



The Guadalupe Gardener



AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

April 2009

A monthly publication of the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners in cooperation with the Texas AgriLIFE Extension, Guadalupe County



Gardening Conundrums

By Bob Grafe, President

Spring has arrived in Guadalupe County with gusto and our Master Gardener Super Stars are out and about! Have you had a chance to enjoy the beauty of the AgriLIFE building's landscape in Seguin? It's just fantastic ... especially the edifying plant identifications along the meandering walk-way. And, how about last months Master Gardener community service/educational events at the Chamber's new Spring Into Green showcase and the Wilson County Gardeners' Day celebration ... both great service projects proving once again that the Postal Service and Master Gardeners get their messages delivered regardless of inclement weather! Thanks to everyone involved. Finally, here's a challenge for you gardening experimenters. Whoever said you can't grow artichokes here just doesn't have a heart! No ... I'm not talking about the Jerusalems. I'm challenging you to try some Globe artichokes—a native to the southern Mediterranean and related to the thistle. You might try the Imperial Star variety. See ya out in the garden ... and at the next Master Gardener meeting in April.

P.S. Can't forget to give a huge "thank you" to Marilyn Anderson, our out-going newsletter editor after "FIVE" years of dedicated service and a huge "welcome" to Elaine McIntyre, our new newsletter editor.

Membership Meeting

April 16, 2009

7:00 P.M. – Program

Molly Keck will talk about "Good Bugs, Bad Bugs." Molly is an Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist with Texas AgriLIFE Extension of Bexar County.

7:45 P.M. – Refreshments

Sandy Foss, Nancy Krause, Betty Hughes, and Pat Schultze

8:00 P.M. – Business Meeting

Your new name tags are ready – pick them up at the meeting

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Earthkind Rose Garden

Liz Romero headed the workday on the new Earthkind Rose Garden at the Ag. Ext. Building on Saturday, March 21st. Joe Bruno and Fred Romero cleaned out the bed and built the retaining wall. Lots more volunteers worked on planting the roses. Go see it when you get a chance.



The Seguin Chamber of Commerce event – **SHOWCASE SEGUIN – SPRING INTO GREEN,**

March 12th & 13th, had some competition with a nasty cold front that blew in. Since we also received our first rain in some time, we did not mind so much being cold and damp. How appropriate that the rain helped to GREEN things up.

A big thanks to the Seguin Chamber folks for inviting us to participate in their first time event. Schulz Nursery very kindly provided us with lots of lovely plants to decorate our booth and even though we had some big equipment around us, we stood out as the place to go for gardening information. Traffic was a little slow but we still talked with quite a few people, handed out seeds and sold some books.

Clara Mae Marcotte, Betty Hughes and Liz and Fred Romero were all on hand to give short twenty minute seminars that covered topics from Seed Collection to a brief course on Rain Water Harvesting. Lots of appreciation to Betty and Clara Mae for sticking with it all day on Friday when the



audience was a bit sparse and we were without a heater. Also thanks to all the other Master Gardener volunteers who helped with our efforts and made us look good.
Reported by Linda Bruno

March Meeting Review and Association News

It is important to promote sustainable land development and management practices.

Maintaining the ecological habitat in developing subdivisions is desirable.

Our speaker for the March membership meeting was Mark Maldonado of Maldonado Nurseries. He has a B.S. in Landscape Architecture and is currently a student at Texas A&M working on a M.S. in Land and Real Estate Development

Mark emphasized environmental practices such as using trees and turf to reduce green house gases, use of mulch to conserve water and keep the plants cool, using compost to improve the health of degraded soil, use of plants that promote a regional identity, and many aspects of water conservation.

Also at the March Meeting, Deedy Wright won the Schulz Nursery gift certificate and Robert Toweles won the raffle.

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Kay Wolverton – Two Year Term

Sandy Foss – Alternate, Two Year Term

Deedy Wright – Alternate, One Year Term

Marcia Richardson – Speakers Bureau

Cecilia & Merv Cook – Summer Social

Anna Schodowski – Christmas Party Chair

Gloria Saenz - Silver Center Chairman

Due to the illness of Carolyn Hyatt, we need a Guadalupe County Fair Chairman and someone to take care of the landscaping at the Seguin Tax Office

Rockport Hummingbird Trip

Starting in April, there will be a sign-up sheet at the meetings. Jennifer Wilson is chairman for this event. For more info contact her at 830-391-3391 or jenniew@felps.net

Marilyn Anderson has given the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners quite a gift through her Newsletters for the past five years. Be sure to tell her how much you have appreciated all her efforts next time you see her. She has left some extremely large shoes to fill in this Newsletter, but I'm going to give it a try. If you see anything you'd like changed or added, just let me know. With your input, I aim to please. Elaine McIntyre

Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class 21

This class starts August 12th and will be on Wednesday evenings in Schertz from 6 to 9:15 p.m. Our speaker list is impressive and we anticipate a full class. If you know of anyone - neighbors, friends or spouses - who wants to take this class, have them contact George Ammermann at 830-372-4690 or gsmammermann@gvec.net for more information. Remember, there is a discount if you register and pay early.

IN MY BACKYARD

Marcia Richardson, Class 13

This morning as I sat alone on my back porch, I reminisced how Tom and I had always started our day off by having our breakfast coffee together, and enjoying the beauty of our backyard. My best friend has been gone three months now. Ever so slowly the overwhelming grief is dissipating, only a deep dull ache remains. Now, without him, I am only one.



The birds have finally returned and the entire backyard is full of sound again! As their cheery songs ring out it seems a delightful symphony to my ears. They seemed to be rejoicing in life as they visited the birdbath for a morning drink and a quick bath. The first little hummingbirds have found the fresh sugar water I put out last week. I marvel that such tiny little creatures can bring me such a large amount of joy. I have to chuckle and wonder, could Mother Nature be telling us that BIG is not always better?

My Belindas Dream rose is slowly opening her lovely pink blooms. The hanging baskets of bougainvilleas are unashamedly bragging as they show off their brilliant magenta blossoms. I have been feeding all my hanging baskets with Jobes Plant Spikes for Blooming Plants. They work great! Since our alkaline clay soil binds up the iron, I give anything that grows a small sprinkling of greensand to help green them up. It's a natural rock mineral and won't burn your plants.

Several weeks ago I scalped the backyard and caught all the dead grass clippings in the grass catcher. I collected a lot, and together with my chopped up autumn leaves it makes soft, natural looking mulch for the perennial borders. (And it's free!) The lawn, clothed in an ugly shade of brown all winter, is waking up and brave little shoots of green are reaching towards the sky. How calming and soothing the color green is, a treat for the eyes.

My veggie garden is beginning to take shape; I have planted tomatoes, peppers and onions, however I need to round up a few more vegetable transplants. Many beautiful annuals are in the nurseries now and I purchased dwarf zinnias and petunias. For just a few dollars, they give you so much beauty. I have potted them up and positioned them throughout the landscape. My amaryllis' are blooming and the tangerine cross vine on the back fence has burst into its full glory, completely covering two whole sections of the fence. It blooms on old wood, so I will wait until its finished showing off and then trim it back a bit. So sad it only blooms in the spring.

I saw my first red robin last week. It perched on a nearby tree branch and we stared at each other me for the longest time. Robins are one of the first harbingers of spring. The American Heritage Dictionary defines harbinger as: a forerunner, one that indicates or foreshadows what is to come, (oh well, you get the idea). When we gardeners see robins in our backyards we know that ***spring has arrived!!*** Spring is a time of renewal, rejuvenation, restoration, a time of new beginnings. My weary heart felt encouraged for it seemed the little red robin was bringing me a heavenly message, saying, "*Marcia, spring is a new beginning for you and you are going to be all right*"!!

I'll see you in the garden!

GARDENING EVENTS

Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival

Saturday & Sunday
April 11th & 12th
at Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center
in Austin
512-232-0100 or
www.wildflower.org



April 18th (all day)

SARS Spring Rose Show

San Antonio Garden Center

653-7453

Apr 4, 2009 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Kendall County Fairgrounds

19th Annual Mostly Native Plant Sale and Green Living Fair

Sponsored by Culligan Southwest Water

Saturday & Sunday, Apr. 18-19 9 am – 2 pm

San Antonio Botanical Garden Greenhouse area

Spring Plant Sale

Just in time for spring planting, gardeners will want to get there early. All varieties of San Antonio-friendly plants will be on sale. Hundreds of spring plants, expertly cultivated by the San Antonio Botanical Society Plant Team of Volunteers and several plant societies, will be on sale.

IMGC Conference

by Marilyn Moltz

The Wandering Gardener

Well here I am in Las Vegas. The International Master Gardener Conference just closed after several full days of activities. Tomorrow we have a post conference tour of Hoover Dam and a lunch cruise on Lake Mead if it is not too windy. The weather has been unseasonably cold and windy. The conference theme has been **Go Green** which is something the entire city is trying to do. All of the speakers have been geared toward drought tolerant landscaping (Las Vegas area receives about 4 inches of rain per year), home gardens, recycling and building green. There were several tours of master gardeners' homes which definitely do not have green grass lawns, but they still do have plenty of color and vegetable garden space. They know how to efficiently use drip irrigation out here!

My favorite tour was an early morning behind the scene tour of the Bellagio Casino Complex. It was well worth getting up for the 6 am tour. The Bellagio covers 22 acres with 4 buildings and has a conservatory in the hotel lobby which changes for the four seasons each year. They have just put in their spring plantings which includes tulips, hyacinths, a rose flower snail and red carnation lady bug to name a few. There is a small butterfly house. The lobby also has a ten million dollar glass flower ceiling which stays year around. The water for the landscape is recaptured gray water from the hotel. The hotels on the strip actually use a smaller percentage of all water used in Las Vegas than residential use. I learned a lot about Las Vegas while I have been here and there are plenty of friendly Master Gardeners here.

The next IMGC Conference will be October 11-14, 2011 in Charleston, West Virginia. Their theme will be **Color It Green** and are hoping to offer many garden tours, white water rafting and State Capitol tours.

Education - Classes - Seminars

Janet Gafe – Education Chairman

Apr 2nd, Tues, 6:30 pm "Container Gardening: Grow Anything Anywhere" with Dr. Tom Harris. North East Community Learning Center. (210) 657-8866 or www.communityed.neisd.net

Apr 4th, Sat, 9:30 am "Building Raised Beds and Soils" with Dr. Tom Harris. San Antonio Botanical Garden. (210) 657-8866 or www.communityed.neisd.net

Apr 6th, Mon, 1:30 pm "Container Gardening" Boerne Community Center Call 830-895-4386

Apr 9th, Thurs 6:30 am "Square Foot Gardening 202" with Dr. Tom Harris. North East Community Learning Center. (210) 657-8866 or www.communityed.neisd.net

Apr 9th, Thurs., 6:30pm Monthly meeting of the San Antonio Herb Society features Bob Webster on "New Organic Practices" at the San Antonio Garden Center. (210) 824-9981 or www.sanantonioherbs.org

Apr 13th, Mon, 1:30pm "Before you call the Landscaper" Boerne Community Center Call 830-895-4386

Apr 11th, Sat, 9:00am "What to Do Before You Call the Landscaper" with Dr. Tom Harris. San Antonio Botanical Garden. (210) 657-8866 or www.communityed.neisd.net

Apr 15th, 12 pm -1 pm Malcolm Beck speaks on "Organic Gardening and Solutions "; 1 pm – 4 pm Dr. William Welch speaks on "Old Fashion Garden Roses and Cottage Perrenials". Seating is limited - RSVP required. Donations requested toward Bexar County Master Gardeners Scholarship Fund. Location - Antique Rose Garden

April 17th, Tues, 6:30pm "What to Do Before You Call the Landscaper" with Dr. Tom Harris. O'Connor High School. (210) 397-8100 or www.nisd.net/ace

Apr 18th, Sat, 9 am "Native Plants, Trees, Shrubs and Flowers" Natives of Texas Nursery Call 830-895-4386

Apr 18th, Sat, 9 am "Tool Sharpening Workshop" Boerne Community Center Call 830-895-4386

Apr 19th, Sun, 1 pm "Dreaming of Daylilies Seminar" Join JoNelle Zagar for a FREE daylily seminar at Antique Rose Garden

Apr 20th, Mon, 12 noon "Propagation Workshop" by Dr. Larry Stein, fruit and nut specialist for Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service. Sponsored by Gardening Volunteers of South Texas at Seale Road Greenhouse. Contact GVST for more information and directions: (210) 251-8101, or info@gardeningvolunteers.org



Volunteer Opportunities

Clara Mae Marcotte - Volunteer Chairman

The Master Gardener Association
is a volunteer organization.
We need YOU
to help with our projects.

Earth Day Seguin Saturday, April 25th
Reduce – Reuse - Recycle



If you want to help work the information booth, please let Betty Hughes know now at 830-401-4066 or ehughes5@satx.rr.com



Master Gardener Phone Line & Library

Monday from 9 to noon at the AgriLIFE Extension Building. Volunteers needed to run copies for our various events, package seeds & answer phones. Contact **Betty Hughes** at 830-401-4066 or ehughes5@satx.rr.com to find out what days she needs people.

SEEDS NEEDED – We still need seeds for our events. Just drop them by the Extension Office, labeled with the name (common name & Latin if you know it) & the year they were harvested. If there is a specific color, mention that too. No Mountain Laurel, please. If it is rare or an heirloom, add that to the description.

KWED Radio Commentator Help

We can always use Master Gardeners who have a gardening topic that they love to talk about (or just want to learn a whole bunch about) who would be willing to take the discussion lead on a Saturday morning show. Just call Bob Gafe 830-743-3399 or George Ammermann 830-491-1246 and we'll book you for a special radio show date!

Landscape Help

The Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center in Seguin needs help with their landscape. Contact Lynn Pfullman 830-560-1894 or Clara Mae Marcotte 830-379-3485.

Send your hours to Dale Odvody
830-914-3593 or odvodyd@swbell.net

★★★★★ Preview of Coming Meeting Programs ★★★★★

May 21st – Deedy Wright on Xeriscape

June 18th – David Will on Benefits of Native Grasses

HOW TO MAKE YOUR EASTER LILIES

KEEP ON GIVING



The Easter Lily, the traditional time-honored flower of Easter, is highly regarded as a joyful symbol of beauty, hope and life. The large, trumpet-shaped, fragrant white flowers make a meaningful gift that embodies the very essence of the celebration of Easter. Whether you plan to give the potted plants as a gift or use them to decorate your own home, the following tips will help make your Easter Lilies keep on giving.

After the last bloom has withered and has been cut away, you can continue to grow your Easter Lilies, and even plant them outside in your garden to enjoy them for years to come. Once the lilies have finished flowering, place the potted plants in a sunny location. Continue to water thoroughly as needed, and add one teaspoon of slow-release Osmocote fertilizer every 6 weeks. You can move the pots to a sunny location outdoors after the danger of frost has passed.

To plant your Easter Lilies outside, prepare a well-drained garden bed in a sunny location with rich, organic matter. Use a well-drained planting mix, or a mix of one part soil, one part peat moss and one part perlite. Good drainage is the key for success with lilies. To ensure adequate drainage, raise the garden bed by adding good soil to the top of the bed, thus obtaining a deeper topsoil and a rise to the planting area.

Plant the Easter Lily bulbs 3 inches below ground level, and mound up an additional 3 inches of topsoil over the bulb. Plant bulbs at least 12 to 18 inches apart in a hole sufficiently deep so that the bulbs can be placed in it with the roots spread out and down, as they naturally grow. Spread the roots and work the prepared soil in around the bulbs and the roots, leaving no air pockets. Water in immediately and thoroughly after planting. Try not to allow the soil to heave or shift after planting.

As the original plants begin to die back, cut the stems back to the soil surface. New growth will soon emerge. The Easter Lilies, which were forced to bloom under controlled greenhouse conditions in March, bloom naturally in the summer. You may be rewarded with a second bloom later this summer, but most likely you will have to wait until next June or July to see your Easter Lilies bloom again.

Another planting tip to consider is that lilies like their roots in shade and their heads in the sun. Mulching helps conserve moisture in between waterings, keeps the soil cool and loose, and provides a fluffy, nutritious medium for the stem roots. Or, a more attractive alternative would be to plant a "living mulch," or a low ground cover of shallow-rooted, complementary annuals or perennials. The stately Easter Lilies rising above lacy violas or primulas is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also sound gardening.

<http://plantanswers.tamu.edu/publications/lily/lily.html>



April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M.
5	6 Master Gardener Office / Library Open 8:30-NOON	7	8	9 ○ Full Moon	10	11 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M.
12  <i>Happy Easter</i>	13 Master Gardener Office / Library Open 8:30-NOON	14	15	16 Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M.	17	18 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M.
19	20 Master Gardener Office / Library Open 8:30-NOON	21	22	23	24 Arbor Day 	25 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M. ● New Moon
26	27 Master Gardener Office / Library Open 8:30-NOON	28	29	30		

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Next Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2009
Meeting Time – 7:00 PM
AgriLIFE Extension Building
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX

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Elaine McIntyre, Editor - (elaine@tindomorgans.com)
Linda Belz, Photographer
Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener
Marcia Richardson, Reporter

“When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden.” - Minnie Aumonier

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