



October 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>

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Number 4

Another Successful Time at Comal County Fair

The Comal Master Gardeners hosted a gardening assistance booth for New Braunfels and Comal County at the fair, which opened on Friday, September 23. Master Gardeners staffed the booth during the first weekend of the fair. The booth offered information on local gardening, including drought-tolerant plants, deer-resistant plants, vegetable gardening and plants that attract butterflies and birds. Information about the upcoming Comal Master Gardener training class was also available. In addition, the booth provided free seeds and cuttings.

The booth had the greatest number of visitors on Friday: 445. The total number who visited the booth for



Don and Germaine Tuff advise visitor at Fair Booth

the three days of the booth was 700 visitors. Many of the guests were returning patrons who were pleased with the advice, seed and plants they had received the previous year. Thirty-three volunteers worked a total of 116 hours and 50 minutes. *Continued on Page 12*

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CMG General Membership Meeting

Monday, October 24 6 pm

“Garden Harmony 101” by Steven Chamblee

GVTC



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October



Garden Posts

- October's General Meeting Hostesses will be Margaret Ogden, Donna Lehr, Angie Martinez, and Beth Sylvest.
- The 2012 CMG class is filling fast Vice President of Training Lee Franzel announced he had received 26 applications as of the general meeting and possibly two more. If you know of anyone interested in joining the class please contact Lee at lee Franzel@gvvc.com or 830-885-7733.
- The new Extension Vegetable Garden Chair John Kittle announced that on the last work-day 60 volunteers showed up. He encouraged members to visit the vegetable garden to see the latest progress in creating the demonstration gardens. He welcomes all members interested in helping at the garden and would appreciate any member who would join him as a co-chair.
- Catherine Hall and Alba Johannessen, co-chairs of the Poinsettia Sale, encourage members to place their orders

early. The plants will be delivered to the Extension Office at 10 am, December 1. The Poinsettias only cost \$10 and will be big and beautiful. They will come in the traditional red "Prestige" or "Iced Punch." Contact Catherine at or 830-625-2077 or Alba at or 830-832-9219 for order forms. They would like to receive all orders and money collected by November 1.

- Hope Hospice is looking for additional volunteers, and chair Jean Peterson encourages CMG members to consider helping her by serving as a co-chair.
- The Garden Calendar project has morphed into the Comal Garden Guide. The Garden Guide Committee is nearing completion on this extensive guide that promises to be a great project. Once completed, the guide will include detailed descriptions and information on gardening in the Comal area. The guide will be sold at the Backyard Vegetable Garden Seminar in February. Sev-

eral retail establishments have expressed interest in selling the guide in their stores.

- Welcome to our newest certified members Louise Foster and Margaret Ogden. They received their name badges at the September meeting. The 2011 class now has 12 members certified out of 26!
- Mary Helen Phillips talked to the members about the November CMG Auction. She is encouraging members to donate all items they think will be good for the auction, old or new, to help with the fundraiser. If you have any questions or donations, contact Mary Helen at maryhelenphillips@usa.net or 830-964-4212.
- The next Herb SIG meeting will be on Monday, October 10 at 10 am at the Antique Rose Emporium. In preparation for roses as herb of the year for 2012, Robbi Will speaks on "Culinary Uses of Roses" For more information contact Mary Mosses at (210)279-5748.

Report your CE and Volunteer Hours!

Chairs, send volunteer hours to Linda Ray at lray@satx.rr.com

Send your CE hours to Don Tuff at 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.

Herb SIG Plays It Cool

The Herb SIG opened a paletteria with Don Tuff and Ray Elizondo presenting a program on September 12 at the Extension Office on "Paletas and Sorbets," of course these all had an herbal twist to them.

Don and Ray talked about the history of paletas and sorbets and explained how to make them. They talked about the herbs used to add flavor to these, their expe-

riences with preparation and recipes and then, better yet, they served samples to those in attendance.

There were pineapple, melon, strawberry, citrus, blueberry and hibiscus paletas and sorbets with lemon verbena, mint, basil and chile adding to the natural fruit flavors. Attendees also received a handout with recipes and instructions.

Germaine Tuff assisted by decorating and coordinating the tasting area. Patty Godfrey and Mary Moses made "Aguas Frescas" of basil lemonade and the traditional Mexican favorite of Jamaica (hibiscus tea).

Many of the attendees then adjourned to Mamacita's for a lunch which continued the Mexican theme.

Message from the President

We've taken several months to complete the membership roster for the 2011-2012 year. CE hours, Volunteer hours, meetings, dues, and Background Checks were all considered, along with the wishes of the individual members. Here is a list of the changes:

Retiring Members in order by year are as follows: Marleen Skaggs (1998), Edie Zaiontz (1999), Peggy Hamm (2001), Marty Hopmann (2001), Nancy Kraft (2002), Bill Mahaffey (2006), Lynn Mahaffey (2006), Sherry Brammall (2007), Haskell Hart (2008), Glenn Mann (2009), Judy Rothell (2009), Juleen Randall (2009), Tom Anders (2010), and Linda Say (2010). Many of these members have been an important part of CMG for a long

time. We'll miss them. They remain our friends.

Linda Hardwick, Harlan Kraft, Jane Langley, Raymond Lopez, Mark Miller, and Merri Veritas were unable to complete their requirements. We'll miss all of them, too.

On **Leave of Absence** for 2011-2012 are Mary Salmon (2000) and Martin Rice (2007). Martin is in Australia for two years and Mary is traveling. We hope they are having fun while they take a break.

On a **Happy Note**: Viola Espinosa (2005) and Tom Carson (2000) are both reinstating after being on Leave of Absence for a year. We're so happy to have both of these long-time members back!

Even with all the changes we still have 142 members!

Participation while on Leave of Absence and Emeritus Status

Please remember the rule for Master Gardeners all over the state: **You must have a background check!!** This also applies to those on **Leave of Absence and Emeritus status** who wish to participate in CMG projects, committees and activities. Members on Leave of Absence or Emeritus status who have no background check may only attend an occasional general meeting with a speaker or other event open to the public. **No Master Gardeners may participate in CMG projects, committees or activities without a background check!**

Speakers Bureau

In September the Speakers Bureau geared up after its summer hiatus, presenting two programs. Lee Franzel provided pertinent information at the Bulverde Spring Branch Library on “Challenges of Hill Country Homescapes.” He had a great crowd of 93, including twelve Comal Master Gardeners.

The second CMG speaker last

month was Judy Chantos, new to the Speakers Bureau. She explained why “Great Gardens Begin with Great Soil,” at the Tye Preston Memorial Library to nine guests including four Comal Master Gardeners.

Finally, Marilyn Godwin spoke at the Tye Preston Memorial Library on September 19 for “Lunch and

Learn.” Her topic was “Herbal Cleaners for the Home.” Eleven people attended the 90 minute talk.

If you are interested in sharing some of your knowledge with others, contact Linda D. Valdez (ldvaldez@satx.rr.com or 830-651-0356)

Steven Chamblee, Chief Horticulturist for Chandor Gardens in Weatherford will be presenting Garden Harmony 101 at the October 22 CMG General Meeting. This presentation offers good advice for all gardeners, but especially Texas gardeners due to the severe drought conditions that we are experiencing. Steven Chamblee in his own words will explain “redefining our priorities, opening our minds to new ideas of what we consider beautiful, and creating a space that is truly a part of our home.” He offers helpful and encouraging advice for those of us trying to rebuild our gardens after the drought. Hope everyone can attend and give him a Big Comal County Master Gardener Welcome.

Cookin’ Up a Storm at Fajita Social

The Fajita Social for the Comal Master Gardeners at the 118th Comal County Fair was on Sunday, September 18 at the Grant Street Garden. The social, held the Sunday before the fair starts, is a tradition begun to celebrate the CMG involvement with the annual fair and fairgrounds and to allow all CMGs to enjoy the fruit of their work in the fair garden. It is a fitting start to the CMG activities in the fair.

Ex-CMG Gwen Voges’ father Wil Voges, her mother Becky and



friends Dave and Ann Keeler traditionally cook the fajita meat for the master gardeners. CMG thanks both couples for their time and cooking expertise each year.

Comal Master Gardeners had approximately sixty-five members at the social this year. Many brought delicious sides, fajita condiments and desserts. The great time was cut short by a rare but welcome rain.

Backyard Gardening Seminar on Fast Track



Members of the Backyard Gardening Seminar Leadership Team

The Backyard Gardening Seminar scheduled for February 11, 2012, is on the fast track. We started accepting registrations on September 15 and had received ten with payment as of September 27. The donations we have received for door prizes are really exciting, and the speakers are looking forward to talking to an eager crowd.

Register while seats are still available. CMGs, remember this seminar is worth 6 CEs if you attend. More information is available at your local nursery, library, or at <http://txmg.org/comal/future-events/seminar>.

October Gardening To-Do List

by Barbi Briney

Last chance for fall tomatoes! Transplants may have a chance to make it if our frost is late or you have a way to cover the plants at night. *The Farmers Almanac* predicts the first frost for our area about November 25.

It is time to plant wildflowers. Scatter the seeds directly on the soil. One of our master gardeners said she scatters her seeds then walks on the area to be sure they have contact with the soil. Be sure to plant the wildflowers where you want them to grow as most will sulk or just plain die if moved.

If we get rain, October is a great month to plant container trees, shrubs and perennials. This will give them time to add nutrients to plants that were established last month. They would appreciate a sprinkle of about one-third cup of lawn fertilizer per 10 square feet. Scratch the mixture into soil and water well.

Continue to plant members of the cole family. If you believe in planting by the phases of the moon, plant flowers and vegetables that bear their crops above the ground during the waxing/

light of the moon. Flowering bulbs and root vegetables in the waning/dark of the moon.

Remember we are under an extreme fire hazard warning. Clean up flammable debris around the house or any standing structure. This includes all the dead plants, shrubs and fallen limbs or other victims of the drought.

No matter what you plant, good luck this fall and pray for rain.

October Committee Updates

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 5, at 10 am.

AGRILIFE EXTENSION

OFFICE GARDEN AND VEG/ROSE GARDENS

The Comal County AgriLife Extension Office Gardens will meet on the first and third Tuesdays, October 4 and 18, at 8 am. For now both committees will work both areas on the same workday. Committee members will receive emails before the workdays detailing work to be done and tools needed. For more information contact: the Extension Office co-chairs Linda D. Valdez, at ldvaldez@satx.rr.com or (210) 651-0356; or Rich Bradley at rmbrad@gvvc.com or (210) 365-7390; or John Kittle, chair of the Vegetable Garden at [jkit-
tle@satx.rr.com](mailto:jkit-
tle@satx.rr.com) or (830) 832-7702.

Work for the AgriLife Extension Garden will involve building the new raised bed garden and work on the VEG/Rose Garden will involve working manure into the beds, and mulching the path ways.

NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS

There will be two workdays in October on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, October 12 and 26, from 8am-10am both days. Gardeners will continue to prune the arbor roses and hand water the first workday; and if you have a ladder and/or loppers, please bring them with you. The second workday we will hand water and spray liquid seaweed.

For information or questions, contact Judy Chantos (4c-sons@earthlink.net or 803-608-0535), Dan Krueger (dan.krueger1@gmail.com or 830-639-5338) or Janis Womack (gwomack1@satx.rr.com or 830-620-7002).

BUTTERFLY GARDENS AT THE BULVERDE/SPRING BRANCH LIBRARY

Bulverde/Spring Branch Library Butterfly Garden workday is the fourth Thursday of each month. The next workday will be Thursday, October 27, at 8 am.

Contact Bill Puckett (bnpuckett@gmail.com) for more information.\

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The New Life Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, October 17, at 9:00 am. For more information, contact Lois Ricci (poepjr@aol.com or 830-899-5362).

HOPE HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

Hope Hospice workday will be the third Wednesday, October 19, at 8 am. There are eleven separate gardens and they all need much attention right now. Please come prepared to prune, weed, and haul mulch. Pickup trucks and trailers are needed for hauling limbs, etc.

For information, contact Jean Petersen (jeanpetersen@sbcglobal.net) or (830) 620-8454.

October Committee Updates Continued

COMAL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS GARDEN

The Fairgrounds Committee will meet not meet this month (October). There is usually not much to do until February, and then the spring is very busy-lots of workers needed. The need for workdays in November, December, and January will be assessed at that time. All Master Gardeners are welcome/encouraged to come to our workdays. At this time, the workdays are the third Thursday of the month. If you are not on the reminder e-mail list, please contact Aleta Meyer (830-629-2929 or aleta_meyer@hotmail.com).

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

The Lindheimer Garden workday will be the second Tuesday, October 11, at 9 am. General maintenance will be done, and we will plant, if the weather permits and add mulch to the beds. Come join us. Contact Germaine Tuff (830-629-1127 or germainetuff@hotmail.com) if you have questions.

KIDS IN BLOOM

If you would like to participate in the training class or become active in the school gardens program, contact Nancy Pappas at (azop@gvyc.com or 210-385-5981) or Alba Johannessen (2Johans@sbcglobal.net) or (830) 832-9219 to coordinate with a school near you.

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter Committee will take a field trip to the San Antonio Herb Market at the Pearl Brewery complex on Saturday, October 15. Details will be emailed to all committee members. For more information please call Cindy Sansone (830-481-3062 or email cindy.sansone@yahoo.com).

Gardening Opportunities

Saturday and Sunday, October 15 and 16, 9 am – 5 pm. The Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center features nearly 300 varieties of hardy native Texas plants bred to the Central Texas climate. Admission is \$8, seniors \$7. Learn about replacing tired plants and lawns. Join a walk exploring native trees for fall planting at 10 am or a walk highlighting drought tolerant native plants at 2 pm. Ask Mr. Smarty Plants gardening questions beginning at 2 pm. For a complete schedule and directions visit www.wildflower.org 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin. For information, call 512-232-0100.

Saturday, October 15, 9 am – 4 pm. Antique Rose Emporium at the SA Herb Market. Pearl Brewery, 400 East Grayson Street, San Antonio.

Gardening Opportunities Continued

Thursday, October 20, 9 am – 5 pm. Native Plants of Central Texas Walk & Talk with Andrea DeLong-Amaya, director of horticulture at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Learn about the beauty, benefits and many varieties of Central Texas native plants. The event is part of a statewide focus during Texas Native Plant Week, October 16 through 22, 2011. For a complete schedule and directions visit www.wildflower.org 4801 La Crosse Ave., Austin. For information, call 512-232-0100.

Saturday, October 22, 10 am – 5 pm. 9th Annual Garden Festival. For your pleasure, we have a wonderful day of festivities and fun planned. In addition to free classes and demonstrations, we will be hosting a select group of local artisans for this year's Art in the Garden, with beautiful pieces you might wish to purchase. Don't worry about lunch; there will be tamales and other Mexican specialties for sale on the grounds. Make a day of it and join us! Free. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565.

Ongoing, 10 am – 4 pm. Hill Country Gardens' home-grown pumpkin patch features 12 different vines and gourds for your pleasure and education. Tag a pumpkin and let it grow to harvest size. Horticulturist Andrea Sanger will answer your questions. Closed on Mondays. Opens at 11am on Sundays. Visit www.hillcountygardens.com for directions. 588 FM 1863, New Braunfels. For information, call 830-620-5149.

Ongoing, daily, hours differ. Eastside Cafe in Austin grows and harvests vegetables daily and then prepares and serves them for lunch, brunch and dinner in an historic home adjacent to the garden. Explore the organically-grown garden and browse the cooking and gardening store. Co-owner Elaine Martin discusses the secret of growing vegetables in a small garden on Tom Spencer's Central Texas Gardener program. Visit

CE Opportunities

Saturday, October 1, 10 am – noon. "Kumamoto En" Japanese Garden. Experience the beauty of this authentic Japanese garden and learn from Hiroko Fay, a native of Japan and the original interpreter during construction of the garden. You'll be introduced to bamboo fencing, stone lanterns and different styles of garden paths. Fee: \$20. Limit 15. To register, contact programregister@sabot.org or Sasha Kodet at sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov or 210.207.3270. San Antonio Botanical Gardens, 555 Funston Place. **2 CE**

Saturday, October 1, 10 am – noon. "Winter Gardening," Travis County Master Gardeners. Learn about garden vegetables that only thrive in the cool temperature of the fall and winter. General gardening principles and guidelines for protecting plants from usually cool temps will be discussed. Event is free and outdoors. Bring a chair. Festival Beach Community Garden, 35 Waller St., Austin. Call 512-854-9600 for more information. **2 CE**

CE Opportunities Continued

Saturday, October 1, 10 am – 11:30 am. “Stressed Out About the Drought?” with David Will. Local landscape contractor will explain his drought recovery program and how to deal with this past summer’s damage. Learn how to reduce your water bill and still have a great looking yard. Free. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Saturday, October 1, 11:30 am – 1 pm. “Rainwater Harvesting Made Easy,” with Bryan Davis, Natural Resource Extension Agent. Bryan will explain how easy it is to harvest free water and save money by collecting and storing rainwater. He will demonstrate how to build and use your own system. One of the barrels will go home with a lucky attendee. Rain dance included. Free. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Sunday, October 2, 1– 2:30 pm. “Fall Vegetable Gardening,” with Andy Chidester of Ladybug Organic Products. The fall garden can be the most productive garden of the year. Andy will share her enthusiastic garden wisdom with us. She will cover soils, fertilizers, location, pest control, fall plant selections, types of garden and much more. Free. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Sunday, October 2, 2:30 – 4 pm. “The Dinner Garden,” with Holly Hirshberg. Started by Holly, The Dinner Garden is an innovative group dedicated to teaching people easy ways to grow their own vegetables to feed themselves. She will share how they are working to end hunger in the United States one garden at a time. An inspiring program for those who garden and those who want to learn. Free. Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Thursday, October 6, 10 – 11 am. “Fall Gardening and Soil Health,” by Judy Chantos. B/SB Lunch and Learn series. Bring a sack lunch and learn about how to preserve your soil’s health through the current drought. Get some pointers on starting and managing a fall garden until the present conditions. Free. Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, 131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde. For more information, call 830-964-3744. **1 CE**

Friday, October 7 or Saturday, October 15, 10 – 11 am. “WaterSaver Gardening Walks,” sponsored by the San Antonio Water System. Looking for ideas about how to have a beautiful landscape at your home AND conserve water? Wondering what plants grow best in San Antonio soils and are the most efficient water users? Get answers to your landscaping questions by joining 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**

CE Opportunities Continued

Saturday, October 8, 10 am – noon. “Bio-Intensive Gardening,” Travis County Master Gardeners. Learn techniques to optimize planting to maximize yield in a small garden space. Good garden practices also covered. Outside event. Free. Blackshear Neighborhood Garden, 2011 East 9th St. Austin. Call 512-854-9600 for more information. **2 CE**

Saturday, October 8, 10 – 11:30 am. “Twelve Months of Garden Color,” with Calvin Finch. To jazz up the color in your garden, be here when Calvin shares his inside tips for year-round color. Calvin’s ideas will make your garden the envy of the neighborhood. Free. Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Saturday, October 15, 10 am – 2:45 pm. “20 Herbs to Remember,” a potpourri of garden-related topics celebrating the 20th anniversary of the annual San Antonio Market. Speakers include popular nationally recognized herbalist Susan Belsinger. Learn more about the planting, care and use of herbs from gardening advisors and culinary and health experts. Eight educational programs offered. Programs and parking are free. Pearl Brewery, 312 Pearl Parkway at Broadway, San Antonio. Park underneath the adjacent Hwy 281 expressway or in the parking tower at Pearl. For more information, call 210-688-9421 or visit www.sanantonioherbmarket.org or gardeningvolunteers.org **4 CE**

Monday, October 17, 10 am – noon. “Challenges of Hill Country Homescapes,” by Lee Franzel. Eco-friendly gardening is the solution to the challenges posed by Hill Country soil, climate and critters. Learn effective, affordable ways to amend soil. Discover the potential of landscaping with plants that survive drought, floods and deer. Free. Part of the Lunch and Learn series at Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 South Access, Canyon Lake. Phone 830-964-3744. **2 CE**

Saturday, October 22, 10 – 11:30 am. “The Ultimate Garden Plant,” with Mike Shoup. Mike loves to share his passion, stories, and experiences in collecting and growing the old garden roses. If you are interested in growing, propagating, producing, and even breeding your own roses, this is the class for you. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Saturday, October 22, 10 am – 1 pm. “Orchid Grower’s Seminar” for new orchid growers. Sponsored by the Heart O’ Texas Orchid Society, open to the public and designed to share and educate interested folks on the fun and ease of growing orchids. Free. Zilker Botanical Garden Center, 2220 Barton Springs Rd, Austin. Visit www.hotos.org for more information. **3 CE**

Saturday, October 22, 1 – 2:30 pm. “Bulbs,” with David Will. David examines the vast variety of bulbs that naturalize here in south central Texas. Don’t fear these beauties – they can nestle into your own flowerbeds and return to delight you, year after year. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

CE Opportunities Continued

Saturday, October 22, 2:30 – 4:30 pm. “Central Texas Trees and Oak Wilt FAQ,” Travis County Master Gardeners. Master Gardener Jerry Naiser will talk about how to do right by your trees. Learn what varieties to select for your Central Texas landscape and gain a higher level of success by choosing those that enjoy native soils and a tough climate. Learn how to care for and prune trees for long-term health and during times of stress like construction or drought. Old Quarry Oaks Public Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., Austin. Call 512-854-9600 for more information. **2 CE**

Saturday, October 22, 3 – 4:30 pm. “Edible Landscaping,” with Nick Vann, Nematode Nick. Shop your garden instead of the supermarket! Nick will show you just how easy that is to do. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

Saturday, October 29, 9 – 11 am. “Butterfly Gardening,” a class on butterfly gardening in South Texas with herbalist and horticulturist Diane Lewis. Tour butterfly-friendly plants at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. South Texas hosts more butterfly species than any other region in the United States; learn how to attract a greater variety of butterflies to your garden. Learn about both larval and nectar plants, especially those that look great and perform well the region’s arid climate. These plants include native plants, non-native well adapted plants, and herbs and edible flowers. Fee: \$35. Admission to the San Antonio Botanical Gardens is included in the cost of tuition. 555 Funston Place. **2 CE**

Saturday, October 29, 3 – 4:30 pm. “Gifting with Herbs,” with Cindy Vann. Wanting to give home-made for the holidays? Ever wished you made more use of your herb garden? Cindy loves to share her marvelous ideas for herbal hand-made gifts with us, and we’d love to share her with you. Come watch her cook and craft, then go home and do it yourself! Free. San Antonio Display Gardens, Antique Rose Emporium, 7561 East Evans Road, San Antonio. For information, call 210-651-4565. **1.5 CE**

County Fair Continued From Page 1

The fair booth and fair ground gardens, along with the other Comal Master Gardeners' community outreach programs and services, provide education for county residents on gardening in our area, especially in this difficult drought period.

Comal Master Gardeners' participation in the garden at the Comal County Fair Grounds began in 2002 under the direction of Gwen Voges and Elizabeth Bowerman. The Common Street Garden and



Fairground Volunteers Prepare for Visitors

the Grant Street Garden already existed but were not well maintained. Gwen Voges began the new Comal Master Gardener participation with the help of community vendors like Schultz Nursery, Schumacher Nursery and Plant Haus, along with support from the Comal County Fair Association.

CE On-Line Opportunities

Earth-Kind Drought Preparedness.

Go to: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/drought/> Go through the entire section, then complete and submit the On-line Evaluation to earn **2 CEs**.

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://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/> **CE based on class hours, unless otherwise specified by 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.**

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