



October 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)

Volume XIII

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

Number 4

## Membership Committee Retains Valuable Members

This summer the Executive Board approved President Larry Williamson's designation of Myles Peinemann as membership counsel. He was tasked with retaining as many of our members as possible. To help Myles to accomplish his goal, the Executive Board established two new categories of membership: emeritus and hiatus. Larry nominated members to an Emeritus Committee that will, in consultation with Glenn Avriett, recommend emeritus candidates to the board for final approval. CMGs who felt a member should be considered for emeritus status were asked to submit candidates to Larry by September 1. He then forwarded the nominations to the Emeritus Committee. Details about both emeritus and hiatus status are outlined in the August edition of the *Comal Gardener*.

Since his appointment, Myles reports that he sent out notices to all members who had not officially met their continued membership requirements for the year ending June 30, 2010. Because of this, the organization has been able to retain four Comal Master Gardeners. Three members have applied for hiatus status because of temporary circumstances that have kept them from active participation, and three members are applying for recertification, an established method to recertify as a CMG. The Emeritus Committee is now considering its nominees for emeritus status.

## CMG Offered Tree-mendous Opportunities

Kelly Eby, the City of New Braunfels Parks Department's Urban Forester, announced two opportunities for Comal Master Gardeners to learn more about trees and to provide a public service to the community. The city is offering an Arboretum Tour of the William & Dolores Schumann Arboretum in Landa Park at 10 am on Saturday, October 23 and Monday, October 25. Members can earn CE credit while learning about the unique collection of trees in Landa Park and a little history of the park.

Comal Master Gardeners can also earn CE hours while they learn the most current tree-planting techniques from Ms. Eby. The information includes how to plant a tree properly to afford it a healthy and productive life. After completing training, members may earn volunteer hours as they participate in the preservation of New Braunfels' urban park forest by supervising volunteer planting crews later this winter.

### CMG October Meeting

6 pm Tuesday, October 26

Place: *Extension Office Meeting Room*

Speaker: *JoNelle Zager*      Topic: *Daylilies*

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## •••Garden Posts•••

- There will be no scheduled meeting of the Herb SIG in October. The SIG will resume in November.
- From Treasurer Marlene Ballard: Balance for September: \$10,055.80.
- The hostesses for the October meeting are Cindy Burch, Barbi Briney, Linda Dufour and Lu Allen.
- Help KIB! There are a few special requests from some of our teachers. If you have any bluebonnet seeds, roses, lantana or bulbs of any kind that you would be willing to donate to KIB, we would really appreciate it. Please contact Nancy Pappas (210) 385-5981 if you have any of these to donate.
- Congratulations and welcome to newly CMG certified 2010 Class members Linda Vallejo and Martha McRae!
- Contact Sally Ann Hnatiuk if you are interested in a tour of Markley Hydroponics Farm, at 10 am, October 13, with an opportunity to pick your own vegetables. This is a free tour, but you will have to pay for what you pick. The farm is located off highway 725 and I-35. Contact Sally Ann Hnatiuk at [mustang\\_sally6@msn.com](mailto:mustang_sally6@msn.com) to make a reservation.
- Want to tour a mushroom farm? If you do, mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 14. Janet Sweet will be sending more information about the event. For specifics, you may contact Larry Williamson (830-899-2928 or [llwilliamson@gvtc.net](mailto:llwilliamson@gvtc.net)).
- All you history buffs: At 2 pm, Saturday, October 16, at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, Barron Schlameus, retired history teacher and founding member of New Braunfels Conservation Society, will speak on "Ferdinand Jacob Lindheimer: From 1835 to 1845" – the period when he collected botanic specimens in Texas.
- Please do not mess with the irrigation system at the AgriLife Extension Gardens. Sally Ann Hnatiuk, Myles Peinemann, the office ladies and Linda Valdez are the only ones allowed to handle the system. Thanks!
- Do you know a friend who would be perfect for Comal Master Gardeners? The 2011 class will be held every Wednesday from 1:30 to 5 pm, beginning January 19 and ending May 11. Application deadline is December 15, 2010. The cost of the class is \$150.00. The details and an application is on line at <http://mastergardener.comal.tx.us>

## An Update on the Speakers Bureau

As new head of the Speaker's Bureau, Linda Valdez is in the process of contacting all the speakers to make sure they want to stay on the speaking circuit. In October, Linda will email prospective speakers who give Power Point presentations. She will explain how to develop a pdf file of three of their slides, for display on our web site. For those who give a talk and or demonstration, Linda will help them to develop three Power Point slides that depict their talk or demonstration.

If members are personally contacted to give a talk, Linda asks that they email her the date and time of their talk. Linda is also working to update the SOP for the Speaker's Bureau and on the new brochure. She has already spoken to many of the speakers.

### **Report your CE and Volunteer Hours!**

Send your CE hours to Don Tuff. Send to **CERecorder@MasterGardener.Comal.TX.US** Be sure to include title of talk, speaker's name, date and time of talk, location, CE hours and sponsoring organization.

Chairs, send volunteer hours to Becky Pinkerton, **CMGtime@gmail.com**

## Lest We Forget

### The New Life Butterfly Garden

by Lu Allen, Barbi Briney, Peggy Hamm, Bonnie Leitch, Susan Rench and Mary T Salmón

#### ***Just the Facts: Creating a Butterfly Garden***

To attract butterflies to your garden, you must be a good host. Provide them with food, shelter and water, just as you would for your human guests. When choosing plants for your garden, think of their nectar as food being offered to the butterflies, so group the flowers in masses in order for the plants to be seen from a distance as the butterflies fly over. Also remember the larvae of – er, ah, sorry to say – caterpillars need a good source of food and shelter as they eat your plants.

Place the host plants in several locations in the garden so they are not wiped out in one fell swoop by your invited predators. Select sunny locations, because more sun means more nectar. When watering, water from below to avoid diluting or eliminating the nectar. Instead of plants, you can opt to use bait stations filled with rotten fruit or sweet fermented liquid for bait.

Provide moist soil or sand or a wet sponge for moisture. Moist garden soil prevents salts and amino acids from forming in low-lying areas that are polluted by natural waste from bugs or other animals. Also provide basking areas like rocks or logs in sunny locations to give butterflies a place to get warm on cool days before they fly. In cold weather, butterflies like to hibernate in cracks in logs, fence posts, loose boards or tree bark.

Last, but not least, DO NOT USE PESTICIDES on your plants. Give the caterpillar larva a chance to live and delight us in the last stage of its life, as the beautiful butterfly.

The information above is taken from a lecture given by our own Linda Valdez, but the prose is mine. BB

#### ***A Tour of the New Life Butterfly Garden***

Late July found The New Life Treatment Center Butterfly Garden in full bloom with butterflies flitting all over gorgeous flowers.

Lisa Brown, the volunteer coordinator at New Life Treatment Center, shared her very enthusiastic perspective of the value of the center to the girls who are given the opportunity to develop a new lease on life there. Lisa explained the programs the center offers and how the center is organized, using volunteers, and funded through community support including money, time and goods donated by local residents.

The girls who live at New Life come from difficult backgrounds and have many issues to deal with. The clean, well-maintained, encouraging environment provides a starting place for recovery. The professional and support staff strive to assist each girl to find her place in the world and to become a whole person.

Of particular interest was the way the girls and staff use the Butterfly Garden, and Lisa shared some delightful stories. Just being in the garden or looking at it from a nearby window has a wonderful calming effect on a troubled girl. It is a place for solitude or a quiet talk. Small group therapies are sometimes held in the garden and one-on-one counseling sessions are frequently conducted on one of the garden benches. Adults expect the new arbor bench to be very popular when it is covered with vines that provide a little shade. Those girls who love nature have been known to pocket lizards and bugs from the garden. Others who have an artistic bent use the area for drawing. The girls are encouraged to keep journals, and the garden is the perfect place to sort out thoughts and record them.

Lisa hopes that the future will include a one-on-one mentoring program with the Comal Master Gardeners, each teaching a girl about the plants, the butterflies and the joy of digging in the dirt together. She believes

*Continued on page 4.*

### ***Lest We Forget from page 3...***

that the girls who want to work in the garden would be given the opportunity to be paired with a Master Gardener on the garden workdays. There might be a different group of girls every workday or possibly one girl coming multiple times.

This plan is still in the conceptual stage, but Lisa wants to develop it and hopes that the Comal Master Gardeners will be enthusiastic about being involved. Lisa has so much energy and is so invested in the program that it is easy to see any CMG volunteering to do just about anything she might ask. PH and SR

#### ***An Interview with Patty Godfrey***

When Patty and Marty Godfrey moved to the Canyon Lake area in 1996, Patty was already a certified Master Gardener from Harris County. At the time, there were those in the county who had been or were Master Gardeners in different counties, but there was no such organization in Comal County. According to the 1997 Special Edition Comal Gardener Publication, several individuals including Patty attended an organizational meeting for a Comal County Master Gardener Program. In February 1998, the first class sessions began and were held in the evening. There were very few volunteer opportunities available. Getting those 50 hours was difficult because the only volunteer programs in place were the phone lines, the Museum of Texas Handmade Furniture Garden, the Heritage Rose Garden at Conservation Plaza, the old Extension Office flower beds and the newsletter. Some of these committees did not become functional until the class was well underway.

Patty, along with other founding members, began searching for volunteer projects in and around New Braunfels and Canyon Lake. She and Marty lived near Sattler and attended St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. The New Life Children's Treatment Center, part of the Lutheran Social Services, is located across the road from their church. Because of the church's close proximity to the school, the Godfreys became aware of the service opportunity, and the first elected CMG officers and county agent Marty Gibbs approached the administrators from New Life about creating a butterfly garden to beautify the environment for the girls who lived there. Patty said the New Life campus and old buildings were so bleak and dreary that there was nothing pretty for the girls who had already been through really hard times in life. "Good things make God's presence apparent in what he created," said Patty.

The Master Gardener volunteers prepared the bed for planting. With the girls' assistance, the bed was framed with limestone rocks and filled with organic soil. After a presentation by Robbi Will of the Antique Rose Emporium, many of the girls helped to plant the garden. The garden was dedicated in May 2000, only to be taken away by the floodwaters of July 2002.

After the flood that destroyed the New Life gardens and devastated that part of the county, Patty and Marty moved back to Katy for a while after their own home was destroyed. During that time a group of Comal Master Gardeners rebuilt the New Life gardens. Our organization owes its gratitude to the group of dedicated members of the core group who started and continued this wonderful volunteer project. LA

#### ***The New Life Garden from Chair Peggy Carmody's Perspective***

Since 2002, the garden has continued to grow. Following the flood, Peggy noted that donors gave the garden a water feature, but it was very difficult to maintain, requiring more constant care than the Comal Master Gardeners could manage. Eventually, the water garden and its rock features were incorporated into the garden proper. The gardens remained that size and flourished for a number of years until recently when the school expanded. This past year Peggy's group incorporated the change in the school facility into the garden and expanded the area in three directions, only to be surprised by another school expansion.

*Continued on page 5.*

### ***Lest We Forget from page 4...***

However, it is working out well, and by this fall The Comal Master Gardeners hope to see the project completed. Peggy says she owes the 2010 class of new CMGs a very large debt of gratitude. According to her, if it had not been for their help and the help of Lee Franzel, the expansion would not have gone so smoothly.

Individuals and volunteers have purchased plants for the garden expansion. The group received some funds from New Life for the latest expansion. The New Life committee looks forward to continued help in the future. The garden still has room to grow, but it is a good size now and would require more workers if there is another expansion. One of the main aims of Peggy's group has been to establish a habitat that enables the entire butterfly cycle to be realized in the garden. To do this, butterflies must have nectar for nourishment, larval food and host plants for reproducing a new generation of butterflies native to our area. To do this, the committee tries to use as many native or naturalized plants as possible. This life-cycle process is similar to the process of growth and new life for the girls who come to visit the garden, to chase the lizards and the frogs, to throw the stones and, most importantly, to enjoy the quiet and beauty of this place.

Because of the school's policy involving the girls and outside adults, the project has not involved the girls personally in the maintenance of the garden. Now that the charter school is well established, Peggy hopes to find a way to incorporate the opportunities of the garden into the curriculum of the school. Perhaps New Life can set up a Kids-in-Bloom program, as well as host CMG speakers who enjoy the teaching aspects of gardening.

The New Life Treatment Center is genuinely glad to have the presence of the CMGs on campus. The maintenance crew is very helpful in disposing of the mountains of weeds, brush and other trash collected. They help in hauling the multitude of buckets, tools and plants across the campus. Unfortunately, the garden is not part of the school irrigation system – another problem to be solved.

Peggy feels that the New Life Garden, if her crew is successful, provides a safe haven for butterflies, enjoyment for the resident girls and gardening knowledge for the participating CMGs, as they all experience and marvel at the growth and change in nature. The garden is often a showplace for the many visitors who come to see the girls and for other volunteers and who come to donate time and money to help the girls make their transition into what the Comal Master Gardeners hope will be useful and beautiful lives, like the lives of the butterflies. MTS

#### ***Interview with Co-Chair Lois Ricci***

Lois Ricci admits that one of the reasons she initially became interested in the New Life Butterfly Garden was the fact that it was the only garden even faintly close to her house when she became a Comal Master Gardener in 2003. What has kept her returning to the gardens are her co-gardeners, those instances in which the girls yell "Thank you!" when they see the crew at work and her interest in butterfly gardening, a fascination with butterflies shared in her Master Naturalist work. Lois' interest in children before she retired is reflected in her continual commitment to young people through the butterfly gardens.

Lois became co-chair several years ago when the CMG board decided all the gardens needed more than one leader. During the seven years she has worked with the gardens, they have expanded because of physical changes in the school itself. For instance, adding New Life buildings created a sidewalk to nowhere, which the creative CMG team transformed into an arbor with a bench on which to sit and reflect. The flood also changed the gardens temporarily. Another change has been in the tightened security protocol, with the relocation of the office.

*Continued on page 6.*

### *Lest We Forget from page 5...*

The girls at New Life spend some quality time, Lois feels, either looking at the gardens or walking in them. There is evidence that some student has, from time to time, turned over rocks in search of the lizards that live there. Lois also believes that the girls are affected by the example of strangers doing something to help them with no recompense. The New Life Butterfly Garden was instrumental in inspiring Peggy Hamm to develop the Bulverde Library Butterfly Garden. Lois believes that a slideshow of the garden would be a useful visual for a CMG talk on creating and maintaining a butterfly garden.

The most memorable event in the gardens, for Lois, occurred when the master gardeners hit the water pipe and sent a geyser into the air, several years ago before the irrigation system was redone. The broken pipe closed the gardens for a while and led the grounds keeper to quip that when CMGs say they want water, they mean it. Lois feels that the speed with which the New Life people have quickly provided, if possible, what was needed when it was needed indicate how beneficial they feel the gardens are. A continuing problem with watering the gardens is based on the fact that a ground water source is better for butterfly plants and butterflies than sprinklers are because sprinkling dilutes the flowers' nectar.

As our conversation ended, Lois characteristically commented that she would much rather help than lead. It seems with the New Life Butterfly Gardens that she has done both. BL

*\*\*Picture not available at this time\*\**

There is a stone in the New Life Butterfly Garden with an open book carved on top. On the book is an inscription that captures the garden's and its caregivers' mission.

Quiet, quiet, quiet. My child be still. Listen to your feeling. Discipline your will.  
Come to the garden, the Secret place we share. My essence is in the Garden. Come to Me in prayer.  
Transcend worldly cares. Seek the Kingdom first. Peace lies within. It is for Me you thirst.  
Accept your limitations. Embrace humility. Here lies the path to wisdom and to maturity.  
Come, to the Garden, the soul's sweet bouquet. The flowers of tomorrow are in the seeds of today.  
Together we will weed. Together we will sow. Together we will water. Together we will grow.

*By Jo Ann O'Keefe*

## **Comal County Fair Activities Great Success**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Fajita Social was held Sunday, September 19 at the fairgrounds under the covered food court area due to rain. In spite of the inclement weather, 36 people attended and had a great time. Thanks to Wil and Becky Voges and Dave Keeler who cooked fajitas. The Master Gardner Booth served interested fair goers all day Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, the 27<sup>th</sup>. Over 680 visitors came through the booth, and three prospective members indicated an interest in joining. Aleta Meyer thanks everyone who gave seeds or plants and who worked the booth.

Evelyn Nielson's Fair Parade Float committee gave almost 1000 brochures advertising the 2011 CMG class during the parade Friday, September 15. She thanks Larry Williamson for stepping in to manage the beginning preparations, her committee members for their work and creativity and Billy Leitch for lending his '52 Chevy truck for the float.

## **Welcome to the Class of 2010**

*From Lee Franzel, Volunteer Services Coordinator*

Most of us remember that after we went through our training and certification process, it seemed like a daunting leap to feel like we fit in as members of the Comal Master Gardeners, essentially a big group of strangers. At the Volunteer Chairperson meeting August 24, we kicked around ideas to increase active participation in the CMG projects.

We decided to send a message the 2010 class, encouraging them to do four things:

- read the newsletter and print out the calendar each month,
- attend the monthly membership meeting and program,
- join with their mentors at meetings and go to a work project together, and
- take “ownership” of a project that interests them and offer to be an active member, ready to move into a leadership role eventually.

We know that current chairpersons will gladly welcome new participants and spend some personal time with them. They can explain the objectives of the project and add the new participants to the email group lists to remind members a few days before upcoming workdays, as well as to give them updates.

The infusion of energy that new members offer is an opportunity for CMG to be an increasingly vibrant organization. Master Gardeners, there is no better way to show new members they fit in than by giving them your own personal welcome.

### **Meet New CMG Secretary Sharon Wright**

Sharon Wright, the recently elected CMG secretary, is a graduate of Class 2009. Lu Allen visited with her and interviewed her for this introduction. She joined the Comal Master Gardeners to expand her knowledge of gardening. Although she has already learned much about gardening through the CMG training program and its members, she feels she still has so much to learn. The year before she retired in May, 2008, Sharon made a “bucket list,” and #1 on the list was to become a master gardener.

She and her husband just celebrated their 44<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Her husband is an accountant and still employed. Sharon hopes when her husband retires that he will also become a master gardener. They have two children, a son and a daughter, and two granddaughters.

Sharon is mainly interested in growing Texas natives and vegetables. She is also hoping to make her backyard a haven for butterflies, birds and squirrels. She likes the camaraderie and friendliness of the Comal Master Gardeners, and the numerous opportunities for learning. Sharon feels that she has learned more from other members than she ever imagined she would.

Her only goal as secretary is to do the best she can in fulfilling my responsibilities. When looking to the future of our organization, Sharon feels her mission is to reach out to the community by providing more opportunities for learning.

CMG thanks Sharon for accepting the responsibility of secretary and for her willingness to contribute to the organization.

## October Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

For those of you who did not get a chance to plant your fall vegetables last month, and I am with you, don't fret. October temperatures will still allow our plantings to flourish.

Early- to mid-month is best for cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, arugula, collards and kohlrabi. The rest of the month, you can still plant carrots, lettuce and turnips. Beets, chard, garlic, mustards, multiplying onions, radishes and spinach can be planted or sown all month. I am particularly excited about planting mustard greens since September's Herb SIG! A note: Spinach can be sown throughout the fall, as long as you are prepared to give it frost protection.

I love the fall because we can begin to enjoy the "delicate" annuals like sweet alyssum, pansies, violets, stock and snapdragons. Plant both the seeds and starter plants, and your gardens will thrive for many months. Also think about poppies, calendulas and nasturtiums. Nasturtiums' peppery tasting flowers look wonderful in salads.

I began using seeds two years ago in an area just outside my living room window. I purposely kept it small – fifty square feet – so the upkeep wouldn't be overwhelming. I've had more fun with this one area than probably the rest of my yard! I love changing the flowers with each season and saving the seeds. I pull the old plants up by their roots, an action that automatically loosens the soil, rake the ground smooth, sow the new seeds and rake again. I also plant a few starter plants to appease my instant-gratification gene. If you haven't tried seeds or haven't had much luck with seeds, which I hear often, find just a small area that you can prepare with good soil and compost and place it somewhere where you will enjoy its rewards everyday. You'll get hooked!

This is the month to begin planning for trees. For those of you who don't have much shade, we have quite a few adapted or native trees that will provide dappled shade and beautiful spring flowers. Think about the Anacacho orchid, Mexican buckeye or Eve's necklace, and don't forget the Texas or Mexican redbud. The buckeye is the tallest of this group at 18 feet, but most stay around 10 feet, so they do not interfere with our gorgeous oaks.

If you are interested in fall color, plant redbuds for yellows and flame leaf sumacs for oranges, reds and maybe even a few purples. Female possumhaw and yaupon hollies offer red berries; the beans of Eve's necklace looks like a string of black beads; and rusty blackhaw viburnum shows both berries and fall color.

If you would like to add to the tall tree line in your yard, look for lacey oak. This tree can reach 30 feet and adds yellow foliage in fall and blue-gray leaves in spring and summer to your environment. It is considered a Texas Superstar by the Texas Cooperative Extension Service.

## October 2010 Gardening Opportunities

**Saturday, October 2 thru Sunday, October 3**, 1 – 4:30 pm. Violet Crown Garden Club Show, by the Violet Crown Garden Club. Plan to attend to see more lovely designs and horticulture from the Austin area. Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin.

**Saturday, October 8 thru Sunday, October 10**, Saturday, 9 am – 5 pm; Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm. Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival. Lady Bird Johnson Wild Flower Center. Enjoy guided walks through the gardens. The Center is at 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin. For more information, call 512-232-0100.

**Sunday, October 24**, 9 am – 4 pm. Boo-tanical Fall Festival Plant Sale. This is the final plant sale at the garden for the year. Fall is an excellent time for establishing perennials, so don't miss this chance to stock up on unusual plants, as well as local favorites, including Texas natives and water-savers. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio. For more information, contact 210-829-5100 or [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org)

**Sunday, October 24**, Starts at 1 pm. "8th Annual Garden Festival of Roses," by Margaret Wolfshohl. San Antonio Display Gardens. The Antique Rose Emporium. 7561 East Evans Rd., San Antonio. Call 210-651-4565 for information.

**Ongoing**, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Learn about the natural world just minutes from downtown San Antonio. 10750 Pleasanton Rd., San Antonio. 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](mailto:mlac@audubon.org)

**Ongoing**, 9:30 am – 6 pm. Butterfly Haus at Wildseed Farms, Fredericksburg. Explore the Butterfly Haus at Wildseed Farms. 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. Call 830-372-1580 or 1-800-361-1580.

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

## October 2010 CE Opportunities

**Wednesdays beginning August 25 thru November 17**, Noon – 4 pm. Fall 2010 Bexar County Master Gardener Classes by top professionals. Master Gardeners invite you to join in the stimulating and life changing experiences of their gardening classes in the many fields of gardening and plant life. Palo Alto College, 1400 W. Villaret Blvd., The Performing Arts Building, Suite 101, San Antonio, TX 78224. To learn more call Angle Torres for information at 210-467-6575. **CE = based on length & # of classes attended.**

**Friday, October 1 & Saturday, October 16**, 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, October 2**, 9 am – Noon. "Drip Irrigation 101," by Dotty Woodson, who will guide you from planning to installation to repairs. LCRA Redbud Center, Rm. 108, 3601 Lake Austin Blvd., Austin. This seminar is free and open to the public. Reservations are required. Email your name and phone number to [rsvpTCMGA@yahoo.com](mailto:rsvpTCMGA@yahoo.com) to reserve a spot. **3 CE**

**Thursday, October 7**, 10 – 11:30 am. "Hands-on Drip Irrigation," by Melissa Skasik. Learn how easy and inexpensive it is to convert some of your landscape watering to drip. Save over 50% on water used, and plants grow better, too. Second of a monthly series of Gardening Programs sponsored by Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde, Texas. **1.5 CE**

**Thursday, October 7 thru Sunday, October 10, 2010**, Symposium 2010, by The Native Plant Society of Texas, Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas. Open to the general public. For more information, email [symposium2010@npsot.org](mailto:symposium2010@npsot.org) or phone 830-997-9272. **CE = based on length of seminars**

**Thursday, October 7**, 6:30 – 9 pm. "Honey, I've Got the Bees!" by Don Fraser. Use bees to fertilize and pollinate your garden. Clark HS, Rm C110, 5150 DeZavala Rd., San Antonio. \$48 fee. To register: 397-8100, or <http://www.nisd.net/ace> **2.5 CE**

**Saturday, October 9**, 8 am – 4:15 pm. “4th Central Texas Gardeners Conference 2010: Urban Farming – Ultimate Backyard Experience.” 1400 Schertz PWY, Bldg 5, Schertz Civic Center. \$45 including lunch. For conference and registration information, see <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org/what/conference.html> **6 CE**

**Saturday, October 9**, 9 – 10 am. “How to Create Your Own Pocket Prairie.” by George Cates & Znoblia Wootan, of Native American Seed Company. Pocket prairies, a prairie ecosystem shrunk that fits in a small area, allow homeowners and gardeners to help reverse the dramatic plunge in wildlife and plant biodiversity. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin 78735. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

**Monday, October 11**, 9 am – Noon. “Designing Herbal Landscapes,” by Diane Lewis. Design herbs into existing landscape or new herbal spaces. S.A. Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. \$41 fee, \$5 snack and materials fee. To register, call 210-657-8866 or <http://www.communityed.neisd.net> **3 CE**

**Monday, October 11**, 1:30 – 3:30 pm. “What’s Wrong with My Freakin’ Plant?” by Tom Harris. Boerne Community Center, Corner of Adler Rd & Plant St. \$19 fee. Contact 830-895-4386 or <http://www.clubed.net/> **2 CE**

**Wednesday, October 13**, Noon – 4 pm. “Bexar Master Gardeners Class.” Classes on roses and gardening. Free. San Antonio Display Gardens. Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 Evans Rd. Free. Contact Robbi Will at 210-651-4565. **CE based on length of seminar**

**Saturday, October 16**, 9 am – Noon. “Rainwater Harvest Workshop,” by John Kight, engineer and rainwater catchment owner. Learn about design and materials from someone who has done it himself. Members of Cibolo Nature Center \$25/person; non-members \$35/person. Limited to 30. Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616. CNC Auditorium, followed by visit to Kight installation. **3 CE**

**Saturday, October 16**, 10 am – Noon. “Gardening in the Shade with Texas Natives,” by Judith Green. Mitchell Lade Audubon Ctr., 10750 Pleasanton Road. \$5 Fee for non-members. RSVP to [mlac@audubon.org](mailto:mlac@audubon.org) **2 CE**

**Thursday, October 21**, 1 – 3 pm. “Gardening With Bulbs,” by “Daffodil Dave” Will of San Antonio Display Gardens. Join us for our free seminar as we learn about planting and growing the RIGHT BULBS for perennial color in Texas. Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 Evans Rd. Free. Contact Robbi Will at 210-651-4565. **2 CE**

**Saturday, October 23**, 10 am – Noon. “How to Make Compost Without Additional Cost!” Learn the basics of composting, the great number of items in your trash that can be used and the steps needed to make excellent compost. Travis County East Facility, 6011 Blue Bluff Rd., Austin. **2 CE**

**Saturday, October 23**, 10 am – Noon, “Square Foot Gardening for Fall.” Fanick’s Garden Center, 1025 Holmgreen Rd., San Antonio. Free. Contact 648-1303, or <http://www.fanicknursery.com/Seminars.htm> **2 CE**

**Sunday, October 24**, 8:45 – 9:45 am. “Earth-Kind Landscape Series: Fall is for Planting,” by David Rodriguez. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. \$20. To register, contact Sasha Kodet at 210.207.3270 or [sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov](mailto:sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov) **1 CE**

**Wednesday, October 27**, 3 – 4:30 pm. “Bugs You Should Know,” by Molly Keck, Entomologist and Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist, Bexar County. Molly identifies insects most likely to be found in the backyard, classifies them as good or bad, discusses safe control methods, and answers related questions. New Braunfels Public Library, 700 E. Common. Free admission/no preregistration. For information, call 830-964-4494. **1.5 CE**

**Saturday, October 30**, 10 am – 2 pm. “Orchid Seminar.” New Growers Seminar from Hands-on demonstrations and discussions of hot topics pertinent to the novice to intermediate orchid growers. Donations at door. More information at [www.hotos.org](http://www.hotos.org) Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin. Free, no reservations. 512-477-8672. **2 CE**

## **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/](http://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/hortOnline.htm> **CE based on completion of course**

## CMG Committee Reports

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 6 at 10 am.

### EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The AgriLife Extension Gardens will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday, the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. We will continue working on the new shade garden. Save your newspapers for mulch. We will also raise the canopy of several trees. If you wish to volunteer to work in the gardens and to obtain first hand emails about on going projects, contact Linda Valdez ([ldvaldez@satx.rr.com](mailto:ldvaldez@satx.rr.com)) or co-chair Sally Ann Hnatiuk ([mustang\\_sally6@msn.com](mailto:mustang_sally6@msn.com)).

**NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS**

The Rose Garden workdays will be Wednesdays, October 13 and 27 at 9 am. They will be a general maintenance days. Bring a small bucket or container for your clippings and your pruners and gloves. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

**KIDS IN BLOOM**

Kids in Bloom is growing with new schools coming on board and old favorites still planting! Contact Nancy Pappas (azop@gvtc.com/ or 210-385-5981) to coordinate with a school near you.

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

The fall schedule for the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden is the fourth Thursday of each month at 9 am. October 28 will be the next workday. Contact Peggy Hamm (khamma@gvtc.com) or Lee Franzel (lee Franzel@gvtc.com) for more information.

**NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

The Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, October 18 at 9 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 GARDEN**

The Fairgrounds Garden will not meet in October. For more information, contact Aleta Meyer (aleta\_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929) or Jane Langley (830-620-4264).

**LINDHEIMER GARDENS**

The Lindheimer Garden workday will be Tuesday, October 12 at 9 am. After the rain in September we may have to do some controlling of plants and weeds. Please join us. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

**NEWSLETTER**

The planning meeting for the November issue is Friday, October 1 at 11 am at the River House Tea Room in Gruene. 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 (rejhs@gvtc.com or 830-885-2665).

**HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS**

Hope Hospice workday will be Wednesday, October 20, at 8:30 am. Thanks to all the helpers in September. Thanks to Tim Barker for providing the paper white bulbs that we planted in September! See you all in October. For information, contact Harlan Kraft (210-846-5643 or harlankraft@gmail.com).

**WEBSITE**

Check the website on-line at the website <http://mastergardener.comal.tx.us/> for new “how to” videos.

*Comal Gardener*

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**Comal Master Gardeners Association Bylaws**

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

**Post the following calendar for easy reference to October CMG activities.**

# OCTOBER

## ON-LINE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <b>11 am Newsletter Mtg Tea Room - Gruene</b>	2
3	4	5 <b>8:30 am Ext Off Gardens</b>	6 <b>10 am Exec Board Mtg</b>	7	8	9 <b>8 am – 4:30 pm Central Texas Gardening Conf Schertz</b>
10	11	12 <b>9 am Lindheimer Gardens</b>	13 <b>9 am Conservation Plaza 10 am Markley Farms</b>	14 <b>Mushroom Tour</b>	15	16
17	18 <b>9 am New Hope Butterfly</b>	19 <b>8:30 am Ext Off Gardens</b>	20 <b>8:30 am Hope Hospice</b>	21	22	23
24/31 <b>Happy Halloween!</b>	25	26 <b>6 pm Membership Mtg Ext Off</b>	27 <b>9 am Conservation Plaza</b>	28 <b>9 am Bulverde Library</b>	29	30