



January 2011

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

Number 7

Comal Master Gardener Emeritus Honorees Announced

At the December CMG Christmas Party, President Larry Williamson announced two new Comal Master Gardeners honored as Comal Master Gardeners Emeritus. CMG previously had only one emeritus member, Harold Voges, who was designated in 2007.

The emeritus distinction is given to those retired or retiring members who have made significant contributions to the organization and who have had an impact on the organization. Not all retiring members reach emeritus status. Members of the organization were asked to nominate potential emeritus members. A special committee, appointed by the executive board, considered the nominations and recommended selections. Extension Agent Glenn Avriett and the CMG Executive Board approved the nominations on a case-by-case basis.

The emeritus designation was awarded to Comal Master Gardeners Jim Mosier and Clif Fleming in 2010. Both of the new emeritus designees are true master gardeners not just by being members in the master gardener organization, but through their realized efforts in gardening and by their gardening expertise. In addition, both honorees have been generous in sharing their time, knowledge and their garden bounty and plants with the membership.

The Comal Master Gardener Association will add to its emeritus members in the future. The organization goes back to Class I from 1998 and to members who joined the organization from other organizations. As the membership grows, not all new members may be aware of the roles and contributions of members who have been active in the organization during its founding and formative years. The contributions of members through the years in so many ways are the catalysts that have allowed Comal Master Gardeners to flourish and to be a presence in the community.

For more on Jim and Clif, go to page 3.

CMG January Meeting

6 pm **Monday**, January 24

Topic: *Purpose and Future Plans of TMGA*

Speaker: *Lonnie Matthew, past TMGA president*

Place: *GVTC*

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•••Garden Posts•••

- Information about getting to the GVTC Auditorium: From New Braunfels, take State Highway 46 west toward Boerne. At FM 3159 turn right. You will see the GVTC Auditorium on your left.
- A new year is upon us and it is once again time to enjoy and learn about herbs. On January 10 at 10 am the Herb SIG will have 11 people present an herb that starts with the first initial of their last name. Please come and enjoy a varied presentation of herbs and herbal knowledge. RSVP to Sally Ann Hnatiuk at mustang_sally6@msn.com or 830-980-5645 by January 4. Please bring a sack lunch and stay after the meeting to socialize with the members. Drinks will be provided.
- In addition to the gardening series at New Braunfels Public Library and Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, the new Tye Preston Memorial Library, near Canyon Lake Dam, is beginning monthly gardening programs in January. These programs are free and open to the public and give CMG members opportunities for CE hours. Our Speaker's Bureau supplies many of the programs. Jan Waguespack coordinates at NBPL. Rich Bradley has joined Lee Franzel at BSBL. If you live in the Canyon Lake area and are interested in helping coordinate programs at TPML, please contact Lee (lee Franzel@gvtc.com). Check the January CE Opportunities for details. There is no January program at NBL due to library construction.
- The hosts for the January 24, 2011, CMG General Meeting at GVTC are Jim Hartman, Nancy Pappas, Jodi Hawthorne and Kathy Nelson.
- We are still in need of an Educational Enrichment Coordinator. For further information, contact Larry Williamson (llwilliamson@gvtc.com).

A Thank You Luncheon for Janet

Comal Master Gardeners will be hosting an Appreciation Luncheon for Janet Sweet on Thursday, January 13 at noon at the Extension Office. Janet, who has been the Master Gardener Administrative Liaison at the Extension Office for the past several years, will be assuming other duties in January, and Marie Atkinson will be assuming the Master Gardener administrative liaison role.

If you wish to attend the luncheon, please bring a side dish or dessert. Glenn Avriett will grill sausages for the group that day. Email Ray Elizondo (tu1964@earthlink.net) to RSVP so he will have an idea of the amount of meat to purchase.

There will also be an "Appreciation Box" available that day, for those wishing to participate in a cash gift. That way Janet may purchase the gift of her choice with some tokens of our appreciation.

Changes in Extension Office duties are made every few years so that the office staff can be acquainted with the various activities of the office. Because of this, beginning in January, master gardeners are asked to coordinate with Marie. Six years ago Marie was the Master Gardener Administrative Liaison before the last change of personnel, and, of course, Marie is no stranger to the membership and the organization itself.

Comal Master Gardeners are thankful for all the work and help that Janet has given our organization over the past several years, and she remains a valued friend, so join the membership in an appreciation luncheon for Janet on the 13th as we express our personal thanks her.

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

From Emeritus article, page 1

JIM MOSIER

Jim Mosier was in the third CMG class, the Class of 2000. Jim still remembers when he decided to join CMG. He had gone to the Extension Office to get some information on blackberries, and Marie pointed out a sign about the Master Gardener class that was set to begin in a few weeks. Jim laughingly remembers that at that time he met the criteria for being in the class by having a check to pay for enrollment.

Since then Jim has proved to be one of the organization's most valued members. Chalk that up to his many volunteer contributions, to his enthusiasm and to his warm and colorful personality.

Jim served on the executive board as the organization's treasurer for two years. He was one of the first members to work at Hope Hospice, helping to plant their first plants. That beautiful morning glory bush at the hospice was a planting Jim gave several years ago. He still volunteers there when he can. Jim has also worked and still helps at the Conservation Plaza Rose Garden.

Jim thinks that educating kids about gardening is an important mission. He has helped Kids in Bloom since Lori Rhodes established it. In the same spirit, he volunteers at the Kidz Club at the Oakwood Baptist Church, which is working with Kids in Bloom to teach kids basic gardening skills.

Jim was one of the master gardeners supervising the plantings at the medical clinic on the west side of town, when master gardeners helped plan and establish the clinic landscaping. Jim had his garden open for CMG tours on several occasions. Those master gardeners who went will always remember the beautiful vision of red poppies in spring bloom. Jim showed master gardeners his memory gardens and fruit trees. Each plant had a story that Jim would share with his fellow gardeners.

He has always been generous with his gifts. He would bring plants to meetings to share, as well as vegetables or fruit. And many members were recipients of plants that they had admired in his gardens. He was not only generous with his plants, but with his knowledge. He and Clif Fleming participated in several classes involving the community and Comal Master Gardeners about vegetable gardening, for Jim and Clif are master vegetable growers.

It has been a tradition of Jim's for many years to bring one of his crafts to the CMG Christmas Party to give to some lucky winner. Partygoers have received tin men and Aggie weather gauges among other gifts, and for this past party, Jim crafted a wooden candle lantern. This is an example of Jim's always doing his little extra for the organization. He and his wife Freda have always been in attendance at the Christmas party, adding to the spirit of the occasion.

Jim contributed in so many different ways, and his recent illness has not kept him from bouncing back and volunteering when he can. The organization is proud to have Jim as a member and prouder yet to give him its emeritus standing.

CLIF FLEMING

Clif Fleming was in the fourth CMG class in 2001. He joined, he has said, for two reasons: he was retired and had the time, and he wanted to know more about gardening. Clif already gardened extensively, but he wanted to know the "whys," and he was sure that the master gardener association would help him in that endeavor.

Clif's volunteer efforts were mainly in the Hope Hospice gardens. He remembers when he, Marty Hopmann and Mikki Tharp first started working at the gardens. The hospice gardens were a new CMG project, and they planned the landscaping, selecting plants and locations. After that other Master Gardeners joined them in having those plans come to life. He has worked there continually, until health problems forced him to curtail his work. Through the years Clif has also volunteered at the Conservation Rose Gardens.

Clif opened his garden for several years to CMG for tours. His garden demonstrated vegetable and fruit gardening to several classes. Anyone who has visited Clif's garden will remember all of the marvelous planting beds with veggies and his fruit trees. He and his wife Patty were generous and welcoming hosts. As Clif explained, Patty was mostly responsible for the blooms in their garden. Extensive vegetable beds and fruit trees were his garden domain, and his vegetable beds were a learning experience for everyone.

He shared his gardening knowledge and expertise with everyone. Many master gardeners were recipients of generosity with gift plants from his garden. If Clif had a good crop of vegetables or fruit, he would always bring produce to the CMG meetings to share.

Jim is the quiet Master Gardener who works behind the scenes, and many newer members might not be aware of his presence and his endeavors. When help was needed, members who knew him would call on him because they knew of his talents and his willingness to be of service. For instance, when the sprinkler system was first installed at the Extension Office, Clif the retired electrician was there to do the wiring.

When Kids in Bloom had difficulty in getting tomato plants for their program in the schools, members who knew of his talents and generosity asked if he could help the program. Clif was quick to say, "Yes I can," and for several years he grew tomato seedlings so that the kids in the various schools would have tomato plants to grow.

You don't hear Clif talk too much about what he does or has done, but if there was at any time a need for help and his assistance was required, Clif was there, like when his and Jim Mosier's vegetable growing classes. Several years ago when master gardeners Illia Lomba and Sergina Flaherty had a tiller to donate to the organization, Clif picked it up and got it back in working order. The tiller found a home at the New Life Gardens. It has been an honor to have Clif as a CMG, and an even greater honor to have him designated as a Comal Master Gardener emeritus.

January Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

Since last September I have found that the Farmer's Almanac has been the most accurate predictor of our weather. For January it tells us that early in the month we will see mild temperatures with sunny days. Mid month there will be winter temperatures again, becoming "very cold" around the 18th. We will then see mild temperatures again at the end of the month.

If you are in the planting mood, reliable vegetables remain the standard cole crops like broccoli, kohlrabi, cabbage, lettuce and spinach. You can plant both artichoke and asparagus crowns now. Remember these last two will not produce edible crops for at least two years, so put these in a place they can remain undisturbed through several seasons. When starting with seeds, January temperatures are great for carrots, spinach, lettuce, parsnips and radishes. If you have a greenhouse or a very sunny southern window, start your tomato seeds. Rotate your seedlings to insure straight, strong stems.

Pecan trees, fruit trees, berries and grapes will do better if planted this month. You want them to get established early so they can survive our rough summer temperatures. If you purchase bare-root plants, dig a hole deep enough to build a mound in the center so that the trees roots can be spread down over that hill. Both bare-root and containerized trees benefit from an addition of either bone meal or rock phosphate that touch the roots. Fill the hole with compost and soil and water for the next few weeks with a diluted seaweed or B1 hormonal solution. Watch your planting depth. Do not leave the roots exposed or bury the trunk too deep. Look for the previous soil line, follow that and you should have an extremely happy tree! Now is the time to prune established fruit trees and spray dormant oil. This oil needs to be applied at least twice during the winter months to protect against scale and other insects when your trees begin their bud break in spring. If you have already applied a copper-based spray, wait at least ten days before applying the dormant oil and spray during colder temperatures.

If you just want color, it is still safe to plant alyssum, sweet peas, larkspur, hollyhock, petunias and poppies. All of these will grow until the hotter temperatures are upon us. If you plant them in containers that can be moved into the shadier areas during the hottest days, they will last even longer. Fertilize the annuals you've already planted.

During these winter months, if we have not received at least one inch of rain in six weeks, go ahead and give your trees, shrubs and flower beds a good soaking. As always, if a deep freeze is expected, water deeply beforehand to protect your plants' roots.

January 2011 Gardening Opportunities

Saturday, January 8 thru Sunday, March 13, 9 am to 5:30 pm Tuesday thru Saturday, Noon to 5:30 pm Sunday, and closed on Mondays. "Flowers in Art." McDermott Learning Center. This exhibit combines the charming flora of Stella Alesi's paintings with Richard Reynolds' photographic plant portraits. Alesi painted the 2011 Wildflower Days™ art print as well as the Wildflower Center's 2010 holiday card. Richard Reynolds has devised his own technique for creating large and incredibly detailed photographs of flowers without the distortion that usually accompanies extreme close-ups. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin. For more information, call 512-232-0100.

Saturday, January 22, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, Tree Talk Winter Walk. Learn about Texas trees and tree maintenance. Sponsored by KGSR. Our annual Tree Talk Winter Walk is a perfect time to explore the beauty and benefits of native trees and shrubs. Get tips on landscape design and tree maintenance and learn about native species with walks and talks led by local tree experts; from 10 am to 2 pm. Rootmaker potted trees and shrubs available, as well as a limited number of Wildflower Center grown species. Free. Lady Bird Wildflower Center, 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin.

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/>

January 2011 CE Opportunities

Wednesday, January 5, 9:30 – 10:30 am. "Herbs are Hot – Old Time Remedies from Kitchen & Garden" by Shari Anderson, San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. Call 210-824-9981 or go to <http://www.sanantoniogardencentre.org> **1 CE**

Thursday, January 6, 10 am – Noon. "Soil--building a foundation for gardening success, and Compost--the best soil amendment and how to make it" by Lee Franzel and Rich Bradley. Powerpoint with compost cage demonstration. Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing. **1.5 CE**

Friday, January 7 & Saturday, January 15, 10 – 11 am. Watersaver Walk. Information about planning, planting and maintaining low-water-use landscape year-round. San Antonio Botanical Garden Guides, 555 Funston. Free with admission to SABOT. For information, call 210-207-3261. **1 CE**

Saturday, January 8, & January 29, 10 - 11 am. “Organic Vegetable Gardening 101” by Rosina Newton. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to create successful vegetable, herb, and flower gardens in Central Texas. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Saturday, January 8, 10 am – Noon. “Grow the Best Garden Veggies Ever!” Join the Travis County Master Gardeners in this free demonstration about growing the best vegetables you can. Sunshine Community Gardens, 4814 Sunshine Dr., Austin. Bring chairs if desired, but event will occur rain or shine. Only street parking is available. **2 CE**

Saturday, January 15, 10 am – Noon. “Growing Fruits, Nuts, and Berries in Central Texas” by Jim Kamas. He will cover all aspects of home orchard production, from variety selection to pruning and harvesting. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **2 CE**

Saturday, January 15, 10 am – Noon, “Central Texas Gardening 101” by Daphne Richards. She will give tips and tricks to making your garden a success. Course will included the seasonal growing calendar, how to work with challenging soils, maintenance schedules for pruning and planting and valuable information about giving new plants a head start. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin. This class is free and does not require reservations. For information, call 512-477-8672. **2 CE**

Beginning Tuesday, January 18 thru May 13, Palo Alto College offers Certificate's and Associate's Degrees in Landscape & Horticultural Science Turfgrass & Golf Course Management. Contact Kirk Williams at 210-486-3073 or email kwilliams@alamo.edu or Weldon Riggs at 210-486-3074 or email wriggs@alamo.edu For more information, go to <http://www.alamo.edu/pac/agriculture> **CE based on length of course**

Thursday, January 20, 7 – 8 pm. “Growing Avocado Trees” by Bill Schneider. Guadalupe Co Master Gardeners General Meeting, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin. Contact: Linda Bruno at 363-8380 or email jlbruno@gvec.net **1 CE**

Thursday, January 20, 3 – 4:30 pm at. “Native and Adapted Plants for the TX Hill Country” by Lee Franzel. Powerpoint program. Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 South Access Road, Canyon Lake. **1.5 CE**

Fridays, January 21 – February 25, 12:30 – 4 pm “Tree Care Classes at the Garden.” This 21-hour course was designed to help prepare professional arborists to take the ISA Certified Arborist examination. Nonprofessionals are also welcome to attend the entire course or other sessions to gain a better understanding of the benefits of trees and to develop their tree ID and tree care skills. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. To register, contact Sasha Kodet at 210-207-3270 or email sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov **3.5 CE per class.**

Saturday, January 22, 9 am – Noon. “Pruning Seminar: How, When and Why to Prune” by Larry Stein. Fanick's Nursery, 1025 Holmgreen Road, San Antonio. Free. Limited seating, so bring a chair. For information, call 210-648-1301. **3 CE**

Saturday, January 22, 10 – 11 am. “Pruning Grape Vines” by Roger Igo and David Johndrow. Come learn the proper timing and techniques for pruning these luscious food-bearing plants. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113 **1 CE**

Wednesday, January 26, 1:30 – 3 pm. “EarthKind™: Environmental Landscapes” by Michael and Donna Welch. CMG, Comal County Extension Meeting Room. **1.5 CE**

Wednesday, January 26, 3:30 – 5 pm. “Soil and Soil Samples; Rainwater Harvesting” by Glenn Avriett. CMG, Comal County Extension Meeting Room. **1.5 CE**

ON-LINE CEU OFFERINGS:

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, January 5 at 10 am.

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The Comal County AgriLife Extension Gardens will meet on Tuesday, January 4th and 18th at 10 am. We have much planning to do and, depending on the weather, will either work indoors in the meeting room or outdoors. Linda Valdez will post an email the Sunday before the workday to let you know what we will be doing. If you wish to volunteer to work in the gardens and to obtain first hand emails about on going projects, contact Linda (ldvaldez@satx.rr.com) or co-chair Sally Ann Hnatiuk (mustang_sally6@msn.com).

NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS

The Conservation Plaza Rose Garden workdays will be on Wednesday, January 12 and 26 at 10 am. After a two- month break, we will pull weeds and add compost to the beds. Please bring a shovel and gloves and a second wheelbarrow, if you have one. We will have a hot drink and snacks. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions or plan to bring a wheelbarrow.

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden workdays are the 4th Thursday of each month. Our next workday will be Thursday, January 27 at 9 am. Contact Peggy Hamm (khamma@gvvc.com) or Lee Franzel (lee Franzel@gvvc.com) for more information.

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, January 17 at 9 am. For more information, contact Peggy Carmody (830-226-5216 or carmody@gvvc.com) or co-chair Lois Ricci (poepjr@aol.com or 830-899-5362).

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

For information, contact Harlan Kraft (210-846-5643 or harlankraft@gmail.com).

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.

COMAL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS GARDEN

The Fairgrounds Committee will meet Thursday, January 20 at 9 am at the Grant Street Gardens. We will be pruning and any generally cleaning up, plus making plans for additional plants/landscaping/mulch needs. Recycle bags and some nourishment are provided. Workers, bring your pruning tools and rakes. 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 workday will be Tuesday, January 11 at 9:30 am. We plan to remove some plants in the herb section of the garden and to move others. We add compost to all the beds. Tim Barker plans to bring a tiller. We could use a second wheelbarrow. If by some fortune we have rain, we will work on the following Tuesday, January 18. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions or plan to bring a wheelbarrow.

NEWSLETTER

The planning meeting for the February issue will be Tuesday, January 4 at Peggy Hamm's house. Contact Editor Bonnie Leitch (830-660-2335 or bleitch@earthlink.net) for information about the meeting or 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).

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 January CMG activities.

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 10 am Ext Off Gardens 4 pm Newsletter Mtg	5 10 am Exec Board Mtg	6	7 6 pm Christmas Party Forke Store	8
9	10	11 9:30 am Lindheimer Gardens	12 10 am Conservation Gardens	13	14	15
16	17 9 am New Life Butterfly	18 10 am Ext Off Gardens	19	20 9 am Fairgrounds Garden	21	22
23	24 6 pm CMG Meeting	25	26 10 am Conservation Gardens	27 9 am Bulverde/SB Library Butterfly Gardens	28	29