



# The Guadalupe Gardener



December 2012

TEXAS A&M  
**AGRILIFE**  
Extension Service

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



## REFLECTIONS

As we close the door on another year, I want to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and endless hours in fostering the mission of the Master Gardener organization and a special thanks to Gail Johnson for her astute observations in helping navigate the mine fields. While great strides have been made in many areas, new goals and objectives still lay ahead. The 2013 President, Peggy Jones, is a very articulate lady who will provide the necessary leadership for continued success in the horticulture educational programs and other organizational venues.

The class coordinator, Jose Contreras, and his volunteers have done an outstanding job the past two years in certifying students and promoting the growth of the organization. Many of these new members, with their enthusiasm and new ideas, are accepting roles of responsibility and leadership.

During this holiday season, may you and your families have a safe and blessed Christmas and a successful and Happy New Year.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

CHANGE YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOU  
CHANGE THE WORLD. Harold McAlindon,  
Writer

Bob Davis, President

*Santa's making a list and checking it twice.  
He's gonna find out which Master Gardener  
Has been naughty or nice!  
So sharpen your tools and clean your rake,  
Please turn in your volunteer hours for Dale's sake!  
Spruce yourself up  
and prepare your favorite holiday dish.  
Please come to the Christmas Social  
and share a garden wish.  
by Master Gardener Debbie Lowe*

The Christmas Social is just around the corner on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. So please mark your calendars and RSVP to Peggy Jones at [pljones@swbell.net](mailto:pljones@swbell.net) or 210 649-4002. We look forward to a grand time. There will be raffle items to raise funds for the George Ammermann Education Fund. Music and Graduation of our MG Class 24. Blue Santa will be visiting to pick up our unwrapped toys. The Christian Cupboard will look forward to our nonperishable food donations too. Merry Christmas and Ho! Ho! Ho!

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# Association News

## NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM



The Guadalupe County Master Gardener's November Program was an overview of the newly established Junior Master Gardener Program. Lo-Ra Dick introduced the other 3 presenters and explained they would set up four stations where GCMG members could rotate to learn more about the program in 15 minute sessions.



Iris Seale presented ideas on how to promote the program to teachers and encourage them to participate in the program, trying to show how to incorporate gardening into the class curriculum with little disruption to the schedule. She also shared some of her experiences in teaching square foot gardening.



Ellen Laubhan presented an on-line resource for the Junior Master Gardener program. She had the program on site and showed how it has been useful in her own gardening. The site is [GrowVeg.com](http://GrowVeg.com). The first 30 Days are free, than there is a \$25 annual subscription charge. The program keeps records, has information on planting related to the gardener's specific planting area, information on companion plants, spacing and time to plant.



Mary Real presented information on the square foot gardening program. She is looking for volunteers to help build the demonstration four foot raised garden bed to take to the schools as an example and square foot packets for the students. The packets give ideas of what to plant from one tomato plant to 16 carrots in one square foot.

Lo-Ra Dick talked about the curriculum for the Junior Master Gardener Program. Lo-Ra explained this program can be tailored for students of all ages and all skill levels from the gifted to those with learning disabilities.

All were very enthusiastic about the program.

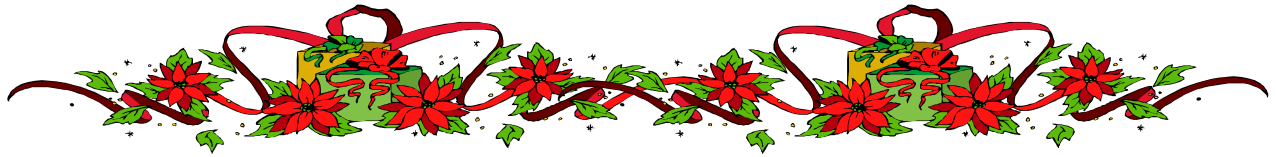
Article and photos submitted by Sandy Foss

Photos top to bottom: LoRa Dick, Iris Seale, Ellen Laubhan, Mary Real

**The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association**

Is a

**VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION**



## **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners**

### **Christmas Social**

Friday, December 14, 2012  
6:30 pm

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church  
305 N. King, Seguin

**Who:** Members and Spouse/Guest

**What:** Pot Luck Dinner – Turkey/Baked Ham  
provided by GCMG

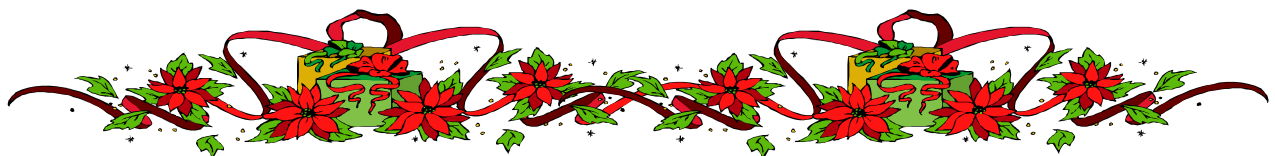
Please bring appetizers, side dishes, salads, vegetables, desserts or bread/rolls

**Why:** Mix and mingle with fellow gardeners

**We will be collecting nonperishable food for the Christian Cupboard, and unwrapped toys for the Blue Santa program if you wish to contribute.**

Help will be needed with set up and clean up.

Please contact Peggy Jones at 210 649-4002 or [pljones@swbell.net](mailto:pljones@swbell.net)



## New Officers

The Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Association has newly elected officers. At the November meeting, the following officers were voted in. Their terms begin in January. They will certainly all need everyone's help, and I'm sure they would appreciate your thanks too.

President:	Peggy Jones
Past President:	Bob Davis
President Elect	Helen Griffith
Vice President:	Jeff McKee
Treasurer:	Cindy Waechter
Secretary	Pat Schultze

## TMGA Directors

Bob Davis appointed **Dave Elder** to a term of 2 years as Director to the TMGA and **Cindy Martin** to fill the unexpired term vacated by the death of George Ammermann. More hardworking members who need your thanks!

## Class 24

Another Master Gardener class will be graduating at our Christmas Social. At the November meeting Arnold Truax gave a report on the classes that Class 24 has had since the last member meeting, including Plant Pathology, Earthkind, Herbs & Heirlooms, Propagation, Vegetable Gardening, Fruit Trees, Worm Composting, Firewise, Rain Water Harvesting and Drip Irrigation. He and all the other members of Class 24 are already working hard on volunteer hours and immersing themselves in the work of the GCMG. Welcome them with open arms. Jose Contreras and Romelia Escamilla have done another masterful job coordinating this class.

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### Thank You Class 24 Test Graders

Jose Contreras, Class 23 Coordinator, asked us each week in class "What are you going to do for Class 24?" I'd like to send a big shout out to six Class 23 members who accepted the Class 24 challenge. Thank you to Dave Elder, Mary Real, Mary Styblo, Ellen Laubhan, Debbie Real, and Linda Waite for grading Class 24's weekly student tests. Their volunteer service relieved the Assistant Class Coordinator of this responsibility and provided positive feedback to Class 24 students each week for their hard work. Thanks again to a terrific group of Guadalupe County Master Gardeners for a job well done.

Cindy Waechter, Assistant Class Coordinator, GCMG Class 24

## HortUpdate Newsletter

This website <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/newsletters/hortupdate/2012/oct/> will direct you to some enlightening gardening information from Aggie Horticulture. If you would love to receive gardening updates and information, the HortUpdate Newsletter from Texas A&M may be for you. Just sign up by following the instructions as directed below.

HORTUPDATE is designed as a source of information for Texas AgriLife Extension Service County Extension Agents and Specialists to utilize in local news releases and as part of their educational programs across Texas, but will also appeal to gardeners and plant-lovers of all kinds, especially those interested in growing plants under the tough conditions of Texas and the Southern United States. Our information is oriented for Texas gardeners and Texas conditions, and utilizes Earth-Kind® concepts.

Each issue includes a monthly checklist for suggested garden activities along with articles on gardening topics and profiles of plants especially suitable for Texas and the South. Another feature of the publication is information about forthcoming educational opportunities sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service. Dr. William C. Welch and Dr. Douglas F. Welsh, both Extension Horticulturists in the Department of Horticultural Sciences at Texas A&M University, share editorial responsibilities for the newsletter. Articles from County Extension Agents (Horticulture), and Specialists in related disciplines are welcome and encouraged.

### Join the Mailing List

To join the LISTSERV mailing list, send an email to [listserv@listserv.tamu.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.tamu.edu) with the following command as a single line in the body of the message:

subscribe hortupdate Firstname Lastname

where Firstname and Lastname is your real name.

No "Subject" is required. You do not need to include your email address in your message. LISTSERV automatically uses the address from your email.



## FUTURE PROGRAMS

Jan 17 - **Proper Tree Trimming.** Paul Johnson will be the presenter. Paul is a member of the Texas A&M Forest Service. Paul is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Board Certified Master Arborist and Municipal Specialist. He serves as V.P. of the Texas Chapter of ISA and has been elected to the ISA Board of Directors.

Feb 21 - **Drip Irrigation for Raised Bed Gardening.** Ron Csehil will be the presenter. Ron is a member of Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, 2012 Board Member of GVST, and a Bexar County Master Gardener.

Mar 21 - **The Role of the Bumble Bee in Nature.** The presenter will be Michael Warriner. Michael is a member of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

## Refreshments

The November Master Gardener monthly meeting refreshments were provided by: Pat Schultze, Marilyn Moltz, Judy Stanley, Peggy Jones, Betty Hughes, Polly Ruppert, Iris Seale, and Ellen Laubhan. Thank you all for bringing the wonderful food that was enjoyed by all. There will not be a monthly meeting in December, but please join your fellow Master Gardeners at the Christmas Social. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

Sincerely; Treva Hicks , Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator, [hicks1t@lycos.com](mailto:hicks1t@lycos.com)

### 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 [gailjohnson@earthlink.net](mailto:gailjohnson@earthlink.net) .

### TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG. Email [jlbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jlbruno@gvec.net) for further information.

### Green Team



The Green Team welcomes Jim Rand!! Jim is in the current class and will be a great asset to our team.

Hughlene Micheli

### Join the Master Gardeners Every Saturday Morning on the Radio!!!!

**Guest speakers for November included: Deedy Wright; Gene Griffin; Marilyn Anderson; Larry Taylor; and Mike and Melissa Poole from Blue Lotus Winery of Seguin.**

### November Meeting

Arnold Truax won the raffle and LoRa Dick won the door prize.

## Speakers Bureau

October 23, 2012 - Iris Seale gave a Jr. Master Gardening workshop to 59 kids and 120 adults at the La Vernia Primary School "Health Night Event".

October 27, 2012 - Peggy Jones gave a seminar on "How to Grow Roses" at the San Antonio Rose Show. She had 15 people attend.

November 20, 2012 - Nancy Masterson spoke to the Nogales Garden Club on Attracting Birds to your Garden. There were 13 people present.

Treva Hicks, Speakers Bureau Coordinator, [hicks1t@lycos.com](mailto:hicks1t@lycos.com)



## Chinese Pistache

by David Rodriguez, Bexar County Horticulture Agent

As we all know, "Fall is for Planting" and this is the ideal time to plant that next tree for future generations. If you are looking for a good quality, reasonably fast growing and wonderful fall colored tree, please do consider planting a **Chinese Pistache**. The Chinese Pistache is also a Texas Superstar selection: <http://www.texassuperstar.com/plants/pistache/index.html>. However, there are some folks out there that are downgrading it because female selections are supposedly aggressive on seed distribution and potentially have some invasive characteristics. Well if this is a concern, then the answer would be to plant a male sterile selection which has been grafted to alleviate the potential of berry drop or distribution of future generations throughout unwanted areas of the state. Similar to what was done with the introduction of the Fan-Tex Ash. Fan-Tex is a cultivar of *Fraxinus velutina* (Arizona ash). Rather, Fan-Tex is a "sport", or mutant form, of ash that was selected and developed by Fanick's Garden Center in San Antonio for its different leaf type - its leaves are smooth; whereas the regular *F. velutina* leaves are somewhat fuzzy on the underside. There is, however, great variety in the texture of the leaves of this species. Additionally, Fan-Tex apparently has a thicker leaf and is sterile (producing no seeds). It is always grafted onto *Fraxinus velutina*.

So, if you have the time and space to add a wonderful tree addition to your landscape, please consider a 'Keith Davey' Chinese Pistache tree.

[http://www.lecooke.com/Images/Shades/Pistache/Keith\\_Davey\\_Chinese\\_Pistache%28RGB%29.pdf](http://www.lecooke.com/Images/Shades/Pistache/Keith_Davey_Chinese_Pistache%28RGB%29.pdf).

## M E M B E R S I N S E R V I C E

### Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder

One Year Term - Cindy Martin

### 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

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 24 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

## GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN

On November 1st there was a planning meeting to talk about the future of the garden. On November 10th there was a Saturday workday. There were 5 juvenile offenders at the workday to move and distribute mulch. So far this year the garden has provided 3,000 pounds of food to the food bank from its 16 beds. The garden volunteers hope to build 4 more beds this spring but at the present they have all the beds that the current volunteer force can manage. Commissioner Wolverton will be opening the garden every morning and closing it at night so that members can work any day. For a tour of the garden and the code to the gate, members can contact Ann Odvody, 830-914-3593 or e-mail her at [odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net).

### Guadalupe County Community Garden - Updates from Ann Odvody

Because the weather is getting colder, we are going back to our winter start time of 9:00 am. This will be effective Thursday, 1 Nov 2012.

11/1 - Pleasant start to the morning until we lost the cloud cover and it really warmed up. Dale, Mary, Pat and I harvested the produce. Pat's husband Ray sprayed the weeds with his big sprayer. Thanks, Ray! Our best efforts at hand pulling just were not working. We picked the first of our salad greens today and Mary and I sure do like the new stand-up bed.-so do our backs. We need two or three more of them. The harvest for today weighed in at 46 pounds 1 ounce. So far this year we have sent 3,043 pounds 13 ounces to the food bank.

11/6 - Quick update on yesterday's harvest efforts. The group brought in 52 pounds 6 ounces of produce. That brings the total donated for the year to 3,096 pounds 3 ounces. There is a good variety of vegetables in the garden at this time of year. Hope to clear out the okra beds on the Saturday work day and get them prepared for the onion sets that I have been told would be in the nursery on 15 Nov.

11/8 - We had a really great turnout! There were ten of us harvesting, weighing and weeding. Pat from Class 24 joined us and we were glad to have her helping. The total for today was 33 pounds. So far this year, the total is 3,129 pounds 3 ounces. It is a nice time of year to be gardening and we would enjoy having you join us for the Saturday workday, 10 Nov 2012, starting at 8:30 a.m.

11/12 - It was very cool in the garden and we had a stiff wind blowing. Dale, Mary, Terri and I got the harvesting done as quickly as possible. We brought in 42 pounds of produce, giving us 3,171 pounds 3 ounces for the year. This fall we have seen tomato production that far exceeds anything we have ever gotten from the garden previously and we have done nothing different. We plant and tend, but Mother Nature determines the results. Thanks to all the folks that came out for the Saturday work day. Thanks to Korean, John and Joshua for helping us old folks get the okra beds cleared..you made it look easy. As soon as they are available, our next project will be planting onion sets.

11/15&19 - Harvesting is going very well. On Thursday, 15 Nov, the produce picked came in at 29 pounds 6 ounces. Yesterday, 19 Nov, was even better at 49 pounds 13 ounces. Our total for the year is 3,250 pounds 6 ounces. Tomatoes, cabbage and butternut squash are the heavier producers. There will not be a workday this Thursday. Hope to see you in the garden Monday.-time to plant onions!

11/26 - Foggy this morning. Terri harvested 45 pounds 9 ounces of produce, bringing the total to 3,295 pounds 15 ounces for the year. Dale started the onion planting. That chore will continue for several weeks.



## Garden Beds at the Extension Office



Photos by Clara Mae Marcotte

Look at the Forsythia Sage blooming in amongst our yaupon at the Extension office. Unless our members come by in November during the day they don't get to see this.

## Rose Researcher Seeks Public Input to Sniff Out Best Traits

Roses are red ... and pink and white and yellow, to name a few. But a rose breeder with Texas A&M AgriLife Research wants to hear from enthusiasts about what colors and other traits in the popular garden flower are desired. To that end, Dr. David Byrne is seeking input on a brief survey that ultimately will help him develop new varieties with the most sought-after traits.

Rose breeding research is led by Dr. David Byrne on the Texas A&M University campus. "We need help from rose enthusiasts to understand what is needed in a rose," said Byrne, who holds the Bayse Chair in Rose Breeding at Texas A&M. "I have worked with the Rose Hybridizer Association to develop a survey about the use and preferences for roses to help us understand what the priorities should be." Byrne asks rose enthusiasts – or those interested in ornamental plants in general – to complete the 15-minute survey. The survey can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/Ujzek0>. "The more responses that we can get, the better our conclusions," he said.

Byrne especially seeks responses from the younger generation (those under 50 years old). He suggested that links to the survey be posted on personal Facebook pages or other social media formats to encourage participation.

More information about AgriLife Research rose breeding can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/tamuroses>.

## Order Holiday Poinsettias Now!!



Once again, Bexar County Master Gardeners are selling holiday poinsettias. The plants are large, beautiful, and amazingly long lasting, and the proceeds benefit our scholarship fund.

Large poinsettias, priced at \$14 each, are available in four colors (red, white, maroon, variegated), and small (5") plants for \$5 are available in red. We have a **very limited** supply of some colors, so **ORDER NOW!** to assure your choice. All plants must be pre-ordered and pre-paid. Order deadline is December 3. Pick up is December 7 or 8 at the BCMG office. Order forms are in the November *Scion*. <http://www.bexarcountymastergardeners.org/scion-newsletter>

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities December

**December 14th. Guadalupe County Master Gardener Christmas Social** at the First Presbyterian Church, 305 North King, Seguin. Need volunteers to help set up and tear down. Need Volunteers to help bring various foods and desserts on the sign-up sheet. Meat will be provided.



There are volunteer hours available to work at the Community Garden and to make exhibit boxes for the Junior Master Gardener program. Also on Friday mornings members can work at the Big Red Barn.

Jan 22 - Feb 27 - San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo - to volunteer see article on page 8 of November issue.

Thanks to Jeri Doyle for the wonderful gift baskets for the County Fair.

### WANTED!

Newsletter assistant to pick up hard copies from the Ag Office the last working day of the month and address and mail them to those GCMGs without internet access. There are 10 to 12 copies that need to be mailed. Starting in January. Please contact Elaine McIntyre, Editor 210-391-4531 or [elaine@tindomorgans.com](mailto:elaine@tindomorgans.com). You get hours for this!!!!



**Big Bend National Park, Texas**



Big Bend National Park is located in far west Texas. It covers more than 800,000 acres, varies in elevation from less than 1,800 feet to nearly 8,000 feet and its southwestern border is the Rio Grande River. This large park offers a variety of things to see and do for its visitors. During the spring local outfitters offer white water rafting and an opportunity to see Big Bend from the Rio Grande River. If it has been a wet winter or spring, there are a variety of

flowers, cacti, yucca, trees and much more (over 1,500 types of plants thrive in the park).

The park offers paved drives with lots of scenic overlooks, gravel and 4x4 vehicle roads, many hiking trails with all levels of ability. Backpacking is offered as well as ranger led walks and hikes. You can tent camp, RV camp or stay in one of the rooms at the lodge. Bird watching can be done anywhere in the park. The park has very well marked trails and roads with books describing the geological, historical, and desert plant guides.

The park had been in a 2 year drought, but began to receive rain this summer and fall. We went in October and there were many flowers blooming. Most of the yucca flowers were dried and the cacti also were finished blooming. The weather was beautiful (most visitors go in spring or fall - the busiest time is winter) with clear night skies full of stars. Located close by is Big Bend Ranch State Park, Lajitas, Terlingua, Marfa, Alpine, Davis Mountains State Park and McDonald Observatory. We stayed there 4 nights and hope to go back some spring.





# GARDENING EVENTS

**Take the Earth-Kind challenge** at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/> and learn how Earth-Kind your landscape is.

**Looking for local gardening and landscaping information?**

Go to: <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/programs/earth-kind-horticulture/>

## Flying WILD

Saturday, December 1, 2012, 8:30am - 3:30pm  
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, 10750 Pleasanton Rd, San Antonio

Are you a classroom teacher or environmental educator? Do you work or volunteer for a nature or conservation organization or group? Do you facilitate other environmental education programs? Then the Flying WILD Program is for YOU! Flying WILD makes it easy to educate students about conservation using birds as the vehicle. Help reconnect kids with nature and build science skills! Flying WILD provides interdisciplinary activities and environmental education for educators to help students excel academically with a program that engages students in real inquiry while meeting national science standards. Formal educators receive 7 CEU credits. Flying WILD materials provide interactive, interdisciplinary, standards-based activities to help students understand the importance of migratory birds and their conservation. Educators learn how to conduct WILD lessons and participate in hands-on activities from the activity guide, which teaches basic biology, identification, ecology, and bird conservation and service learning activities.

Workshop Fee: \$20. To register, contact: Mandy Corso: [mcorso@audubon.org](mailto:mcorso@audubon.org) or (210-628-1639)  
Flying WILD is a program of the Council for Environmental Education. [www.flyingwild.org](http://www.flyingwild.org)

## Fall Tool Workshop

Saturday, December 8, 2012 - 1 pm to 3 pm  
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

The key to gardening success is having the right tool for the job - and learning how to take care of your tools year-round. As we head into winter, now is the perfect time to learn how to sharpen, clean and store your gardening tools. With the proper care your tools will last for many, many years!

\$5 per person (includes sharpening of 2 SMALL tools - hand clippers, etc) Each additional tool sharpened for \$3 each

To RSVP : (210) 628-1639 or [mlac@audubon.org](mailto:mlac@audubon.org)

## Pecan Day

December 1, 2012 • 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. • Helton Nature Park

Come join the San Antonio River Authority in celebrating Pecan Day at Helton Nature Park. Pecan Day will feature a variety of fun, family friendly activities geared at exploring the beautiful Helton Nature Park. Join us for a chance to gather fresh, native pecans right off the ground to take home in a provided container! Learn about the pecan harvesting industry and equipment and come TASTE SOME NATIVE PECANS!

The event starts at 9:00 AM and there are no reservations required. Bring your friends and your family! For more information contact Josef Kaul at [jkaul@sara-tx.org](mailto:jkaul@sara-tx.org).

Please come prepared for walking in the outdoors and bring water! If you cannot attend this guided walk, please visit the park at your convenience or watch for future Guided Nature Walks hosted by the San Antonio River Authority.

# EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

## San Antonio Botanical Gardens Rain Barrel Workshop

Saturday, December 8 from 9 am - 12 pm

Rainwater harvesting is an innovative approach to capturing free water. You can save money by collecting and storing rainwater and using it to irrigate your trees, shrubs and flower beds, or to provide water to pets, birds, or other wildlife. Join County Extension Agent Bryan Davis, and Master Gardeners Lou Kellogg and Mary Fernandez to learn about rainwater collection for the home and landscape and make your own rain barrel to take home. Limit 30. To register, please contact Sasha Kodet at [210.207.3270](tel:210.207.3270) or [sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov](mailto:sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov). Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 5, 2012. Fee: \$55.

## Backyard Gardening Series: "Growing Herbs: It's as easy as 1-2-3"

Dec 4 (Tues) 6:30-8:30 pm

3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208, San Antonio

Herbs can be fun and easy to grow. Come visit with Master Gardener Don Crites and Horticulturist David Rodriguez to learn about selecting and growing herbs that can complement your garden. This is a great training for that backyard gardener, community garden person or that small acreage producer. Registration fee is \$10 and will be open to the public. For more information, call Angel Torres at [210-467-6575](tel:210-467-6575) or visit <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/>.

## EARTH-KIND LANDSCAPE

Dec 5-6 Tyler Earth-Kind Landscape Workshop  
Dec 10-14 Earth-Kind Landscape Short Course College Station

**Earth-Kind® Landscape Workshop** The Workshop (**Dec 5-6, Tyler**) and Short Course (**Dec 10-14, College Station**) are continuing education programs designed for professionals responsible for managing and maintaining urban green space such as residential landscape, parks, commercial properties and golf courses. The course will also benefit municipalities, schools and city water utility personnel, particularly those interested in developing sustainable urban landscape conservation programs. Both programs have been approved for **TNLA and TDA CEUs**. Participants are not required to attend the entire short course to receive CEU credits for the sessions they attend.

Check <http://greenviion.wordpress.com/earth-kind-education-events/> for more details and **registration forms**.

## Master Gardener Specialist Training Update

For information on specialist training, see listings on the TMGA website <http://txmq.org/for-members/specialist-training-2010/>

## Herbal Vinegar – So Simple

Courtesy of Cindy Meridith & The Herb Cottage

What tastes good, has only two calories per tablespoon and is easy to prepare?

Herbal vinegars offer all this and more. They add flavor to salads, marinades, and sauces.

Start by picking (or buying) your herbs and washing in cool water. Lay them on paper towels and allow to air dry.

The basic recipe calls for 1 cup fresh herbs to 2 cups vinegar. Use either red or white wine, cider or rice vinegar. (You can use white vinegar, but the final product will have a sharper taste.)

Place the dry herbs in a wide-mouth jar, bruise herbs with a spoon and add the vinegar. Cap, shake a little and store in a cool, dark place for 4 to 6 weeks. Check the taste after processing by placing a teaspoon of vinegar on some bread (French is nice). If you like the taste, you are ready to strain the vinegar. If the taste isn't strong enough, let it steep another week or so, and try it again.

To strain the vinegar, use a funnel and coffee filter and pour through until all bits and pieces are strained out. That's it! Pour into a clean, decorative bottle and add a few sprigs of herbs to decorate and you have just made a real taste treat.

Note: Make sure the cap on your bottle is cork or plastic – not metal. A metal cap will ruin your vinegar. You can put a paper towel or some plastic wrap or wax paper under the cap, if necessary.

Here are some herbal combinations that work well together. By the end of summer, you'll be inventing your own "designer vinegar":

chives, dill, parsley

basil and thyme

garlic chives, lemon grass, lemon thyme

salad burnet, garlic chives parsley

parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme




garlic chives, lemon grass

dill, chives



# December 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
2	3 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30—NOON  GCCG Workday 9 am	4	5	6  GCCG Workday 9 am	7  Red Barn 8 am	8 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.  GCCG Workday.
9	10 Master Gardener Office/Library  GCCG Workday	11	12	13 GCCG Workday  GCMG Board Mtg 6 PM  ● NEW MOON	14  Red Barn  <b>GCMG Christmas Social 6:30 pm</b>	15 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
16	17 Master Gardener Office/ Library  GCCG Workday	18	19	20  GCCG Workday	21  Red Barn	22 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.
23	24  GCCG Workday	25 CHRISTMAS!  	26  Newsletter Deadline	27  GCCG Workday	28  Red Barn  O FULL MOON	29 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.
30	31 NEW YEARS EVE  			<b>Happy New Year!</b>		



**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 Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension <http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/> 830-379-1972  
Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

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### **December Christmas Social**

**Fri, December 14, 2012, 6:30 P.M.**

*AgriLIFE Extension Building  
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx*

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