



September 2011

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 XIV

<http://txmg.org/comal>

Number 3

Fun at the Fairgrounds

Be sure to attend the Fajita Social at the Fairground CMG Gardens on September 18 at 6:30 pm, near the Grant Street entrance. If it rains, the picnic will be held under the covered food court. After all the hard work, this will be an evening of great food where our members can kick back.

Wil Voges and Dave Keeler will be hard at work as they grill their famous beef and chicken fajitas. The fairground committee will provide tortillas and tea. Those attending are asked to bring a potluck dish that complements the fajitas, any additional beverages and, if they wish, and a lawn chair. There are picnic tables in both areas.

All CMG members and their families are invited. Contact Aleta Meyer (aleta_meyer@hotmail.com or 830-629-2929/830-660-5132) or Sharon Wright (sharonawright@att.net or 830-606-6027) if you have large tables that you can bring to the social, have questions or wish to sign up late.

CMG will set up its annual information booth at the Comal County Fair again this year. The CMG booth will be open on Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24 from noon to 6 pm and on Sunday, September 25 from noon to 4 pm. If you have signed up to work the booth during the fair, a committee member will give you a call confirming the date and time you should be at the booth. When you arrive, someone will hand you your badge at the gate nearest the CMG booth. Aleta would like to remind volunteers to bring their favorite gardening resource books or materials to show and discuss with visitors. There are still a few slots open for volunteers, so it is not too late to call Aleta or Sharon and sign up.

CMG General Membership Meeting

6 pm Monday, September 26

Presentation on Firewise Landscaping by Lexi Maxwell

Place: *GVTC*

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•••Garden Posts•••

- Martha Joyce, County Extension Agent Family and Consumer Science, will be the CMG contact in the office until further notice. Comal Master Gardeners can reach Martha through the AgriLife Center.
- The Herb SIG on September 12 will be presented by Don Tuff and Ray Elizondo at the Extension Office at 10 am. They have titled their presentation “Something Paleta-ble.” Don and Ray will be sharing recipes and tastings, and they hope that those who attend will be able to chill out for a while. RSVP to SIG Chair Mary Moses (marycm@me.com) if you will be attending the September gathering by September 7.
- After a brief summer break the ever popular Library Gardening Speaker’s Series is back on track. Look for information on Lee Franzel’s presentation at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library under September CE Opportunities. Refreshments will be served by the Friends of the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library.
- Don’t forget the annual Poinsettia sale. By popular demand, the plants are coming from the first distributor. These plants are beautiful and large. [The two varieties are the traditional red and a favorite, Iced Punch \(a gorgeous red with splotches of white\)](#). These will be sold at the very reasonable price of \$10. Watch for more information.
- The CMG annual auction is scheduled for November 28 and is one of our major fundraisers. It’s not too early to think about what to bring to the auction. Examples of some of the items being donated are Judy Chanto’s watermelon wine and Mary Helen Phillip’s rum cake. Clean out your closets, your garage or attic for items old and new. Items may be garden related, edible or simply unused or unwanted. All proceeds benefit Comal Master Gardeners. Come ready to bid for whatever strikes your fancy! The hospitality committee will provide a chili supper. Contact Mary Helen Phillips at maryhelenphillips@usa.net for questions or assistance with donated items.
- The farewell dinner for County Extension Agent, Glen Avriett was a memorable success. The organization provided the brisket and drinks. A bounty of side dishes was contributed by the Executive Board, the Hospitality Committee and the following volunteers: Julia Anders, Marlene Ballard, Angie Martinez, Kathy Nelson, Judie Waechter and Sharon Wright. A delay in opening the GVTC doors led to some pre-dinner entertainment as the volunteers did a quick two-step shuffle to line up the delectable delights.
- The Extension Garden volunteers are looking for horse crippler cactus and passion vine. Anyone wishing to donate these plants, contact Linda D. Valdez at ldvaldez@satx.rr.com or Rich Bradley at rmbrad@gvtc.com.

Planting the Seeds for a Successful Class of 2012

Class coordinator Lee Franzel announces the next training class for future Comal Master Gardeners. The first day of class will be Wednesday, January 18, 2012. There will be 16 classes on consecutive Wednesday afternoons, ending on May 2. The graduation luncheon will be May 9. Printed flyers with information about the class were distributed to members at the July 25 general meeting. Think of a person or two who might be interested in taking the class. Brochures will be available at each general meeting. CMG class size is limited to 30, and 15 people have already requested applications. Of those, nine applications have already been returned – a very good sign. Brochures and applications will be available at the Comal County Fair. In addition, the application form for the class is now on the CMG website.

Report your CE and Volunteer Hours!

Chairs, send volunteer hours to Linda Ray at lraysatx@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.

A Fond Farewell

CMG President Michael Welch (left) presents retiring Comal County Agent, Glenn Avriett, with the Money Tree contributed by CMG members at Glenn's Retirement BBQ Dinner before the General Meeting.



Backyard Vegetable Garden Seminar

In preparation for the February seminar, committee members are collecting vegetable seeds, 4" pots and, as the date gets closer, vegetable transplants. The seminar will require at least 400 of the 4" pots. The projected 100 attendees will be planting seeds in two pots and transplants in the other two. The publicity posters are ready and will be posted throughout Comal and surrounding counties.

If you have pots and/or seeds to donate to the cause, please contact Rich Bradley (rmbrad@gvvc.com), Jan Waguespack (jwag@gvvc.com), Gaylon Lee (pglee@gvvc.com) or Linda Valdez (ldvaldez@satx.rr.com). If you are interested in growing transplants from seed for seminar attendees to transplant, contact any committee member. Over 200 vegetable transplants will be needed for the February seminar. To view the poster for the event please click on the following link: [February Seminar](#)

Update on New Vegetable/Rose Garden at AgriLife

The new Vegetable/Rose Garden at the AgriLife Extension Service has eight new raised beds. Committee members will work on three rose beds, as well as two beds that can be enjoyed by the handicapped. On the next couple of workdays volunteers will reinforce and level the beds made using landscape timbers and railroad ties. Another job will be to add manure to the beds and remove rocks from the dirt. When these projects are complete, workers will add mulch to the pathways.

Work days for September will start at 8 am on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, September 6 and 20. These days will coincide with the AgriLife Landscape Gardens for the time being.

Contact Linda D. Valdez at ldvaldez@satx.rr.com or Rich Bradley at rmbrad@gvvc.com for more information or to be added to the distribution list of people who receive personal emails concerning the workdays and what tools to bring.

Calendar Committee Update

The Calendar Committee met in August and is in the design stage, so it would be a perfect opportunity for other members to bring their ideas to the table. The committee is considering developing a research-based garden planner that can be used year after year. The new target date is March 2012, and with a release date in the spring, sales should be good. More volunteers would speed up the research for the project. For more information, please contact Juleen Randall (mom2skj@hotmail.com or 512-749-2587) or Sonja Howard (sonja.howard@gmail.com or 830-837-2637).

New Leadership for Newsletter

This issue will mark the passing of Comal Gardener Editorship from Bonnie Leitch to Cindy Sansone. Bonnie has been at the helm of the monthly newsletter for the past three years. Her quick wit and gregarious personality helped foster a close bond between all the members of the newsletter committee. Bonnie will continue as mentor to the new editor and, along with Ray Elizondo, will provide the final proofing and polishing of each issue.

Cindy has a strong background in the non-profit world. After being raised and educated in La Porte ISD, she worked for 16 years in the school district, beginning as a diagnostic secretary with the Special Education Department. After graduating from University of Houston/Clear Lake she accepted a promotion as the Director of Communication and Community Relations with the district. While also serving as the Co-Director of the La Porte Education Foundation, Cindy served as editor of the district-wide monthly newsletter.

After leaving the district to become Director of the International Seafarers Center in the Port of Houston she met John Sansone. Eventually Cindy moved to the East Coast with John, where they were married. They finally returned to Texas and the Hill Country in 2005. Their blended family includes four adult children and several grandchildren. She is looking forward to the challenge of staying closely linked with the many volunteers and committee chairs to provide a vibrant and relevant newsletter for our members.

A Lesson in Xeriscape from the Pros, Part II

by Lu Allen, Betty Jackson, Bonnie Leitch and Cindy Sansone

This will conclude our articles from last month written to investigate the various methods and techniques Comal County businesses and non-profits are using to tackle the record drought conditions. We hope the examples described by our writers will help our members learn to conserve resources and still provide attractive gardens through the use of local, native and drought resistant plants.

The New HEB Complex

As you drive into the parking lot from FM 46 the center median uses century plants, muhly grasses and wooly stemodia as a ground cover to great effect. Along the way several old-growth ashe junipers have been preserved and pruned into small trees. There are some new trees planted, too, including live oaks, Texas red oaks and chalk maples. And, this is the entrance to a supermarket complex.

The new HEB in New Braunfels has been landscaped with an eye toward landscape preservation, easy maintenance and low water usage. The chalk or white bark maples are worth mentioning in detail. Look for their distinctive white bark and maple-like leaves that turn red in autumn. They are uncommon in Texas but well suited to our climate and terrain; however, they are indigenous in San Augustine and Newton counties in East Texas.

The traffic islands are planted with a wide variety of hardy Texas perennials and surrounded by mulch or crushed gravel. The islands are filled with red yuccas, century plants, indigo salvia, rosemary, bright clumps of purple and white dwarf ruellia, aka Mexican petunias, and Mexican feathergrass. The Mexican petunias are the

dwarf variety that spread to a perimeter of about 15 feet by throwing their seeds. The ruellia is a very hardy plant and does well in hot, sunny locations. As all the plants mature and fill in the spaces, it will become more striking than it is now.

The edges of the catch basin in front of the store were heavily seeded with Texas bluebonnets. This spring after they were past their prime, their pink and red flowers still put on quite a display. The catch basin was also heavily planted with young oak and Texas redbud trees. There is also a below-grade area planted with crape myrtles.

The real show stopper of the landscape, however, is the preservation of the old live oaks that dot the parking area. Each area has its own pit with the trees growing at their natural elevation, regardless of the surrounding terrain. The oak pits are lined with limestone blocks. Because the trees are subterranean, their canopies are easier to see and passers-by are more able to enjoy their beauty.

The whole HEB complex landscaping plan is a tribute to the use and preservation of native habitat in a concrete jungle. BJ

Schöne, Schöne New Braunfels

For years I have admired the corner plantings around the plaza in downtown New Braunfels. When the new tourist center opened on the corner of Seguin Street and I-35, it, too, had a nice flowerbed of drought-resistant plants. So when Lu Allen talked about copying the pros when she planted her gardens, I immediately thought of New Braunfels.

It was only after talking to Kelly Eby, Urban Forester for the City of New Braunfels, however, that I realized how extensive the city's garden projects are or how serious the city is about xeriscapic landscape. There are, amazingly, thirty-two parks, including cemeteries, in the city. Two new beds are currently in the planning stages for the Walnut Avenue expansion. Landa Park itself has at least fourteen landscape beds. The Civic Center has its own extensive semi-xeriscapic landscaping.

The history of those beds and beds like them throughout New Braunfels is, unfortunately, lost. Some were established long ago, some were established by various civic and garden clubs, some were created thanks to grants, and some are currently maintained by volunteers. Ms. Eby hinted that there are always beds available for adoption, as she is also the adopt-a-park volunteer coordinator.

As various as the landscaping beds are around town, they have a common theme. The city encourages the planting of natives that are longer lasting, more drought and deer resistant and easier to maintain. All of them work with some variation of drip irrigation, even the ones around the plaza. Maintenance of the various irrigation systems, however, is a constant problem because of the number of other recurring repairs and new projects.

There are so many different beds, that rather than focus on specific plants, we concentrated on sites and helpful sources. Eby especially recommended Lady Bird John Wildflower Center's Native Plant database. The City of Austin also has a Grow Green Guide (www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/) on line that has great photos and plant information.

Besides the drought that most of us are currently worried about, two natural enemies of sustainable native plants are invasive foreign plants and deer. The invasives are particularly harmful in the park, especially Hinman Island and Prince Solms Park, and natural areas like the Dry Comal Creek. Apparently, in addition to crowding the native plants, invasives actually produce a chemical that leaches into the soil and attacks natives. Locally, the fight against invasives has been led by Master Naturalists and two Citizen Scientist groups, organizations that have trained about forty volunteers to identify and combat the weeds.

To limit the harm caused by deer and squirrels, the park service has been planting and encouraging native sumacs. Because sumacs are hard to damage, conservationists use the plants to attract deer that are rutting and squirrels that are eating tree bark during the drought for moisture.

The number and variety of native xeriscapic plantings around New Braunfels is much larger than I had realized. The next time you are driving through town, notice all the beds nestled on the edges of the street. If you have time, pick up one of the new arboretum guides for a nominal sum and go to Landa Park some evening for an inspirational informative walk. BL

Bulverde/Spring Branch and Canyon Lake Public Libraries

Gardeners in Comal County are finding out that their local libraries are great places to learn how to deal with drought in the Texas Hill Country. The Bulverde/Spring Branch Library (BSBL) and the Tye Preston Memorial Library at Canyon Lake have plenty of books filled with landscaping plans, theories, amazing photos and the latest information on how to live through the droughts. But more importantly, driven by strong community volunteers and dynamic leadership from the library directors, both of these recently built libraries have become the demonstration and hands-on learning labs for residents to have gardens that can survive in this area.



Walking through the gardens at the Bulverde/Spring Branch Library, Comal Master Gardeners Lee Franzel and Rich Bradley fondly talked of how the volunteers of the Friends of the BSBL library and the Comal Master Gardeners, along with local garden clubs, helped mold a barren area of the library grounds into a wonderland of butterflies and native and adaptive plants. This garden has been featured often in local news and even highlighted in the North American Butterfly Associations website. To further help visitors learn about the plants they are viewing, all are identified with their common and scientific name on plant stake markers.

Near Canyon Lake, Master Naturalist Susan Bogle spoke inspirationally about the transformational

beauty surrounding the grounds of the Tye Preston Memorial Library, thanks to a cadre of Master Naturalists, Comal Master Gardeners and local garden clubs' volunteers. Originally the Morning Glory Garden Club suggested a butterfly garden. With the advice of David Will, the group planned a non-irrigated butterfly garden using drought-resistant native plants. Library patrons can enjoy this wonderful garden from the large windows flanking the left wing of the library. The Morning Glory, Wildflower and Late Bloomers Garden clubs will be working together with the Master Naturalists and Comal Master Gardeners volunteers to help maintain the gardens.

Both libraries also house rain-catchment systems designed to provide all the water needed for the outside gardens during normal drought conditions. The BSBL Butterfly Garden is one of the approved CMG worksites. The butterfly garden utilizes a drip irrigation system, which maintains the native plants with minimal supplemental water. An upcoming demonstration site will be located at Tye Preston Memorial Library when four different home use rain collection systems will be installed from the downspouts of one section of the main library's roof. Susan Bogle said that the library plans lectures and tours of the water conservation efforts at the library once the projects are completed. CS

Casa de Linda Art Studio – A Different Take on Conserving Water

As the drought intensified, many gardeners find their green areas shrinking. One way to accommodate the lack of rain and our need to be outside is to use potted plants around a shaded or cool morning sitting area. That solution might call for ingenuity to keep the potted plants healthy.

This seems to be true for the wonderful and colorful container garden display in front of the small building at Casa de Linda Art Studio and Retail shop. The business is located at 850 S Business IH-35 in New Braunfels surrounded by concrete. It has an amazing display of brightly colored blooming flowers and colorful plants sitting on painted cinder concrete blocks and reused black plastic nursery pots that have been painted using complementary colors throughout. When driving past the building, one would never guess that the plants are real and thriving during our ongoing drought's searing triple-digit temperatures and hot drying winds.



Local artist and art teacher Linda C. Jacobson and her husband David own the studio. When I contacted Linda about an interview of the beautiful plant and flower display, she referred me to her husband David who is responsible for the outside of the building. He is very knowledgeable in not only container gardening, but also in displaying the plants to their best advantage.

In creating the oasis David painted the concrete cinder blocks in bright colors using regular spray paint to add dimension to the display. Then he reused black nursery pots by painting them with vibrant colors with Fusion Crylon spray paint. He said this creates color when color is not available in the plants.

David uses annuals and perennials but changes them out to accommodate the different seasons. For the current summer season he has planted bougainvilleas, which sit next to a perennial hybrid hibiscus. The colors complement each other beautifully. The summer pots also contain purple Laura Bush petunias, yellow purslane, and purple Cora Vinca. Around Halloween, his display will change to a few mums, ornamental kale and more petunias. He lets the kale stay until they have put on tall yellow flowers, which, he said, is a wonderful grand finale for the plants. He waits until later in the year to plant violas and pansies.

During the present intense heat and drought, using a bucket, David waters as needed only the soil around each plant. He adds ½ tsp. of slow release fertilizer (18-6-12) to about one and a half gallons of water. He deadheads throughout the season, as needed. David said he mixes his own soil and he is very knowledgeable about the right proportions and combinations of different materials to use for container gardening. He suggested using the website gardenweb.com to learn how to mix soil for containers. Click on the container forum that includes a wealth of knowledge about soil mixtures for containers. The site has recipes for mixing soil in large and small batches. These soils will have at least three years of life before they need to be replaced.

What David expends per plant is balanced by a narrow focus of concern and water. Weighed against the need to keep expanses of St. Augustine a lively green, concentrated watering of a selective group of plants might be the conservative way to garden. LA

August Herb SIG: “It’s in the Can”

The Herb SIG met on August 8 at the Extension Office and enjoyed a canning and preserving presentation by CMG friend Martha Joyce, County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences. Martha discussed and shared information on safe canning procedures, including use of canning tools and equipment. Martha shared some tastings of some jellies; her cactus pear jelly on biscuits was a special treat, and the rose petal jelly was a solid, sweet treat.

For those who might not be aware, as part of the Extension services, Martha helps check the calibration of pressure cookers to make sure of their safety and quality. Contact Martha at the Extension Office for more details and cost information.

September Gardening To-Do List

by Juleen Randall

Take heart gardeners! The 23rd of this month is the day we have been dreaming of since June! It is the first day of fall! Think rejuvenation and reclaim those bare, crispy patches left by our incredibly cruel summer!

Because the first part of this month is still quite warm, cast seeds instead of digging holes. For fall color, begin with alyssum, stock, pansies, snapdragons and violas, and while you’re at it, cast wildflower seeds now for next spring. Since my ornamental grasses have done so well in spite of this incredible heat, I’ve been thinking about trying native grass seed this year. The first half of the month allows enough time to spread any grass seed and have it established by winter.

As the month goes on and the cooler temperatures appear, watch for signs of brown patch in established lawns; especially if your lawns have suffered from the fungal disease in the past. For a recommended four-step treatment, go to www.naturalgardeneraustin.com

Broccoli, chard, collards, Brussels sprouts and lettuce can all be planted in the middle of the month. I experimented this year and left my tomato plants in the ground, keeping them alive through the heat and clipping them back the third week in August. I have two black krim and one celebrity tomato vines that are all putting on flowers again. I’ll let you know if they produce well during our “second planting season.” If you are not planning a fall vegetable garden this year, plant cover crops to be tilled under about three weeks before planting in early spring. Not only will this discourage weeds, but will also feed the depleted soil. Try annual rye, hairy vetch or clovers.

Plant new perennials and divide your old amaryllises, Shasta daisies, canna lilies and ferns. Renew your herb garden and include cilantro and dill that thrive in cooler temperatures.

Start feeding your chrysanthemums every two to three weeks until buds appear, then weekly until bud break. Did you keep your potted poinsettias? On the first day of fall, put them in a dark place daily for fourteen hours. Water with one-to-four strength fertilizer, and they should begin to show some color for Thanksgiving. Finally, fertilize your roses, gardenias and magnolias.

September 2011 Gardening Opportunities

Saturday and Sunday, September 3 and 4, 10 am – 5 pm. Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale. Austin Cactus and Succulent Society’s Fall Show and Sale is free and open to the general public. The show offers visitors a chance to see rare and beautiful cacti and succulent species from around the world. Vendors from Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico will sell native and exotic cacti and succulents, and hand-made pottery at reasonable prices. There will be a daily silent auction and hourly plant raffle of rare and collectible cacti and succulents. Educational information, literature, and expert advice will be available. Come and bring a friend.

For more information, go to <http://www.austiness.com/member/ShowSale.htmlZilkerBotanicalGarden> , 2220 Barton Springs, Austin. Phone 512-477-8672.

Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 10 am – 6 pm Saturday, 10 am – 5 pm Sunday. Bamboo Show & Sale. For more information, see Texas Bamboo Society at www.bamboocentral.net Zilker Botanical Garden, 2220 Barton Springs, Austin. Phone 512-477-8672.

Saturdays and Sundays, Ongoing, 8 am – 4 pm. Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. Closed Holidays. Weekdays by appointment. Explore a nature preserve and bird sanctuary just minutes from downtown San Antonio. The entrance gate to the center is located on Moursund Blvd. Take Loop 410, Exit 46, Moursund Blvd and go south 0.7 mile, to 10750 Pleasanton Rd. 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.

September 2011 CE Opportunities

Thursday, September 1, 10 – 11 am. “Challenges of Hill Country Homescaping: Soil, Climate and Critters,” by Lee Franzel. The thin, hilly, rocky, alkaline soil is the starting point. Learn about raised beds, the kind of soil to buy and suitable emendations for plants. Second, find out which plants tolerate drought, what methods deal with dry spells and how to reduce the amount of lawn grass and still have nice curb appeal, using drip irrigation to beds that cuts water consumption. Third, discover which attractive plants are highly deer-resistant. Free. Bulverde/Spring Branch Library. **1.5 CE**

Wednesday, September 7, noon – 1 pm. “Fall Gardening and Soil Health,” by Judy Chantos. Part of the Lunch and Learn series. Bring a sack lunch and learn about how to preserve your soil’s health through the current drought. Also get some pointers on starting and managing a fall garden until the present conditions. Free. Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 South Access, Canyon Lake. For more information, call 830-964-3744. **1 CE**

Thursday, September 8, 9 – 11 am. Propagation Class. Learn techniques to propagate plants in the garden. Participants will make their own cuttings to take home and have the opportunity to explore the greenhouse and purchase some of the beautiful plants expertly cultivated by SABOT Plant Sale Volunteers (exact cash or check only). Most plants are \$8/gallon. San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston. Limit 20 participants. Fee: \$20/class. To register, contact Sasha Kodet (sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov or 210-207-3270). **2 CE**

Saturday, September 10, 9 – 10 am. “Edible Landscape Design,” by Amy Crowell of Edible Yards. If you have a yard, why not make it edible? A tips and planning class and will cover the basics to consider before installing veggie gardens, fruit trees, and other edibles in the landscape, including design principles with edibles for fall installations. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Tuesday, September 13, 10 – 11 am. “Organic Vegetable Gardening 101,” by S. K. Rosina Newton, Horticulturist. Learn how to create successful vegetable, herb and flower gardens in Central Texas, including site selection, soil preparation and fertilization, planting methods and pest control. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113 **1 CE**

Thursday, September 15, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. “Tree Pruning 101: The Basics for Success,” by Kelly Eby, City Urban Forester. Learn a little about the art and science behind pruning a tree. Not all trees are alike or serve the same purpose. Different aged trees require different preventative care; much can be done to save young and medium aged trees from later problems. Free. Landa Park Aquatics Complex, New Braunfels. **2 CE**

Saturday, September 17, 10 – 11 am. “Green Roofs: Texas,” by Lauren Woodward-Stanley, of Stanley Studio. What are green roofs and why do they matter? What is their potential in Central Texas, especially in the context of drought and urban growth in the region? Examine the role of green roofs as one piece of green infrastructure. Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Cave Road, Austin. For information, call 512-288-6113. **1 CE**

Monday, September 19, noon – 3 pm. Session 1: “Orchids for Texas,” by Todd and Susanna Miller, owners of Miller’s Tropicals in Dripping Springs. The Millers will have orchids to sell. Session 2: “Wildscapes: Natural-Looking Landscapes that Save Water, Too!” by Judit Green, Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife. \$5 donation suggested. Gardening Volunteers of South Texas. San Antonio Garden Center, 1333 N. New Braunfels at Funston, next to the Botanical Garden. For information, contact Nancy McClinton (210-251-8101 or info@gardeningvolunteers.org).

Saturday, September 24, 9 am – noon. “Rainbarrel Workshop,” by Extension Agent Bryan Davis, and BCMGs Lou Kellogg and Mary Fernandez. Learn about rainwater collection for the home and landscape and make your own rain barrel to take home. Save money by collecting and storing rainwater and using it to irrigate trees, shrubs and flower beds or to provide water to pets, birds or other wildlife. Limit 30. RSVP by Wednesday, September 21. Fee \$55. Make checks payable to Bexar County Master Gardeners. To register, contact programregistrar@sabot.org or Sasha Kodet (210-207-3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov). **3 CE**

Wednesday, September 28, 3 – 4:30 pm. “Compost Magic,” with Lee Franzel. Part of the New Braunfels Library Gardening Series. The New Braunfels Public Library, 700 E. Common St. Hrs. Q&A. Free. No pre-registration. For more information, call 830-964-4494. **1.5 CE**

Thursday, September 29, 6:30-8:30 pm. “Not That Kind of Drip! This Kind of Drip (Irrigation),” by Tom Harris, the Hill Country Gardener. Community Learning Center, Tesoro Drive, San Antonio. For information, contact www.communityed.neisd.net **2 CE**

ON-LINE CEU OFFERINGS -- NEW Training 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 based on credit earned.**

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.**

CMG Committee Reports

EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board will have its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 7, at 10 am.

EXTENSION OFFICE GARDENS

The Comal County AgriLife Extension Gardens will meet on the first and third Tuesdays, September 6 and 20, at 8 am. Committee members will receive emails before the workdays detailing work to be done and tools needed. For more information contact: Linda D. Valdez, chairman, at ldvaldez@satx.rr.com or Rich Bradley, co-chair, at rmbroad@gvvc.com.

NEW BRAUNFELS CONSERVATION PLAZA GARDENS

There will be two workdays in September on the second and fourth Wednesdays, September 14 and 28, from 8 am — 10 am both days. Workers will fertilize and hand water the roses the first workday and prune the arbor roses and hand water the second workday. If you have a ladder, please bring it with you the second work day. 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, September 22, at 8 am. Contact Bill Puckett (bnpuckett@gmail.com) or Peggy Hamm (khamma@gvvc.com) for more information.

NEW LIFE BUTTERFLY GARDEN

The New Life Butterfly Garden workday is the third Monday, September 19, at 8:30 am. For more information, contact Lois Ricci (poepjr@aol.com or 830-899-5362).

HOSPICE NEW BRAUNFELS

Hope Hospice workday will be the third Wednesday, September 21, at 8 am. For information, contact Jean Petersen (jeanpetersen@sbcglobal.net).

NEWSLETTER

A new annual Newsletter Committee planning meeting will take place on September 6, at 11 am at the Fork and Spoon Restaurant in New Braunfels. The committee will set goals for the upcoming year and discuss plans for the transformation of the newsletter in the coming months. Contact Editor Cindy Sansone (830-515-4540 or cindy.sansone@yahoo.com) for information about the meeting or contributing to the newsletter.

COMAL COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS GARDEN

The Fairgrounds Committee will meet on the third Thursday, September 15, at 8 am at the Grant Street Gardens. Committee members will receive an email memo. For more information, contact Aleta Meyer (830-629-2929 or aleta_meyer@hotmail.com) or Sharon Wright (sharonawright@att.net or 830-606-6027).

LINDHEIMER GARDENS

The Lindheimer Garden workday will be the second Tuesday, September 13, at 8:30 am. General maintenance will be done, and we will plant, if the weather permits. 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 (azop@gvvc.com or 210-385-5981) or Alba Johannessen (2Johans@sbcglobal.net) to coordinate with a school near you.

Check the website on-line at <http://txmg.org/comal> for everything you need to know about CMG.

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)

Comal Gardener

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Post the following calendar for easy reference to September CMG activities.