



November 2011

# Comal Gardener

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)

<http://txmg.org/comal>

Volume XIV

Number 5

## Going Once, Going Twice,.....SOLD!



*Sheriff Bob Holder will  
be energizing the  
CMG as Auctioneer for  
the Live Auction on  
November 28th*

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Hold on to your hats! Sheriff Bob Holder is the special guest and auctioneer for the November Meeting and Auction on November 28 at 6 pm. Plan on an evening of fun with proceeds designated to sponsor seminar scholarships for Comal Master Gardeners. Attend the meeting and enjoy a chili supper and both silent and live auctions. Bring your items for donation from 4 to 6 pm, or for pick up, contact Mary Helen Phillips ([maryhelenphillips@usa.net](mailto:maryhelenphillips@usa.net)) or call 830-964-4212).

The hostesses for the supper will be Michelle Gray, Kathy Nelson, Evelyn Nielson, Linda Ray, Carol McWilliams, Karen Scherrer, Germaine Tuff, Pat Williford and Janis Womack.

**CMG GENERAL MEETING**  
**Chili Supper**  
**Silent & Live Auctions**  
**Monday, November 28 6 pm**  
**GVTC**



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Texas A&M System

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## November



## Garden Posts

- Mark your calendars now for the CMG Christmas Party at 6 pm December 8th at Forke Store. Bring a covered dish or dessert to accompany the provided turkey and ham. In the spirit of giving, please bring a few non-perishable items for the New Braunfels Food Bank. Live piano music by Janet Sweet and door prizes will enliven the evening. To find Forke Store, turn off Loop 337 North at Churchill Drive and follow it to Conservation Plaza.
- Our hearts go out to Texas Parks and Wildlife's Kelly Bender, one of our recent speakers, who recently lost her home due to fire.
- November 15th is the deadline for the orders and payment for the holiday poinsettias. The goal is to sell at least five plants each. Pick up your poinsettias at the AgriLife Center at 10 am on December 1. For questions, contact Lucy Guerra ([loudog5074@yahoo.com](mailto:loudog5074@yahoo.com) or 830-237-9634).
- The class for 2012 is completely full, and several potential students are on the waiting list. Congratulations, Lee Franzel and his committee for doing a tremendous job in preparing and filling the class in record time!
- The AgriLife Vegetable Garden Planning Committee and volunteers have been working hard on the raised beds and rose beds. The volunteers are now in the process of installing an eight-foot fence for the vegetable garden. NBU is drilling postholes for the project, and the fence should be up by the end of the month.
- Thanks to Lee Franzel for producing a photo directory of all our members. He is missing a few photos that would complete the directory. Contact Lee ([leefranzel@gvtc.com](mailto:leefranzel@gvtc.com) or 830-885-7733) to find out if he has your photo, to request an email with the directory attached or to make arrangements to have your photo taken. You can print the directory at home in black and white or color. This directory will help all members to put names with faces. The new 2011-12 Membership Handbooks are available, as of the October general meeting. For more information contact Elizabeth Bowerman ([cdritz@satx.rr.com](mailto:cdritz@satx.rr.com) or 830-629-3661.)
- New transfer members are Pat Hartley, Suzanne Scott and Darlene Welge. Pat comes from Bexar County, Suzanne from Nueces County and Darlene is returning from Denton County. Darlene is a founding member of the Comal Master Gardener organization. She was the first secretary and first editor of the Comal Master Gardener Newsletter, positions she held for two years each. CMG is thrilled to have both Darlene and her husband Dave back in Comal County.
- The Herb Special Interest Group (SIG) features Germaine Tuff talking about "Herbal Decorations for Christmas" at its November meeting. The November SIG will be held at Forke Store, Conservation Plaza Monday, November 14 at 10 am. RSVP by November 7 to SIG group chair Mary Moses ([marycm@me.com](mailto:marycm@me.com) or 830-226-5552) if you plan to attend so Germaine can make adequate preparations.
- If you previously signed up for the mushroom tour for November 11, look for an email from Rosalie Meier and respond quickly for an accurate count of members attending. The tour is full. Further details will be emailed to those registered to attend.
- The first draft of the Comal County Gardening Guide is in the hands of the volunteer editors. The guide will be ready for sale at the Backyard Vegetable Seminar in February.

### Report your CE and Volunteer Hours!

Chairs, send volunteer hours to Linda Ray at [lray@satx.rr.com](mailto:lray@satx.rr.com)

Send your CE hours to Don Tuff at [CERecorder@MasterGardener.Comal.TX.US](mailto: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.

## Lights, Cameras, ACTION!



On October 5, KLRN TV's "Central Texas Gardener" filmed a segment on the Butterfly Garden at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, a CMG project. The show will air sometime next year. Included in the photo are Lee Franzel, Peggy Hamm, Charlotte Trussell and chair Bill Puckett. Linda Lehmusvirta from KLRN is in front. This garden has received significant notice in local, statewide and national publications.

## Herb SIG Tastes The Roses

The Herb SIG met at the Antique Rose Emporium on Monday, October 10 to listen to Robbi Will discuss the "Culinary Uses of Roses."

The roses are back in bloom at the Emporium, and Robbi collected petals from roses to demonstrate the uses of roses in the kitchen. Robbi reminded everyone in attendance that roses are herbs too!

Robbi presented a history of roses and information about their influence in different cultures. She prepared a salad using rose vinegar, a rose cooler using rose petal syrup, rose petal jelly, rose wine jelly and rose petal cookies for sampling to show the versatility of this favorite bloom.

Participants were reminded that kitchen use of roses is restricted to roses that have not been treat-

ed with chemicals. She reminded those in attendance to avoid roses for culinary use unless one knows they are safe from chemicals and pesticides. In other words, "Know the source!"

After the presentation and the sampling, many of the attendees gathered at the nearby Figlios Restaurant for lunch.

## Speakers Bureau

The Speakers Bureau continues to fill requests for presentations. Lee Franzel spoke on “Composting” to an appreciative audience at the New Braunfels Library. In attendance were Master Gardeners as well as several registrants for the 2012 Master Gardening Class. Later in the month at Tye Preston Library, Lee presented “Challenges of Texas Hill Country Homescares,” a topic of interest to local gardeners. He also talked about “Landscaping with Native and Adapted Plants” before the Morning Glory Gardening Club.

In early October, Rich Bradley gave a lively presentation on “Raised Beds” to members of the Comal Garden Club. His talk piqued a number of audience questions. Judy Chantos gave a “Fall Gardening” presentation at the Bulverde Spring Branch Library the first week of October and again at the October 8 Preparedness Fair. Robert Etter, Fair Coordinator, thanked Judy and the bureau for their “willingness to volunteer and perform these acts of service in our community.” Total attendance from late September through October was

over 170 persons, including 16 MGs.

The Speakers Bureau welcomes new speakers and topics. It accepts requests from various sources, including gardening and nature clubs, business organizations, non-profit associations, even from other MG groups. If you have a topic of interest to share and are comfortable with public speaking, contact Linda Valdez or Jan Waguespack for information. Help on preparing Power-Point presentations can be provided.

## November Gardening To-Do List

*by Barbi Briney*

It is time to clean up in the garden to get ready for next year’s crop. Many harmful bugs hibernate in refuse left on the ground. Don’t give them a snug winter home.

Start preparing for the first frost. Start bringing plants into the greenhouse, garage or other winter storage. Check the plants for hidden bugs on leaves or in the soil. Insects can damage plants over the winter. Bring in the most fragile or least hardy plants first and continue to ones that can be covered where they are for the winter.

Get your plant covers and have them ready to use. I find flannel-

backed oil cloth or plastic tablecloths are easy and inexpensive cloth covers. The white row cloths sold in gardening catalogs work great, also.

If we haven’t had enough rain in October, water trees, shrubs and perennials well, then mulch around their bases. Be sure to mulch the roots three to four inches deep, keeping the mulch away from the stem or trunk of the plant.

When you think you have mowed your lawn for the last time of the year, clean and sharpen the blades, and either drain the gas tank or add a gas stabilizer to a full tank of gas before storing the mower. Remember, mowing and mulching all those

leaves is a good way to add mulch to your lawn. If you are lucky enough to have a grass catcher on your lawn mower, add the mulched leaves to your compost pile. They will break down much faster.

Plant bulbs now for spring blooms according to directions and water well. When spring comes, you will be glad you planted them.

You can still plant a vegetable winter garden. Most of the cole family will thrive in our area as winter crops. Lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard, radishes and onions will also grow and mature if planted the first of the month.



## Give a Green Gift

**Backyard Gardening Seminar**  
**February 11, 9 am to 4:30 pm**  
**New Braunfels Convention Center**

Consider a gift certificate for a friend or family member.  
(Think birthdays, Christmas, anniversaries, or even Valentine's Day 2012.)

For only \$47 your recipient will have a full day of fun  
learning about backyard gardening with  
lunch provided and chance for door prizes.

Website: <http://txmg.org/comal/future-events/seminar>

Email: [seminar@mastergardener.comal.tx.us](mailto:seminar@mastergardener.comal.tx.us)

To make it easier for members to submit articles or photos for the Comal Gardener Newsletter  
the following email has been set up:

[newsletter@mastergardener.comal.tx.us](mailto:newsletter@mastergardener.comal.tx.us)

(thank you Richard Wackerbarth and Elizabeth Bowerman!)

## November Committee Updates

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 2, at 10 am.

### AGRILIFE EXTENSION OFFICE GARDEN AND VEG/ROSE GARDENS

The AgriLife Extension Gardens and the VEG/Rose Gardens will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month on November 1 and 15. There is a time change to 9 am. On the first day, workers will weed extensively in all of the gardens, paying particular attention to the VEG/Rose Garden to prepare it for the mushroom compost on the second workday. At that time we will work until we spread all the compost. For more information contact Linda D. Valdez at ([ldvaldez@satx.rr.com](mailto:ldvaldez@satx.rr.com) or 210-651-0356), Rich Bradley at ([rmbrad@gvtc.com](mailto:rmbrad@gvtc.com) or 830-980-2081), or John Kittle at ([jkittle@satx.rr.com](mailto:jkittle@satx.rr.com) or 830-626-8254). Emails are sent out to interested individuals with what supplies to bring and what jobs are being tackled. See you in the gardens.

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## November Committee Updates Continued

### **NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS**

There will be one workday on Wednesday, November 9 at 8 am. Workers can really use some more help in the garden to hand water, spray liquid seaweed and continue pruning the arbor roses. CMGs with a ladder and/or loppers are urged to bring them. For information, contact Judy Chantos ([4c-sons@earthlink.net](mailto:4c-sons@earthlink.net) or 803-608-0535), Dan Krueger ([dan.krueger1@gmail.com](mailto:dan.krueger1@gmail.com) or 830-639-5338) or Janis Womack ([gwomack1@satx.rr.com](mailto:gwomack1@satx.rr.com) or 830-620-7002).

### **BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY**

Because of the holidays, the next Butterfly Garden workday will not be the fourth Thursday in November, but Thursday, December 1 at 9 am. Contact Bill Puckett ([bnpuckett@gmail.com](mailto:bnpuckett@gmail.com) or 830-885-2242) for more information.

### **NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

The New Life Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, November 21, at 9 am. For more information, contact Lois Ricci ([poepjr@aol.com](mailto:poepjr@aol.com) or 830-899-5362).

### **HOPE HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS**

The Hope Hospice workday will be the third Wednesday, November 16, at 8 am. There are eleven separate gardens, and they all need attention right now. Please come prepared to prune and weed. For information, contact Jean Petersen ([jeanpetersen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeanpetersen@sbcglobal.net) or 830-620-8454), or Kathy Nelson ([knelson57@satx.rr.com](mailto:knelson57@satx.rr.com) or 719-964-2370).

### **COMAL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS GARDEN**

The Fairgrounds Committee will not meet in November. The need for workdays in December and January will be assessed at that time. If you are not on the reminder email list, contact Aleta Meyer ([aleta\\_meyer@hotmail.com](mailto:aleta_meyer@hotmail.com) or 830-629-2929).

### **LINDHEIMER GARDENS**

The Lindheimer Gardens workday will be Tuesday, November 8 at 8:30 am. There will be no workday in December. Come join us. Contact Germaine Tuff ([germainetuff@hotmail.com](mailto:germainetuff@hotmail.com) or 830-629-1127) if you have questions.

### **KIDS IN BLOOM**

If you would like to participate in the school gardens program, contact Nancy Pappas ([azop@gvvc.com](mailto:azop@gvvc.com) or 210-385-5981) or Alba Johannessen ([2Johans@sbcglobal.net](mailto:2Johans@sbcglobal.net) or 830-620-4453) to coordinate with a school near you. Memorial and Seele Elementary schools, in particular, are actively seeking volunteers.

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## November Committee Updates Continued

### NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter Committee will have a meeting (and brunch!) at the Sansones' on November 4 at 11 am. Ray Elizondo and Bonnie Leitch will be present a mini-article-writing workshop. Details will be emailed to all committee members. For more information call editor Cindy Sansone ([cindy.sansone@yahoo.com](mailto:cindy.sansone@yahoo.com) or 830-481-3062).

### CE Opportunities

**Thursday, November 3**, 10 – 11:30 am. “Brown Gold – Composting Your Way to Gardening Success.” Rich Bradley presents a simple explanation of compost: what it is, how to make it and use it, and what it will do. Free. Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde. For more information, call 830-964-3744. **1.5 CE**

**Friday, November 4 or Saturday, November 19**, 10 – 11 am. “WaterSaver Gardening Walks,” sponsored by the San Antonio Water System. Join San Antonio Botanical Garden Guides for a tour of the WaterSaver Garden exhibits. The tour includes information about planning, planting and maintaining your low-water use landscape year-round. Free with Garden admission. Participants receive a FREE copy of the SAWS’s Landscape Care Guide. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place. **1 CE**

**Friday, November 4**, 1:30 – 2:30 pm. “Texas Rose Rustling.” Candy Fite, a member of the Texas Rose Rustlers, talks about the ways and ethics of collecting and sharing clippings of old roses for the purpose of perpetuating them for future generations. Free. Independence Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium. Independence Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Independence. For more information call 979-836-5548. **1 CE**

**Saturday, November 5**, 10 – 12 am. “Fruits and Berries – Planning, Pruning & Care.” Want to grow your own apples, peaches and berries? Learn varieties that excel in this area and how to prepare and amend the planting hole. Basic pruning techniques and general fruit and berry care included in talk. Free. Travis County MGA. Deep Eddy Community Garden, 300 ½ Atlanta Dr., Austin. **2 CE**

**Saturday, November 5**, 10:30 – 12:30 am. “Community Vegetable Gardens” with David Rodriguez. Learn about making your home or community vegetable garden more productive and successful this fall, throughout the winter and next spring. Tour the Children’s Vegetable Garden Program. Bring a notebook and plenty of questions. Limit 20. Fee: \$20. Register by noon, November 4. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place. For more information and to register call Sasha Kodet at 210-207-3270. **2 CE**

## CE Opportunities Continued

**Saturday, November 5**, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. “Slow Gardening.” Felder Rushing, one of today’s most evocative garden speakers and radio garden show hosts, makes the case for less toil and more enjoyment in the garden, an attitude he practices with aplomb and style in his Mississippi garden. Free. Independence Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium. Independence Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Independence. For more information call 979-836-5548. **2 CE**

**Saturday, November 5**, 12:30 – 2 pm. “The Magic of Scent and Flavor.” As featured on Oprah.com, author Alyssa Harad talks about her passionate love affair with perfume and invites you to take the olfactory plunge. Free. Independence Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Independence. For more information call 979-836-5548. **1.5 CE**

**Sunday, November 6**, 11:00 am – noon. “The Essence of Herbs.” Henry Flowers, curator of Festival Hill herb garden, explores the properties and possibilities of various herbs with herbal tasting to follow. Free. Independence Display Gardens. Antique Rose Emporium, 10000 FM 50, Independence. For more information call 979-836-5548. **2 CE**

**Saturday, November 12**, 10 am – noon. “Making Your Own Holiday Gifts.” Margaret Wolfshohl, local expert on everything from soaps to salves, demonstrates fragrant, natural products that you can purchase or whip up yourself with just a few basic ingredients. Free. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Rd., San Antonio. For more information call 210-651-4565. **2 CE**

**Wednesday, November 16**, 3 – 4:30 pm. “Fire Preventive Landscaping,” with David Will. Find out about ways to make your property less vulnerable to fire by practicing certain landscaping principles. Free. New Braunfels Library, 700 E. Common Street. For more information call 830-964-4494. **1.5 CE**

**Saturday, November 26**, 10 am – 1 pm. “Savoring the Herbal Harvest,” with Herbalist Diane Lewis. Tour the herb garden and learn the best way to harvest fresh herbs for flavorful culinary creations, including how to use them in a variety of recipes. Tips include the best way to dry herbs and preserve fresh ones. Free with garden admission. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place. For more information call 210-207-3270. **3 CE**