

AgriLIFE EXTENSION

The Guadalupe Gardener



DECEMBER 2011

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



Words from George

As we reach the end of another year we can look back at what we have completed successfully and take another look at what is still in progress.

The awards sponsored by Texas Master Gardener Association is an area that we can be very proud of. This is the first year we had more then two entries. Not only did we have more entries, but all of the entries won an award. It took a lot of work on the part of great teams working on the applications. There were some tense moments as we worked on the applications, but in the end all of the requirements were met and the results were great.

We also, put together a mentor program, training our members who would serve as mentors. The program will see some changes this next year when we prepare for class #24. It is important that we all maintain an attitude full of flexibility as we constantly work to improve our programs.

We have our backs against the wall in the area of collecting the hours reports and the dues for 2012. There is a change in the date deadline. For those of you who are re-certifying, we must get this taken care of. If we do not step up to the plate, we may find a drop in membership reported to the Texas Master Gardener Association as part of the chartering report which is turned in to the State AgriLife Extension Office with all information based on the December 31st deadline.

Don't forget our Christmas social will be held on December 15th - the normal meeting date. The site for the party is St. John's Lutheran Church in Marion. If you have not already, please sign up to bring the sides. Meat will be provided by the association and I understand Dale and Ann will once again fry some turkeys. For the first time we will have the students from class #23 graduate at this event.

Merry Christmas to all. George Ammermann

DECEMBER MEETING

December 15th

Christmas Social

See page 3

Christmas
Cactus
for a
drought
ridden
year



In This Issue

Page 2 - November Meeting Program

Page 3 - Christmas Social

Page 4 - New MG, Nov Meeting Items

Page 5-10 - Class 23

Page 10-16 - Association News (Future Programs, Sculpture Raffle, SASSR, GCCG Pot Luck Appreciation Party, Community Garden Updates, New Chairpersons, Big Red Barn, Peterson Nursery Tour, Speakers Bureau, Cibolo Ag Fair, Members in Service, Above & Beyond Certificates)

Page 16 - Member News

Page 17 - Sweet Potato Window Decoration

Page 18 - Volunteer Opportunities

Page 19 - Fall at Butchart Gardens

Page 20 - Educ/Classes/Sems, Events

Page 21 - December Calendar

November Meeting Program

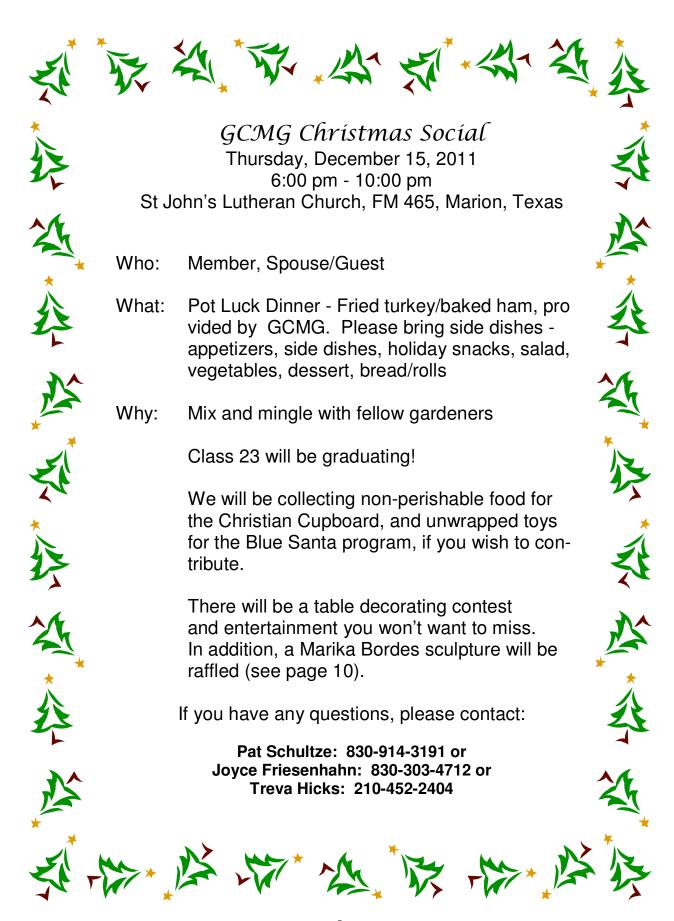
VINES ADD HEIGHT AND INTEREST TO LANDSCAPE

S.O. Smith, Bexar County Master Gardener and noted speaker on many landscape topics, presented a program on vines at the Guadalupe County Master Gardener meeting in November. He brought samples, cuttings and seeds and talked about the uses of vines in the home landscape.

Vines include both native and adapted plants and have a wide range of uses in the home land-scape. They are often used to camouflage outbuildings and unsightly structures and they can add shadow and intrigue in a garden. They provide quick shade in places where trees and large shrubs are not available or are just growing in. Vines can also be used as ground cover to prevent erosion and to cover areas under trees where grass will not readily grow. As a ground cover, vines have the advantage of being low maintenance, although in deep shade few vines will provide much color other than green.

Most vines require a structure to support them. There are many ready-made structures available or a gardener can build their own to suit their space. Cedar arbors made of unmilled posts are natural looking and sturdy for large vines. Because cedar is resistant to decay, it's a good choice for perennial, large vines that may need a season or two to reach maturity. Cedar is also available in milled lumber to be shaped to any structure. Milled arbors are available at the big box stores and can be painted any color. For twining vines, a rose pillar offers instant support and height in the garden. Usually suitable for smaller plants, they often have a more formal look but are sturdy and practical. Trellises allow intricate designs for when vines are not in bloom and add shade to a hot wall. Offering pleasing shadow effects, they are often available free standing. Obelisks, lampposts and mailboxes can be decorative elements in a garden when used to support vines, although you should be mindful of using irritating vines on mailboxes and lampposts and be prepared to keep them neatly trimmed. Gazebos add structure to a landscape as well as shade for plants and visitors but something as simple as a stick teepee can make a quick structure for fast growers like pole beans and morning glories and are easily portable for guick storage. Even a rebar tunnel can provide an inexpensive way to add shape in the garden as they are light weight, easily wired together, and can enclose large areas inexpensively.

There are a large number of plants in the vine family from Texas natives like the white flowered Alamo vine (*ipomoea sinuate*) which sports a lovely wooden seed case to exotic imports like the 30 ft. high Giant Pipevine (*aristolochia gigantean*) with its heart shaped leaves and huge flowers, imported from Brazil. Many attract wildlife like the tiny, wiry Bearded Swallowort (*cynanchum bargigerum*) which is a member of the milkweed family and attracts Monarchs and fritillaries. Others like the well-mannered, but 35 ft., Carolina Jessamine (*gelsemium sempervirens*) are resistant to wildlife nibblers like deer. Sweet Autumn Clematis (*clematis paniculata*) is huge and showy but its native cousins, Bluebell clematis (*clematis pitcher*) and Scarlet Clematis (*clematis texensis*), are modest in size and habit. There's a vine for every occasion and one to suit every spot in the garden. But Smitty closed by saying that if he could only plant one, it would have to be yellow butterfly vine (*mascagnia macroptera*). Evergreen, this fifteen foot vine blooms bright from June to freeze and its bright green seed pods turn brown and are shaped like butterflies, although, he warned, it's so vigorous, its root runners can be invasive.



Association News



NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENER

Judith M. Johnson

Shown with President George Ammermann and Class 22 Coordinator Bob Teweles. Photo by Linda Bruno

NOVEMBER MEETING ITEMS

Newly Elected Officers and TMGA Directors

President - Bob Davis President-elect - Peggy Jones

Vice President - Don Hilbert Secretary - Gail Johnson Treasurer - Bob Teweles

Director to TMGA - George Ammermann Alternate Director to TMGA - Linda Bruno

Policies and Procedures Manual

The Policies and Procedures Manual as presented was approved at the November meeting. Linda Bruno is looking for volunteers to help with the remaining unwritten polices. This will be put on the January agenda. The Manual along with the By-laws are posted on the website at

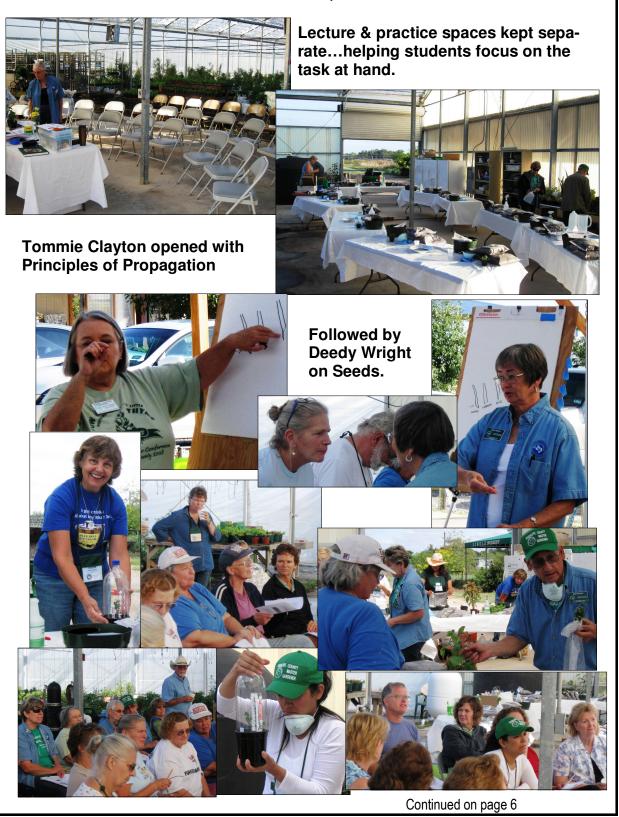
http://quadalupecountymastergardeners.org/

Our Webmaster, Randee Malmsten, has put it right on the top of the front page where you can't miss it - and she has done a great write up about the importance and need for this document. Please take the time to go through it. It is long – 48 pages total if you feel the urge to print it out – but it is an important document. A very big thank you to the Review Committee for this Manual, Lynn Pfullmann, Dale Odvody and George Ammermann. And also much appreciation to our Board who also went through every word.

Background Checks

Applications for the background checks will be available in January.

Class 23's Amazing Propagation Experience October 22, 2011





Student Led Field Trip to Water Garden Gems



Did this idea work? Yes. The students were given a tour of the facility and then listened to a presentation prepared by one of the staff of the Garden.

What time did you arrive? We got there about 2:15 p.m. One of the students got lost because the street sign for Haeckerville Road was missing. She eventually got there about 30 minutes later. We had started the tour without her, so after the

formal presentation was over, Debbie took her to the area of the garden that she missed and explained what we had learned.

Who came? Gladys Haecker, Debbie Real, John Sells, Sharon Delcambre, Mary Real, and Susan Hadley. Michelle Tanner was a no-show. She did not come to class that day.

Gage reaction of group. The group seemed to enjoy the trip. This was something that was not covered in the course materials, and they all seemed genuinely interested.



What was learned? We learned about the various water features available to place in your landscape...some were ponds, and others were just water features that did not use much water, but you had the soothing sounds of the water. We also saw several types of fish, including koi, and the plants that would grow in a water garden. Then we went into their classroom where we listened to a presentation about the various types of ponds and water features and how to gauge evaporation which is very important in this drought. We also learned about aquaponics, which is the merging of Aquaculture (growing fish) and Hydroponics (using water to grow plants).

What people might be able to do with this information? Add a water garden or fountain into their landscape.

Survey:

Good learning experience: 1-4's, 5-5's

Sufficient time: 1-4's, 5-5's

Knowledge of the speaker: 6-5's

Organized well: 6-5's

Worthwhile of time and expense: 1-4's, 5-5's

Mary Styblo and Debbie Real

Did you learn what you listed as your most important reason for choosing this field trip: 6 yes's

Student Organizers: Gladys Haecker, Debbie Real

Student Led Field Trip to Clara Mae's Garden

Did this idea work? Yes. Students appreciated the opportunity to see/visualize actual plants/ landscape in the garden environment. Clara Mae Marcotte was very honest about what worked, what didn't work, what she should have done, what she shouldn't have done. It was an excellent Master Gardner presentation. It was good to get out of the classroom and into the field.



What time did you arrive? We had the furthest time to travel. We arrived at 2:25 – 2:30 PM & left around 4:15 PM

Who came? Cindy Waechter, Joyce Friesenhan, Martha Grimes, Linda Waite, Ellen Laubhan, & Toni Guiles. No shows were Jessica Longoria (she sent me an e-mail the night before indicating her daughter was extremely ill & she did not have anyone to watch her), Lo-Ra Dick, & Randy Rye.

Gage reaction of group. Overall, I would say the field trip was very positive and a success. I think each one of us learned something new & had takeaways for our own gardens.

What was learned? Types of trees & shrubs that do well in different locations, different native plants, what to plant & what not to plant, it takes dedication & patience, learned about a few new plants (not many), saw how easy drip irrigation can be, enjoyed seeing how beds were laid out, had interesting comments about landscaping, the hydroponics from next door, learned that you can overwinter basil by putting flowering stems in water, opportunity to view a gardening journal, your landscape is ever changing depending on what does and does not do well

What people might be able to do with this information? Will do a simple irrigation system, what & when to plant some of the species, plan landscape/beds, where to obtain some native plant species

Survey

Good learning experience: 1 - 3, 2 - 4's, 2 - 5's

Sufficient time in the garden: 5-5's Knowledge of speaker: 1-4, 4-5's

Organized well: 5 - 5's

Worth your time expense: 1 - 3, 4 - 5's

Student Organizers: Cindy Waechter,

Joyce Friesenhan



Neighbor's Hydroponics

Student Led Field Trip to Deedy Wright's In-Progress Native Plant Garden

On Wednesday November 2, 2011, student classmates Dave Elder, Witten Harris, LaVerne McKenney and organizers Helen Griffith and Mary Styblo went to Deedy Wright's home in New Braunfels to see her garden. Penny Wallace, Master Gardener Intern, met us there.

Deedy joined the Native Plant Society of Texas in 1992, and became a Master Gardener in 2001. She is a certified Plant Propagation Specialist and Vegetable Specialist, and has completed the 4-part landscape Design Study Course offered through A & M Extension and the National Garden Clubs. She has been working on this garden for about two years.

We shared the pre fieldtrip survey with her:

Why did you choose this fieldtrip?

I want to learn about Texas Native Plants.

Because I am very interested in learning more about native plants.

To learn more about native plants.



What is most important for you to learn from fieldtrip?

I hope it serves as an introduction to Texas Native Plants. Get a feel for native plants in the landscape. Problems & solutions associated with native plants in the landscape.

To see how a garden full of native plants looks & how well they incorporate with other plants.

To install low maintenance lasting garden at my place.

She installed an arbor at the end of the front sidewalk with vines, and has decorative fencing across the front yard. Most all of her many flowering plants were in bloom, the Fall Asters are spectacular. She explained her goal is to eliminate all grass in front using beds and hardscape.

We continued to the sides of the house and then in the backyard where she has two 8X4 raised beds for veggies and an enlarged crushed granite walkway from the house to the fountain and enlarged crushed granite/planting area around her fountain. More flowers were in bloom, the Esperanza exploding in full yellow bouquets. Vegetables producing well, squash, okra, tomatoes abundantly. Basil spreading over other plants. More raised beds are planned.

She talked about each plant and patiently answered our many questions. Compost, Compost, Compost. Deedy stressed that she uses native and adaptive plants to her area. She emphasized that plants get larger as they mature. Do not be afraid to take plants out that do not work. Deedy talked about using rainwater, and how she is in the process of redoing her collection containers. Discussed using area nurseries, Master Gardeners, and the Native Plant Society as resources, and how she deals with pests. Almost every plant was labeled. We also saw her very organized garden tools in the Tuff Shed and potting area.

While we enjoyed refreshments of cookies and iced lemonade and limeade on her lovely front porch there was more discussion about her garden, choosing the correct plants, drought, and the coming cold weather, post fieldtrip surveys were filled out:

Evaluation Results 1 to 5, 1 being the least and 5 the best

- 1. Good learning experience: Results 4 answered 5, and 1 answered 3:
- 2. Sufficient time spent at garden: Results 5 answered 5
- 3. Knowledge of speaker: Results 4 answered 5 1 answered 4
- 4. Organized well: Results 3 answered 5. 1 answered 4. and 1 answered 3.
- 5. Worthwhile your time/expense: Results 3 answered 5, 2 answered 4

Continued on page 10

(Continued from page 9)

I got lots of good ideas for my garden. It helps to see the real thing. Thanks for letting me join you. Plant specimens to grow at home. Fabulous shed!

Nice social time afterwards. Very relaxed in tone & attitude. Great answers for student's questions.

Negatives (Things that could have gone better):

Could have spent more time.

Got a little warm towards the end of the tour.

(One had no comments)

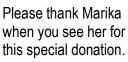
We left at 4:30 with more gardening know-how and Bluebonnets and other plants she shared with us.

Student Organizers: Helen Griffith and Mary Styblo

Sculpture Raffle



Our own GCMG Marika-Carmel Bordes has generously donated her time to create a sculpture for us. This is a most wonderful piece that will be raffled at our Christmas social to raise funds for events we have coming up next year.





Photos by Marika



FUTURE PROGRAMS

<u>Jan 19 - Bees and Honey Production</u> - Mark Gretchen, local honey producer, will talk about bees and his honey business.

<u>Feb 16 - Toxic Landscape Plants</u> - Paul Cox, botanist and former supervisor at The Botanical Gardens, will present a program about the poisonous nature of some of our landscape plants.

<u>Mar 15 - Square Foot Gardening</u> - Andy Chidster who works for The Natural Gardener Inc., manufacturer of Lady Bug Products, will present Mel Bartholomew's method for growing more in less space.

Apr 19 - Olive Tree Growing in Seguin - Joe Wait, local grower of olive trees, will present a program about growing olive trees.

<u>May 17 - Using Herbs in Your Diet</u> - Mary Dunford, owner of Nature's Herb Farm, will talk about how herbs can best be used in our diet.

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

Pre-construction phase starts January17th - 19th when construction materials are taken out of storage and taken to the Freeman Colesium grounds. Need pickups and trailers and strong backs for this phase starting at 8am. Construction starts on January 23rd and now includes the entire building. Benefits are free parking and a free lunch. For booth volunteers and counters February 9th is the start date. Sign up sheets are manual this year - not online. Benefits here are free parking, transportation to the grounds, free admission, free snacks and coffee, and volunteer hours under cover. For more information contact Dale Odvody odvodyd@swbell.net

Guadalupe County Community Garden Pot Luck Appreciation Garden Party

Our first Garden party at the Guadalupe County Community Garden was a great success! Guests Judge Mike Wiggins and Commissioner Jim Wolverton, along with our Master Gardeners and Friends, enjoyed the barbeque and trimmings. The desert table was full, which is normal when GCMGs are involved.

The highlight of the afternoon was awarding the title of Honorary Guadalupe County Master Gardener to Commission Wolverton as appreciation for his continued support of the GCMG program and the Garden. And he was surprised! He received his own green GCMG hat and "Honorary" name tag, along with a certificate. Judge Wiggins asked for the second copy of the certificate and said he would have it framed and put up at the Commissioners' Court.

Mary Bowe has a new hat with her favorite phrase "Good Job" on it; Mary is always positive and upbeat about our efforts and keeps us going. We wanted to honor her for that. The Construction Committee, Joe Bruno and Dale Odvody, received a set of whatever you could possibly need drill bits to keep in the shed. Mary also gave them "superman" letters for their shirts. Ann Odvody, who has put in many hours and helped all of us so much, was given a "Garden Angel" figurine. She is very much our Garden Angel and without her, we would not be a success.

We send out a big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped us this year and ask them to keep coming on Tuesday, Friday and any other work day when they are inspired to help. We are so close to two thousand pounds (one ton) donated to RACAP this year and that reflects on all of you.

It may be cold and it may be December, but we will still see you in the Garden!























Guadalupe County Community Garden

HOLD THE DATE – MARCH 10, 2012. WHY? Because we are having a plant sale at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. More details coming but if you have plants that need dividing, digging or that you just don't want, let me know. If you can baby them through to March, great. Or we'll find someone to foster home them. Volunteers will be needed to set up, label, and sell plants. We will also have other activities that day that will need volunteer help. So please, hold the date open on your calendar.

We have three new groups who have requested beds in the Garden. Please watch your email for details on workdays and bed construction days. With the winter weather coming in, we will do some of the work on short notice and we don't want you to miss the opportunity.

Updates from Ann Odvody

- 10/28 It was a little chilly this morning and windy..THANKS for braving the elements Mary! We had 28 pounds 2 ounces of produce. Year to date 1694 pounds 4 ounces. Hope to see you Tuesday.
- 11/1 Thanks to all you folks who came out to help this morning. The garden looks so much better and I didn't have to shell the black eyed peas!! We harvested 52 pounds 1 ounce of produce, giving us 1,746 pounds 5 ounces for the year. Thanks again.
- 11/4 Just Dale and I in the garden today. We planted 1015Y onions (2 bunches) and 4 more varieties of lettuce and one more of spinach. Harvested 30 pounds 13 ounces of produce. For the year 1,777 pounds 2 ounces.
- 11/8 Thanks again to all of you who were out helping today. We got a lot done. We harvested 26 pounds 1 ounce, bringing us up to 1,803 pounds 3 ounces. Dale caged the two almost ripe watermelons so they may be ready Friday.
- 11/11 We got a lot of clean-up chores done and harvested 14 pounds of produce; so far 1,817 pounds 3 ounces. Good to see Mary and Teri came to play, too.
- 11/15 We had one inch of rain in the gauge this afternoon. Harvested 44 pounds 8 ounces of produce (3 watermelons). Total for the year is now 1,861 pounds 11 ounces.
- 11/19 It was chilly this morning, but we got a lot of weeding and planting done. We harvested 32 pounds 5 ounces so far this year 1,894 pounds. Burgundy okra is gone and will sure miss the color in the garden. Thanks, LaVerne and Judy!
- 11/20 Hi. Just a reminder we will be open Tuesdays and Fridays at **9 am for the winter**. When it is in the forties, it helps to let it warm up some before we start. I know we have had a few warm mornings lately, but it will change at the drop of a hat so we will pretend it is winter even if it is in the 60s.
- 11/23 As usual the rain missed us and we sure could have used it. Mary and helpers harvested 24 pounds one ounce of produce bringing the total for the year to 1,918 pounds one ounce.
- 11/25 It was really nice this morning. Mary, Dale and I removed a small forest of okra trees and cleaned up the resulting mess. We harvested 16 pounds 7 ounces of produce, bringing us to 1,934 pounds and 8 ounces for the year.

The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association Is a VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

NEW CHAIRPERSONS

PUBLICATIONS (aka Publicity)

Dave Elder, a student from Class 23, has volunteered to take on the duty of Publicity Chairman. Let me introduce you to him. Dave is married to Barbara who, by the way, is a Weight Watcher leader. They have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Dave has a Master of Science degree in Radio-TV-Film, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, 1970. He is a retired faculty member from San Antonio College as Assistant Professor of Student Learning Assistance Center (student computer services and tutoring services) 1973 to 2011. Dave is co-owner of Countryside Ceramics, Marion, TX, certified by 3 national ceramic paint manufacturers for teaching. And if that is not enough, he is Past president of the New Braunfels Orchid Society. We are so lucky to have someone with his qualifications take on Publicity. Please let's welcome Dave.

REFRESHMENTS

Treva Hicks will be replacing Ryla Cottingham as the Refreshments Chair. She will begin in January 2012, so if you'd just love to bring refreshments to the January meeting - just contact Treva at hickslt@lycos.com or call 830-560-5667.

Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center (Big Red Barn) Ag Fair Oct. 11-27, 2011

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners were stationed in the vegetable garden area of the center from approximately 9 am to 2 pm during the 13 days over three weeks of Ag Fair. They were responsible for speaking to each group of children for about fifteen minutes at a time as the children moved through fourteen stations throughout the center. A Master Gardener plus a student or intern was usually assigned for each day.

The first week MGs spoke to 696 children a total of 41 times during twenty hours.

The second week MGs spoke to 1083 children a total of 55 times during twenty-five hours.

The third week MGs spoke to 709 children a total of 34 times during twenty hours.

This comes out to 2,488 children, 130 contact sessions, and sixty-five total hours.

Seventeen of our Master Gardeners participated, with eight of our students or interns, including Marilyn Anderson, Sandy Foss (who worked two days), Barbara Gettig, James Hajek, Treva Hicks, Betty Hughes, Jim and Gail Johnson, Dave and Peggy Love, Randee Malmsten, Buddy Nagel, Kathy Pape, Jan Quello, Gretchen Ricker, Georgia Speir, and Stan Wieding. The students were Ellen Laubhan, Sharon Delcambre, Cindy Waechter, Gladys Haecker, Mary Styblo (who worked two days), Linda Waite, Debbie Real and John Sells. Thank you all very much. I greatly appreciate the time and effort you put into this. Thanks also to you who offered to do backup if needed. Next year's dates for you to put on your calendar are October 8-12, 15-19, and 22-26 of 2012.

As a separate docent and demonstrator, I spoke to 1779 children in 96 contact sessions over 45 hours.

Clara Mae Marcotte, Chairman

FLASH!

The Big Red Barn was recognized as a "Certified Butterfly Habitat" through the North American Butterfly Association. This program helps encourage habitat restoration and creates a paradise for butterflies.

Peterson Brothers Wholesale Nursery Tour

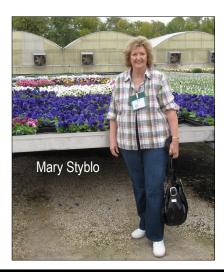
Several GCMGs attended the Bexar County Master Gardener tour of Peterson Brothers Wholesale Nursery on November 18 in San Antonio. Pat Schultze, Class 10, Iris Seale, Class 7, and Class 22 students Joyce Friesenhahn, Martha Grimes, Susan Hadley, Mary Styblo and Cindy Waechter enjoyed the tour which lasted about 2 hours. What a beautiful experience!











Photos by Mary Styblo



Speakers Bureau

Speakers, please let me know how many listeners are in each group, your subject, and when and where the talk is given. Membership: if you belong to a club that needs speakers, please contact me, Clara Mae Marcotte, at rcm.marcotte@gmail.com.

We have speakers on FireWise, Plant Propagation, Oak Wilt, Rainwater Harvesting, Greenhouse Management, Composting, Citrus Greening, Entomology, Vegetables, Wildflowers, and Floral Arranging.

Cibolo Ag Fair

The Cibolo Ag Fair was a big success. Our Master Gardeners talked with 31 fourth grade classes in twelve different sessions (1034 kids plus teachers in 2 days). Jerilyn Preston, chairperson this year, did a great job organizing all the schedule changes. Bob Davis purchased the produce. Jerilyn took the Texas Uncovered station and did very well considering she is from Alaska. Debbie Real and Esther Pinter handled the Poultry station. Mary Real, Gladys Haecker and Jim Johnson covered the Horticulture station. While similar to the Ag Fair at the Big Red Barn, these presentations are to a more captive and controlled audience. What a wonderful opportunity to share our love for and knowledge of gardening with these young people.

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 - Open

Speakers Bureau - Clara Mae Marcotte

Guadalupe County Community Garden Operating Committee

Linda Bruno, Holly Christian

Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes

AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero

2011 Guadalupe County Fair - Jeri Doyle

New Member Support - Bob Teweles

Hours Reporting - Dale & Ann Odvody

Notification - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

WebSite Photo Album - Jerilyn Preston

Class 23 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

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

November meeting refreshments

were provided by Marilyn Moltz, Judy Stanley, Liz Romero and Betty Hughes. The <u>drawing</u> of \$26 was won by Bill Ermel. Clara Mae Marcotte won the <u>gift certificate</u>.

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact Sandy Foss, our Secretary, sandyfoss@satx.rr.com or call 210-651-9053.



Above and Beyond

At the November meeting Linda Bruno and Ann Odvody were presented with certificates of thanks for all their efforts "above and beyond" on behalf of the Guadalupe County Community Garden. Carol Calentine, Volunteer Coordinator, presented the certificates and gifts.

Photo provided by Peggy Jones.

MEMBER NEWS

Mervin Bernard Cook

Merv passed away on Nov. 10, 2011. He was born in Austin, Texas on Jan. 4, 1936 and married Cecelia Ann Small on September 21, 1963. A memorial service was held on November 13, 2011 in Seguin, Texas.

In 2004, Merv and Cecelia retired to Lake McQueeney where they were able to enjoy their passions of gardening and entertaining. Merv & Cecelia were certified as GCMGs out of Class #17 in 2004. At his death Merv was Chairman of the GCMG Membership Outreach Committee.

Merv's wonderful smile was always there to greet his friends even though he was wheelchair bound. He and Cecelia have regularly volunteered at the County Fair and it will not be the same without him. Merv was a true Southern gentleman with a kind heart and a quick wit. Our thoughts and prayers will be with Cecelia.

Rest in peace, dear friend. We know you are already decorating heaven with black walnut trees and stag horn ferns.

CLARA FISCHER

November 4 - Clara is at the Christus - Santa Rosa in New Braunfels. The surgery (three bypasses which lasted 7 hours) is over and her surgeon said it was tough but that he was pleased with the outcome.

Sweet Window Sill Decoration Clara Mae Marcotte

How long has it been since you last grew a sweet potato vine in your kitchen window? Somehow I had never done that as a child. I was trying this spring to find sweet potato slips to plant, and my friend Hazel Mondine asked why I didn't grow my own. So the big experiment started in March. I took a sweet potato, put four toothpicks in it at equal intervals around its equator, then put the pointy end down in a glass of water. The toothpicks rested on the glass rim. After two weeks a long single root started to extend down into the water. After another week it grew horizontal roots off of the vertical root. Finally, the top of the potato started to sprout. The inner child in me really enjoyed watching the growth. I got about 4 or 5 sprouts out of the one potato.

After the sprouts were about 4 inches long with a couple of leaves, I broke off each one at its nub by the sweet potato. The sprouts actually popped off fairly easily. I then potted each of them in a 4-inch pot of nice soil.

The little plants rooted quickly and when I thought they were ready, I planted them in my garden where they started to take over the available space.

In a July 2011 San Antonio Express-News article, David Rodriguez said that sweet potato vine shoots should be maintained at 36 inches to make the plant grow densely, and because the thicker leaf cover will shade the developing roots.

Sweet potatoes should be dug when the vines die back in October. The tubers should then be cured by keeping them at 85 to 90 for five days. This helps the storage capability as well as adds flavor.

As you can see from my photos, I got one gigantic tuber and one tiny one. Both had lots of tiny nibbles from underground predators. For my size vegetable garden, sweet potatoes are probably not a crop that I will repeat. It was a fun experiment, though, and one I will teach my grandchildren when they are a little older.











Photos provided by Clara Mae Marcotte

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers

Contact Carol Calentine on any Volunteer signups or questions at carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us

and be sure to REPORT YOUR HOURS to Dale Odvody by December 15th!

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

While it was disappointing when our tree last year was vandalized and decorations stolen and destroyed, we will continue the tradition of decorating a tree for the competition at the Court House Square in Seguin. Carol Calentine volunteered to chair, with Betty Hughes as co-chair. With a vegetable theme for decorations, our Monday morning work day volunteers completed the Christmas Tree decorations. If you would like to help with this year's Christmas Tree entry, contact Carol at carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Master Gardener Office Monday, from 9 a.m. to noon. Except for federal holidays, the Master Gardener office is open at the Extension Building at 210 East Live Oak. Email Betty Hughes, ehughes5@satx.rr.com for more information.

KWED Lawn & Garden Show broadcast heard live every Saturday morning from 9:15 to 10. Call Bob Grafe at 830-743-3399 or Janet Grafe at 830-305-1446 to volunteer or to suggest a topic or speaker.

Meeting Refreshments - contact Treva at hickslt@lycos.com or call 830-560-5667 (see page 13)

Speakers Bureau - contact Clara Mae Marcotte rcm.marcotte@gmail.com (See page 15)

Guadalupe County Community Garden - Contact Ann Odvody odvodyd@swbell.net

GC Finance Flower Beds - Contact Carol Mycue camycue@satx.rr.com

Green Team - Contact Hughlene Micheli clifmic@axs4u.net

Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn - Herb, Butterfly & Educational Garden - Contact the Garden Gals: Susan Casto sscasto2@aol.com Herbs & Butterfly Area and Gina Mullen ginamullen@satx.rr.com Educational Vegetable Garden

Gutierrez Park - Contact Tammee Trawick ttrawick@sbcglobal.net

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo - Contact Dale Odvody odvodyd@swbell.net (see page 10)

Fall at Butchart Garden

These pictures came from an e-mail my husband received. They are the most glorious foliage colors I have ever seen. I thought I would share them with you.

Butchart Gardens is in Victoria, British Columbia. The Butchart Gardens is a family business and has grown to become a premier West Coast display garden, while maintaining the gracious traditions of the past. Today the Gardens has established an international reputation for its year round display of flower-

ing plants. Each year over 1,000,000 bedding plants in some 700 varieties are used throughout the Gardens to ensure uninterrupted bloom from March through October. Well over a million people visit each year, enjoying not only the floral beauty, but the entertainment and lighting displays presented each summer and Christmas. You can read more about Butchart Gardens at http://www.butchartgardens.com











Native Plant Society of Texas Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter

On Tuesday December 13, 2011 Joe and Pat Turner will present a program about Cacti and related desert plants. They are involved in the study of desert plants of the Big Bend area. The Guadalupe County Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Marion Library, 500 Bulldog Lane, Marion.

There will be a plant/seed exchange and welcome time at 6:30pm followed by the program at 7:00pm. It is open to the public and we welcome visitors. For more information, directions to the Marion Library or membership applications contact our website at http://www.npsot.org.guadalupecounty.

INTERNET CLASSES

<u>Earth-Kind Drought Preparedness.</u> Go to: http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/drought/ go through the entire section and complete and submit the On-line Evaluation to earn 2 Continuing Education Hours.

Earthkind classes are available at http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/

AgriLife is now charging \$10 to take the Tomato 101 class found at https://agrilifevents.tamu.edu/events/details.cfm?id=641 but it is well worth it.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Although GCMG policy is that you may not take over 3 credits a calendar year for on line courses, the board voted that, in this instance, we can take an additional 2 CEU's over and above the 3 CEU limit for on line courses for the Earthkind Drought Preparedness.

Gardening Events

The Southern Region MG Conference May 1-4, 2012

Natchez, MS

More information at http://msucares.com/srmg

December 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 9 am Red Barn Workday	3 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
4	5 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON GREEN TEAM 9 am	6 9 am GCCG Workday	7	8 GCMG Board Meeting	9 9 am Red Barn Workday	10 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m. GCCG Workday 9 AM O Full Moon
11	12 Master Gardener Office/Library	13 GCCG Workday	14	15 GCMG Social 7 PM	16 9 am Red Barn Workday	17 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
18	19 Master Gardener Office/Library GREEN TEAM 9 am	20 GCCG Workday	21	22	23 9 am Red Barn Workday	24 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 Newsletter Deadline	27 GCCG Workday	28	29	30 9 am Red Barn Workday	NEW YEARS EVE!



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

GCMG Officers & Board of Directors

George Ammermann
Bob Davis
President
President Elect
Vice President
Sandy Foss
Secretary
Bob Teweles
Treasurer

Linda Bruno Education Chairman
Peggy Jones Publication Chairman
Carol Calentine Volunteer Chairman
Jose Antonio Contreras MG Training Chairman

Travis Franke *Agri*LIFE Agent

Master Gardener Coordinator

Christmas Social Thurs, December 15th, 2011, 6-10 P.M.

St John's Lutheran Church FM 465, Marion, 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.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor (elaine@tindomorgans.com)

Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener