www.nisd.net/ace/> **2 CE**

Thursday, February 12, 7:00 - 8:00 pm. San Antonio Herb Society meeting. Topic TBA. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio. Call 210-824-9981 or go to <http://sanantonioherbs.org> Free. **1 CE**

Thursday, February 12, 7:00 – 8:00 pm. San Antonio Bonsai Society meeting. Tree Prep and Hands-On Demonstration for upcoming San Antonio Home Show. Lions Field Adult and Senior Citizen’s Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio. Call JR and Marty Klajnowski at 210-650-4242 for more information. Free. **1 CE**

Saturday, February 14, 9:00 am – Noon. “Tree Management.” Paul Johnson, Texas Forest Service Forester. Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne. Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616 to register or see <http://www.cibolo.org/calendar> \$15 members/\$20 non-members. **3 CE**

Saturday, February 14, 8:30 am. Hike the Canyon. Unfamiliar with the trails at Government Canyon or just want to go hiking there with other people? Join the Friends of Government Canyon Volunteers for a guided hike on one of the many trails at the natural area. Open to ages 13 and over, minors must be accompanied by an adult; group size limited to the first 10 people. Dress appropriately and wear sturdy hiking shoes; bring water and a snack. Meet at the Visitors Center by the rainwater-harvesting tower. No pets please. Government Canyon, 12861 Galm Rd., San Antonio. Free, Reservations required. For more information, go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/calendar/?calpage=s0069> or call 210-688-9055, ext. 292. **CE based on length of hike.**

Saturday, February 14, 9:00 am – Noon. “Rainwater Harvest Seminar.” John Kight, engineer and rainwater catchment owner gives the latest technological information and the most practical advice on rainwater harvesting. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself. The Kight home with no well or outside water source is in a traditional development. Their system comfortably supplies delicious water for all household and landscape needs. Pre-registration required. \$20/\$30 members/couple; \$30/\$40 non-member/couple. \$20/\$30 members/couple; \$30/\$40 non-member/couple. Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne, then visit the Kight Home. Call 830-249-4616 or see <http://www.cibolo.org/calendar> **3 CE**

Sunday, February 15, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. San Antonio Daylily Society meeting and presentation (topic TBA). San Antonio Botanical Garden, Ed. Bldg., 555 Funston Ave., San Antonio. Contact JoNelle Zager, 830-393-5233 or see <http://store.jd2ranch.com/>. Free. **1 CE** for presentation.

Monday, February 16, Noon - 3:15 pm. GVST Essentials of Gardening. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio. Call 210-824-9981 or e-mail info@sanantoniogardencenter.org \$5 donation. **3 CE**

Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Organic Lawns, Gardens and Landscapes.” David Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. **2 CE**

Tuesday, February 17, 1:30 – 3:30 pm. “Drip Irrigation: You Can Do This.” Dr. Tom Harris. Learn how to design, build and install your own system. Boerne Community Center, 820 Adler St., Boerne. To register go to www.clubed.net or call 830-895-4386 \$19. **2 CE**

Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 pm. The Lindheimer Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas meeting and lecture (TBA). GVTC Auditorium, 36101 Smithson Valley, New Braunfels. Meetings have “Grower’s Tip,” “Plant of the Month,” “Seed Exchange” and “What’s in Bloom.” Call John Siemssen at 830-643-0004. Free. **1 CE** for lecture.

Wednesday, February 18, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “EarthKind Roses.” Robbi Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. **2 CE**

Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. San Antonio Cactus & Xerophyte Society (topic TBA) meeting and presentation. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio. Call Cal Eichler at 210-828-0833 for more information. **1 CE**

Wednesday, February 18, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm. “Soil Science.” Dr. Mark McFarland, Professor and Soil Fertility Specialist. Hays County Master Gardeners Training Class. Hays County Extension Office, 1253 Civic Center Loop in San Marcos. The course completion date will be May 20, 2009. RSVP and more information at 512-393-2120. **1 CE** for each hour of lecture.

Thursday, February 19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Trees, Trees, Trees—Everything You Need to Know About Trees.” David Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. **2 CE**

Saturday, February 21, 10:00 – Noon. “Fun with Container Gardening.” Robyn Leland, Garden Volunteers of South Texas (GVST). Beginner class on color wheel theory, planting and care. Northside Learning Center (NLC), Room B-104, 6632 Bandera Rd., San Antonio. \$32: \$16 lecture plus \$16 supply fee. To register, call 210-397-8100 or <http://www.nisd.net/ace/> **2 CE**

Saturday, February 21, 10:00 am – Noon. “Composting Made Easy – All New.” Chris Seifert, Master Gardener. Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne. \$15 members/\$20 non-members. Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616 to register or see <http://www.cibolo.org/calendar> **2 CE**

Saturday, February 21, 8:30 am. “Explore the Canyon.” Interested in the flora, fauna, natural and cultural history of Government Canyon? Willing to court a little mystery? This walk might be for you. Open to all ages; group size limited to the first 10 people. Dress appropriately and wear sturdy hiking shoes; bring water and a snack. Meet at the Visitor’s Center by the rainwater harvesting tower. Free. No pets. Subject to cancellation. For more information, call 210-688-9055. Ext 292. **CE based on length of hike.**

Monday, February 23, 7:00 pm. Organic Living Club, Topic TBA. For Goodness Sake, 1306 Common Street, New Braunfels. Free. RSVP. Seating is limited. There are no dues and everyone is welcome. Call Susan Hall at 830-626-1963. **1 CE** or length of lecture.

Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 – 8:30 pm “Plant Propagation.” David Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. **2 CE**

Thursday, February 26, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Deer Resistant Landscapes.” David Will. Taught through Judson ISD at Rolling Oaks Mall. \$25 per class or 5/\$100. To register, call 210-945-5338 or go to www.judsonisd.org, then go to Community Education. **2 CE**

Friday, February 27, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Alamo Orchid Society Meeting and Presentation (Topic TBA). Lions Field Adult & Senior Citizen’s Center, 2809 Broadway, San Antonio. Call Jeanne Buchanan at 830-446-9073 for more information. **1 CE**

Saturday, February 28, 9:00 am – Noon. “Habitat for Birds Part 1: Attracting Birds to Your Property.” Dick Park, local birder and landowner. \$15 members/\$20 non-members. Pre-registration required. Carpool from Cibolo Nature Center parking lot to Old Daley Ranch. Cibolo Nature Center, 140 City Park Road, Boerne. Call 830-249-4616 or see <http://www.cibolo.org/calendar> **3 CE**

Monday-Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. The Earthkind Demonstration Garden. The garden serves to demonstrate recommended native and adapted plants and growing techniques. Sponsored by the Travis County AgriLife Extension Service, 1600-B Smith Rd, Austin, 512-854-9600. Pick up a brochure of plant names for self-guided tour or if available, a MG will give a personalized tour. One block west of Hwy 183, two blocks north of Bolm Road near Austin-Bergstrom Airport. Free. **1 CE**

ON-LINE CEU OFFERINGS:

Green Industries Institute is an educational partnership between North Florida Community College, Florida A & M University, University of Florida, and the Green Industry. Distance learning opportunities offered as 1-, 2-, 4- and 8-credit hour courses (costs vary with # credit hours): Landscape Plans/Scale; Design Outdoor Rooms; Environmental Horticulture; Garden Therapy; Horticultural Awareness; Lush Landscape Returns; Pruning Trees; Aromatherapy & Plants; Butterfly Gardens; Color in the Garden; Designing for Birds; Designing with Container Gardens; Container Gardens; English Gardens; Healing Garden Design; Landscape Design Elements; Landscape Design Principles; Mediterranean Gardens;

Oriental Gardens; Turf Maintenance; Water Wise Irrigation; Design for Outdoor Rooms/active Living; Landscape Workshop; Tree Care. Go to <http://www.greenindustries.org/Default.aspx?pid=p1>

Note: Website is under construction. **CE based on credit earned.**

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.**

Iowa State University. Gardening is one of the most popular leisure activities in the United States. Whether you're a homeowner, Master Gardener, or an employee working in a gardening retail section, learn more about one or more aspects of gardening in on-line courses from ISU. Learn the basics of horticulture science including plant anatomy, plant identification, plant growth and development, and plant establishment and care. The on-line course uses WebCT and includes written content, images, on-line assignments, practice quizzes, and a final exam. This Course is being offered for one credit during Spring of 2009, February 2 – March 13. To take this course for college credit, please click on the link "Register (ISU-Credit)" link and indicate the appropriate section when registering. Go to <http://www.uccs.iastate.edu/mnet/hort193f/home.html>. For more information on credit offerings, go to www.distance.iastate.edu and click on "Browse Courses" on the left panel. You can also call Carrie Brus, Instructional Support Specialist, Brenton Center & Distance Education, at 515-294-1862 if you have problems registering. **CE based on proof of course completion.**

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 credit based on Honor System.** Please read and agree to the privacy and terms of use.

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 and available for one year following receipt of access codes. Course fee: \$99; notes 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>
Course fee \$25. **1 CE with proof of completion of course.**

Oregon State University Extension Service. Basic Botany refresher. The content of this module is based on the Basic Botany chapter in the Master Gardener Handbook. This online module is being used for Web-based delivery of instruction in conjunction with the annual Master Gardener training program. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/mg/botany/>. Self-study. **No CE.**

CMG Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, February 4, at 9:00 am.

SCHOOL GARDENS

If you would like to help or to sign up to be a liaison for one of the school gardens, please contact Nancy Pappas at 830-885-6016 or azop@gvtc.com.

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

The design committee for the Butterfly Gardens at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library will meet to complete the design plan on Tuesday, February 10, at 10:30 am at the library. If you are interested in joining this design committee, please contact Peggy Hamm at 830-438-9023 or khamma@gvtc.com.

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

The next workday at the Lindheimer Garden will be the second Tuesday of the month, February 10 at 9:00 am. We will be pruning roses and perennials and raking lots of leaves. Bring your tools and enjoy some good Master Gardener company. Contact Germaine Tuff at 830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com for details.

NEWSLETTER

Contact Editor Bonnie Leitch at 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, please contact Mary Salmon at 830-627-8174 or ldylatuna@satx.rr.com

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

Hope Hospice gardens will have a workday the last Saturday of the month, February 31, at 9:00. We welcome any member who would like to put in a few hours of effort once, or on a continuing basis. If interested, please contact Tom Carson at 830-606-5890 or tom.carson@us.fujitsu.com. When sending to this email address, please include the following comment in the subject line "Community Services – Hospice"

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDENS

Workday this month will be third Monday of the month, February 16, at 9:00 am. We will be doing the usual weeding, watering and praying for rain. The gardens are located on Scarborough, accessed from the Dam Access Rd. out of Sattler. For more information, contact Peggy Carmody at 830-226-5216 or carmody@gvtc.com or co-chair Lois Ricci at 830-899-5362 or poepjr@aol.com

HERITAGE ROSE GARDEN

We will be pruning the roses February 11, at 9:00 am, but our bad weather day will be February 25, same time. We can use extra help. Bring pruning tools and any other gear or equipment you like. I'll give a short rose demonstration before we start to remind members of correct methods to clean the tools and to prune. If members have trucks to haul the cuttings to the dump, please bring them. For more info, contact Harriet Aristeguieta at 830-609-1311 or haintx@att.net. Just a reminder, anyone desiring to work on a non-scheduled workday should contact Harriet first for proper pruning techniques.

COMAL COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

The Fairgrounds Committee will meet on February 19, third Thursday of the month, at 9:00 am. We'll be removing and repainting signs, so bring your electric drill. If the weather is bad, we'll go to Aleta's. Check your email for details. If you have any questions about the schedule, call Aleta at (830) 629-2929 or email aleta_meyer@hotmail.com

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The Extension Garden Committee will not have a workday on February 2. We are looking forward to working with the new class on workdays in February. All Master Gardeners are welcome to join us at the Extension Office for the workday. It's is a great opportunity to get both educational hours and volunteer hours. If you have any questions, you can contact Sharon Deeny at (830) 935-4209 or dendeeny@msn.com, or Linda Hardwick at 830-625-8311 or usnb@aol.com.

WEBSITE

Check adding resources for next Master Gardener class, including links to web resources for each chapter; also added map to the new work site, Bulverde Spring Branch Library. Five forms that you might need are on-line at the website <http://grovesite.com/mg/comal> under CMG Forms. The class application form is under CMG Class Training. All forms are interactive and can be filled out on-line.

Comal Gardener

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Deadline for submission is the 20th of the month preceding publication.

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)