



The Guadalupe Gardener

December 2014

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

President's Corner 2014

This will be my last President's Corner so it is natural for me to reminisce on the past year and thank all those members who have contributed to this year's effort. There are so many people to recognize for their outstanding individual contributions this year that I have written my numerous Thank-Yous in a separate article in this newsletter.

Perhaps I am not a good judge of our Guadalupe Co. Master Gardener program this year, but I think we had a good year with both strong contributions to continuing endeavors and exciting new projects. Member participation in Ellen's January survey was exceptional and resulted in adopting the Consent Agenda and influencing this year's meeting CE topics. We moved our meetings to the Justice Center but attendance was still up significantly!

We fulfilled our mission by conducting four gardening programs and Class 26, collecting over \$1100 in recovery fees for A&M AgriLife. Our members were very supportive at Earth Day, Water Fairs, the County Fair, Red Barn Gardens, the GC Community Garden, LaVernia Primary School, and many other projects. The Volunteer Management System has been well received by most members and a Lunch & Learn program was instituted for members and the public.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you this year. Thank you for all you have done for GCMGs and please read my Thank-You article. As I look forward to handing over our gavel to Jose Contreras at our Holiday Social, I know we are in good hands and ask that you support Jose and next year's Board with the energy and devotion you have shown this year. Happy Holidays!

Bob Teweles

DECEMBER SOCIAL

See page 4



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Association News

November Meeting Program Nitrogen

Legumes in our Landscape; Beyond Bluebonnets



Dr. Kelly Lyons from Trinity University presented the November education session for the GCMG. Dr. Lyons has a PhD in biology and has studied and researched extensively nitrogen in the soil. Her topic, “Legumes in our Landscape; Beyond Bluebonnets”

Dr. Lyons presented a slide show explaining the importance of nitrogen in growing plants. She stated although the atmosphere is 78% nitrogen, it has a very strong bond making it very difficult to break down so it is usable in our soil and by our plants. Nitrogen is critical to the makeup of essential amino acids and DNA assembly for growing plants.

Nitrogen fixing is breaking the bonds. Legume plants have a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen where they incorporate the nitrogen into the plant and break it down so it is usable in other plants. She stressed the legumes must go full growth cycle and breakdown and compost into the soil to actually make the nitrogen available to other plants. Some examples of plant types she recommended included alder, rosaceae, liverwort, horn warts and cycads. A native plant she identified for the area was buckhorn. For gardeners she recommended zero till to maintain the nitrogen fixing bacteria in the soil and hold the water and nutrients. She discussed briefly and displayed a map of the over use of nitrogen throughout the world.

To reach Dr. Lyons if you have questions you can google Trinity University San Antonio Kelly Lyons. She invited members to see the grass display at the University, which has a large sample of both native and other grasses.

Article submitted by Sandy Foss, Photo by Marvin “T” Taylor

FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 15 – Networking Sessions – speakers will be from the GCMG Specialists and from the GCMG Speakers Bureau

February 19 – Pat Mokry will talk on Identifying Plant Diseases, and Keeping Plants Healthy

Welcome to our 2015 GCMG Newly Elected Officers

President: Jose Contreras

President Elect: Marvin Borth

Vice President: Cynthia Lyssy (Chairman of the Program Committee)

Treasurer: Jim Johnson

Secretary: Welta Burris

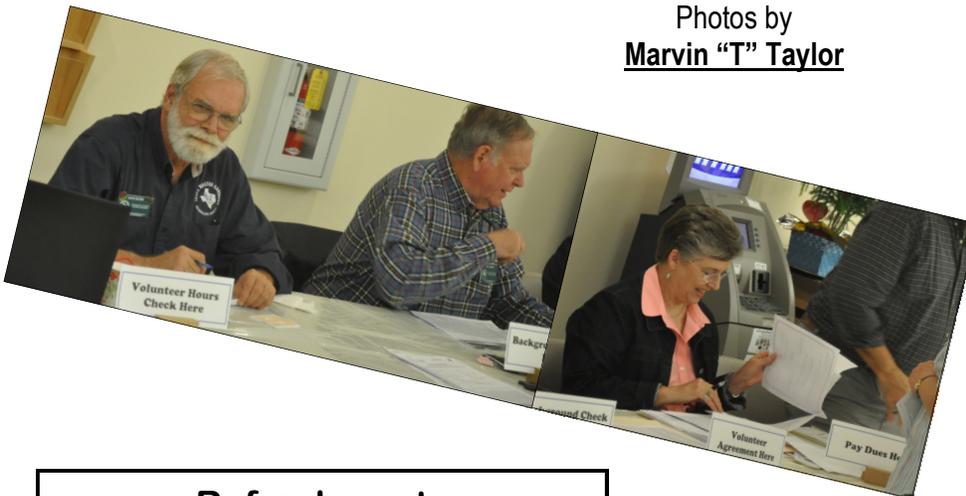
Newly Elected TMGA Director and Alternate Director

There is a Director and Alternate Position open. Dave Elder was re-elected as TMGA Director. No one volunteered to become the Alternate. Now is the time for YOU to step up to the plate as the Alternate.

November Meeting



Photos by
Marvin "T" Taylor



November Meeting Winners

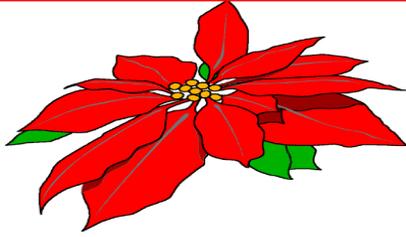
Peggy Jones won \$34 in the 50/50 raffle. Ellen Laubhan won the \$10 nursery gift certificate door prize. Fanick's donated two peach trees – the winners of the trees were Jose Contreras and Debra Elia.

Refreshments

Thanks to Jerilyn Preston, Ruby Peoples, Betty Hughes, Beth Zies, Dean Webb, Jose Contreras, Ramonita Cardona, Bob Teweles, Joyce Briscoe, Treva Hicks and everyone else who brought all of the great food that we all enjoyed at the monthly meeting.

Submitted by, Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator.





You and a guest are invited

To the

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners,

Of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Christmas - Holiday Social

Thursday December 18, 2014

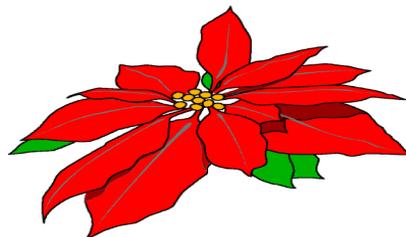
6:30 - 9:00 PM

The Red Barn, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin

Turkey and Ham will be provided

Members are asked to bring a Side Dish

Please join us



Aha Moments from Class 26 Members

My name is Laura Dylla and I am from Wilson county and the LaVernia area. I grew up in Karnes county on the Cibolo Creek near Cestohowa black land river bottom and moved to Wilson County and sandy land hills - very much different. I was excited to take the Master Gardener class as I had been looking for a chance to do this class for a long time. I have enjoyed the lessons and all the speakers and the huge amount of great reference info in the study books and handouts.

I learned that there are many ways to do things and teachers have different preferences. There were quite a few AHA moments but the most recent teacher, Nancy Masterson, really opened my eyes about trees and how to plant and care for them. Dr Larry Stein and Ms Masterson both were strong advocates of how to plant and care for fruit, nut and shade trees, and they differed about size of hole in which to put tree, reasons for a wide hole and a narrow one, reasons for pruning and other areas. But Ms Masterson really woke up my interest in how to correctly plant, prune and train a tree for a lifetime of enjoyment. I saw quite a few instances already where I unknowingly performed pruning and branch cutting incorrectly that would possibly lead to death of my trees, not now but in future years.

I am looking forward to using the lessons learned from Ms Masterson and other teachers in the master gardener class in my work with children at LaVernia Primary schools square foot gardens, for my own personal gardens, for teaching my grandchildren, and for future use with the Keep LaVernia Beautiful program of which I am a proud founding member of the board.

Thank you, Laura Dylla. 210 413 1133

Class 26 Class Report

Here is what has been all abuzz for this November for all you garden fans.

This week Molly Keck gave a great presentation and brought examples of the pesky insects. I learned some excellent tips from Molly Keck for managing your plant's life. If you have holes in the plant leaves you might have a grasshopper, caterpillar or beetle problem. Fret not there is an easy solution for this. All you have to do is get in there and move the leaves around and you will find them. The more hands you get to help you pinch the insects, the more vegetables you will have. That is the best pesticide. Like the cosmic universe there is light and dark. There are also good insects that help nurture the plant and there are also insects that hurt the plant. We also found out we had been killing insects in a very slow manner when using soapy water. So, Stop, don't smash your friends that are helpful to your garden! Yay Molly!



Larry Stein gave us so much fruitful information. We found out that we can trade in our VW knowledge for Cadillac knowledge. We can't wait for mid January to plant our sticks. Yes folks, I said sticks! We need to buy a \$30 dollar tree and cut it down to \$15, which gives you a stick to plant in the ground. Now (according to the type of fruit tree you choose because each fruit tree has specific requirements) once you have chose your tree, the tree goes in the ground. You water, fertilize and wait two years for your fruit tree to produce your bounty for all the care you have provided your tree. Larry was gracious enough to give us the specific varieties that do well in our area. Thank you Larry!

Voila! We can now join the "tree hugger" Nancy Masterson club. We now know how to plant a tree "correctly". Take a 360 view of your tree and check your "Red Zone". We can now give a presentation on the makeup of a tree with, whistling roots, heartwood heart thumps, slurping of the sapwood, small Chihuahuas of the Cambium and a large Bark dog of the outer bark. And, last but not least please, please let your tree die with dignity. It provides a service for other walks of life even as it dies.

We had our Thanksgiving feast with a plentiful bounty with all the fixing including a Turducken!

Blessings to you and yours for a festive Christmas!

Cynthia Leos- Class 26, photo by Sandy Foss

“Water” Day at a Class 26 session

1. Marla Miller and Bree Meyers chat while eyeing goodies. 2. Dave Elder, class coordinator, introduces Liz Romero to talk about water gardens. 3. Dave Elder surrounded by Class 26 Members as he talks about assembling a rain barrel to capture rain. 4. Dave Elder shows off a barrel he uses to make his presentations about assembling rain barrels. 5. Laura Dylla asks Dave Elder for clarification about making rain barrels. 6. Jim Johnson makes a point during his presentation about assembling drip irrigation systems.

Information and photos by **Bob Cox**



Class 26 Thanksgiving Pot Luck Lunch

Class 26 had a terrific Thanksgiving Pot Luck Lunch and presentation on trees by Nancy Masterson on November 19th. Not only was there TurDuckEn, Turkey and Ham but after that a whole lot of slurping and barking going on.-.you'll have to ask someone who was there!



Article & photos submitted by **Mary Styblo**

“Thanks for Your Support” or “Master Gardeners at Work”

by Bob Teweles

I would like to thank everyone who has supported GCMG this year – but how to do that without leaving out some deserving members? First a thank-you to all of you who cared enough about Master Gardeners to recertify and pay your dues for this year! I know that sometimes “Life Happens” and we can’t do all that we planned, but perhaps next year? Hopefully you will recertify for 2015.

Teachers are special and I hold our teachers in high esteem because they educate others to be better gardeners. Deedy Wright, Clara Mae Marcotte, Kathy Carroll, Jim Johnson, Dave Elder, Liz Romero, Jose Contreras and Nancy Masterson have all taught one or more adult classes which are special because the students attended voluntarily! Cindy Waechter and Dave Elder, with the help of Mary Styblo, were our Training Coordinators for Class 26 – the best class ever presented! We expanded our school classes this year with Water Fairs, Big Red Barn garden tours and Cibolo Ag Days led by Lo-Ra Dick. Iris Seale and her crew contributed hundreds of hours at the LaVernia Primary School gardens. I apologize that I don’t have all the names of the forty or so teachers who conducted these classes but their teaching contributions made a difference and reflected well on the Guadalupe Master Gardeners.

We all are in debt to the eight members of our Board of Directors - Peggy Jones, Pat Schultze, Cindy Waechter, Ellen Laubhan, Penny Wallace, Laurie Brunell and the guys – Dave Elder and Jose Contreras. Working long hours behind the scenes, they have provided us with outstanding continuing education, personal support and leadership. This year has truly been a group effort and all Board Members deserve our thanks. Ellen’s membership survey in January provided many ideas which she followed to provide continuing education programs of interest to our members. Penny Wallace with the help of Jim Johnson and Treva Hicks initiated our Lunch and Learn programs for members who have trouble attending our evening meetings.

Ann and Dale Odvody maintained our volunteer hours through July and then we implemented the TMG Volunteer Management System. Dave Elder and Cindy Waechter managed this transition which allows members to report their own hours. And thanks to the 90 members who have taken advantage of the new program!

Our meetings were held in the Justice Center all through 2014 which required hauling tables and equipment, moving chairs, and more difficult clean-up. Treva Hicks arrived between 5 and 5:30 so we could enjoy food during our Social. Carol Calentine was everywhere, hauling, copying, setting up and seeing to details. Ellen Laubhan was busy setting up for our speakers. And thanks to the chair-movers too.

Cindy Martin courageously volunteered to lead our Earth Day effort and, with Karen Wallock, organized a County Fair program which featured many new innovations such as four “table clinics”. Guadalupe Master Gardeners volunteered over 500 hours at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo under the continued lead of Dale Odvody.

I wish I could clone Betty Hughes. Besides conscientiously running our Master Gardener office, organizing children’s activities at the County Fair and our Christmas Tree decorations, she fed us at every opportunity! What a role model!!!

Gretchen Ricker and Janice Knobles headed a team of a dozen gardeners to keep the Big Red Barn garden looking fertile for tours during Ag Days and Pecan Fest. The Guadalupe County Community Garden has flourished with the help of Ann and Dale Odvody, Mary Bowe and many other members. This year the GCCG hosted several educational events and October’s Garden Fair & Craft. John Lewicki and Kim Darrough organized several work days at Gutierrez Xeriscape Park in Schertz.

I don’t consider myself a bean-counter, but through the power of VMS I am also able to recognize several members not mentioned already who earned over 100 volunteer hours this year, many by their steady work at our gardens, classes and the Master Gardener office. They are: Joyce Briscoe, Welta Burris, Janet Magee, LaVerne McKenney, Katie McLean, Hughlene Micheli, Esther Pinter, Jerilyn Preston, Patty Tyler-White, Terri Vrost – and sorry, but I have probably missed a few.

And finally I would like to recognize Randee Malmsten who has maintained our user-friendly website and Elaine McIntyre who has published this outstanding newsletter – without which you wouldn’t be reading any of this!

With a tear in my eyes and a lump in my throat, I thank every one of you for making a positive difference in our community during 2014.

Ag Life Building - Back to Life

There was a "Ribbon Cutting" for the Extension Building renovations at 11:30 on Friday, November 21st! Mr. Franke asked Master Gardeners to attend and suggested that some light food would be appreciated. The move from Mary B. Erskine school into our new quarters started on Monday, November 24th (see following page for moving photos.).



Photos by **Box Cox & Sandy Foss**



GCMG Office Move



Pictured left to right: Bob Tewelles, Jose Contreras, Deb Elia, John Elia, Mike Chandler, Betty Hughes, Ramonita Cardona, Dillon, grandson of far right Jerilyn Preston.

Photos by **Bob Cox**

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG

Let's All Go to the Park! Park West News

Since June, Guadalupe County Master Gardeners have been part of an affiliation with Nogales Garden Club, Guadalupe Master Naturalists and Guadalupe County Native Plant Society. As participants in the "Nature in Seguin Parks Alliance" (NSPA), some of us have attended Parks Department meetings and City Council meetings to stay informed and to announce by our presence that we are available as advisors and future educational volunteers within the park.

NSPA participants have met to plan and execute Seguin Parks Department approved activities at Park West. This year Master Gardeners have participated in tours of the Park West acreage in July, two invasive species removal workdays in August and a Native Plant Rescue on November 1st.

We have a lot to look forward to as the Park construction phase begins in early 2015. Look for the following activities and opportunities within the next 3 to 6 months:

Additional Invasive Removal days at Park West, Vaughn Street:

Wednesday, December 3, 8:30 – 11:00 am

Saturday, December 13, 8:30 – 11:00 am.

Bring loppers, gloves, and dress for the weather

For more information, contact Liz Romero: fleurromero@gmail.com

Additional Native Plant Rescue days: To be announced

Eagle Scout Projects: Meeting with Scoutmaster planned, results to be announced

Seguin ISD Science Class Projects: Meeting scheduled with teacher, results to be announced

Guided Tours of Park West, Walnut Springs and Starcke Park suggested topics:

Trees and Shrubs of South Texas

Plants and trees that are bird and animal friendly

Native birds and seasonal visitors

Pollinators and their favorite plants

Animals of Guadalupe County

Threatened, endangered or candidate species for Guadalupe County

Soil characteristics in Guadalupe County; how soil is made

Earth Day: Nature tours in the Park(s)

These are exciting times! Lots of new outdoor fun for those of us fortunate enough to be in Guadalupe County during this time of parks development. Lots of opportunities to share our knowledge, talents and passion for learning.

Submitted by Liz Romero, Guadalupe County Master Gardener

KWED Lawn & Garden Show, November 1, 2014



Bob Grafe, master gardener and host, with MG Class 26 Bree Meyers, MG Class 26 Marla Miller, and Master Gardener Carol Calentine.
Photo courtesy [Marla Miller](#)

GCMG Handmade Ornaments for the Christmas Tree

Volunteers Esther Pinter, Ramonita Cardona, Jerilyn Preston and Betty Hughes assembled clever and colorful items at the Master Gardener office for the GCMG Christmas Tree. The GCMG Christmas Tree for the Seguin Christmas Tree Decorating Contest that will be on the Seguin square during the Christmas season is to be decorated Wednesday, December 3rd (see page 18).



Photos by
Bob Cox

November Volunteer Recognition Program

79 Master Gardeners, more than half of our Certified members, have participated in the 2014 Program. Of special note, 4 members have been eligible for the drawing all 11 months; Joyce Briscoe, Joyce Friesenhahn, John Lewicki, and Elaine McIntyre. Another 3 Master Gardeners have qualified every month but one; Mary Bowe, Cynthia Lyssy and Iris Seale. Well done!

46 Master Gardeners qualified in the November Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing. Congratulations to Ann Odvody our November winner. As our November Volunteer, Ann won a \$20 gift certificate to Schulz Nursery. In addition, four other names were drawn for entry into the year-end grand prize drawing for a \$150 gift certificate. They were Welta Burris, Betty Hughes, John Lewicki, and Patricia Tyler-White. To date Cynthia Lyssy has 5 chances in the year-end grand prize drawing. Bob Davis is close behind with 4 chances and John Lewicki and Betty Hughes with 3 chances. 10 Master Gardeners have 2 chances: Welta Burris, Kimberly Darrough, Treva Hicks, Janet Magee, Hughlene Micheli, Gretchen Ricker, Mary Styblo, Pam Turner, Patricia Tyler-White and Karen Wallock. Thanks to all our volunteers for your hard work and effort.

To qualify for the Monthly Volunteer Recognition Program drawing, Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardeners must report a minimum of 5 volunteer and continuing education hours earned during the month in VMS by the last calendar day of the month. Hours earned for attendance at the monthly GCMG Membership Meeting are not included in the minimum 5 hours, except those earned for meeting setup. Board members do not participate in the Volunteer Recognition Program.

Don't forget to earn and report your hours by 31 December 2014 to be eligible for the January Membership Drawing.
Submitted by Cindy Waechter

Excerpt of letter from Megan Reiley, recipient of our 2014 Scholarship

Dear Guadalupe County Master Gardeners,

As the recipient of the first ever Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Scholarship, I would like to personally thank the Master Gardeners for your contribution in my education here at Texas A&M. Because of generous donors like you, I am able to further my education and pursue my dreams. As you know, I am a senior Horticulture major from Seguin, Texas. Here at Texas A&M I try to stay busy and involved as much as possible. Most of my time is spent working at The Association of Former Students, where I am a Former Student Programs student assistant. When I am not busy working, I am an active member of SEPA (Student Event Planners Association). I play on several intramural athletic teams, I have participated in the Big Event and I also volunteer as a volleyball coach for the Brazos Valley Christian Home School Organization. I also help several event planners doing floral designs for events on weekends that I am needed.

Many of the dreams that I hope to fulfill could not be obtainable without your support, and I am extremely thankful. I can only hope that one day when I am successful in my career, that I too, will be able to give back to the students of Texas A&M University as so many have done for me. Thank you again for generous support.

Sincerely,

Megan Reiley '15

Second Workday at Gutierrez Xeriscape Park – 10/4/14



From left to right: Makayla Childers, Denise Leverich, Baylee Correu, Emma Ruiz, Avery Lambert, Samantha Canseco, Welta Burris, John Lewicki, Daniel Diaz, Alexis, Nuckoles, Danilo Martinez. Not included in photo Judy Stanley. Photo by Janie Lewicki

Eight Steele High School Key Club members and their Advisor joined three Master Gardeners and a volunteer to prepare new wildflower planting areas at the park. A lot of hard work went into scalping the median between the sidewalk and the road to prepare new wildflower beds. New donated plants were also added to the Butterfly Garden under the supervision of Judy Stanley. Welta Burris led a group of students reseeding old areas as well as new areas around the light poles. Janie and John Lewicki worked with students on scalping the new planting area alongside the road. The group finished working by noon and enjoyed pizza under the Gazebo. The following are pictures from both workdays 9-27 and 10-4-2014



Welta Burris helps students prepare a wildflower bed.



Welta Burris and Judy Stanley with the new plants.



Judy Stanley oversees students planting in the butterfly garden.



Marvin Borth directs the students in pruning trees.

Photos provided by John Lewicki.

Report from the Big Red Barn

Fall has arrived, the school tours are behind us (for now) and the holidays are upon us. The volunteers at the Big Red Barn have been very busy cleaning up the beds after a really early freeze. Things are looking a little bare as a result. The good news is that the fall crops survived, even the tomatoes, although they had to be covered. I think we will have a pretty nice crop if we don't get another freeze in the next couple of weeks.

We have harvested some broccoli (my favorite veg), cabbage, lettuce and other greens. We even got a watermelon! Yes, I know that sounds strange but we had a volunteer fall watermelon vine that produced a nice sized melon that we were able to pick before the cold hit. We also harvested several HUGE courgette squash that we let get big for seed, so if anyone wants seed, it will be available. Just remember the fruit is great but the plant gets very BIG. All things considered we have had a good fall.

We have started planning for the spring garden. We are planning some container plantings made out of wood palettes. We may get them made in time for some cold weather vegetables. Right now it looks like we will have our normal selection of plants to show the students and other visitors. There is some discussion of having a few more flowers – other than those in the butterfly garden.

One change we have made is to start using the rotating composter as well as the bins. In the past we have only used the bins for garden waste and the compost in that gets hauled away. The rotating composter was only used to show visitors. By using it for at least some of the garden waste we will have a supply of our own compost to spread on the beds, rather than having to buy all of it.

As we are in the holiday season it seems appropriate to take this time to appreciate the opportunities that we have, as Master Gardeners, to enjoy not only the fruits of the earth but to work with such a wonderful group of people. I hope that didn't sound TOO hokey, but I want to wish all of you the very best!

submitted by **Kay McElveen**

Pictures of the big red barn with its new addition (a beautiful arbor) and new plants in the Butterfly Garden. Great job. Mr. Bartoskewitz loves seeing new Master Gardener helpers in the garden.

Thanks to Class 26 **Marla Miller** for the photos and **Carol Calentine** for the information.



Community Garden - Updates from Ann Odvody

11/2 - We had a great week in the garden. Weather was great and even though it was a little wet Friday, we needed the .4 inches of rain we had in the gauge. We are continuing to plant fall/winter crops and clear beds of the remnants of our spring/summer garden plantings. Mustard and collard greens are producing well, as is the arugula and Chinese cabbage. We will have spinach next week. Beets are up, too. Okra is about done. We will pull it up soon to make room to plant onions. We plant the onions with a pitch fork for even spacing, placing one onion transplant in each hole. We can then thin the transplants all winter and harvest as green onions through to May when we pull the ones we have left to mature. Last year we planted about 400 onions. We harvested 158 pounds 1 ounce of produce this week and are at 4,341 pounds 3 ounces for the year. **TUESDAY, 4 NOV 2014, WE WILL START AT 9 A.M. , TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.** Please watch the weather for Tuesday, as they are calling for an 80% chance of rain and we will not work if it is too wet...I will send out an email that morning.

11/6 - Dale went to the garden today and there was over 3 inches of rain in the gauge. It is just too wet to work the beds or weed. He also checked the okra and we are good til Tuesday...enjoy your weekend!

11-13 - With the temperature forecast to be in the 20's in the morning, we will **NOT** be working in the garden. At 42 degrees today with wind, it was too cold to spend much time out Tuesday we harvested 96 pounds 9 ounces and today I harvested another 13 pounds 15 ounces. This years total, so far, is 4,484 pounds. Cabbage and broccoli plants will be planted next Tuesday (I hope) and possibly the first bed of onions. Dale removed the timers and drained the field in anticipation of the hard freeze. Take care and keep warm.

11/17 - It is supposed to be a hard freeze in the morning (in the 20s)..too cold to garden. Dale and I will be in the garden at noon, when hopefully it will have warmed up. We have beds to clear and plants to get in. Please join us if you can.

11/22 - It was a little damp in the garden, but we still got a lot accomplished before the rain came. Harvest was made up of a LOT of mustard greens (thank you Denise) and our last watermelon. We planted 10 asparagus roots to finish out the round planters by the orchard, 6 collard greens, 240 onions (just getting started) and one lone parsley plant. One of the okra beds was cleared and as John could tell you that isn't an easy job. Thanks to all who helped. With all this rain, it may be very wet Tuesday, but we can always weed.

Speakers Bureau

I want to thank all the Master Gardeners who have done programs for 2014. The Master Gardeners Speakers Bureau has done 32 presentations and had 352 listeners in 2014. That does not include all the programs that were given to Lunch and Learns, the talks given on KWED Radio, to the Master Gardener class 25, the Saturday programs done at the Guadalupe County Gardens, and at the Master Gardeners Meetings. Your willingness to share your Gardening Knowledge with others is greatly appreciated and we thank you.

Treva Hicks, Speakers Bureau Volunteer Coordinator

**PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS
USING THE NEW VMS**

Cibolo Ag Fair



Lo-Ra Dick and Peggy Jones build enthusiasm for gardening in fourth graders at the Cibolo Ag Fair. Photos provided by Carol Calentine.

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact: Pat Schultze Secretary, 830-556-6751 or e-mail clayde-pat6@aol.com.

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Elaine McIntyre
 Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor
 Distribution - Doug Biggs
 Proof Reader - Patti Zgabay
 Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz

GCMG Outreach

Virginia Biggs is GCMG's Outreach Chairman. If anyone knows of a GCMG who needs a meal, please let her know 830-560-1976.

MEMBERS IN SERVICE

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Alternate—OPEN

One Year Term - Peggy Jones - Bob Teweles, Alternate

Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs

Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks

Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

JMG Program Coordinator - Lo-Ra Dick

Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes

AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

Volunteer Chair Assistant - Don Hilbert

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden - John Lewicki & Kim Darrough

Historian - Sandy Foss

Class 26 Coordinator - Cindy Waechter & Dave Elder

Facebook Editor - Linda Bruno

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

GARDENING EVENTS

**San Antonio Garden Center Clubs
Traditional Holiday Tasting Luncheon
Wednesday, December 3, at 10 am
3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston**

Cast members from the Woodlawn Theatre's holiday production of "White Christmas" will entertain. All are welcome. Contact 210-824-9981 or <http://sanantoniogardencenter.org/> for more information.

**Holidays in Bloom
Nov 28 thru Dec 31,(Wed), 9am–5pm
San Antonio Botanical Garden**

Step into the Garden and experience the Christmas season in nature! Step away from the holiday whirlwind of traffic and malls to enjoy the season in nature and capture a memory at the Garden, with picturesque backgrounds for family photographs. Adults, \$10; Seniors 65+, \$8; Children 3-13, \$7.

**Nature Connects: Art with LEGO® Bricks
September 6, 2014 – January 4, 2015
San Antonio Botanical Garden**

Join us as the Garden presents 27 sculptures that make up 14 displays created from nearly 500,000 LEGO® bricks! Placed throughout the Garden, the displays range in size from 6 inches to nearly 8 feet. The largest sculpture is a mother bison, made from 45,143 bricks!

Each sculpture has an internal structure built with steel rods and plates, which provide support and balance for the large works. Surrounding the support structure, each sculpture is constructed entirely from LEGO® bricks, glued together using only the connections of the bricks, one at a time placed by artist Sean Kenney – www.seankenney.com.

Nature Connects is open during regular Garden operating hours Regular admission rates apply.

**December Duck Days!
December 6 & December 13, 10am - 6pm
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center**

Join us to celebrate the return of wintering waterfowl to the wetlands of Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. We've got quite a day of family-fun planned, including: hayrides to the wetlands to see the ducks, local waterfowl experts helping visitors see the thousands of ducks through binoculars and spotting scopes, duck-themed crafts & activities for kids, showings of the Original DUCKumentary film from PBS's NATURE throughout the day, duck identification presentations, an egg race & duck calling contest, a special visit from "Aloha," (an endangered Nene Hawaiian goose) live with our friends from SeaWorld San Antonio at 2pm!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the **MG office/library** is open from 9am-noon except for holidays. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Betty Hughes. 830-401-4066 or e-mail ehughes5@satx.rr.com.

Every Tuesday and Friday are work days at the **Guadalupe County Community Garden**. Check with Ann Odvody (odvodyd@swbell.net 830-914-3593) for start hour and access at other times.

Every Friday 9 am is a workday in the gardens at the **Big Red Barn**. Check with Janice Knobles, 830-379-6193 or e-mail jmknobles@yahoo.com or details.

KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show is always looking for volunteers. Contact Janet Grafe at 830-639-4199 or e-mail to janetgrafe@hotmail.com.

Volunteers are needed to set up the chairs before each monthly meeting. Contact Treva Hicks at hicks1t@lycos.com

Seguin Christmas Tree Decoration

On Wednesday, December 3rd, two people will be needed at 10:00 AM to hang lights from the tree. Also on Wednesday, up to eight people will be needed at 2:00 PM to hang our beautiful, hand-made ornaments (see page 11).

If you can help, please call Betty Hughes at mobile (210) 863-0491 or home (830) 401-4066. Because only a limited number of helpers will be needed at 10 and 2, it will be important for Betty to coordinate volunteers. Betty will have a ladder.

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Lunch and Learn Gardening Program

The next Lunch and Learn is on February 1, 2015 at the AgriLife Building at noon. Jim Johnson is the presenter, and his talk is on Vegetable Gardening. These programs will be on the first Thursday of the month. NO COST: Free- Just bring your own lunch (optional). For more information call Treva Hicks, 830-303-4712

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status

WE VEGETABLES!

Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 8:50 am - 4:30 pm
801 West San Antonio Street, New Braunfels

Looking Ahead to 2015! The Comal Master Gardeners invite you to their Spring Seminar, We Love Vegetables, featuring Tomatoes, Keyhole Gardening, and Nutrition at McKenna Events Center. \$49 fee includes lunch, snacks, seminar booklet, and vegetable gardening handbook. 6 CEUs. Speakers include William D. Adams, author of Texas Tomato Lover's Handbook along with coauthor Thomas LeRoy, The Southern Kitchen Garden, Commonsense Vegetable Gardening for the South, and Growing Fruits and Nuts in the South, and Dr Deb Tolman will speak on Keyhole gardens. Proceeds benefit the Comal Master Gardener Association Scholarship fund. Seating is limited (200 seats & 80 registrations to date). Contact [830-620-3440](tel:830-620-3440) with questions or find registration forms at <http://txmq.org/comal/event/seminar/>.

Proceeds from the seminar will go to the Comal Master Gardener Association Scholarship fund. This fund provides four \$1,000 scholarships to provide financial support to an undergraduate or graduate student at a Texas college or university who is pursuing a degree in Horticultural Sciences, Landscape Design, Turfgrass Management or a related agriculture degree. Seating is limited so register early to save your place.

The Basics of Home Brewing 101

Wednesday, January 14th from 6:30-8:30pm

Blue Star Brewing, The Blue Star Arts Complex, 1414 S. Alamo St, San Antonio

On January 14th David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulturist, will present Joey Villarreal, Proprietor and Brewer of Blue Star Brewing Company, Todd Huntress, Operator of San Antonio Homebrew Supply & Home Brewer, along with Bexar County Master Gardener and Home Brewer, Lou Kellogg in the first Backyard Gardening Series presentation for 2015. 2 CEUs for Master Gardeners. Fee: \$20. RSVP to Angel Torres [210 467-6575](tel:210-467-6575) or email matorres@ag.tamu.edu. Must be 21 years of age or older.

Wildfire Preparedness Workshop

Tuesday, December 9, 8am-4:15pm

TAMU-SA, One University Way

Helotes Fire Department and Texas A&M Forest Service will be hosting a **Wildfire Preparedness Workshop** on preparing communities for wildfires on. Some of the different wildfire mitigation programs Texas A&M Forest Service offers and the process for completing them will be covered. You can find more information and online registration at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/wildfire-preparedness-workshop-tickets-14193588405>

Class 26 – Invite to Attend Classes

Do you still need Continuing Education to meet your 2015 certification requirements? Members are invited to attend the last Class 26 class at no cost. You have one last chance to take advantage of this opportunity - a benefit of membership. The class runs from 10:00AM until 2:30PM at the First Presbyterian Church in Seguin, 305 N. King Street.

3 Dec 2014 - Meredith O'Reilly - How to Garden for Wildlife; Marty Ruona - How to Add Xeriscapes to Your Landscape
Submitted by **Cindy Waechter**

2015 Master Naturalist Class

Classes will be held first and third Tuesdays from 6-9 pm starting January 6 through June 2, 2015. There will also be 4 Saturday field trips during that period. Cost for the class is \$160 before Nov. 1, \$175 after Nov. 1, 2014. Class Application forms are available on the chapter website, <http://txmn.org/guadalupe> or at the AgriLife office [currently at 216 East College St. Seguin]. Applications will be accepted until November 30, 2014.

For more information on the Texas Master Naturalist program, visit the Texas Master Naturalist webpage <http://txmn.org>.

SMALL ACREAGE HORTICULTURAL CROPS PROGRAMS

Business Planning - December 11 - 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Programs to be held at the Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center located at 390 Cordova Rd in Seguin. For additional information please contact the Texas AgriLife Extension Service at 830-379-1972. The cost of the program will be \$25 for all sessions or \$10 per session, whichever you prefer.

Consulting Rosarian School

**January 23 – 24, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Express (Airport), 91 NE Loop 410
hosted by The San Antonio Rose**

This education opportunity is open to anyone interested in expanding their rose growing knowledge. It is an accredited school for Consulting Rosarians but anyone interested may attend this school. We have an exciting agenda planned, with notable speakers that we know you will enjoy.

The full Agenda is included at http://www.sarosesociety.org/forms/REG_FORM_CR_SCHOOL.pdf. Back by popular demand is Dr. David Reed from Texas A&M who will give his always entertaining discussions on soils and soil amendments, and water and fertilizer. Carol Shockley will give her ever-popular views on new and promising rose introductions. And, if we have missed anything, a stellar panel of rose growers (Don Adlong, Eddie Garcia, James Laperouse), will cover it.

Please note that the **Registration deadline is January 5** – so that we can finalize our plans and requirements for any Handout materials as well as needed food and beverages. **Cost is \$15.00.**

We will have door prizes, including some roses. This will be a fun-weekend and Winter Workshop for non-CRs, where we will dispense good rose-growing information, friendship and camaraderie. Plan to come!! For more information go to www.sarosesociety.org. Questions/Comments may be directed to: Murray Warner, General Chairman at 210-313-3371 dmwarner@satx.rr.com

Olive Production & Management Seminar

Dec 15 (Mon) 8:30am-2:30pm

San Antonio Livestock Exposition Dairy Barn

West Gate/Gate A 3201 E. Houston Street

5 CEUs. RSVP with registration fee of \$30 (includes lunch), payable to Bexar County Master Gardeners, Attn: Angel Torres, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, TX 78230. For more information, call Angel Torres 210 467-6575, or email matorres@ag.tamu.edu.

December 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30 - Noon	2 GCCG Workday 9 AM	3 Christmas Tree Decoration 10 AM & 2 PM	4	5 GCCG Workday 9 AM	6 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m. O - FULL MOON
7	8 Master Gardener Office/Library	9 GCCG Workday	10	11 GCMG Board Meeting 1	12 GCCG Workday Red Barn 9 AM	13 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show
14	15 Master Gardener Office/Library	16 GCCG Workday	17	18 <u>GCMG Christmas/ Holiday Social</u> 6:30 - 9 PM	19 GCCG Workday Red Barn	20 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show .
21	22 Master Gardener Office/Library	23 GCCG Workday	24	25 Merry Christmas 	26 GCCG Workday Red Barn <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	27 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show ● NEW MOON
28	29 Master Gardener Office/ Library	30 GCCG Workday	31 			



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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Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Laurie Brunell	Volunteer Chairman
Cindy Waechter & Dave Elder	MG Training Co-Chairmen
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent Master Gardener Coordinator

December Social

Thursday, December 18th, 2014 - 6:30 - 9 PM
Red Barn, (Texas Agricultural Ed. & Heritage Center)
390 Cordova Road, Seguin

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 and the Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor
(elaine@tindomorgans.com)