



October 2009

COMAL GARDENER

Promoting Knowledge and Volunteerism

A monthly publication of the Comal Master Gardeners Association through the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Comal County, 325 Resource Drive, New Braunfels, TX 78132 (830-620-3440)

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Number 3

CMGs Celebrate Comal County Fair

The Comal Master Gardeners continued their increasing presence at the 2009 Comal County Fair. The Sunday evening before the fair, Master Gardeners gathered at the CMG garden to enjoy their traditional fajita supper. For the second consecutive year, the organization had a float in the parade. The mariachi float was accompanied by members distributing flyers about the 2010 class. Finally, the CMG booth drew its usual crowd of would-be and seasoned gardeners and their children who picked up free literature, plants and seeds and found out about the Master Gardener program. (See picture on page 13!)

Congratulations to Evelyn Nielson and her float committee and Aleta Meyer, her committee and the many volunteers who contributed plants and seeds and manned the booth Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Extension Office Landscape Committee Formed

The Extension Office Landscape Committee organized Tuesday, September 15. Sixteen Master Gardeners attended. The Extension Office Landscape Committee will meet again at the Education Building on Thursday, October 15, from 10 am to noon and again on Thursday, October 29, from 10 am to noon. Anyone interested in helping to plan the changes to the existing gardens is invited.

The committee discussed all aspects of the extension gardens and made several decisions. The existing gardens need a Mission Statement and a Long-Term Plan. The committee discussed an educational emphasis for the gardens' mission, complete with larger signs labeling each plant and including important information about the plant.

Presently Texas A&M has extension garden soil samples from the Educational Building gardens and the Extension Office gardens. The committee also agreed to use organic compost for fertility and to make part of the gardens a "Texas Wildscape Demonstration Site." The area must be at least half native plants and must include ornamental grasses for animal shelter to qualify.

Linda Valdez, new transfer from Victoria, has agreed to chair the committee and is looking for co-chairs of the sub-committees. The Committee invites all interested Master Gardeners to join in making the Extension gardens a beautiful, innovative area that educates the residents of Comal County.

CMG October General Meeting

Tuesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm

Speakers: Bryan and Becky Markley

Topic: *Hydroponic Farming*

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, 830-620-3440 for assistance. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. References to commercial products or trade names do not intend discrimination or imply endorsement by the Extension Service. 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•••

- October 12 the Herb SIG is going to have a fabulous road trip to John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener nursery and garden shop in Austin. They will be getting a guided tour of the many and various gardens located there. John was also the inventor of the Lady Bug products for organic gardening.

Members will carpool to the Austin property. Sally Ann Hnatiuk needs to know how many people plan to attend and how many people can drive as soon as possible. The address is 8648 Bee Caves Road. There is a website www.naturalgardeneraustin.com

The tour costs \$5.00 per person. A nearby restaurant serves "the best pizza around." Dromgoole's can arrange to have picnic tables for those who desire to bring a lunch. Please let Sally know which you want to do, picnic or eat Italian.

Sally will finalize reservations when she has a count. CMGs may shop before or after lunch, depending on how much time the tour takes. And of course, members can make their own arrangements after the tour.

Please contact Sally Ann Hnatiuk at mustang_sally6@msn.com or 830-980-5645 to RSVP by October 2, 2009 to arrange for the tour and possibly to drive.

- From the Treasurer: Balance as of September 22: \$5025.48. Expenses for September: \$1152.26. September Income: \$495.00
- The new CMG chair for the Phone Bank and Email Center is Juleen Randall. Thanks for your service!
- The new Public Relations Chair is Glenda Janca. If you have any information about CMG you would like the public to know, contact Glenda at glendajanca@sbcglobal.net or 830-629-5010.

It's Going to Be a Red Christmas

At the September meeting, Comal Master Gardeners voted to order up to 650 large poinsettias in decorative foil to sell for their Christmas fund raising project. The poinsettias, from Clay's Greenhouses in Weimar, cost \$6.50 each and will sell for \$12. We are ordering 600 red and possibly 30 to 50 ice punch plants. So start asking your family, friends and neighbors if they want a poinsettia from the Master Gardeners.

Members will pre-sell the plants for delivery around the first of December. The company will deliver them to the Extension Office. Members will either tell their customers when and where to pick them up or pick them up and deliver the plants themselves. Linda Vargas and Richard Wackerbarth are forming a committee to handle the details.

Keep Up-to-Date on 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

A Gardener's View of the Reach

by Lu Allen, Peggy Hamm, Sherrie Brammall, Julie Siliven, Bonnie Leitch and Mary T. Salmón

When the River Walk extension, named the Museum Reach, opened this spring, the staff of the newsletter decided to visit it with a double mission: to look at the plant life and its management in a drought and to see the array of experiences the new vista and to offer our membership as visitors. Photographs of the sights mentioned are in the on-line issue, thanks to Peggy Hamm.

About the San Antonio Museum Reach

The Museum Reach opened in May 2009 to great fanfare, on time and under budget. It marks one of the most important extensions of the River Walk since it was created 69 years ago. This is not the first time water has been a major influence on this part of San Antonio. In 1731 the Spanish settlers started the San Jose Acequia, the first acequia, or irrigation system in this region.

Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a whole series of acequias and aqueducts diverted water from San Pedro Creek, used it for farming and residential water needs and then returned it to San Antonio River south of downtown. In the early twentieth century, the



early emphasis on agriculture was replaced by the need for flood control, as farms became city blocks. Finally in the early 1940's the River Walk was constructed.

The new extension provides several features for the visitor. The most prolific are the historic plaques along the walkway that describe how water first created, then changed this part of San Antonio. Water taxis have been part of the River Walk for decades, but the new Reach features a lock that taxis maneuver in an event that takes under ten minutes to negotiate the 9-foot difference between the upper and lower Reach. It is well worth the \$10 fare to travel the length of the Reach and go through the locks.

On our recent trip, we Master Gardeners started at the Pearl Brewery, walked from there down past the old Pearl Brewery, now the San Antonio Museum of Art, and took the water taxi back up to the Pearl complex for a lovely lunch in one of the newly opened restaurants that dot the plaza.

I know if you talk to any of the staff who went, they will tell you that the trip is well worth taking. So head down to San Antonio when you have time, and bon voyage! BL

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Landscape Plants Along the River



An article entitled “A Floral Ribbon” written by Tracy Hobson Lehmann appeared in the *S.A. Life* section of the *San Antonio Express News* on May 31, 2009. It highlights some of the plants that Cullen Coltrane, landscape architect for the Museum Reach of the River Walk used for the project.

Coltrane’s task was to tie the new section of the river walk to the old section downtown and blend them. He chose to take the tropical feel downtown through the new section. To do this, he used the purple blooms of vitex and indigo spire sage, the yellow flowers of wedelia and lantana and the saucer-sized red hardy hibiscus.

Assorted palms, gingers and hibiscus also strike the tropical chord. But Coltrane notes that the look of the landscape changes along the way, both in scale to complement the buildings and in plants as growing conditions change. He used more ground covers as the river goes north. Feather-like plumes above drifts of stipa grass and purple fountain grass soften the surrounding business architecture.

The majority of the existing large trees were preserved by building 3-foot retaining walls along the way. The steep slopes that lead down to the river are covered with honeysuckle that spills over the walls and touches the water. On other banks, the golden wedelia blooms glow like little drops of sunshine against glossy green foliage.

None of the plants require much maintenance beyond a brush with a string trimmer now and then to keep them in bounds. An irrigation system made of purple pipes and sprinkler heads uses recycled water to water the plants.

Gardeners appreciate the difficulty of growing plants in deep shade, and few landscapes have deeper shade than that under the bridges. Here Coltrane turned to sun shunning plants like blue shade ruellia and mahonia.

In addition to using colorful and hardy native, well-adapted plants, Coltrane also chose fragrant plants like confederate star jasmine, Texas mountain laurel and vitex that not only perfume the air but also attract butterflies.

At the turning basin behind Pearl Brewery, three bald cypress grow on two rock-bordered islands. On our trip along the river we saw several drifts of pink and white guara spilling over the banks of the river. Planted next to them were different colors of lantana and blue plumbago. We saw Pride of Barbados, verbena, several types of sage, decorative grasses, copper shrimp plants and clumps of purple heart.

“This part of the river,” Coltrane says in Lehmann’s article, “has a sense of serenity. You don’t say, ‘Wow! Look at the landscaping.’ It’s just there to soften the structure.” LA

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Riparian Regions along the San Antonio River Museum Reach



The area of transition between a river and a city is called a riparian region. The riparian region along the River Walk is the area between the walkways and the water. The riparian zone is a buffer and an ecological link between water and land. It serves multiple purposes in wildlife shelter and in flood management.

The wildlife along the San Antonio River in the downtown area consists mostly of birds, bats and small amphibians. On the newsletter staff's recent trip, we saw an egret and numerous smaller birds and butterflies. We did not encounter snakes, frogs or other smaller critters, but they are most likely present in the inviting vegetation along the edge of the water.

In an area planned to demonstrate a riparian zone, dry land native plants grew next to the walkways with a lower tier of wetland plants and, lower still, pools of water plants just above the edge of the river. These plantings followed curving lines with intertwining beds to suggest a naturally occurring zone of native plants down to the edge of the water. There were some non-native plants, but the combinations of colors and textures were very striking. A bed of purple moss verbena draping over a ledge of rocks above small pools containing red and purple water lilies and other aquatic plants was particularly beautiful. Fountain grasses, firecracker plants, plumbago, and other draping plants were used to soften the edge of the river and to provide shade for any fish that might make a home in the water. Masses of a single plant or a single color created a striking effect. There were large swaths of salvias, fountain grasses, plumbago, fire cracker plants, esperanzas, cannas and hibiscus.

The recent rains have resulted in clear drainage paths in my yard. Inspired by our trip, these paths are destined to become narrow, winding "dry creek beds" filled with rock and bordered with a riparian zone of clusters of hardy natives. I will use only those plants that survived the scorching, dry summer. Tiers of mass plantings of a single color will necessarily have a much smaller scale in my yard than those of the Museum Reach, but the concept is a workable one that I hope to achieve. PH

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Water on the River



The creative use of water features and water plants is a hallmark of the newly opened Museum Reach section of the San Antonio River Walk. The banks are much steeper than the original sections of the River Walk, but they feature similar landscaping with a colorful variety of native plants. However, the end of the new section near the Pearl Brewery looks completely different. It has dramatic waterfalls created with stacked rock accompanied by water gardens filled with masses of water lilies and a few unexpected plants.

One area has a profusion of colorful cannas with their roots submerged in water. The biggest surprise was seeing Texas star hibiscus (*Hibiscus coccineus*) growing out of the water and with **white** blooms. I've always considered this plant fairly drought resistant and had never seen a white-blooming variety. In doing a bit of research, I discovered Texas star hibiscus has an identity beyond what we normally see.

Hibiscus coccineus is actually native to Florida, where it is often called swamp hibiscus. Its distinctive palmately lobed leaves resemble hemp leaves, and the star-shaped blooms led to its Texas nickname. While a number of sites say the plant likes well-drained soil, we saw that on the Museum Reach it tolerates standing water. Who knew! SB

San Antonio's New River Walk Art Corridor



The public art projects along the Museum Reach include several art installations commissioned by the San Antonio River Foundation. San Antonio has always been known as an art center and some of the projects are so "San Antonio" and very enticing.

Artist Donald Lipski created a giant school of plexiglass fish sculpture swimming under Interstate 35. Lipski's sunfish is one of the most visible public art projects in the city. Originally, Lipski considered goldfish before he discovered that these particular sunfish only exist in the San Antonio River, and that many San Antonians fish the along the river. To add excitement, at night the sunfish are lighted from

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within. Suspended under the freeway with cables, two dozen giant sunfish can be seen from U.S. 281. To see Donald Lipski's latest project see <http://lipskiblog.wordpress.com/> or visit his web site <http://lipskiblog.wordpress.com/>



Martin Richman's "Shimmer Field," hanging glass strips under a bridge, is a feast of color and delight to visitors from the walk or in a river taxi. In his first public art project in the United States, the British artist designed hundreds of prismatic strips that hang and wave in the breeze. The colored strips turn light into patches of sparkling color on the Lexington Street Bridge, the gateway to the Museum Reach. Richmond describes his creation this way: "The colors ... change from purple to yellow. ... LED lights ... illuminate the strips at night ... creating a kind of low-tech light

show." To read more about Martin Richman go to <http://www.martinrichman.com/cv.htm>. Better yet, view his "Shimmer Field" for yourself.

Bill Fontana created an interactive sound installation for the underpass at Jones Avenue, called "Sonic Passage." It is activated when a river taxi passes under or people walk on the path. Both a composer and artist, Fontana sequenced speakers to emit a blend of recorded and live broadcasts gathered from multiple locations along the river. Visitors hear subtle sounds of birds, water and metropolitan spaces.

San Antonian Stuart Allen created a display that is best seen at night. By day, one sees beautiful stainless steel panels. At dusk these panels turn into a light show. These panels are under the McCullough and Brooklyn Street underpasses and at night present shifting blocks of color, creating a flickering, optical moment for visitors.

San Antonio native Rolando Briseño and New Yorker Mark Schlesinger's structures along the railings at the McCullough, Brooklyn and Ninth Street underpasses shade pedestrians, encouraging them to linger and comfortably connect with the river. The glow-in-the-dark colors, vibrant coatings, tactile textures and unique forms keep this underpass luminous.

All the public art projects of Museum Reach expansion have been called the River Walk's New Floating Art Corridor. MTS

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Carlos Cortés Faux Bois Installations



The San Antonio River is only one of the great attractions on the new extension of the River Walk. There are many new public art installations in the Museum Reach. One of these is designed by well-known concrete artist Carlos Cortés and is called *The Grotto*.

Mr. Cortés is the third generation in his family to construct stunning public art displays out of solid concrete that look remarkably like wood – *trabajo rústico* or “rustic work.” You might have seen some other examples of his families work: a bridge in Brackenridge Park and a bus stop in Alamo Heights.

He works in the faux bois, or false wood, style, which he learned as a child from his father

Maximo. The senior Cortés had learned the craft from master concrete artist Dionico Rodriguez, who brought his highly guarded technique from Mexico to Texas in the 1920s. Maximo Cortés worked together with Rodriguez, who eventually married into the Cortés family.

As you stroll from the Turning Basin at the Pearl Brewery entrance, the river winds around many bends. On one bend *The Grotto* appears, complete with a waterfall dropping into a pool and realistic-looking stalactites with conch shells hanging from their tips. You can walk through the grotto, sit on a bench and look at re-created tree roots above you. The spectacular, painstaking detail of his work makes this is a great place to sit in the shade and just enjoy the river. According to visitsanantonio.com, this is Cortés’ largest installation to date.

You may also enjoy this beautiful art work by sitting on the opposite side of the river where two of Carlos’ benches are located. One is finished and, when we visited recently, four men were working on the other bench. One of those workers, Carlos’ cousin, said Carlos was on his way to complete it. It was fascinating watching them create the bench, blending the concrete with the wire and steel rebar.

According to the San Antonio River Foundation, Carlos Cortés anchors the other River Walk art installations with *The Grotto*. When you visit, bring family and friends to the grotto and enjoy a new, enchanting space. If you start there, it might be the only spot on the river you visit that day! JS



October Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

It just doesn't seem fair. We hand water for hours in the heat just to keep things alive, then some of us get five inches of rain, and our yards and gardens look lush overnight! But what a blessing those storms were.

October gardening is just as busy as September was, but with cooler temperatures. The bulb garden you prepared last month is ready to be filled with daffodils, jonquils, amaryllis, narcissus and rain lilies. Continue to chill your tulips, crocus and hyacinths until much lower daily temperatures.

I would bet that autumn ranks first with all Central Texas gardeners as their favorite season because of the following list of beautiful flowering plants that will flourish for us through winter to next spring! Look for either seeds or starter plants of alyssum, calendula, dianthus, forget-me-nots, gazanias, pansies, petunias, snapdragons, stock and violas. Keep an eye out for flowering kale and flowering cabbage. These unusual plants look attractive planted in either the ground or containers. After that brutal summer, we deserve the show all these flowers are capable of providing!

The first two weeks of October are still good for planting broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, collards and kohlrabi. The last two weeks are best for carrots, endive, spinach and turnips. Chard, garlic, greens, onions and radishes can be planted all month. Try extending your harvest by planting both seeds and starter plants of the same vegetable. If cabbage loopers become a threat, look for Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) in your local lawn and garden center.

Mulch your outdoor tropicals: gingers, hibiscus and jatrophas. Dig and store your caladium tubers in peat moss or perlite. Pack them in boxes so the roots don't touch and store where temperatures won't go below 55 degrees.

There is still time to fertilize your lawns if you didn't get the chance in September, and now is the time for spreading winter rye. Perennial rye is recommended over annual rye for our area. Perennial establishes more quickly but grows slower. Use 8 to 10 pounds of seed per 1000 square feet. Keep watching for brown spot in St. Augustine; there is still a chance for this disease to crop up.

Remember, feeding your plants with seaweed will help them through this winter. It increases their cold tolerance by as much as 5 degrees.

For further information visit www.naturalgardeneraustin.com or www.klru.org/ctg

October Gardening Opportunities

Saturday, October 10, 1 – 3 pm. “For the Love of Trees.” Old Quarry Branch, Austin Public Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., off Far West Blvd. Learn to select, plant, care for and prune your tree for long-term health, during times of stress like drought.

Thursday, October 15, 7 pm. “Hummingbirds and Butterflies.” Judit Green. Guadalupe Co Master Gardener Gen Mtg. AgriLIFE Extension Bldg, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin Contact Linda Bruno at 830-363-8380 or email jlbruno@gvec.net

Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. “Monarch Celebration at Wildseed Farms.” Held each year in October to coincide with the Monarch butterflies' migration stopover in the Texas hill country and in conjunction with the University of Kansas project known as “Monarch Watch.” Help to “tag” monarch butterflies to track their migration patterns and pathways and to receive suggestions for creating a butterfly habitat. Months later, check online to see if and where that very butterfly was recovered! No fee. Visits to the Butterfly Haus located at Wildseed Farms are optional and subject to an admission fee.

Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18. 10 am – 4:30 pm: Austin African Violet Society Show and Sale. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd. Austin. For more information call 512-477-8672.

Saturday, October 24. 10 am – 2 pm. Heart O Texas Orchid Seminar and Sale. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd. Austin. For more information call 512-477-8672.

Saturday, October 24 & Sunday October 25, “7th Annual Garden Festival of Roses.” Antique Rose Emporium San Antonio Display Gardens. For more information call 210-651-4565.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. A natural world just minutes from downtown San Antonio. 10750 Pleasonton 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. 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.

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

October 2009 CE Opportunities

Friday, October 2 & Saturday, October 17, 10 – 11 am. Watersaver Walk. Information about planning, planting and maintaining water-saving landscape year-round. San Antonio Botanical Garden Guides, 555 Funston. Free with admission to SABOT. For information call: 210.207.3261. **1 CE**

Saturday, October 3, 9:30 – 11:30 am. “Planting From Scratch.” How plants do what they do: seeds, cuttings, plant media and grafting. Speaker: Dr. Tom Harris, Master Gardener & Gardening Columnist. S.A. Botanical Garden Education Bldg, 555 Funston \$31 fee. Register: www.communityed.neisd.net or 210.657.8866. **2 CE**

Saturday, October 3, 9:45 – 10:45 am. “Landscape Maintenance.” Saturday Seminar at Shades of Green, Speaker TBA. Shades of Green, 334 W. Sunset. Coffee ready at 9. Call 210.824.3772 for details. **1 CE**

Saturday, October 10, 9:30 – 11 am. “Square Foot Gardening.” Save water, effort, time and space. Speaker: Dr. Tom Harris, Master Gardener and Gardening Columnist. S.A. Botanical Garden Education Bldg., 555 Funston. \$31: includes SABOT Admission Fee. Register: 657-8866, or www.communityed.neisd.net **1.5 CE**

Saturday, October 10, 10 am - ? “Bountiful Blooming Bulbs Seminar.” Local bulb fanatic David Will explains how to successfully grow bulbs in Texas. Antique Rose Emporium, San Antonio Display Gardens. For more information contact 210.651.4565. **CE= length of seminar.**

Saturday, October 17, 9 – Noon. Rainwater Catchment Seminar. John Kight, engineer and rainwater catchment owner. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself. Meet at Cibolo Nature Center parking lot and caravan to Kight installation. Seating is limited. \$20 Center members/\$30 non-members. 140 City Park Rd., Boerne, TX. Call 830-249-4616 to register. **3 CE**

Monday, October 19, Noon – 3:15 pm. “Harvesting, Saving & Preparing Seeds for Planting and Landscaping with Texas Native Plants.” Dr Jerry Parsons and Judit Green. GVST Essentials Class Series. San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels Ave., San Antonio. \$5 Donation for Gardening Volunteers of South Texas. Call 210-251-8101 or e-mail info@GardeningVolunteers.org for more information. **3.25 CE**

Saturday, October 24, 1 – 3 pm. “Fall is for Planting.” David Rodriguez, Extension Horticulturist with Texas AgriLife Extension Service. New! Earth-Kind® Landscape Series. San Antonio Botanical Garden. Fee: \$20 per session. To register, please contact Sasha Kodet at (210) 207-3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov. **2CE**

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 COMMITTEE

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

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The Extension Garden committee will meet as usual on the first Monday, October 5, at 10 am. If you have any questions, contact Donna Welch.

HERITAGE ROSE GARDEN

Rose garden workdays will be October 14 and 28, and we will change the starting time to 9 am until next summer or further notice. Any questions, contact Harriet Aristeguieta at 830-609-1311 or haintx@att.net.

KIDS IN BLOOM

KIB is still in need of donations of fall vegetable garden transplants and adopt-a-school volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Pappas at azop@gvtc.com or 830-885-6016.

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

The workday for the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden is the fourth Wednesday, October 28 from 8 to 10 am. We welcome your participation. Contact Peggy Hamm at khamma@gvtc.com or 830-438-9023. We welcome any help.

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The Butterfly Garden workday will be October 19 at 9 am, come rain or shine. We will hope for the best. For more information, contact Peggy Carmody at 830-226-5216 or carmody@gvtc.com or co-chair Lois Ricci at poepjr@aol.com or 830-899-5362.

COMAL COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

The Fairgrounds Committee will not meet in October. Contact Aleta Meyer if you have any questions, at aleta_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929.

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

Lindheimer Gardens workday will be Tuesday, October 13 at 9 am. Please join us. We will do some planting, fertilizing, mulching and reworking the herb bed. Bring your knowledge and enthusiasm, and of course your garden hand tools. See you there. 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, contact Julie Siliven at rejh@gvtc.com or 830-885-2665.

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

There will be no scheduled October workday. If interested in working with Hospice, please contact Tom Carson at tom.carson@us.fujitsu.com (subject line "Community Services – Hospice") or 830-606-5890.

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 20th of the month preceding publication.

Comal Master Gardeners Association Bylaws

"Members must complete recertification once every year. Recertification will include 12 hours of training, 12 hours of approved volunteer work and attendance at a minimum of two general membership meetings." (Article III, Section 4)

2009 Comal County Fair Parade CMG Float



October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SIG Herb RSVP Deadline	2	3
4	5 10 am Extension Gardens	6	7 10 am Exec Comm Mtg	8 11 am Newsletter Staff Mtg at Sarika's	9	10
11	12 10 am SIG Herb Meeting at Dromgoole's Nursery in Austin	13 9 am Lindheimer Gardens	14 9 am Heritage Rose Garden	15 10 am Ext Off Landscape Comm	16	17 10 am Trellis Workshop at the Godfreys'
18	19 9 am New Life Butterfly Garden	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 6 pm CMG Meeting on Hydroponic Farming	28 8 am Bulverde Library Butterfly Garden 9 am Heritage Rose Garden	29 10 am Ext Off Landscape Comm	30	31 Happy Halloween! 