



June 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)**

Volume XI

<http://comal-tx.tamu.edu>

Number 11

## CMG Grows New Master Gardeners

Class 2009 graduated at the Grist Mill in Gruene at noon on May 13 with twenty-five students. Their friends, family, mentors, CMG officers, class coordinators, class assistants and the AgriLife county agent and staff attended to cheer them on. A total of eighty people celebrated with food, fun and lots of laughter.

Some of the program highlights included the “Valedictory” award to Glynn Mann, who finished his fifty service hours in mid-March, and the “Salutatorian” award to Jim Teeling, who finished his fifty service hours in early April. The “Best Gardening Great-Grandmother” award went to Jodi Hawthorne; the “Best Golfing Gardener” award went to Joyce Stephens who put her “Ask-A-Master-Gardener” bumper sticker on her golf cart for all to see; and the “Almost” award went to Patty Malek who still needed three hours to complete her fifty service hours on graduation day. Patty, robed in her black cap and gown, had a pot full of flowers atop her cap. Alan Welch received the “Where’s My Senior Discount?” award, and Mark Miller received the “Youngster” award for referring to all the Master Gardeners as “Elders” on the first day of class. Chris Gaskell received the “Picnic Present Picker” award for choosing the “Booby Prize” at the CMG Picnic at Lindheimer Gardens. All students received a special award for being part of a great class.

The students started the program with Lee Franzel serving as the emcee. Carol McWilliams and Mary Helen Philips helped him recognize Master Gardeners who helped the class, including class assistants Angie Martinez, Evelyn Nielson, Linda Ray, Judie Waechter and Pat Williford; class mentors Tim Barker, Donna Lehr, Evelyn Nielson, Lois Ricci, Mary Salmon, Karen Scherrer, Linda Sickles, Marlene Skaggs, Mikki Tharp, Nancy Wackerbarth, Beverly Williamson, Larry Williamson, Pat Williford, Donna Welch and Michael Welch; and class coordinators Michael and Donna Welch. The students presented gifts to the class assistants and coordinators and Certificates of Appreciation to the mentors.

*Graduation continued on page 3.*

### CMG June General Meeting

Tuesday, June 23 at 6 pm

Speaker: Don Tuff

Topic: *The Nature of Pesticides*

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 June Herb SIG, featuring Judy Barrett, editor/publisher of *Homegrown Magazine*, will be held at 10 am, Monday, June 8, at the Antique Rose Emporium. Judy will discuss her new book, *What Can I Do With My Herbs*. Books will be available for purchase and author signing. (Credit cards are not accepted.) Tea and cookies will also be served. Bring a friend and come enjoy the program and the Antique Rose Emporium. Contact Marty Hopmann (chrishop@gvtc.com) if you have questions.
- Jim Mosier and Harold Voges have arranged a fieldtrip to Kitchenpride Mushroom Farm in Gonzales on June 11. Spaces are limited. If you are interested, call Harold at 830-625-8922 for reservations and instructions. They will meet at Kohl's parking lot, on IH35 at 9:00 am. 1 CE hour will be given for the tour.
- Be an early bird and stop the worm! Sign up for our own Don Tuff's workshop on "Vegetable Insects: What to Do about Them" June 6, 10:00 am to noon, Texas AgriLife Extension Office – Comal County. Free and open to the public. For information, call 830-620-3440 or Pat Williford at 830-885-6762.
- Anyone wishing to become a Rainwater Specialist should consider enrolling in the Granbury Rainwater Specialist Class June 1-3. Only 30 participant spots are available, and registration in on a first-come/first-served basis. If interested, you can find the agenda and registration packet on the TMGA site: <http://www.texasmastergardeners.org> Go down the left menu, click on the "Specialist Training 2009" link.
- If you would like to work on the Comal County Fair float this year, contact Evelyn Nielson at 830-629-2374 or [evelynnielson@hotmail.com](mailto:evelynnielson@hotmail.com) to become part of the committee and attend the summer planning session.
- The annual Spring Garden Show will be held Saturday, June 13, at Conservation Plaza. Bring your vegetables, fruit and flowers for judging between 9 and 10 am. Judging will be held at 10 - 11 am, with results announced and cash prizes awarded at 11 am. For information, call Harold Voges at 830-625-8922.
- Six CMGs have already signed up to help with the New Braunfels Public Library project. If you are interested in identifying present plants, planning future beds and earning CE hours, contact Cindy Burch at 830-608-1219 or [cynthia.burch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cynthia.burch@sbcglobal.net)
- Mark Your Calendars for December 11. As Master Gardeners we know better than anyone else that the "*Early Bird Gets the Worm.*" We want to be the first ones to invite you to our 2009 Christmas Party, scheduled for Friday evening, December 11, at the Forke Store in the New Braunfels Conservation Plaza. Please plan to join us for good food and fun. We will be giving more notices in the fall, but no excuses, we want you there.
- A pair of prescription glasses was found at one of the gardens. If these are yours, please contact Janet Sweet in the Extension Office.

### 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](mailto: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 Chairs should submit all volunteer hours to **Richard Wackerbarth, [gardener@dataplex.net](mailto:gardener@dataplex.net)**

### ***Graduation from page 1.***

But the real highlight of the program was the presentation of Master Gardener Certificates to sixteen of the students who had completed all of their service hours before graduation. New Master Gardeners include Marlene Ballard, Linda Dufour, Lee Franzel, Jodi Hawthorne, Sonja Howard, Glynn Mann, Carol McWilliams, Mark Miller, Mary Helen Phillips, Becky Pinkerton, Linda Sanchez, Jim Teeling, Alan Welch, Janis Womack, Cathy Wonish and Sharon Wright. Since graduation, Patty Malek completed her service hours and received her Master Gardener Certification at the May General Meeting. Joyce Stephens needs fewer than two hours to complete her service hours. Besides Joyce, there are seven other new Interns: Judy Chantos, Chris Gaskill, Harlan Kraft, Juleen Randall, Whitley Reddell, Judy Rothell and Merri Veritas.

Linda Sickles presented a Master Gardener Certificate to Haskell Hart from Class 2008. Haskell not only completed his service hours to become a Master Gardener, but also completed an additional fifty service hours to become a Master Naturalist.

### **The President-Elect Wants You**

At the May meeting Catherine Hall, President-Elect and Chair of the Bylaws Committee, presented the last bylaw changes for this year. She explained that many of the changes do not affect the meaning of the present bylaws, and so may be easily passed, rather than resorting to the two-thirds rule. Members will vote on the changes during the June meeting. The bylaws amendments as presented at the May general membership meeting were available at the May meeting, are on the CMG website and will be available at the June meeting. Please direct questions to any member of the Bylaws Committee: Catherine Hall, Patty Godfrey, Richard Wackerbarth, Willie Hagen or Nat Warner.

Catherine also distributed a survey at the May meeting. She would like every Master Gardener to take a few minutes to complete the survey if you did not already give her your opinion. As Catherine explained, "I need ideas from you, the Master Gardener membership, to devise a year that is enjoyable for everyone. I would like to have all programs planned for the entire year." A copy of the survey is in the newsletter. Please complete the survey on page 5 of this newsletter and either email Catherine your response or bring it with you to the June meeting.

### **CMG Welcomes New Transfers**

Three Master Gardeners are in the process of transferring to the Comal organization. They are Susan Rench, Linda Valdez and Edith (Edie) Zaiontz. In order for everyone to get to know these members better, they will be featured in this and coming newsletters.

Linda Valdez is a graduate of the Victoria Master Gardener class of 2005. During her time there, Linda was a tremendous asset to the VCMGA according to Joe Janak, the Victoria County Extension Agent. She set up several MG training classes, presented many educational programs and helped extensively with the Victoria Extension Garden. In 2008, Linda had a total of 320 volunteer hours. Since 2005, she volunteered over 800 hours. As Janak said, "She will be greatly missed among us and the Victoria County Extension staff."

### **The Entry Garden at the Bulverde-Spring Branch Library**

by Lee Franzel, Comal Master Gardener, Class of 2009

The tallest hill in our part of the Hill Country is crowned by the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. Some wise and dedicated people found a way to save this most special spot, not for another commercial building, but for a house of knowledge and human expression belonging to the community. The population is growing and the fast food places and big boxes will come, but the library will forever preside over the major crossroad of Highways 281 and 46.

*Continued on page 4.*

### ***Library Garden from page 3.***

Driving up the hill and through the gates this spring, the visitor is greeted by drifts of bluebonnets and a neat, newly-planted landscape. However, it is the walk to the entrance of the library that I wish to share with you. A large entry courtyard is situated to the left of the building's entrance.

Several speakers in our Comal Master Gardener training classes have humorously said, "Plants don't talk, but if they did...." I disagree. The whole entry garden was talking to me. Located beside the sidewalk where a visitor can't help but notice is a water feature. The slanted end of the masonry wall cleverly houses the water cascade. The babbling stream was saying to me, "Come into my world and relax. I've walled out the frantic pace of the outside world. Pick out a book from the library. Follow my paths to a garden bench. Sit down and forget about time."

Nothing invites relaxation like the sound of running water. Take the invitation to stroll down a path to a garden bench, and a micro-world invites you to let your imagination come to life. A Texas cut-limestone wall encloses an outdoor room, paying homage to the 19<sup>th</sup>-century German immigrants who settled here. The red-tail hawk soaring above must see the world this way: the buffalo grass is a meadow and there is a river running through it. The brown river pebbles simulate the flowing water with large white, round stones suggesting boulders in a river. The winding granite gravel paths would be streams if viewed from high above.

Another visitor might not be so dreamy. Maybe he notices a design scheme by a landscape architect that eschews straight-line geometry. To him the plan does not say, "Man conquers nature," but instead, "Man and nature live together harmoniously." Every plant is eco-friendly, and mostly indigenous. They all like it here. They have no problem with highly alkaline soil, heat, drought or bugs. Every plant is readily available at almost any nursery. A local homeowner would be wise to note how terrific a skillful plan can look, using common plants. There are live oaks, cedar elms, Texas red oak, Texas persimmon, even an occasional bur oak promising its large mossy-cup acorns in future years. And every year, the Texas redbuds will announce the beginning of spring.

The river pebbles were scooped out of the bottomlands of the Colorado River at La Grange. The large white stones came from the Medina, just west of here. The red granite gravel was carted from within the shadow of Enchanted Rock north of Fredericksburg. It's the same granite used to build the Capitol in Austin.

Black swallowtail butterflies and black-chinned hummingbirds are out today, visiting the tall blooms of the red yuccas and browsing the blooming gold lantana, red *Salvia gregii*, and purple moss verbena. The ornamental gulf muhly grass promises its bright red display of seed heads this fall. Lindheimer's muhly, named for the German-born botanist, reminds us to go visit his house on Comal Street, a Texas historical site. Was Ferdinand J. Lindheimer the model for novelist Stephen Harrigan's fictional protagonist in *Gates of the Alamo*?

You will never see a better example of buffalo grass. The variety is 'Density,' and any Hill Country homeowner with a full-sun situation should consider it. A wise gardener can learn from the library garden design that trees can ring the turf grass, leaving a full-sun location, instead of plopping trees here and there to make growing turf problematic. Here the lawn grass is used as a feature instead of just filling in blank places.

The landscape architect was presented with a flat, rectangular site with no existing features, solid caliche and bedrock with no soil. From this blank canvas, she crafted a stimulating design. Just as the library building houses knowledge, so too an observant home landscaper can learn from this fine example of landscape art. A tip o' the hat to RVK Architects' Vice President of Landscape Architecture Kimberly Wolf and her staff for an exemplary garden.







04.15.2009

## **COMAL MASTER GARDENER SURVEY**

Comal Master Gardeners are a varied, multitalented, knowledgeable group. Please take a few minutes and express your ideas for the direction we will go in the future.

What programs/speakers would you like for the next year?

If a field trip were planned for a Saturday, would you volunteer to drive?

Would you be interested in helping plan a rose garden for the extension office grounds?

Would you be interested in helping plan a vegetable garden for the extension office grounds?

Would you be interested in helping plan a plant/garden-craft sale as a fund raiser?

What do you like best about Comal Master Gardeners?

What would you change?

Please give comments and suggestions.

## Gardening Opportunities

**Friday, June 5, 10:00 am & Saturday, June 20, 9:00 am.** Guided Tours of Watersaver Lane. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 55 Funston at N. New Braunfels Ave. Looking for plants that grow best in San Antonio soils and use water most efficiently? What is good for mulch? What kind of materials do you use for pathways that will still allow water to reach plants? Come and see the new San Antonio Botanical Garden Watersaver Gardens! A demonstration showcase for home gardeners, the new garden is a co-operative project with the San Antonio Water System. Participants receive a free copy of San Antonio Water System's *Landscape Care Guide*.

**Saturday, June 6,** Milberger's Top Tomato Contest. Bring your best, homegrown tomato to Milberger's Landscape Nursery, 3920 North Loop 1604 East at Bulverde Rd, San Antonio. Your tomato could win a great prize – compliments of Milberger's Landscape Nursery. For more information, go to [www.gardeningvolunteers.org](http://www.gardeningvolunteers.org)

**Sunday, June 7, 2009**, 9 am – Noon, Government Canyon SNA, “Butterflies & the Plants They Love.” Join Terry Doyle and Patty Leslie Pasztor for a fun and informative look at the special connections between plants, butterflies and people. Learn to identify native butterflies and plants; hear about the many uses of various plants for wildlife and humans. Participants must be able to walk over rocky ground for short to moderate distances. Open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Wear sturdy shoes, hats, sunscreen and carry at least one liter of water per person. No pets please. Reservations are required and will be accepted by noon June 6. For reservations and more information, e-mail [reservations@friendsofgc.org](mailto:reservations@friendsofgc.org). Include name of each participant, age if under 18, e-mail address and telephone number. 210-688-9055, ext. 291.

**Saturday June 13,** 10 am - Noon, “Wet Workshop: Clean Dirt,” with Malcolm Beck. Healthy soil means healthy plants, healthy wetlands, and a healthy planet. Malcolm will discuss the importance of soil conservation in water conservation. Space is limited. Free, but RSVP is required. For more information or to RSVP, contact [mlac@audubon.org](mailto:mlac@audubon.org)

**Saturday, June 13,** 9 am – 12:30 pm. The Comal County Vegetable, Fruit, and Flower Show. Conservation Plaza, 1300 Church Hill Drive, New Braunfels. The Judge for the event will be Dr. Tina Cade, Texas State University. Participants: All gardening enthusiasts of Comal County and the Greater New Braunfels Area. Divisions: Vegetables & Herbs, Fruits, Cut Flowers, Potted Plants & Children's Division. Entry forms available at the event and the Extension office. For more information contact John Davis, Secretary of the Men's Garden Club, 830-629-1576 or Club President Sherry Koerth, 830-708-8898 or [skoerth@satx.rr.com](mailto:skoerth@satx.rr.com)

**Saturday, June 20,** 9 – 10 am. Lucinda Hutson presents “Culinary Herb Gardens from Around the World.” The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Road Austin, Texas. Life is a fiesta with Lucinda Hutson! She's written two cookbooks, *The Herb Garden Cookbook* and *Tequila! Cooking with the Spirit of Mexico*, and numerous magazine articles. She also designs gardens and interiors and is a much sought-after lecturer. Come travel the world with Lucinda and learn all about herbs – without ever leaving Central Texas!

**Saturday, June 27,** 1 – 4 pm. “Children's Day in the Garden.” The Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Rd., San Antonio. Join the Bexar County Master Gardeners in an afternoon especially for younger friends. They will be offering hands-on fun and educational activities with garden and outdoor themes. You are sure to take home some great crafts and pleasant memories. Free.

**Tuesday, June 29 - July 3,** “Native Wonders.” RavenStar Outdoor Education Center in Torrey Park in New Braunfels at the intersection of Torrey Street and Gruene Road. Learn about the species that make the ecosystems of central Texas so amazing and search for native plants and animals in a visit to Honey Creek Natural Area. For registration information, call 830-626-1776 or email [camp@ravenstaroutdoors.org](mailto:camp@ravenstaroutdoors.org)

**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. Visit 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. 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. Butterflies are wondrous brightly colored insects with two pairs of large, beautiful wings that are covered with iridescent scales. Like all insects, butterflies have three body parts, six jointed legs, compound eyes, an exoskeleton and a pair of antennae. 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,** 9:00 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.

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

## June 2009 CE Opportunities

**Saturday, June 6,** 9:45 – 10:45 am. "Saturday Seminar at Shades of Green: Ultimate in Hanging Baskets," Speaker: TBA. Shades of Green, 334 West Sunset Rd., San Antonio. Free. Call 824-3772 or go to [www.shadesofgreensa.com](http://www.shadesofgreensa.com) before attending. **1 CE**

**Tuesday, June 9,** 7 pm. "Monarch butterflies." Speaker: Kip Kiphart, Boerne Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT). Guadalupe County Annex, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz. There will be a plant exchange and "getting to know you" at 6:30 pm, followed by the program. For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: [guadalupecounty@npsot.org](mailto:guadalupecounty@npsot.org) **CE based on program length.**

**Saturday, June 13,** 9:30 – 11:30 am. "ABCs of Gardening Here." Speaker Dr. Tom Harris, Texas Master Gardener. San Antonio Botanical Garden, Education Building. To register for the class, contact [www.communityed](http://www.communityed) **2 CE**

**Saturday, June 13,** 9 – 10 am. "Compost Tea: The Power and Importance of Soil Biology." Speaker Betsy Ross of Ross Farm, Sustainable Growth Texas, and Soils Alive! The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin, Texas. Classes are held outdoors, so please dress for the weather. Arrive early for best seating. Seating is limited – you are welcome to bring your own chair. **1 CE**

**Monday, June 15,** Noon – 3 pm. "Essentials of Gardening," GVST Essentials Class Series. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels Ave., San Antonio. Each class covers two topics that coincide with the GVST's Almanac of Gardening. Bring your hand-pruning tools and have them sharpened by Dr. Phix-It for an additional \$2 donation per tool. Bring your brown bag lunch; light refreshments served \$5 donation. Call 210-251-8101 or e-mail [info@GardeningVolunteers.org](mailto:info@GardeningVolunteers.org) for more information. **3 CE**

**Tuesday, June 16**, 7 pm – 9 pm. “Becoming a Garden Detective: Diagnosing Plant Problems.” Steiner Ranch Towne Square Community Center, 12550 Country Trails Lane, Austin. For more information contact the Travis County Master Gardeners @ (512) 854-9600. **2 CE**

**Tuesday, June 16, Tuesday, June 23 and Thursday, June 25**, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. “Green Interiorscaping.” San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston St., San Antonio. Learn the identification, selection, design and maintenance techniques used for interior plants in residential and commercial interiorscapes incorporating “green” strategies. Fee: \$144, plus special fees. To register, go to [www.accd.edu/sac/ce](http://www.accd.edu/sac/ce) For more information about registering, contact Steven Lewis, Director, Service, Trade and Industry Center, San Antonio College at 210.486.0417. **3 CE**

**Wednesday, June 17**, 9:30 – 11:30 am. “Square Foot Gardening,” Speaker Dr. Tom Harris, Texas Master Gardener. San Antonio NEISD Community Learning Center, Tesoro Blvd., San Antonio. To register for the class, contact [www.communityed.neisd.net](http://www.communityed.neisd.net) **2 CE**

**Friday, June 19**, 10 am – Noon. Plant Propagation Class. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston St., San Antonio. Learn the techniques horticulturists and volunteers use to propagate plants in the Garden. Participants will make their own cuttings to take home and have the opportunity to explore the greenhouse and purchase some of the beautiful plants expertly cultivated by the San Antonio Botanical Society Plant Sale Volunteers. Most plants are \$8/gallon. Limit 20 participants. Fee: \$30. Exact cash or check only. To register, please contact Sasha Kodet at (210) 207-3270 or [sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov](mailto:sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov). **2 CE**

**Saturday, June 20**, 9:00 am – Noon. Rainwater Harvest Workshop presented by John Kight, engineer and rainwater catchment owner. Meet at Cibolo Nature Center parking lot and caravan to Kight installation. Seating is limited. 140 City Park Rd., Boerne. \$20 members/\$30 non-members of the Center. Call 830-249-4616 to register. **3 CE**

**Wednesday, June 24**, 9:30 – 11:30 am. “Building Raised Beds and Soils,” Dr. Tom Harris, Texas Master Gardener. San Antonio NEISD Community Learning Center, Tesoro Blvd., San Antonio. To register for the class, contact [www.communityed.neisd.net](http://www.communityed.neisd.net) **2 CE**

**Tuesday, June 30**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. “Building a Raised Bed Garden & Composting.” Dr. Tom Harris, Texas Master Gardener. Brandeis HS B115, Kyle Seal Rd, San Antonio. \$16 fee. call (210) 397-8100 or <http://www.nisd.net/ace/> **2 CE**

**Tuesday, June 30**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, “Building Raised Beds, Soils, and Fertilizers,” Dr. Tom Harris, Texas Master Gardener. San Antonio. Brandeis High School, Kyle Seale Road. To register for the class, contact [www.nisd.net/ace/](http://www.nisd.net/ace/) **2 CE**

### **ON-LINE CEU OFFERINGS:**

**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.

**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.

**Cornell University**, Department of Horticulture, offers Organic Gardening, an on-line eight-week course. The course covers one topic during each of the eight weeks. With a strong foundation in soil health and its impact on plant health, students explore tried-and-true and cutting-edge techniques for different kinds of garden plants – annuals and perennials, food plants and ornamentals. Be prepared to spend two-to-four 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.

**University of Vermont**, non-credit course, "Herbaceous Garden Plants On-line," which covers common annual and perennial flowers of temperate climates and herbaceous garden plant groups (ornamental grasses, roses, aquatics, ferns, bulbs and 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.

**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, June 3, at 10:30 am.

### HERITAGE ROSE GARDEN

Our rose garden workdays in June will be the 10th and 24th at the new summer hour of 8 am. We will be weeding and deadheading if the deer don't do it for us. For more info, especially proper pruning techniques, contact Harriet Aristeguieta at 830-609-1311 or [haintx@att.net](mailto:haintx@att.net).

**KIDS IN BLOOM**

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 workday for the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden is the fourth Wednesday, June 24 from 8 to 10 am. We welcome your participation so come join us. Contact Peggy Hamm at 830-438-9023 or khamma@gvtc.com if you would like to join this group.

**LINDHEIMER GARDENS**

The Lindheimer Garden workday will be Tuesday, June 9. We will start at 8:30. We will have some deadheading to do, so please sterilize those pruners before you come. Park across from the Lindheimer Haus on Comal Street, unless you are early enough to get one of the few parking permits. 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 Julie Siliven at 830-885-2665 or rejh@gvtc.com

**HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS**

If interested in working with Hospice, please contact Tom Carson at 830-606-5890 or tom.carson@us.fujitsu.com. Use the subject line "Community Services – Hospice"

**NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDENS**

The Butterfly Garden workday will be June 15 at 9 am. 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.

**COMAL COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS**

Our next workday will be Thursday June 18. We will again be meeting at the Grant Street gardens, but our meeting time will be earlier – 8 am. Jane Langley will bring some mulch, and we will be deadheading, so bring your appropriate garden tools. We might water, so bring water hoses. You can RSVP Aleta. If you have any questions, call Aleta Meyer at (830) 629-2929 or email aleta\_meyer@hotmail.com.

**EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS**

The Extension Garden Workgroup will meet at 9:00 am on Monday, June 1 for deadheading, pruning and weeding. The Herb Garden will work the same schedule. If you have any questions, contact Sharon Deeny at (830) 935-4209 or dendeeny@msn.com, or Linda Hardwick at 830-625-8311 or usnb@aol.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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**Deadline for submission is the 20<sup>th</sup> 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)**