The Guadalupe Gardener

August 2012

A monthly publication of the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners in cooperation with the Texas *Agri*LIFE Extension, Guadalupe County

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

The benefits of the early summer rains have rapidly diminished but it granted us a short reprieve of the traditional 100 degree temperatures and drought related conditions. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is projecting August through October will likely have hotter than normal temperatures and over fifty percent of the country experiencing severe drought or worse. These conditions will have a continued profound effect on the horticulture industry, water conservation and wildfires.

On June 29 and 30, Jose Contreras and I attended a FireWise Landscape Specialist Training Class sponsored by the Bluebonnet Master Gardener Association (BMGA) in LaGrange, Texas, with Carol Daniels, BMGA Volunteer Coordinator, and Texas Forest Service Representatives, Mary Kay Hicks and Lexi Maxwell, providing the information and training. The relatively new Fayette County AgriLife Extension Building is an outstanding facility as I viewed it with envy. If Jose could have a comparable class room and amenities, we might possibly get him to teach indefinitely (just kidding, Jose). It was a very intense two days of FireWise presentations and I left with an elevated awareness of the complex issues and potential fire hazards that surround our rural and urban areas. One of the most profound segments of the training took place Friday morning with a round table discussion of the devastating 2011 Bastrop wildfires. The Fire Chiefs of Bastrop and LaGrange, the Emergency Management Coordinator and other first responders reflected on a firefighter's worst nightmare: high winds, low humidity and a fast moving crown fire.

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August Meeting
August 16th, 2012 - 7:00 P.M.

Aug 16 -Ten Bugs Every Gardener Should Know, Molly Keck, Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist with TexasAgriLife Extension of Bexar County. Molly has a MS degree in Entomology. Molly has been on Blogger since 2008 and currently her blogs include: "Insectmania: San Anonio Bug Camp!!!", "Bexar County Entomology", "Lindsey Place Fire Ant Management Program".

Don't forget your name tag - and your plants for the plant exchange table!

The refreshments for August 16 will be provided by Randy Rye, Ellen Laubhan, and Helen Griffith

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Association News

July Meeting Program

Paul Johnson, Texas Forest Service, gave a talk to the GCMG's on July 19, and his topic was on "Living with Trees."

His main emphasis was on: 1) Invest in your trees, 2) Protect Existing Trees, and 3) More Trees, Please. He also had handouts with websites on tree identification, tree selection and planting, etc. Another website is http://treebenefits.com to find out what trees are worth in your landscape.

Between 100-500 million trees were killed from the drought last year.

Many benefits of trees are: saves on energy bills if your trees shade your home; trees help with flood control, patients heal faster when they can see trees from their hospital room; students do better on test scores when they can see trees from their classroom, etc.

The Life Cycle of a Tree: Seed, sprout, sapling, mature oak, and snag.

Trees need to be planted in the right place during the right season. The best time to plant is October and November. Planting hole should be 2-3 times the size of the root ball diameter. When planting the tree, the top of the root ball should be level with the ground; bottom of root ball on firm soil, flood partially backfilled hole with slow-running hose; keep mulch away from trunk, mulch 2-3" deep; and build a soil dam. Reduce turf around the tree, and mulch. Weed eater's damage can kill trees if they touch the tree. Thoroughly water the trees weekly if needed.

Paul's three favorite trees are: Burr Oak, Montezuma Cypress, and Mexican Sycamore.

When your trees need pruning, make sure you use a certified arborist.

Submitted by Pat Schultze

NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENER

Newly certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener from Class 23. **Witten Harris.** Presenters were Jose Contreras, Class 23 Coordinator, and Bob Davis, President. Photo provided by Mary Styblo.

Inspiration

The following excerpts from an e-mail from Joyce Friesenhahn regarding her flower bed project at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Marion reminded me how each of us can be an inspiration to others - whether we realize it or not.

"Pat Schultze is one of my "bestest" friends in the whole wide world. Our husbands have been good friends also for many years. I was honored to have her as my "Mentor/sponsor" for class 23. If it had not been for her encouragement, I would not be doing all these wonderful things in our little community. Becoming a part of the "Master Gardener" family (with Pat Schultze's help) I learned what giving is all about. We need nothing in return, only the joy of being able to "Make people smile". Schulz Nursery used to have a big sign on Hwy 78 that said "Flowers are smiles from God" and I love that motto. I especially appreciate Jose Contreras & Romelia Escamilla for putting up with me last year in class 23. They are both awesome individuals. Ann & Dale Odvody, Linda Bruno, and Mary Bowe are the kind of people I want to be. Also, I need to thank Dave Elder for helping to get these flower beds approved. My work at our little church has been important to me for 40+ years now. God is in charge and I work for Him first."

Who have you inspired lately?

(DOG DAYS—Continued from Page 1)
Their priorities and damage control changed minute by minute. The September fire burned 33,418 acres, almost half of the entire Lost Pines ecosystem and over 1,000 homes were destroyed.

On a brighter side, a special thanks to Class 23 members, Lo-Ra Dick and Helen Griffith, in the preparation and planning of the upcoming Junior Master Gardener Training in July and the October 2012 Guadalupe County Fair. Well done ladies.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Anger is the only thing to put off till tomorrow.

Bob Davis, President

GCMG Junior Master Gardener Training Program

LoRa Dick put together a fantastic Junior Master Gardeners training for teachers and youth leaders. "Gardening from the Ground Up" was a 3 day training with continuing education credits. It enabled teachers and youth leaders to improve students' understanding in science, math, literature, nutrition, and wildlife. The Junior Master Gardening Program enhances a school's curriculum and supports the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills objectives, as well as prepares students for the STAAR tests. This training was jam packed with hands on activities and information to give participants the skills and support to start class gardening projects. The training was offered at the Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center's "Big Red Barn" July 24 - July 26.

Left to right, top to bottom: The class hard at work. LoRa Dick, our Chair, who made it all happen. Peggy Jones, coordinator. Gail Johnson & Elaine McIntyre teaching Compost with Dave Elder (not pictured). Betty Hughes & Esther Pinter teaching Nature Crafts for children. Dale Odovody & Linda Bruno teaching how to build raised beds from wood. Andy Chidester on Square Foot Gardening. Clara Mae Marcotte teaching how to grow vegetables with children. Deedy Wright & Kathy Carroll teaching propagation class. Photos by Bob Davis and Peggy Jones.

Board Planning Session Reported by Gail Johnson

The most recent Planning Meeting was held June 27th. Participants had suggested that the GCMG should form interest groups to allow members to get to know each other better and to learn from each other. She said that many members of the organization have a special interest in one group of plants or another but they may not know all the other members who have similar interests. She said that the participants at the Planning Meeting had suggested having a "kick-off" for the program in lieu of a speaker at a member meeting or that individual groups meet informally outside of the meetings. The next meeting will be held on July 26th at 6 pm.

Guadalupe County Fair - coming in October

What's new at the Fair:

2012 Horticulture Division Theme: Resources that GCMG have to offer our community. So the highlights will be the Newsletter, Speakers Bureau, Hot Line, Reference Library, Website, and MG Certification Course.

This year's Guadalupe County Fair/Horticulture Division is incorporating some new and exciting elements. We are using a team approach to organization of the Horticulture Division. As tasks arise, volunteers align with the work, meet and proceed.

The creation of The Youth Division is proving to be a great rallying point for the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners (GCMG) membership and the Guadalupe County Fair Association (GCFA). This division is for youth 14 years old and younger. These youth could very well be future Master Gardeners.

There will be 3 speakers each day of the Fair with topics as diverse as 'Composting 101' and 'Things you can and maybe should learn with Guadalupe County Master Gardeners'.

Businesses, (local, in-state and out of state) are on fire to donate items for the Gift Baskets that will be given to the Grand Champions in the Horticulture Division (4 adult and 4 youth Grand Champions: Field crops, Garden crops, Home products, Orchard crops plus Reserve). Judges will still be awarding the traditional 1st, 2nd, 3rd places to the entries. The GCFA will be providing all of the traditional ribbons and plaques along with Honorable Mention ribbons for all the non-placing Youth exhibitors. For the 5 Adult and Youth Division Grand Champions there will be a gift basket with donations from Sustainable Seeds, The Native Seed Company and Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company. Seguin's very own Gourmet and Gifts will be donating lovely French milled hand soaps. Gourmet Texas Pasta out of Austin will be adding 1lb. packages of handcrafted dried pasta. There will be other local businesses joining in as the Gift Basket Team begins to make personal contact with them.
There will be 2 raffles on Sunday afternoon for one pre-cut raised bed kit and one painted rain barrel. The raffle tickets will be $1 each and sold during regular fair hours.

The Guadalupe County Fair gates open on Thursday, October 11 at 3 pm and close on Sunday, October 14 at 6 pm.

Fair volunteer sheets will be available at the August membership meeting.

Helen Griffith, Fair Chair

Workin' in the Garden

On Saturday, July 21st, a small crew gathered for pruning, deadheading and weeding of the Extension Demonstration Garden. Betty Hughes worked her usual magic in the native plant area. It really is lovely, thanks to her dedication. Pat Schultze and I did some serious pruning on the Salvia gregii, and I finally trimmed the Vitex so that it is not crowding the Mountain Laurel. All of us pitched in for general weeding. Clara Mae helped out as our "official photographer".

We are so grateful to Jeff McKee for taking care of our turf areas. He has done a great job of mowing and edging!

Liz Romero, Master Gardener

July Meeting

The **raffle** of $25 was won by Terri Virost.
Treva Hicks won the **door prize**.

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG. Email jlbruno@gvec.net for further information.

The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association
Is a
VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN

1101 Elbel Road in Schertz. At the back of the County Annex Building

These pictures were taken by Mary Bowe in the garden the last couple of weeks. Children are with their mothers working in the bed the Mom's Club maintains. Two of the girls were brought to the garden by their aunt just to visit.

In early July we had two adults and five child like persons at the garden harvesting and posing for pictures. Child lover Dale Odvody guided them through the garden explaining when was the proper time to harvest.

The garden continues to produce and produce and produce (see Ann's updates on following page).

Guadalupe County Community Garden - Updates from Ann

6/28 - We were very busy today and had a lot of visitors and even some extra hands. Thanks to Denise who came to visit and stayed to help with the harvesting! It was fun to have kids in the garden today. Watermelons and giant zucchini really impress them. We harvested 172 pounds 8 ounces of produce (81 pounds=5 watermelons) and that brings us up to 1,204 pounds 4 ounces. And with all that going on, Terri and I even cleared weeds from another large area of mulch. Dale got the inside of the shed organized and we gals sure do appreciate it.-.no more being attacked by garden hoses.

7/2 - We had 6/10 of an inch of rain in the garden rain gauge this morning. It was pleasant, if a little muggy, until the sun came out. Then it got very warm. We had several new faces in the garden today so we all spent time answering questions about planting, building beds, etc. Denise, who we met last week came by again today and brought her nieces to see the garden. Dale, Mary, and Terri harvested while I continued weeding. The rabbit put in an appearance to let us know he was alive and well. We took 129 pounds 5 ounces of produce to the food bank, bringing our total for the year to 1,333 pounds 9 ounces.

7/9 - From Dale: Well, this will be unusual. When I woke up this morning I thought I had 100 pounds of watermelon to harvest. I was wrong. I had 105 pounds of watermelon to harvest and I really could have upped it, but I figured we needed to harvest something Thursday. Plus 1/2 pound of yellow squash and 23 pounds of the hard to spell cukecumber. And if you are wondering why I am sending this to you, Ann was pulling weeds in the back yard yesterday and did not notice some of them had just three leaves. Needless to say, she is not comfortable.

7/17 - Thanks to everyone who came out to help harvest and weed. I missed being in the garden last week thanks to poison ivy, so here are the harvest numbers for then and yesterday:

9 July 2012 128 pounds 8 ounces
12 July 2012 78 pounds
16 July 2012 66 pounds 12 ounces
Total 2012 is 1,659 pounds 11 ounces

7/23 - It was very warm and humid yesterday morning, but cloud cover did help make it tolerable. We are cleaning and weeding beds to get them ready for fall planting. We will plant 14 tomatoes Thursday morning. We are also trying some corn for the first time. Last Thursday's harvest was 39 pounds 6 ounces. Yesterday's harvest was 68 pounds 6 ounces (think Mary's pumpkins!). Total for the year is 1,767 pounds 7 ounces.

7/26 - It was a nice morning in the garden with cloud cover that held while we were working. Thanks to all the folks who came out and helped this morning! They harvested a lot of produce and pulled a lot of weeds. The extra hands helped the time fly, especially those belonging to the children.-.they weed well!! Our harvest was 72 pounds 12 ounces today. So far this year, 1,840 pounds 3 ounces. Monday we will begin the clean up necessary to get ready for fall planting.

Speakers Bureau

My name is Treva Hicks. I will be taking over the position as your contact at the Guadalupe County Master Gardener Speakers Bureau. Clara Mae Marcotte has been filling this position for a long time. I would like to thank her for all her hard work and I hope that I will be able to do as well as she did.
Speakers: When you have a speaking engagement, please let me know where and when you spoke, your topic, how many people attended and any comments you may have about your experience.
Membership: When you take any Specialist training, please let me know so that we can help you to get the hours needed for certification.
Contact me: Treva Hicks at hickslt@lycos.com

Vegetable Seeds Needed. Please Save Seeds.

Even leftover seed packages. We need them for upcoming projects where we give away seeds. Please turn them in to Betty Hughes at the Master Gardener Office or at a MG meeting.

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors
Two Year Term - George Ammermann; Linda Bruno, Alternate
One Year Term - Gail Johnson; Jim Johnson, Alternate
Project Evaluation Committee
Gillian Siemens, Barbara Gettig, Janice Knobles
Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs
Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks
Guadalupe Co. Community Garden Operating Committee
Linda Bruno, Holly Christian
JMG Program Coordinator - Lo-Ra Dick
Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes
AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero
New Member Support - Bob Teweles
Hours Reporting - Dale & Ann Odvody
Notification - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies
Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks
Guadalupe County Fair - Helen Griffith
Historian - Gloria Saenz
WebSite Photo Album - Jerilyn Preston
Class 23 & 24 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras
Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre
Web Master - Randee Malmsten

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

I want to thank all of the people who signed up to bring refreshments to the July 19th meeting. They were Bob and Bev Davis, Sandy Tremaine Black, and Gretchen Ricker. I also would like to thank all of the people who, even though they were not signed up, brought food anyway. It is always appreciated! Thank you all for your support . Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Chairman.

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact
Gail Johnson, Secretary, 830-491-1996
or e-mail gailpjohnson@earthlink.net .

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Sep 20 - Improving Your Soil, Mike Dobrovosky, with Soil Menders.
Oct 18 - Peaches, Cliff Caskey, former Hayes Co. Ag. Agent and current owner of Caskey Orchards, San Marcos.

GMO's, Monsanto, Heirloom Seeds
By Brandi Midkiff

This article first appeared in the May 2012 issue of The Northeast Texan.

(see www.northeasttexan.com)

It sounds like something out of a dystopic sci-fi novel. A multi-national megacorporation produces chemicals with deadly side effects, tampers with genetics to make plant/animal hybrids, and wages lawsuits with ominous implications for independent farmers. But this disturbing tale of corporate and scientific hubris is the real-life story of the Monsanto Company.

John Francis Queeny, a veteran of the pharmaceutical industry, founded the company in 1901. Its first product was the artificial sweetener saccharin, which it sold to the Coca-Cola Company. Expanding into Europe, it became a major manufacturer of industrial chemicals, plastics, and herbicides.

Products manufactured by Monsanto include bovine growth hormone, DDT, Agent Orange, PCBs, and aspartame. Agent Orange, used as a defoliant in U.S. military operations in Vietnam, has been directly linked to severe health damage in U.S. servicemen. DDT, once hailed as the solution to mosquito-borne malaria, was banned in the U.S. in 1972 after Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* linked it to environmental and human health problems. PCBs, a former component of coolant fluids, have been banned in the U.S. due to concerns about endocrine disruption and neurotoxicity.

In 1982, Monsanto scientists became the first to genetically alter a plant cell. Soon after, the company conducted field tests of genetically altered crops. Eventually, Monsanto sold most of its chemical production facilities to concentrate on biotech research and manufacturing.

Monsanto manufactures agricultural chemicals, including the popular herbicide Round-Up, and genetically modifies many of its seed products to resist these chemicals. Studies have linked these GM maize varieties to hepatorenal toxicity and other health problems. Other Monsanto seeds are engineered to produce sterile seed. Ostensibly, this prevents the plants from reseeding in the wild, but it also requires customers to purchase new seed for every planting, rather than sowing seeds harvested from crops. Such dependence on corporate suppliers is troubling to farmers.

Between 1997 and 2010, Monsanto filed 144 lawsuits against farmers, and settled 700 more out of court, for patent infringement. In some cases, non-GMO and organic crops were contaminated with Monsanto's patented seeds, which were carried from neighboring crops by the wind. Food freedom advocacy groups consider the lawsuits predatory. "These farmers have no desire to use Monsanto's GMO seeds, yet they are forced into the untenable position of losing their right to farm in the manner in which they choose, face legal intimidation and the loss of economic livelihood, all because America's legal system has failed to adequately protect them from the real threat of genetic trespass that is inherent as a result of Monsanto's patented GMO seeds and the natural biological functions of cross pollination from wind, insects or animals," says David Murphy, Founder and Executive Director of *Food Democracy Now!*

Monsanto is a big player in the field of genetically modified organisms but not the only one. Genetically modified organisms range from herbicide-resistant food crops to transgenic animals. The GloFish, a zebrafish with jellyfish DNA, is sold in pet stores. Other modified species are used to produce human biological drugs, such as the anticoagulant ATryn, which is extracted from the milk of a GM goat.

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(GMO's continued from page 10)

Transgenic plants have been promoted as solutions to problems of low yield and harsh growing conditions. Opponents of GMOs warn that tampering with the very code of life will ultimately create more problems than it solves.

In 2010, 10% of the world's food crops were GM, most of them in North America. From 1996 to 2011, the total surface area of land cultivated with GMOs increased by a factor of 94, from 4.2 million acres to 395 million acres. If these trends continue, GMOs could soon dominate food production worldwide.

Concern about GMOs has led to a revival of interest in heirloom seeds.

An **heirloom variety** is a variety that has been around a substantial time and whose seed stock has been preserved and passed down by gardeners. All heirloom varieties are open-pollinated.

An **open-pollinated variety** is any variety that will reproduce true to seed; its seedlings are identical to the parent plant. Some stable hybrids are open-pollinated.

A **hybrid** is a variety cross-bred from closely related varieties to harness desirable traits from both. Hybrids may occur naturally and may eventually stabilize, but many are too new to have done this. If seed is saved from a hybrid and planted, the offspring will resemble one of the parent plants, not the hybrid itself.

Hybrids should not be confused with GMOs. The cultivating of hybrids is a time-honored practice going back for millennia; carrots and strawberries have been selectively bred to such a degree that their modern versions bear little resemblance to their ancestors.

A **genetically modified organism** or **GMO** is an organism whose genetic material has been altered using recombinant DNA technology. Sometimes genomes are combined from entirely different species. The DNA of jellyfish and corn (maize) has been combined at Stanford University, and scientists in China claim to have introduced human genes into dairy cows.

How can consumers make sure their food is GMO-free?

- **Avoid common culprits.** Commercialized GM crops in the U.S. include soy (94%), cotton (90%), canola (90%), sugar beets (95%), corn (88%), Hawaiian papaya (more than 50%), and zucchini and yellow squash (over 24,000 acres).
- **Buy 100% Organic.** In the U.S. and Canada, food labeled "100% Organic" (not just "Organic") must be entirely free from GM components.
- **Check fruit and vegetable label numbers.** A 4-digit number means the food is conventionally produced. A 5-digit number beginning with 8 means the food is GM (but some GM producers omits label numbers altogether). A 5-digit number beginning with 9 means the food is organic.
- **Purchase 100% grass-fed beef.** Cattle in feedlots are often fed GM corn.
- **Seek products labeled non-GM or GMO-free.**
- **Shop locally.** Most GM food comes from large industrial farms.
- **Buy whole foods.**
- **Grow your own - and save the seeds!**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers Needed

It's that time of year to total your volunteer hours and submit them to Dale Odvody, then take a look and see how many more you will need for the rest of the year. As of 11:30 a.m July 16th we have had only 3,593 hours reported which is a far cry from the 12, 367.5 we reported for all of 2011. Below are the remaining volunteer opportunities for the year for you to choose from.

Guadalupe County Fair on October 10-14, Chairman: Helen Griffith City of Seguin Coliseum, 950 South Austin Street (see page 5)
Water Fairs, 3 in October: Rose Garden Elem., Krueger Elem.,-Marion and Jefferson Elem. Four volunteers needed. Look for sign up at our August meeting.
Ag Fair - October 25,29,30,31. Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn. Volunteers walk thru the gardens talking to 3rd 4th or 5th graders about importance of gardening and herbs/produce in 15-20 minute increments around 12 times a full day.. If you are interested in volunteering for any other days (Oct 9 - 31) please contact The Big Red Barn.
Pecan Festival - Oct 26 & 27. Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn. Chairman needed, plus 3 shifts 9:45-12:00, 12:00-2:30, and 2:30-5:00 - three to four per shift. Volunteers will man the vegetable garden at the Big Red Barn answering questions. Two volunteers per shift; volunteers are welcome to serve on more than one shift.
Cibolo Ag Fair on November 8 & 9. Cibolo FFA Barn, this is a 2-day event. Chairman needed plus 5 other volunteers. Volunteers set up displays of herbs, vegetables, and donated apples. Groups will take turns talking and showing 3rd or 4th grade elementary students about items of gardening, herbs/produce.
Christmas tree decorating contest, November 29 & 30. Seguin Central Park. Chairman Betty Hughes. Need several volunteers to help set up, decorate, and tear down.
Master Gardener Social on December 14, 2012. Need Coordinators: Chairman, Co chairman, Assistant and Volunteers to find location, plan party, schedule food, set up and clean up.

Carol Calentine ccalentine@ag.tamu.edu or 830-303-3889.

Please - Report Your Hours Monthly!

GARDENING EVENTS

FALL GALA - October 11, 2012

Celebrating the interlocking relationship between **water & life**

Featuring: Gourmet Dinner, Music by Sweetmeat
Featured Artists, Silent Auction
Edwards Aquifer Experience
Fellowship, *Fun Under the Stars*

Sponsorship deadline for recognition in pre-event print materials is **August 13, 2012.** For sponsorship information and benefits contact Green Spaces Alliance [info@greenspacesalliance.org]

GREEN SPACES ALLIANCE OF SOUTH TEXAS

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, October 20th - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center's
FALL WILDLIFE FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE

Our annual FREE community festival filled with great activities
hayrides, a raptor show, plant sales and MORE!

Alamo Area Texas Nature Challenge

June 2 through August 3

Local parks and natural areas have developed "challenges" to complete designed for family fun and nature exploration. For more information go to **http://naturechallenge.tamu.edu/alamoarea/**

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Beyond Binoculars: Explorations in Bird Adaptations

Saturday, August 18th
9:00 - 10:30 am

Program with Peggy Spring, Education Coordinator, City of San Antonio Natural Areas. There's a lot to learn about birds beyond using binoculars to identify them. In this program, we will explore the killdeer's 'egg-cellent' idea, the vulture's marrow scoop, the sparrow's thumb and many more intriguing topics of birds' habits, structure and behavior. Be prepared to leave with a new way of looking at our avian friends!

Ages 12 and up - RSVP Required
$10 for MLAC members, $15 for non-MLAC members
RSVP : (210) 628-1639 or mlac@audubon.org

Beekeeping Basics Program

Sep 28 & 29 - (Fri & Sat)

Interested in beekeeping, learning about bees, or seeing if beekeeping is something you can do? Join us for this program hosted by entomologists and seasoned beekeepers for those with little to absolutely no experience with beekeeping. Great course to come to if you are even thinking about keeping a hive. Contact Molly for questions – 210-467-6575 or mekeck@ag.tamu.edu.Cost is $50, located at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208.

30 Bugs Every Gardener Should Know

August 21(Tues) 2pm-4pm

Hosted by entomologist, Molly Keck, learn all about the insects you will likely encounter the remainder of the summer and into the fall. Feel free to bring in any insects you need identified. Cost is $10 – payable to Texas AgriLife Extension at the door. Please RSVP to Molly at mekeck@ag.tamu.edu or 210-467-6575. Located at the Extension office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208.

Summer Classes at the Botanical Garden

Fall Perennials - Saturday, August 11 from 10 am - noon

Class Fee: $35. Chrysanthemums aren't the only choice San Antonio gardeners have for fall color. Come find out how many elegant and colorful perennial choices, many of which are native, are available for the fall.

Square Foot Gardening - Saturday, August 18 from 9 am - noon

Class Fee: $30. Don't have a lot of room for a garden? Square foot gardening is perfect for small yards and this gardening system produces high yields of fruits, vegetables and herbs in a small space. Square foot gardening is a simple concept that gives everyone the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of home-grown produce with less maintenance and water. Topics include basic construction, layout, soil and fertilization, integrated pest management and crop selections for all seasons. Participants will take home a small selection of seeds and cuttings to get their garden started.

To register, visit http://www.sabot.org/?nd=adults. Sasha Kodet, Education Director, San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, 210-207-3270, Fax: 210-207-3274, http://www.sabot.org/

Backyard Gardening Series

A thru Z - Fruits & Vegetables

Texas AgriLife Extension Service

3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio

Bexar County AgriLife Extension Service is conducting a continuing program on backyard gardening. Learn to plant and select vegetables & fruit trees at the appropriate time of the season; how to compost and combine plants for better yield, insect control, saving space, and more! Speakers will be David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulturist, and Master Gardener Specialists. Registration fee is $10 and you pay at the door. RSVP to Angel Torres at 210-467-6575 no later than August 27th.

August 28, 2012, Tuesday, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Fruits and Vegetables beginning with letters C & D

Earth-Kind Educational Seminar
"Planting and Growing fall Tomatoes"

August 4 (Saturday) 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Schulz Nursery, 100 W. Huebinger, Marion

FREE: Conducted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist David Rodriguez. Master Gardeners attending will receive 2 CEU's.

San Antonio Garden Center Floral Design School
Starts Thurs. Sept. 6 at SAGC

Melissa White will be the instructor for the annual Floral Design School starting September 6th, sponsored by the San Antonio Garden Center. A speaker on the local and national level, Melissa has spoken on topics such as color trends and influences, specializing in marketing and floral arrangements. As the owner of Bonika, Melissa has exercised her distinctive eye for the extraordinary to design bouquets, centerpieces and other beautiful arrangements for brides.

At the Floral Design School you will learn to create your own beautiful centerpieces which you will take home. The school starts Thursday, Sept 6th and continues each week until October 18th from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the San Antonio Garden Center by the Botanical Gardens. Tuition for all six classes is $140 and includes instructions from Melissa, a design expert, flowers and greenery to complete a take-home project each week.

This year's chairman is Lillie De Los Santos who will be happy to answer your questions. Call 210- 824-9981 or 210-416-2826 and they will send you a sign up form or send your check for $140 payable to the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels, San Antonio, TX 78209. Check out the website at www.sanantoniogardencenter.org or email sagc2004@sbcglobal.net . Enrollment is limited. Sign up now by calling 210-416-2826.

Grounds Maintenance Workshop
August 24, 2012 / 8:30am-3pm / San Antonio Livestock Exposition Grounds

Please join us in the Dairy Barn for a grounds maintenance workshop hosted by Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Get the most up to date, research based information about turf selection, irrigation, turf management, turf nutrition, pest management, and laws and regulations. Homeowners welcome, but this program is geared toward commercial and professional lawn and turf maintenance individuals.

Cost is $40 - payable to Texas AgriLife Extension Service - lunch and snacks provided.

Please register by mailing or dropping your $40 payment off at the Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio, TX 78230. For further information contact Angel Torres or David Rodriguez at 210-467-6575.

Landscape Design Study Series XXIII, Course 1 - September 10-11, 2012
Christ United Methodist Church, 4201 State Highway 6, College Station, Texas 77845

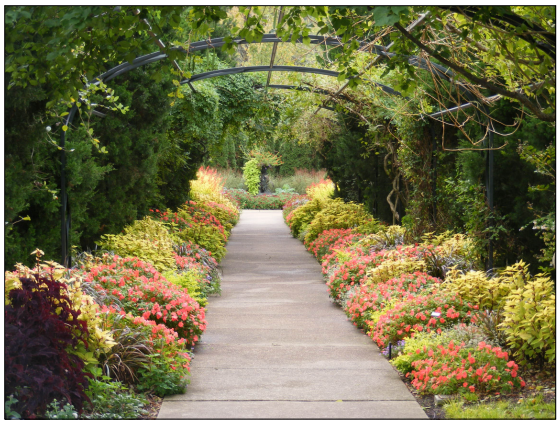
The first in the latest Landscape Design Study Course series is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 10 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area. These courses offer an opportunity to learn from professional landscape architects and horticulturists about how successful landscapes are designed. Specifics include color, scale, history, practicality, plant selection and hardscape choices. Participants may take the four courses in any sequence. **Master Gardeners** who complete a course may apply 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education. Registration materials may be requested from Cynthia Mueller, Department of Extension Horticulture, 225 HFSB TAMU MS 2134, College Station, TX 77843-2134, by telephone (979) 845-7344 or by e-mail at c-mueller@tamu.edu. Registration for the course will be $125 (including two lunches). Make check payable to **LANDSCAPE DESIGN**. The text, good for all four courses, is Stewards of the Land. It may be purchased for an additional $40. The book will be reserved for participants to pick up the first morning of the course. (979) 690-4623

The Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz

Cheekwood Art and Gardens, Nashville, Tennessee

Located on the west side of Nashville on 55 beautifully landscaped acres is Cheekwood. There are several miles of handicapped accessible trails thru the Sculpture Trail, East Garden and West Garden. Seasonal flowers adorn the walkways with a separate area for a perennial garden, boxwood garden, water gardens, and Japanese Garden. The Sculpture Trail includes 15 works by internationally acclaimed artists. There is a working miniature train set on several levels which entertains the children (of all ages) for many an hour. Most of the areas are also a woodland setting and there abounds bees, butterflies and many birds.

The art is displayed throughout the 30,000 square foot Georgian style mansion which sits on the property. The mansion was built by Leslie and Mabel Cheek. Their cousin, Joel Cheek, developed the coffee brand Maxwell House and they invested in his company. The mansion was built in 1933 on 100 acres and it was opened to the public in 1950. The house contains displays of porcelain, 600 pieces of silver, many of the home's original furnishings and art works by Andy Warhol, Childe Hassam and John Sloan.



AUGUST 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 O FULL MOON	2 GCCG Workday 8am	3	4 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
5	6 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30-NOON GCCG Workday 8 am	7	8	9 GCMG Board Meeting GCCG Workday	10	11 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
12	13 Master Gardener Office/Library GCCG Workday	14	15	16 GCMG MEETING 7:00 PM GCCG Workday	17 ● New Moon	18 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
19	20 Master Gardener Office/ Library GCCG Workday	21	22	23 GCCG Workday	24	25 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
26 **Newsletter Deadline**	27 Master Gardener Office/ Library GCCG Workday	28	29	30 GCCG Workday	31 O FULL MOON	

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.
210 East Live Oak St.
Seguin, TX 78155

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org **830-379-1972 Ext 210**
Guadalupe County *Agri*LIFE Extension http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/ **830-379-1972**
Texas Master Gardeners http://www.txmg.org

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August Meeting

Thurs, August 16th, 2012, 7:00P.M.
AgriLIFE Extension Building
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination by the Master Gardeners is implied, and no endorsement by the Master Gardeners is implied. Educational programs conducted by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners serve people of all ages, regardless of socioeconomic level, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.

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