



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

Number 1

June Meeting Packed with Excitement

The last meeting of Catherine Hall's presidency was filled with celebration and important decisions. Members decided their new leadership from July 2010 to June 2011. In a CMG first, there were three candidates for President-Elect: Lee Franzel, Nancy Valdez and Michael Welch. The slate of officers for fiscal next year are President, Larry Williamson; President-Elect, Michael Welch; Vice President and Class Leader, Carol McWilliams; Secretary, Sharon Wright; and Treasurer, Marlene Ballard. Congratulations to all our new officers.

Because the membership of the CMG has outgrown the Extension Office meeting room, this past year membership meetings have been held throughout the county. The Executive Board has been searching for a meeting space that is adequately large, fully equipped electronically for presentations and convenient. As a result of that search, members were given three options: alternating months at Bulverde Library and Sts. Peter and Paul, GVTC or Sts. Peter and Paul. Members chose the GVTC Auditorium. Starting January 2011, the membership meetings will be at GVTC, on FM 3159 off of 46, on the fourth Mondays of the month. The membership also decided to hold another poinsettia sale next holiday season.

Catherine announced that Harlan Kraft will head the Hope Hospice gardens, starting in July. Rosalie Meier volunteered to organize the CMG archives. We are old enough to need some historical documentation of our organization.

Class Leader Cathy Wonish recognized a group of master gardeners who helped with the 2010 class and awarded class members Richard Bradley, Jim Hartman and Linda Say official CMG membership certificates. Eleven of the 31 students from this year's class are now certified master gardeners. Catherine then presented a 15-year-MG pin to Patty Godfrey (Patty, one of our founding members, was a Harris County MG before helping organize CMG.) Five-year-MG pins were presented to Lu Allen, Carole Bartram, Viola Espinosa, Robert Laechelin, Evelyn Nielsen, Nancy Pappas, Susan Rench, Linda Sickles, Carol Stein, Linda Valdez and Ron Williford.

Jim Mosier thanked members for all their support during his recent illness. The banner Nancy Kraft made for the organization was on display and signed by many of the members, including the past presidents in attendance, during the meeting.

CMG July Meeting
6 pm Tuesday, July 27 Place: *Forke Store*
Speaker: *Sheri Jentsch from Blumen-Meisters on Tablesapes*

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•••Garden Posts•••

- July 12 the Herb SIG will be meeting to make herbal soup wreaths and swags. The place is yet to be decided. RSVP to Sally Ann Hnatiuk at mustang_sally6@msn.com by Friday, July 2, and she will send you further information. Any Master Gardener is invited to attend the meetings.
- The Fairgrounds Committee reminds everyone to start saving seeds and four-inch plants to give away at the Master Gardener booth at the Comal County Fair, September 24-26. Don't forget the Fajita Social Sunday, September 19, either. The September issue will have more information on the social.
- CMG Needs YOU! One of our most visible gardens, the Conservation Plaza, needs a leader. Think about how much good you can do.
- From Treasurer Donna Lehr: Balance for May: \$8786.51. Expenses: \$979.64 and income: \$44.00.
- Donna will collect dues at the July meeting, or you may mail your dues to the Extension Office c/o CMG Treasurer. Individuals: \$20; Couples: \$35. Make checks payable to CMG.
- Members of the refreshment committee for July are Beverly Williamson, Larry Williamson, Marty Godfrey and Patty Godfrey.
- The students from this year's class of master gardeners continue to work in the gardens and at the phone bank. Please say hello to them and welcome them to our wonderful group of gardeners.
- Rosalie Meier will be collecting any significant or historical CMG documents or photos for the newly-formed archives. Judy Chantos and Angie Martinez will assist with the project. One of the committee will be at all of the meetings, or members may drop their material off at the Extension Office.
- Mark your calendars for the Master Gardener Regional Conference October 9 in Schertz. For more information, go to www.tcmastergardeners.org
- We need a chair for the Comal County Parade Float. Evelyn Nielsen and her crew started a fun-filled tradition that spreads the word to many people. This year's float has essentially already been created. If interested, contact Larry Williamson at llwilliamson@gvtc.com

SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

On June 12 the Men's Garden Club of New Braunfels sponsored their annual vegetable, fruit and flower show competition, as they have the second Saturday of June for many years. Dr. Tina Cade, Associate Professor of Horticulture at Texas State University, judged the four categories: vegetables, fruits, cut flowers and potted plants.

Ten CMG interns entered the contest. In the vegetable category, 2010 Comal Master Gardener class representatives Martha McRae, Rosalie Meier and Allie Wallace won both a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion prize. The proud winners have been under the very able tutelage of Harold Voges, aka the Crop Whisperer, since he offered his expertise and part of his garden to the class for their own crops. The Grand Champion prize was for the trainees' jalapeno peppers, and the Reserve Grand Champion prize was awarded to the group's green tomatoes.



Lest We Forget

The Conservation Plaza Gardens

by Lu Allen, Barbi Briney, Bonnie Leitch and Mary T Salmón

In the second garden in our series on the oral histories of the Comal Master Gardeners' gardens, we focus on one of our most visible and popular gardens, especially for brides and tourists. In a move to continue our partnership with the New Braunfels Conservation Society, President Catherine Hall, acting chair Germaine Tuff, garden volunteer extraordinaire Nancy Horne and NBCS Director Martha Rehler recently agreed to a statement of mutual responsibility for the gardens. The document includes agreement on individual responsibilities, horticultural practices, irrigation, gardening education, waste disposal and cooperation with other personnel on the site.

Before we delve into the particulars of our garden, however, perhaps we might discuss the importance and symbolism of roses.

Roses through the Ages

For at least 5000 years, the rose has been a universal symbol of love, romance and passion. The Roman Empire had enormous rose gardens harvested for medicine and perfume. In the fifteenth century, the War of the Roses involved two opposing families, York and Lancaster, represented by a white rose and a red rose. Arranged together, red and white roses denote unity, understanding and common ground. King Henry VII created a graphic design called the Tudor Rose in 1485. The Tudor Rose is a red rose above a white rose, symbolizing the end and resolution of the War of the Roses.

Roses have appeared not only in classical and modern works of art but also in poetry, music and media. Consider February 14 when it is estimated 1.3 million roses are given. The rose also appears in political arenas in many cultures and is highly regarded as a religious symbol. In many places, the rose represents hope. How can a plant, a lovely flower, give one hope? What is it about this lovely flower and its essence that can change one's attitude with one good sniff? One answer might be that the velvety touch of rose petals seems to calm nerves and act as a harbinger of spring. As the poet Robert Burns once wrote, "My love is like a red, red rose, that's newly sprung in June."

Greek and Roman goddesses of love, Aphrodite and Venus, were associated with the rose. In Greek mythology, Chloris, the Goddess of flowers, created the rose by giving life to the lifeless body of a nymph. Aphrodite gave the rose beauty, and Dionysus, the God of wine, presented her nectar to give her a sweet scent. The three Graces gave the rose charm, brightness and joy. This is evidence of its enduring popularity among lovers. Even today, sending roses to ask forgiveness perpetuates the belief that any hurt, unkind word or injustice can be reversed by caressing and taking in this lovely scent. Where words fail, the rose might save the contrite.

Of all roses, the red rose is the ultimate symbol of love filled with romance and passion that says, "I love you." The lilac rose signifies love at first sight. According to some traditions, one red rose stands for an only love, eleven roses represent a favorite of the giver, ninety-nine roses mean forever love and a hundred roses say, "Marry me." According to some Native American cultures, white roses represent true love. This is why white roses are traditionally worn at weddings. Who can deny the power and enchantment of the Yellow Rose of Texas? Why, we have a legend and a folk song to prove it!

In the Victorian-era the black rose, which is really a very deep red, was considered a symbol of rebirth or rejuvenation. As strict as the Victorians were, they learned to communicate their love by communicating with flowers, for they believed that giving a rose to someone was a statement of pure love.

Now, if you have a passion for roses, you put a bit of your soul into every rose you plant. Every blossom is new life. MTS

An Interview with Martha Rehler, Director of the New Braunfels Conservation Society

In 1988, Dr. Dorris Brown, a member of the New Braunfels Conservation Society, had a vision of having an Antique Rose Conservatory at Conservation Plaza. In that same year, the project was born and dedicated on October 27, 1990. The Men's Garden Club of New Braunfels collected and planted rose specimens from the cemeteries and old homes in Comal County.

When Martha Rehler became the Director of Conservation Society in 1991, the roses were beginning to mature. The Brown's daughter was getting married in the rose conservatory, so the bride's mother, Christine Brown, donated the brick walkways for this occasion. After Walter Faust died in 1996, Conservation Society was blessed with a bequest that allowed them to build the pavilion over the dance slab next to the existing bandstand.

At the beginning the maintenance of the rose conservatory was very uncertain. Often Martha and volunteer from NBCS pulled weeds and pruned the roses in order to make the garden presentable for each upcoming event.

When CMG was organized and committees were established during its first year in 1998, the Rose Garden at Conservation Plaza was selected as one of the organization's first volunteer efforts. CMGs Rita Hilgenhold and Ray Elizondo were the first co-chairs of the new committee. Bill Schumann, a former Texas Extension Agent who had been friends with Dr. Brown, was the committee's mentor.

Over the years Conservation Society has grown to depend on the Master Gardeners, and many good friendships have formed between the two groups. Martha feels that the Chairman of the Rose Garden has a very difficult job in the maintenance and upkeep of the facility.

Due to other obligations, long-time chair Harriet Aristeguieta recently resigned. Fortunately Germaine and Don Tuff stepped into the breach temporarily. Martha summed her and the society's feelings about the gardens, when she said, "Truly, I do not know what we would do without this fantastic group! We can never sufficiently express our gratitude to this organization and group of gardeners who keep our facility beautiful." LA

A Visit With Harriet Aristeguieta

Conservation Plaza Rose Garden Chairman 2002 to 2010

Harriett Aristeguieta became a Master Gardener in August 1999. In the summer of 2002, she became chairman for the Conservation Plaza Rose Gardens, as she remembers it, just as Tom Carson was leaving the presidency. So she has been chairman for about eight years of dedicated service. As she leaves her position, Harriet says she has really enjoyed the experience, especially the new friends she made through the years. She feels that the garden is a "big show place of our community service" but is still amazed that so few residents know about the garden.

Harriet and the rose garden group cared for sixty-nine rose bushes, consisting of thirty five to forty varieties, plus the arbor roses. The worst job was trimming the arbor roses. The NBCS wanted as little pruning as possible because of the need for constant beauty, so Harriet compromised by pruning every other bush as closely as it should be pruned every other season. She always teased the New Braunfels Conservation Society people who worked at the plaza that she would like to just TAKE OUT the arbor. All those thorns could just go bye-bye.

Of all the roses, Harriet's favorite rose is the Arch Duke Charles. May, and sometimes April, is the prettiest month for the roses. Each year's care of the roses followed a seasonal pattern: seriously prune in February, fertilize in March, lightly prune in September and maintain the rest of the year. The worst time for the garden was about five or six years ago when crown gall struck the garden, destroying many of the plants. Since that time, the gardeners have been careful not to pass disease among the plants. Harriet also

remembers when Myles Peinemann repaired the irrigation system. Other than those two incidents, she feels that the lack of green waste cleanup has been the garden's only problem.

One of Harriet's favorite stories is when the personnel tried without success to trap and remove a "varmint" from the gardens. It was rooting up the mulch and making a total mess in the gardens. Nothing was successful until she put out some deer repellent. The mixture didn't repel the deer, but it worked on the varmint because they had no more trouble with it.

Another time, they had a special cleaning day because there was going to be a wedding the next day. The rose beds looked beautiful! Unfortunately, the roses also looked delicious to the deer. They came in that night and ate most of the roses off the bushes. According to Harriett, deer think roses are sweet like dessert, so they follow the motto, "Life is short. Eat dessert first!" BB

Long-Time-Co-Chair and Interim-Chair Germaine Tuff's Interview

Germaine Tuff remembers falling in love with the Conservation Rose Garden during her training in Class IV, in the spring of 2001. Although active in many other aspects of the Master Gardener program, Germaine has stayed in the rose garden because of her love of roses and the people who she has worked with there. She has also felt a need to maintain what is arguably the Comal Master Gardeners' most public garden. Visitors to the area interested in history come to the Conservation Plaza year round. The New Braunfels Conservation Society (NBCS) and other local organizations use Forke Store for their meetings and parties. In early summer and late fall, however, the rose garden itself is the focal point of many weddings and celebrations.

In the last decade, Germaine feels that the development of the side beds to the main rose beds, starting about three or four years ago, is the major change in the Conservation Rose Garden. The activity started with cleaning the beds, then involved planting and now maintaining them. As new buildings were moved into the plaza, Comal Master Gardener Nancy Horne became the mother of new beds she cleared, planted and maintained around the new arrivals, but more about that later.

Water has been a sporadic problem at the Conservation Gardens. Although the New Braunfels Conservation Society provides water and a water system for the main gardens, there have been times when the system has not worked. About three years ago, lack of water caused crown gall to destroy about sixty of the rose bushes, which Robbi Will generously replaced. So far the new beds around the newly-installed buildings do not have a water system.

Finally, Germaine hopes there is someone in the organization who loves roses and understands the importance of the Conservation Gardens who will volunteer to be the new chair of the gardens. BL

An Interview with Nancy Horne

For those of you who have spent the last year in Siberia, Nancy Horne has become the newest addition to the gardens in Conservation Plaza. Her contributions garnered her The 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award from the New Braunfels Conservation Society and prompted changing the name of the rose gardens there to the Conservation Plaza Gardens. According to records, she worked at least 112 hours in the gardens last year. Before Nancy, the Comal Master Gardeners maintained the central antique rose garden. Now many other beds and plantings have the CMG stamp on them.

Nancy became interested in the Conservation Rose Garden as a student trying to fulfill her fifty hours for certification. Now because she lives just behind the property, she comes over to work anytime she "gets bored." She has continued her commitment since her certification in 2003 because she felt the need to work on the gardens any time they "looked ratty" to her. Besides, according to Nancy, "I just plain flat enjoy digging in dirt." She did, however, admit to getting worn out.

As we talked, Nancy and I walked through her various projects at Conservation Plaza. She showed me the red bud she planted and dedicated to Nick Kapellas, a friend who died two years ago. We also walked by two side iris beds she has cleared, planted and maintains. There are two stone planter boxes in front of Forke Store that she keeps replanting when they die from inconsistent watering, especially during the drought last year. All the iris beds in front of the other buildings by Forke Store are her work, including building the edging. They are, however, not on a watering system. Nancy built and planted the beds in front of the Blanke Haus and some back beds in the new addition, also. Besides that, she has planted a number of native trees in other vacant spaces about the property.

As for the future of the gardens, Nancy just wants them to look nice so the plaza will attract more people and generate public attention and revenue for the area. Her greatest frustration has been the lack of consistent watering or an adequate watering system. Another involves trees that have been girdled by careless weed eating and cut down by mowing. In the Conservation Plaza there is a philosophical tension between wanting a natural look true to the historic setting and keeping the existing plants alive and well. To its credit, the Conservation Society buys new plants when Nancy asks and pays for watering the antique rose garden.

If you haven't been to Conservation Plaza recently, please go to see all the gardens. If you do, you are sure to agree that the major factor in the continuing success of one of Comal Master Gardeners' most public projects is a dedicated gardener like Nancy Horne. BL

July Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

I believe survival is the key word for July. The list of recommended plants and seeds for this month is very, very slim. If you plan to have pumpkins for Halloween, plant your seeds about the Fourth of July. Pepper plants can still go in the ground, as well as basil, thyme and oregano.

If none of these are on your want list, concentrate on keeping the plants you have already planted happy. Try to water and/or foliar feed in the mornings only. Water deeply and infrequently. Remember, foliar feeding with seaweed helps your drought-stricken landscape considerably, both in hot AND cold temperatures. Keep the water off the leaves by watering at ground level only. Sprinklers are really a waste in this heat.

If you are like me and absolutely have to be outside every day, think of low energy, low maintenance projects, like mulching your bare spots, cleaning the algae from your birdbaths or planning your fall garden.

Your tomato plants production will decline as the day and nighttime temperatures rise. The optimum temperature for tomato *fruit set* is below 85° during the day and 75° at night. The best temperature for *fruit ripening* is between 68° and 77°. It will be awhile before we see these temperatures again! Keep the plants watered deeply and mulched heavily, and they might resume production when the temperatures begin to cool. My heirloom 'Black Krim' did that very thing. I have two going this year, so I'm hoping for a repeat performance.

Be on the lookout for pests like aphids and grasshoppers on your landscape plants and vegetables. Watch your St. Augustine for chinch bugs. If your lawn develops dry, yellowing spots, try this test. First cut the bottom and top from a large aluminum can. With the can covering the edge of a yellowing spot and healthy grass, push the can about 2 inches into the affected area and fill with soapy water. Test three or four places around the affected area. If chinch bugs are the problem, you will notice them floating to the top of the water after about five minutes. Treat the trouble spots with a lawn insecticide that lists chinch bugs. Several applications might be necessary because some have grown tolerant of the chemicals normally used. Luckily, treating the entire lawn is not necessary because these little beasts feed and live in groups.

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 Richard Wackerbarth, **Timekeeper@MasterGardener.Comal.TX.US**

July 2010 Gardening Opportunities

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

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

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

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

June 2010 CE Opportunities

Friday, July 2 & Saturday, July 17, 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, July 10, 9 am - Noon. “Rainwater Harvest Workshop.” John Kight, engineer and rainwater catchment owner, gives the latest technological information and practical advice. Members: \$25/person; non-members \$35/person. Limited to 30. Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616. Location: CNC Auditorium to visit the Kight installation. **3 CE**

Saturday, July 10, 10 am - Noon. “Designing Your Landscape.” This second landscape design seminar explores the step-by-step process of creating a landscape plan. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin. **2 CE**

Saturday, July 10, 9 - 10 am. “Composting!” Forrest Arnold. How composting happens, how to get started, various bin styles, and how to compost correctly to produce rich, fertile, garden soil amendment. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin. 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Thursday, July 15, 6 pm. Habitat Preservation, by David Bamberger. Guadalupe River Road Alliance. Dr. Bamberger will speak about his ranch, habitat preservation and his involvement in the development of Guadalupe River State Park. Faith United Church, the corner of Common Street and Loop 337, across from Rudy's BBQ. For further information, see www.save-river-road.net

Monday, July 19, Noon - 3:15 pm. GVST Essentials of Gardening. (Topic To Be Announced.) San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels. \$5 donation. Call 210-251-8101 or email info@gardeningvolunteers.com **3.25 CE**

Saturday, July 24, 9:30 – 11:30 am. “Herbs for the Garden, Kitchen & Bath.” Diane Lewis. Incorporate herbs into your everyday life. S.A. Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. \$43 fee, includes admission. Additional \$10 food fee. Register with Sasha Kodet at 210-207-3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov **2 CE**

Saturday, July 24, 9 - 10 am. Texas Parks and Wildlife presents, "Hummingbirds and Their Natural Habitat." Mark Klym, Coordinator of Texas Wildscapes & Texas Hummingbird Roundup programs. Discover what it takes to create a beautiful fall hummingbird and butterfly garden. No registration is required, but it is a very popular class, so be sure to come early. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road Austin. For more information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Saturday, July 24, 10 am - Noon. "Better Photography in the Garden." Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Road, Austin. This class will help you capture the beauty of nature with your camera with the most impact. Discussion will include how lighting, focal length and aperture interact in composing photographs and how to use the camera's programs effectively. After the presentation, we'll practice our new skills in the Botanical Garden. Participants must bring their own camera. All types of cameras are welcome. Prerequisite: Study the owner's manual on your camera. **2 CE**

Monday-Friday, July 26-30, 8 am – 5 pm. Junior Master Gardener Class 5. San Antonio Botanical Garden. Training for teachers, educators or volunteers in support of youth gardening. Includes training in curriculum focused on horticultural and environmental science education. Contact Jeremy Stavinoha at 210-467-6575 or jstavinoha@ag.tamu.edu for more information. **CE based on hours of instruction**

ON-LINE CEU OFFERINGS:

Tomato Growing 101 - New! Spring 2010

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

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

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

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

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

Cornell University, Department of Horticulture, offers Organic Gardening, an on-line 8-week course. The course covers one topic during each of the 8 weeks. With a strong foundation in soil health and its impact on plant health, students then explore tried-and-true and cutting-edge techniques for all different kinds of garden plants – annuals and perennials, food plants and ornamentals. Be prepared to spend 2-4 hours a week completing the course. Being an active participant in the discussion boards brings the subject to life,

and enriches the learning for all. This course is aimed at those with some basic gardening experience. It includes a number of hands-on activities as well as a group discussion board, quizzes, and readings. Through on-line discussion students share their experiences and contribute to everyone's learning experience. Cost: \$300. The course is non-credit. Certificate of completion to all who participate and finish the course. <http://hort.cals.cornell.edu/cals/hort/teaching/distance-learning/organic-gardening.cfm> **CE based on completion of course.**

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

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

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

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

Virginia Tech. Annuals and Perennials. Diane Relf, Professor. The course is self-paced and is available for one year following registration. This lesson provides an introduction to annuals and perennials. Successful completion of the lesson requires no prior knowledge of the subject area. This course is a collection of resources categorized by annuals, bulbs, perennials, and monthly gardening tips. Upon completion of this lesson you should be able to:

- Understand the specific needs of annuals, perennials, and bulbs.
 - Cultivate healthy gardens by properly sowing, handling, and propagating plants.
 - Utilize each month of the year to foster attractive, blooming flowers.
 - Creatively design 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/hortOnlie.htm> **CE based on completion of course**

CMG Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 7 at 10 am.

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The AgriLife Landscape Committee will continue to meet at 8:00 am on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, July 6 and 20. During the summer months we will be in maintenance mode, however, if extra workdays are needed, we will keep you posted via email. The gardens are looking fantastic, and with a little work this summer, they will look super in the fall. Contact Linda Valdez (ldvaldez@satx.rr.com) or co-chair Sally Ann Hnatiuk (mustang_sally6@msn.com) if you have any questions.

NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS

Our July workdays will be Wednesday, July 14 and July 28 at 8 am. Bring a bucket for your clippings and two bypass pruners. We sterilize the pruners between each bush to control plant diseases. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

KIDS IN BLOOM

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

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

The summer schedule for the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden is the fourth Thursday of each month at 8 am. July 22 will be the next workday. Contact Peggy Hamm (khamma@gvtc.com) for more information.

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, July 19 at 8:30 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

The Fairground workday will be Thursday, July 15 at 8 am. We will meet as usual by the Grant St. entrance. Contact Aleta Meyer if you have any questions, (aleta_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929).

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

Lindheimer Gardens workday will be on the second Tuesday, July 13 at 8:30 am. We will do general maintenance. Please join us. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

NEWSLETTER

The planning meeting for the August issue will be at the A Tan Restaurant, 1528 East Common Street, at 11 am on Thursday, July 1. Contact Editor Bonnie Leitch (830-660-2335 or bleitch@earthlink.net) for information about contributing to the newsletter. If you have any information about other gardening activities that should be in the newsletter, contact Julie Siliven (rejh@gvtc.com or 830-885-2665).

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

The new workday will be the third Wednesday, July 21 at 8 am. Come and join the new group of gardeners as they make the Hope Hospice gardens shine. For further information, contact Harlan Kraft (210-846-5643 or harlankraft@gmail.com).

WEBSITE

Check the website on-line at the website <http://grovesite.com/mg/comal> 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 July CMG activities.

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Phone Bank every Wednesday 9-12 & Thursday 2-5 pm			1 11 am Newsletter Mtg A Tan Restaurant	2	3
4 Fourth of July 	5 Extension Office Closed – County Holiday	6 8 am Extension Gardens	7 10 am Exec Bd Mtg	8	9	10
11	12 10 am Herb SIG	13 8:30 am Lindheimer Gardens	14 8 am Conservation Plaza	15 9 am Fairgrounds Garden	16	17
18	19 8:30 am New Life Garden	20 8 am Extension Gardens	21 8 am Hope Hospice Garden	22 8 am Bulverde/Spring Branch Library	23	24
25	26	27 6 pm - CMG Mtg Ext Off	28 8 am Conservation Plaza	29	30	31