



The Guadalupe Gardener



AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

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



ANOTHER DRY YEAR??

According to the Climate Prediction Center of the National Weather Service, the drought outlook with the persistence of La Nina will continue through late spring in the southwest and Texas. This bleak forecast certainly reinforces the need for water conservation measures through controlled drip irrigation and rain water harvesting (if and when it rains).

An outstanding example of the efficiency of drip irrigation is well documented in the Guadalupe County Community Garden and the first full year of production in 2011 with a harvest of over 2000 lbs or ONE TON plus of produce. With the growth of the Junior Master Gardener and other programs, we can only enhance and foster the educational benefits and reality of water conservation techniques in our gardening practices.

On another note, at the end of each year, we continue to have problems with master gardeners reporting their volunteer and education hours and our membership does not have an exclusive on this state wide headache. If each member would set a goal and priority of reporting their hours in a timely manner AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH, it would help eliminate a lot of unnecessary wasted time, energy, and frustration spent by Dale Odvody and others at the end of the year in compiling this data. We appreciate your consideration.

Mark your calendar for the TMGA state conference to be held here in San Antonio, May 3, 4 and 5.

(continued on page 3)

FEBRUARY MEETING

February 16th, 2012

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

Jerilyn Preston, Kathy Pape, and Deedy Wright have agreed to provide refreshments.

Don't forget to bring your plants for the plant exchange table.

In This Issue

- Page 2 - January Meeting Program
- Page 3 - New MGs
- Page 4 - JMG Training
- Page 5 - Class 24
- Page 6-8 - GCCG (Garden Workday, Ann's Updates & Hummingbird Workshop)
- Page 9 - Speakers Bureau
- Page 10 - Rusty Tools?
- Page 11 - Members at Work—Fun in a Sandbox
- Page 12-13 - Volunteer Opportunities
- Page 13-16 - Education-Classes-Seminars
- Page 16-17 - Gardening Events
- Page 18 - Poinsettias after the Holidays
- Page 19 - February Calendar

JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM

Members Buzzin' About Bees

Mark Gretchen, Gretchen Bee Ranch, was the featured speaker at the member meeting January 19, 2012. Mark has lived in the Seguin community for many years and when he retired, he decided to pursue a lifelong interest in bee ranching.

Mark recommended that if you are interested in keeping bees, you should find a partner and learn beekeeping together since it is much easier to manage bees working in pairs. He started beekeeping thirty years ago with his uncle and they tended his first hives together in Burnett County. He and his wife now tend the hives together. Mark said his mission is to restore honey bees to the environment to pollinate crops and wild flowers. He maintains a series of bee yards where the bee hives are kept while the bees are collecting. He has several locations in Guadalupe and Gonzales Counties. Landowners ask for the bees to pollinate the plants on their property. Having bees on your land is so popular that Mark said he has a 2 year waiting list of land owners wanting to host bee hives.

Mark has a small honey house at his home where he and his wife and employees harvest the honey and make and keep their equipment. Honey, it seems, must be dry before it is harvested because if it contains too much water it will ferment. Far from turning to mead when it ferments, it just spoils. Bees cap each cell of the honey comb with a wax cap when the honey is dry enough to store and the caps are removed in the honey house as part of the harvesting process. The wax from the caps is collected and is used to make a variety of useful bee wax products such as candles. After the caps are removed, the combs go to an extractor where the honey is extracted using centrifugal force. The honey is then strained and bottled.

Mark propagates bees by dividing the colonies. He said that many hives are brought here from the north to overwinter in the mild Texas winter. This past year had been a difficult one for the bees with little honey produced due to the drought. During the drought, he had to feed his bees because there was little pollen for them and pollen is their main source of protein. Working bees can travel up to three miles from their hive to harvest pollen. He collects part of the pollen the bees bring back to the hive in pollen traps and then uses a portion of it, if needed, to feed the hive in hard times.

A queen lays about 200 eggs per day and all of the genetic material in the hive comes from her so he buys his queens from zones where bees have not been Africanized as the wild Texas bees have been. The queens he buys arrive bred to ensure the docile nature of the bees in the hive. He introduces the new queens slowly to the hive since the pheromones in the hive from the old queen may cause the bees to reject the new queen. The bees think the old queen is still in the hive so the new queen is encased in a candy shell that the bees eat through to attack the new queen. But by the time they get to her, her pheromones have replaced those of the old queen and the bees accept her as the new queen.

Mark suggested that people who are interested in beekeeping should take a course to learn as much as possible and he teaches introductory beekeeping classes for interested persons. More information is available on his website.

Submitted by Gail Johnson

The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association

Is a

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Association News



Gretchen Ricker, Class 22, presented by Bob Davis, President, and Bob Teweles, Class 22 Coordinator



Judy Stanley, transfer from Comal County, presented by Bob Davis, President, and Bob Teweles, Treasurer



Susan Hadley, Class 23, presented by Bob Davis, President, and Jose Contreras, Class 23 Coordinator

NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS



Photos by
Dave Elder



(DRY YEAR Continued from page 1)

The TMGA website has all of the conference information and Dale Odvody has prepared a spread sheet for all the education classes.

For those of you who have not attended a state conference, this is a great opportunity.

Thought for the Day: Only you can be yourself, no one else is qualified for the job.

Bob Davis, President

Frugal Backyard Tip On-the-Go Garden Shed

Don't throw out old rolling coolers. Use to store gardening supplies: fertilizers, gloves, string, shears and birdseed. Hot-glue an old outdoor cushion to the top. Pull cooler around the yard and sit on it comfortably while gardening. Keeps tools close at hand, and critters out of the birdseed.

From Birds and Blooms E-Garden Newsletter
Submitted by Peggy Jones

JUNIOR MASTER GARDENER TRAINING

It's all in the attitude. We made big flowers with all their parts out of umbrellas and balloons and puffy balls. We made a garden snake by stuffing a tie and painting on stripes and eyes and a tongue. We strung beads on cord to show metamorphosis. We did refuse to sing songs with the activities but Gina didn't push us too hard on that one. But we did get a good idea about how much fun the activities in the JMG program can be, and how each one does teach a concept, be it math, science, English and more.

I am very pleased to say that the Junior Master Gardener program for Guadalupe County is underway. The training class on Thursday, Jan. 26th, included Bob Davis, Lo-Ra Dick, Joyce Friesenhahn, Peggy Jones, Jerilyn Preston, Terri Virost and Linda Bruno. Lo-Ra has agreed to take on the job of JMG Program Coordinator. **A big thank you to Gina Mullen, our JMG Training Specialist**, who took us through the basics of the JMG program. There is a lot more to this than any of us realized. We have a lot of work ahead of us.

A "Good Job" to Mary Bowe who was working with her students in the garden way before the JMG program was born. Mary spent time telling us about what she did in the classes she taught in San Antonio and how the children were affected. She really put a face on just what we are trying to do.

The important thing to remember with the JMG Program is that teacher and school administration support are critical. We are not there to push the program into the school; we are there to help the teachers make use of the program to augment what they are already teaching.

Every person in our training class left with a commitment to move this forward. We will channel requests and questions through Lo-Ra Dick and Gina Mullen and follow their lead. They have both shown they are committed to helping this program succeed.

If you want to participate, let me know. I have a list of MGs who were not able to attend this training class and will let you know when the next class is scheduled.

Submitted by Linda Bruno, email jlbruno@gvec.net or call 210-363-8380.



Photos by Linda Bruno

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Class 24

DRAFT* Class Topics DRAFT*

August - December

Mostly Wednesdays 10:00 - 2:30 p.m...in Seguin

How To Achieve Proper Balance Of **Soil, Water & Plant Nutrients**

Earthkind: How To Minimize Your Impact On The Planet.

How To **Grow Vegetables** You Like To Eat

How To Have A Better **Lawn**

How To **Propagate Plants**

How To **Harvest, Store And Re-Use Rain**

How To Save Water By Making Your **Own Drip Irrigation** System

How To **Evaluate Plant Health & Diagnose Problems**

How To **Make Compost** In Your Own Backyard

How To Tell Good Bugs From Bad And How To Get Rid Of The Bad W/O Hurting The Good.

How To Use **Native Plants** To Bring Nature Back To Your Landscape

How To **Select, Plant And Nurture Trees** In South Central Texas

How To Be **Firewise** In Your Landscape Design

How To Improve Your **Landscape Design**

How To **Propagate Plants 2**

How To Grace Your Landscape/Garden With **Herbs And Heirlooms**

How To Produce Your Own **Fruit And Nuts** At Home

How To Develop And Maintain **Native Ecosystems**

How To **Achieve Your Personal Gardening Goals**

Schedule of Class Topics is tentative pending speaker availability

See guadalupecountymastergardeners.org for final schedule

Jose Antonio Contreras, Class Coordinator elmerojose@gmail.com 830-401-0800

Subscribe or Renew and Add to the GCMG Treasury

To all of you **Texas Gardener** subscribers (or those of you thinking about subscribing), **Texas Gardener** has invited the GCMG to join their Fundraising Program. For each subscription that goes through us (and yes that includes renewals), the GCMG will be able to keep 25% in its treasury. Instead of sending your renewal notice and payment to **Texas Gardener**, make your check payable to GCMG and send it with your mailing address to 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155. Give us your phone number too in case we have any questions and mark the envelope **Texas Gardener** subscription. The GCMG will send the subscription on to the **Texas Gardener** for processing. Rates are as follows: 1 year - \$24.95; 2 year - \$42.95; 3 year - \$53.95. Add an extra \$8 on the one year renewal for the Annual Calendar. You don't have to be a Master Gardener to participate, so if you have friends that subscribe, tell them about the Fundraising Program. Any questions? Email jbruno@gvec.net

GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN

NOTICE - March 10th Plant Sale Cancelled

A big thank you for the very generous donations from Bob & Bev Davis, Gerald Lindenmuth, and Ray & Linda York.

February 25 - Rain Barrel Demonstration & March 24 - Raised Bed Workshop (see page 14)

NOTE - Please don't leave bags of leaves at the GCCG. We have no need for them right now and the bags just deteriorate and the leaves blow everywhere.

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January 14th Workday in the Garden

Saturday, January 14th, we worked on finishing the first hoop bed. Linda and Joe Bruno delivered another two pickup loads of cardboard and we laid cardboard down and covered it with mulch. Of course, there is always weeding to do in any and all seasons.



Photos by
Dave
Elder

More from the Guadalupe County Community Garden

Updates from Ann Odvody

12/30—End of the 2011 Garden. Mary worked in the garden this morning and harvested 20 pounds of cabbage and 2 pounds 14 ounces of green onions. Final total for the year is 2,031 pounds 12 ounces. As Mary would say GOOD JOB EVERYONE!! **Effective Monday Jan 2, 2012 our work days will be Monday and Thursdays starting at 9 am.** Thanks to all of you for your support of the garden this year.

1/2—First day in the garden 2012. Turned out to be a nice morning in the garden. Joe and Dale got the PVC hoops up on half of a 24 foot bed. We planted broccoli, green and red cabbage, Bok Choy and broccoli. Fenced it all in with bird netting anchored to the ground to slow down the pesky rabbit. We also harvested 2 pounds 3 ounces of vegetables, so we are off and counting again. Happy New Year to all!

1/8—From Dale Odvody. Mary Bove just called to say it is raining on the garden, so tomorrow's work day is cancelled. Hope to see many of you Thursday around 9:00. There will be lettuce and maybe cauliflower to harvest, weeds to pull, and if you are so inclined to use a wheel barrow, mulch to put down on cardboard. Joe and I are going to put hoops over a couple more beds.

1/12—Folks it is just too cold and windy to get anything done in the garden this morning. Dale and I will cover the new plants later in the day. Stay in and stay warm

1/14—Today was a busy day. Altogether, eight of us worked in the garden. We laid down all the available cardboard and covered it with mulch. We also finished the first hoop bed and built two more in a way that the hoops could be moved from bed to bed as we modify them. We also turned the water back on after the freeze. We will harvest cauliflower and lettuce Monday.

1/16—Just a little on the damp side this morning, so we limited our activity to harvesting and kicking around a few ideas for this new year in the garden. We have the hoops on some of the beds. It looks nice and the bird netting seems to be deterring my friend the rabbit (so far!). We harvested lettuce, Chinese cabbage, radishes, cabbage, cauliflower and Bok Choy for a total of 7 pounds 5 ounces. For the year 12 pounds 5 ounces. We will be out in the garden again on Thursday.

1/19—Just Mary and I in the garden this morning. We got the harvesting done and added 12 more plants to our netted bed. Harvest was 7 pounds 8 ounces with most of the weight coming from the cauliflower. For the year 20 pounds 2 ounces. Hope to see you Monday, especially anyone willing to do a ruthless job thinning the carrots!!

1/23—A very nice morning in the garden. We planted more snow peas and radishes, thinned the carrots, weeded and trimmed vines. We harvested 5 pounds 9 ounces of salad fixings and radishes. So far this year harvest is at 25 pounds 11 ounces. Thanks ladies (no token males today and we do miss you!). Now out to spend some time with the weeds in my own garden.-.sure hope tomorrow brings rain!

1/26 -The workday for today is cancelled because it is too muddy. And bless the rain, we needed it.

1/27 - Stopped by Thursday morning just to check on things. We had 1.5 inches of rain in the gauge and the beds were wet. Picked a little lettuce and Chinese cabbage, thinned the radishes. Total of 3pounds 8 ounces. So far this year 29 pounds 3 ounces. Monday I am bringing my digger.-.we have some pesky weeds coming up.

Hummingbird Workshop in the Garden

Chilly windy weather, what a great day to be inside talking about spring and the first sighting of the hummingbirds. Judit Green, urban wildlife biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife, is a great speaker. She knows so much and we only sidetracked her a few times onto other topics. I still think the best advice she gives is that if you move onto a new piece of acreage, live with it at least a year until you know what plants and wildlife are there. Not everything shows up in the spring or in the fall. And watch what goes on; pay attention.

Back to the birds. There are approx. 900 species of birds in the U.S. and Texas sees over 620 of those. Judit's comment was that since birds don't read the field guides, she recommends you use one that covers North America. Her favorite is the National Geographic guide since they use artist renditions instead of actual photos. Photos can't always catch a bird to show the identifying markings.

Judit talked for over two hours about the hummingbirds, habitat, what can be done to invite them into your yard and the plants they really like. She also handed out copies of the Texas Wildscapes, Habitat for Wildlife CD's for us to review.

Judit is on our speaker list for additional lectures this year; if you can attend any of her presentations, it will be well worth your time.

Article & Photos by Linda Bruno



Background Checks

One of the first items on our 2012 agenda is the **criminal background check**. As we have been mentioning over the last few months, GC Master Gardeners are required to apply for and pass a criminal background check every three years. This is a **requirement mandated by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service**. Please fill out, date and sign the form (copy in the January Newsletter). Enclose in a sealed envelope marked confidential and addressed only to our extension agent Travis Franke. Either mail the form to Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 210 E Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155 Attn: Travis Franke or bring to the January or February membership meeting. **Without exception all forms must be returned no later than February 16, 2012.**

Speakers Bureau

During 2011, members spoke to 971 people in 24 talks. On January 9 Clara Mae Marcotte spoke to the Lazy Daisy Garden Club about Butterfly Gardening. On January 15 John Sells spoke to the SA Daylily Society on Mulch. On January 17 Peggy Jones spoke to the Nogales Garden Club about Roses.

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.

REMINDER

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

Volunteer Hours for 2011

In 2011, 12,356.5 volunteer and continuing education hours were reported compared to 10,568.5 last year for an increase of 1788 hours.

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

JMG Program Coordinator - Lo-Ra Dick

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 & 24 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

January meeting refreshments were

provided by Bob Teweles, Linda Bruno, Gillian Siemens, and Betty Hughes. The drawing of \$24 was won by Dave Elder. Sandy Foss won the door prize.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Mar 15 - Square Foot Gardening -

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 Se- guin - Joe Wait, local grower of olive

trees, will present a program about growing olive trees.

May 17 - Using Herbs in Your Diet -

Mary Dunford, owner of Nature's Herb Farm, will talk about how herbs can best be used in our diet.

RUSTY TOOLS? HERE'S THE SOLUTION

By Dale Odvody

What do I use to get the rust off of my tools? They are fairly new. Does this mean I did not dry them well after I washed them with soap?

Actually yes and no. Drying, even with a hair dryer, doesn't really work because of the humidity in the air. If you really want to keep your tools pristine, you have to oil them after you clean and dry them. The light coat of oil keeps the air and moisture off the tools and prevents the oxidation. What to use? About anything around the house will work. Vegetable oil, mineral oil, 3N1, WD40, etc. My Grandfather saved the oil from when he changed it in his vehicles and recycled it on his plows, hoes, shovels, etc. We even used the oil on our work shoes to keep the water out when we were hoeing the weeds and beans out of the corn and weeds and corn out of the beans up in Nebraska. After you clean the tools, take a rag or paper towel and wipe a light coat of oil on the tools, but don't put them in your pocket or somewhere the oil will stain. Another option would be use a container, like a milk jug or metal box, fill it with sand, saturate it with oil, and just stab your tools in the sand to clean them and oil them. Bigger tools like shovels need a bigger and stronger box/container.

Ok, that prevents the rust. How do you get rid of it in the first place? If you have a lot of rust, soak the tool in vinegar for an hour. The vinegar will eat or soften the rust. Then use 000 steel wool to rub the rust off and shine up the metal. If one soaking does not get rid of all the rust, soak the tool again. If you don't have a lot of rust, then just using the steel wool will do the job. Either way, you will have to apply elbow grease. And you will note that even though I know all this stuff, I don't always practice it. Rusty tools are like wrinkles and gray hair. They show experience and maturity. That's my story and I'm sticking with it.

Websites of Interest

Natural Resource Webinars - <http://naturalresourcewebinars.tamu.edu/>. Neat site where you can listen to archived webinars on various topics done by the Texas A&M experts. It's \$10 a session but usually an hour or longer in length and includes the handout downloads. You can sign up for advance notice of upcoming webinars so you don't miss anything. If you need CEUs for your Pesticide license, these also fill the requirement.

Another new blog writer I've found that has great information is "Herb 'n Cowgirl". Couple of months ago the question came up during Class 22 about planting ginger from the grocery store. Here's a good article on that topic: [http://herbncowgirl.com/plant-some-ginger-this-weekend/?](http://herbncowgirl.com/plant-some-ginger-this-weekend/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+HerbnCowgirl+%28herbncowgirl.com%29)

[utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+HerbnCowgirl+%28herbncowgirl.com%29](http://herbncowgirl.com/plant-some-ginger-this-weekend/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+HerbnCowgirl+%28herbncowgirl.com%29)

If you haven't discovered Dave's Garden yet, it's another good website for plant information. They have one of the largest plant databases in the world. They also offer a phonetic pronunciation guide so you can dazzle your friends when you say the Latin name properly. Another useful piece of information; go to <http://davesgarden.com/guides/freeze-frost-dates/> Put in your zip code and you'll get the average last frost of the spring or the first frost of the fall for your area.

For those of you who have an interest in grafting techniques, check out <http://vegetables.wsu.edu/graftingVegetables.html> which offers free online workshops on vegetable grafting.

Last, Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) has some good resources. At <http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/Books/Building-Soils-for-Better-Crops-3rd-Edition> you can do a free download of "Building Soils for Better Crops" that really covers soil management in easy to understand terms.

Submitted by Linda Bruno

MEMBERS AT WORK

FUN IN A SANDBOX - HAVE WE STOPPED LAUGHING YET?



On Dec. 30th Dale & Ann Odvody, and Linda & Joe Bruno came to our place to get pine needles - guess who was driving Linda's truck to get closer to the needles and got stuck in the sand. With Daryl's help they dug and dug, jacked, jacked, pulled, jacked more and finally got free. Next time someone wants pine needles, we will put up yellow police tape so they do not drive off the driveway. Fun was had by all. Sat on the front porch and rested before they left. Mary & Daryl Styblo



We did some real digging, then Joe jacked it up and they put a long board under it to get traction. The sand was wet that far down, which didn't help either. Luckily, it was only the one tire and not both back tires or we would have been coming home to get the tractor.

Linda Bruno.



Photos by Mary Styblo



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Need Volunteer Hours - Five Projects to sign up for - Also fun!

Water Fairs, Feb 2, Rodriguez Elementary - Matt Miranda mjmiranda@ag.tamu.edu
Master Gardeners Volunteers set up and run Rainfall Simulator, Water Cycle, Enviroscape, and Edible Aquifer for 3rd 4th or 5th graders in 15-20 minute increments.

Green Team, In Seguin - Hughlene Micheli, 830-379-5673 clifmic@axs4u.net
1st & 3rd Monday of each month 8:00-10:30 am summer, 9:00 am winter. Need 5 or 6 hard working volunteers to help

Gutierrez Xeriscape Park, 1300 block of Borgfeld Road, Schertz, TX 78154 Chairman, Tamme Trawick, ttrawick@sbcglobal.net (See below)

Wilson County Gardening Day, March 3rd. Saturday. Chairman Peggy Jones, pljones@swbell.net (See below)

Earth Day in Seguin on April 28, 9:00am-2:00pm Earth Kind projects. Need a Chairman and Co-Chairman. We will have a Kids table with plant seeds and crafts, in addition to three booths. Volunteers carry materials, set up display, talk to people and give demonstrations on plants and gardening. The City is having meetings and we need a chair to attend. Contact Carol Calentine, carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us

GUTIERREZ XERISCAPE PARK, Schertz

Spring is in the air. We are planning a work day at Gutierrez Park on March 3, at 9:00am. We have some trimming, mulching, planting and a lot of sprucing up to do. This year we are going to build an area around the Parks sign.

Bring your shovels, gloves, and any other tools that may come in handy. For info: Call Tamme Trawick at 945-8635 or email ttrawick@sbcglobal.net. In case of rain we will meet the following week March 10th.

Be there or be square.

Wilson County Gardening Days

Saturday, March 3rd 9 am to 4 pm

Huge Plant Sale in Floresville located at the Floresville Alternative School 335 Alternative Lane. The event will benefit the South Texas Alternative School Gardening Program and will be held on their school campus off Sutherland Spring Road. Sponsored by Wilson County News, SAWS, & KLUP Radio. **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners** will have a booth. Volunteers are needed to help with set up (7:30am), manning the booth and tear down. If you would like to join in for the fun, please call Peggy Jones at 210 649-4002 or email pljones@swbell.net

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

Jan 17 - Feb 29 is Rodeo 2012! If you want to work the Master Gardener or Children's booths at the SA Stock Show & Rodeo, please contact Peggy Armstrong directly at 494-0253 or texastootsie@satx.rr.com to sign up for your shifts. A complete list of available shifts has been updated and is posted on the web-site: www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org in the rodeo section. Go to: <http://www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org/time-to-lasso-rodeo-volunteers/opportunities-to-volunteer>

Advantages to working the Master Gardener or Children's booths - free parking, free transportation to the door of the work area, free admission to the stock show grounds, free snacks, free transportation back to the parking lot well away from the traffic jams around the arenas, an opportunity to work with and cross ideas with another MG chapter, getting volunteer hours in a covered area out of the cold and rain (well, the rain at least). Advantages of working in the construction program - free parking, free lunch, a lot of work and fun indoors for the most part, a chance to learn new gardening and construction techniques and cross ideas with others.

Believe me, Bexar County Master Gardeners appreciate it. In the last four years, they have donated \$300 to the general fund, bought about \$1,000 of Junior Master Gardener literature and pins, and donated \$2,000 to the Guadalupe County Community Garden. So this is not a futile effort on our part. In recent years 35% (2009), 55% (2010) and 45% (2011) of the person hours volunteered in support of the SA Stock Show and Rodeo in the Texas Experience building have come from Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. That's pretty good support from an organization less than half the size of BCMG.

Feb 27 – 29 – Rodeo tear down & move materials

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Principles of Feng Shui—Clutter Control and Meditation

San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N New Braunfels & Funston —February 1st

After the busy holidays would you like to take control of your life and feel calmer. The San Antonio Garden Center has the perfect opportunity to give you the tools you need. Join us Wednesday, February 1st at 9:30 am for a plant exchange and morning coffee. At 10:30 am Allison Schodner will teach us the principles of Feng Shui—Clutter Control and Meditation. She is also the author of "Feng Shui House Plans". This meeting is open to anyone interested in gardening and plants, so bring your friends to this meeting so you can help each other de-clutter your homes. Join us at the Garden Center.

Education Committee

What's on the schedule?

A **Rain Barrel Workshop** on **Feb. 25th** at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. For \$65, Liz Romero & helpers will start with basic construction info, then move to drilling & helping attendees to install the hardware. Leave with a plumbed, ready to install barrel. Limited to 25 people. Starts at 10:00 a.m.

Mar. 24th, Raised Bed Workshop at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. Opening at 9:00 a.m. Deedy Wright will give you all the details on what and how to plant your spring vegetables. Following a presentation on the why and how of raised beds, our construction crew (that's Dale Odvody & Joe Bruno) with helpers will set up for a hands-on demonstration of how to construct your raised bed. You will leave with a kit of everything you need to put together your own raised bed at home. (Okay, soil, seeds and plants are not included.) We will have the price as soon as our construction crew is finished at the SASS&R. Register with jlbruno@gvec.net for more information.

Feb 18 (Saturday) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Designing Herbal Landscapes. Learn how to design beautiful, fragrant and useful herbs into your existing landscapes or new herbal spaces. Herbalist and designer Diane Lewis will discuss history, design basics and planning, the roles different herbs play in the landscape, how to select the right herbs for specific spaces, compatible hardscape elements such as paths and boulders, and theme gardens. You will design your herb garden on graph paper and take a short tour of the herb gardens and other notable garden spaces at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Fee: \$41. A \$5 supply fee payable to the instructor covers materials and herbal snack and beverage. Admission to the Garden included in the cost of tuition. To register for any of these classes, please go online to www.communityed.neisd.net. 3 CEUs.

Feb 20-21 (Monday & Tuesday) Landscape Design Study Course IV at College Station, Texas. This course is an opportunity for more in-depth training in landscape design than is normally included in the Master Gardener curriculum. Each series is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with ten hours of instruction. Registration for the course will be \$125 (two lunches and a local bus tour are included). View and download the registration form and info at: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDFeb12/>

Feb 28 (Tuesday), 2-4 p.m. **Understanding Your Wild Neighbors** at the Agrilife Extension Conference Room, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio. Judit Green, Wildlife Biologist with TX Parks and Wildlife Department, will be providing an educational seminar on how to identify, prevent, and manage urban wildlife. Please RSVP to Molly Keck at mekeck@ag.tamu.edu so we have a head count. Free program! 2 CEUs.

Rose Seminars

Antique Rose Emporium
7561 E. Evans Rd #1, San Antonio

Feb 11 & Feb 12 (Saturday & Sunday) 1 p.m. **Rose Growing and Pruning Workshop** - Free.

Feb 15 (Wednesday) 1 - 4 p.m. **Growing Roses Successfully: The Ultimate Garden Plant** Comal County Master Gardener Class, open to public. Free. 3 CEU's

Learning from Historic Landscape Designs with Mike Pecen

Mitchell Lake Audubon Society, 10750 Pleasanton Rd, San Antonio
Saturday, February 18, 10 am to Noon

This program will explore the idea of creating contemporary, conservation conscious landscapes guided by the lessons and successes of the past. After a brief survey of historic regional landscapes and styles, discussion will include heritage plants and their uses in landscape design, as well as invasive plants introduced by our ancestors. This class will be held both indoors and outdoors.

Program Fee \$10 for Mitchell Lake Audubon Society members, \$15 for non-members.

Space is limited. RSVP required. For information or to RSVP: mlac@audubon.org.



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

On Tuesday, February 14, 2012, Michael Warriner, Invertebrate biologist for the Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department, will talk about Bumblebees of the South Central United States.

The Guadalupe County Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Marion Library Meeting Room, 500 Bulldog Lane, Marion.

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

GARDENING EVENTS

2012 TMGA Conference

Registration is now open for the 2012 TMGA Conference. The Bexar County Master Gardeners are looking forward to seeing you at the state conference this year in San Antonio. We have an outstanding group of speakers, hands-on sessions and tours lined up for you. The conference will be held at the Norris Conference Center which is conveniently located at Wonderland of the Americas Mall, Interstate 10 and Loop 410. There are many hotels and motels within a 5 mile radius.

You can get more information and register at:

www.2012TMGAconference.org or
www.bexarcounymastergardeners.org.



TEXAS MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE
2012 BEXAR COUNTY

Whooping Crane Festival

Celebrate Whooping Cranes with other birders at the annual Whooping Crane Festival, February 23 - 26, Port Aransas, Texas. <http://www.whoopingcranefestival.org/festival-information>

San Antonio Garden Center 24th Annual Spring Plant Sale

March 30th & 31st - 9 am - 4 pm

3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston by the Botanical Gardens

The Plant Sale is a major fundraising project of the San Antonio Garden Center. We strive to provide our customers with a variety of popular shrubs, landscape plants, bedding plants, succulents, cacti and herbs, as well as a number of unique plants.

A popular part of the sale is the Donation Station where members donate plants, bulbs, seeds, etc. from their gardens.

Please contact the Garden Center if you have any questions at 824-9981. Shop early for the best selection!

The Southern Region MG Conference

May 1-4, 2012

Natchez, MS

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

Festival of Flowers Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest



David Rodriguez , AgriLIFE Extension Agent for Horticulture for Bexar County, said an early start on planting will be particularly helpful to people interested in participating in spring competitions, including the Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest which will take place **May 26** during Festival of Flowers activities in San Antonio.

The Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest is presented by AgriLife Extension and the Bexar County Master Gardener association with sponsorship support provided by the Texas Nursery and Landscape Association. For the past two years, the contest has been part of Festival of Flowers activities held at the Alzafar Shrine facility, 901 N. Loop 410 West, between Blanco Road and Stone Oak Parkway.

“This will be the third year of the competition and we are seeing a steady increase in the number and variety of entries,” said Rodriguez, one of the show coordinators. “There is a limit of three entries per division per exhibitor and all entries must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least three months prior to the competition.”

Rodriguez said the show and contest is open to amateur home gardeners from Bexar and surrounding counties. Winning entries will be presented in nine different categories, including foliage and blooming potted or container plants; cactus and succulents; cut foliage, flowers and blooms; special displays, such as hanging baskets, dish gardens and container gardens; and vegetables and fruits.

“The show is open to amateur gardeners of all ages, and contestants 17 years old and younger are judged separately from adult contestants,” he said.

“The vegetables and fruits division of the show is usually a ‘growers’ choice’ and may include tomatoes, peppers, greens, onions and other in-season crops,” he said. “Growers should show three to five samples of the same variety - unblemished and uniform in size, color and overall growth. They also should have stems attached to help confirm they are home-grown.”

He said each exhibitor must complete an official entry form either prior to the show or at the time of entering an exhibit. Guidelines and an entry form may be found at the Festival of Flowers website at

<http://safestivalofflowers.com> or the AgriLife Extension office website for Bexar County, <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu>.



With Special Care, Holiday Poinsettia Can Bloom Again

By Charla Anthony charla.anthony@theeagle.com

A poinsettia is as necessary as a Christmas tree for some people. Most poinsettias end up in the trash once the holiday is over, but with patience and special care, it is possible for them to re-bloom. If you like a challenge, this project is for you.

While there are numerous timetables to re-bloom poinsettias, my favorite is found in Doug Welsh's *Texas Garden Almanac*. Based on holidays, the schedule he shares originated with Ellison's Greenhouses, a wholesale grower of poinsettias in Brenham.

New Year's Day—Apply a water soluble fertilizer to the plant and keep it in bright natural light, watering to keep the soil evenly moist. Continue fertilizing every 2 to 3 weeks, and your poinsettia should remain colorful for many weeks.

Valentine's Day—Do nothing, but if the leaves have dropped and the plant is leggy, cut the stems back to 8 inches in length.

St. Patrick's Day—Place your poinsettia outdoors in a spot that receives morning sun and afternoon shade. Fertilize again, keep watering and it should begin growing rapidly.

Memorial Day—Your poinsettia should be 2 to 3 feet tall. Trim off 2 to 3 inches from the ends of each branch and repot the plant into a container about 4 inches larger. Place the plant in direct sunlight and keep the soil evenly moist.

Independence Day—Again, trim off 2 to 3 inches from the end of each branch. Keep the plant in full sunlight, fertilize weekly and water when needed.

Labor Day—Prepare your plant to be moved indoors. Native to Mexico, poinsettias do not tolerate temperatures colder than 65 degrees F. Keep your plant in bright, direct sunlight for at least 6 hours a day and reduce fertilizing to every 3 weeks.

First day of autumn—The lengthening of nights in the fall induces poinsettias to set flower buds. Starting about Sept. 21, give your plant 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness (inadvertent light of any kind can halt blooming) using a cardboard box or black plastic covering. Place the plant in bright light for the remaining 10 hours of each day. Follow this schedule for 8 to 10 weeks.

Thanksgiving—Stop the light/darkness schedule and place your plant in very bright, natural light and fertilize one more time. Water when the soil surface is dry. Your poinsettia's bracts -- its colorful leaves -- will begin to turn color about mid-December.

Christmas Day—Enjoy your beautiful re-bloomed poinsettia.

- *Charla Anthony is the horticulture program assistant at Texas AgriLife Extension, Brazos County, 2619 Texas 21 W., Bryan, Texas 77803*
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FEBRUARY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 9 am GCCG Workday	3	4 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
5	6 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON 9 am GCCG Workday GREEN TEAM 9 am	7 O FULL MOON	8	9 GCMG Board Meeting 9 am GCCG Workday	10	11 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m. GCCG Workday 9 AM
12	13 Master Gardener Office/Library 9 am GCCG Workday	14 GCCG Workday Happy Valentines Day	15	16 GCMG Meeting 7 PM 9 am GCCG Workday Background Checks Due	17	18 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
19	20 Master Gardener Office/Library GREEN TEAM 9 am 9 am GCCG Workday President's Day	21 GCCG Workday ● New Moon	22	23 9 am GCCG Workday	24 Newsletter Deadline	25 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m. Rain Barrel Workshop GCCG
26	27 Master Gardener Office/Library 9 am GCCG Workday Rodeo Teardown	28 GCCG Workday Rodeo Teardown	29 Rodeo Teardown			



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

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	Master Gardener Coordinator

February Meeting

Thurs, February 16, 2012, 7 P.M.

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

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Elaine McIntyre, Editor
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Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener