



The Guadalupe Gardener



AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

February 2009

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



Gardening Conundrums by Bob Grafe, President

All,

The first-ever Grow Local Festival sponsored by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Association is now history ... very "successful" history!

Over 100 seminar participants certainly received their money's worth of information at the Schertz Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 7 regarding vegetable growing, raised-bed gardening and rain-water harvesting, garden info networking, and a great lunch served by McBee's BBQ.

The event was broadcast live from the Schertz Civic Center during radio station KWED's Lawn & Garden Show and the event's displays and vendor areas were visited by several hundred additional non-seminar attending members of the public.

Vendors who helped to make the Grow Local Festival event successful by their attendance and support included Schulz Nursery, New Earth Soil and Compost, Fanick's Garden Center, Antique Rose Emporium, Medina Products, Wild Birds Unlimited, BioTex, Garden Delights, Sippel True Value Hardware, Schertz Farmers & Artisans Market, Guadalupe County Chapter Native Plant Society of Texas, San Antonio Botanical Gardens and the AgriLife Extension Service-Family & Consumer Sciences. Please support these fine folks who helped us so much.

Continued on Page 2....

February 19, 2009 Membership Meeting

7:00 P.M. – Program

Ed Bradley will present "A Time for Roses" with information about choosing, planting, and caring for them. He will discuss pruning techniques and also provide a demonstration.



Ed is a past president of the San Antonio Rose Society and a Bexar County Master Gardener.

7:45 P.M. - Refreshments

Served by: Kathy Carroll, Ryla Cottingham, Marilyn Anderson, and Pat Schultze

8:00 P.M. – Business Meeting

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Grow Local a Major Success

Grow Local...

Not enough words of “Thanks!” can be extended to Linda Bruno and her fine crew of helpers for making the Grow Local Festival the huge success that it was.

As you read this month’s newsletter, there may very well be time for you to still stop by to view the fine work efforts of Dale Odvody, Joe Bruno and a host of Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association helpers at the Master Gardener’s booth at the San Antonio Livestock Show. This is a mutual effort by both the Guadalupe County and Bexar County Master Gardeners that has proved to be a wonderful cooperative effort for both neighboring communities. Thanks to both groups for all their fine efforts.

By now, most of you know that we had to postpone the beginning of the Master Gardener Class #21 until a start date in August. We have already received several registrations for the anticipated 30-member class. This is a terrific opportunity for Master Gardeners to encourage their friends, neighbors and/or other family members to join in the gardening fun. Check out the MG website for full information.

Hope to see you all out at our monthly meetings ... and at all of our other fun events!



Fred & Liz Romero’s Rain Water Harvesting demonstration generated the attention of participants.



Master Gardener “greeters” distributed information and lots of smiles



Why all the big smiles? They just ate a wonderful Bar B-Q meal from McBee’s – the best barbeque ever!



The “Garden Delights Girls” doing what they do best – visiting, laughing and having a good time.

January Meeting Review and Association News

Companion Planting



Doug Biggs introduces Liz Palfini, speaker at Our January meeting.

Liz provided valuable information on which plants compliment each other in the garden and which we should avoid planting together.

By practicing companion planting, you can reduce your use of pesticides, fertilizers and provide a more favorable growing environment for your plants.



Clara Mae Marcotte – Volunteer Coordinator

Janet Grafe – Education Coordinator

Marcia Richardson – Speakers Bureau

Cecilia & Merv Cook – Summer Social

Anna Schodowski – Christmas Party Chair.



[Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors](#)

Kay Wolverton – Two Year Term

Sandy Foss – Alternate, Two Year Term

Deedy Wright – Alternate, One Year Term

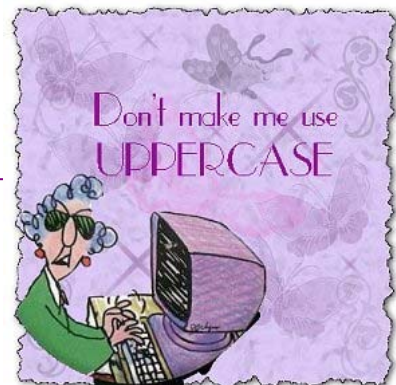


We Still Need:

Silver Center Chairman

Guadalupe County Fair Chairman

Remember, folks, the Master Gardener Association is a **volunteer organization**; we need you to help with our projects.



GCMGs Help Create Rodeo Display

If you attend the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo this year, be certain to visit the Bexar County Master Gardener building. With the experienced help of several Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, the exhibit is one you won't want to miss! Dale Odvody and Joe Bruno are two members of the "construction crew" that worked many hours to get the extensive display ready for rodeo visitors. If there were others of you I don't know about, I apologize for omitting your names.

More information will follow in the March newsletter but wanted you to appreciate the work already done and the obvious hours required to construct this wonderful exhibit.



Mystery Master Gardener
Who is this working at the rodeo?

E-mail Marilyn at
MarilynA@access4less.net or
call 830-379-5755 with your guess!

What Are Earth Kind Roses?



Earth Kind is an important designation given to select roses by the Texas A&M University Agriculture program. Earth Kind Roses have been through rigorous statewide testing and evaluation by a team of horticultural experts and found to possess the high level of landscape performance and outstanding disease and insect tolerance/ resistance required to for this special designation.

Earth Kind Roses are among the most thoroughly tested, and environmentally responsible plants for the use in Texas landscapes. These roses do very well in almost any soil type, from the well-drained acid sands of East Texas to the poorly aerated, highly alkaline clays of central and Southwest Texas.

Earth Kind roses are certainly not immune to pest problems. However, their tolerance to pests is so great that they rarely require the use of chemical pesticides.

Only a few roses have received the Earth Kind designation. However the list continues to grow as new selections meet the rigorous criteria.



Marie Daly



The Fairy



Caldwell Pink



Knock Out



Perle d' Or



Belinda's Dream



Else Poulsen



Carefree Beauty



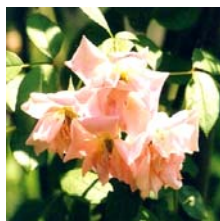
Katy Road Pink



Spice



Mutabilis



Climbing Pinkie



Sea Foam



Ducher



Georgetown Tea

<http://earthkindroses.tamu.edu/EKroses.html>

[02/12/09]

Gardening Events and Activities

Tues., Feb. 17, 1:30pm

"Do It Yourself Drip Irrigation System" with Dr. Tom Harris at Boerne Community Center. (830) 895-4386 or <http://www.clubed.net>

Sat., Feb. 21, 10am

"Fun With Container Gardening" with Robyn Leland at Northside Learning Center. (210) 397-8100 or www.nisd.net/ace.

Wed., Feb 18, 9am

Rose Pruning Training

San Antonio Garden Center
Call Ed Bradley, 210-658-8074
For information

Sat., Feb. 21, 9am

"Hands On" Rose Pruning Demonstration with San Antonio Rose Society at San Antonio Botanical Garden. Bring sharp pruning tools and gloves. (210) 658-8074.

Sat. Feb. 21, 10am

"Composting Made Easy" with Master Gardener Chris Seifert at Cibolo Nature Center. (830)249 4616 or www.cibolo.org.

Sat. Feb. 21, 9am

Watersaver Walk at San Antonio Botanical Garden. Free with regular Garden admission. (210) 207-3261 or www.sabot.org.

Tues., Feb. 24, 9am

"Hands On" Rose Pruning Demonstration with San Antonio Rose Society at San Antonio Botanical Garden. Bring sharp pruning tools and gloves. (210) 658-8074.

Sat., Feb. 28, 9am

Leon Valley "Earth-Wise Living Day" and plant sale at Leon Valley Community Center. (210) 521 2007 or www.leonvalleytexas.gov

Habitat For Birds Part 1: Attracting Birds to Your Property

Cibolo Nature Center, Boerne, TX

Feb 28, 2009

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Old Daley Ranch; carpool from CNC at 9:00 am

Dick Park, local birder and landowner, will show you how to attract nesting, migrant and wintering birds on your land. Nest boxes on the Park's property produced over 140 young birds in 2008! After a presentation and discussion on attracting birds, we will go outside to see practical examples of recommended bird foods, feeder and water placement, brush piles and nest boxes. You can contribute to protecting birds and their habitats on any size property.

Members \$15/person:

non-members \$20/person. Limited to 30.

Pre-registration required. Call 830-249-4616

Rose Pruning Demonstration

Edgar Bradley

Members of the San Antonio Rose Society will be pruning the rose bushes in the Rose Garden of the San Antonio Botanical Garden on Saturday Feb 21st and on Tuesday Feb 24th. This will be a teaching session as well as a working session. If you are interested in learning the proper technique for pruning roses, and getting some hands-on experience, you are invited to come and participate in these events. The pruning will begin at 9:00 a.m. on both days. Bring a set of sharp hand pruners and work gloves. If you have any questions, you may call Ed Bradley, 658-8074 or Jackie Clark, 656-5208.

There will also be rose pruning training at the San Antonio Garden Center on Wednesday Feb 18th. It will also begin at 9:00 a.m.



NOW IS THE TIME TO
GET INTO SHAPE!

Master Gardener Landscape Workdays
AgriLife Extension Building
Beginning Saturday, March 21st
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
for information, call Liz Romero @ 830-372-3106

**Did you submit recipes for
publication in the
Master Gardener Cookbook?**

If so, please send to
Marilyn at

MarilynA@access4less.net

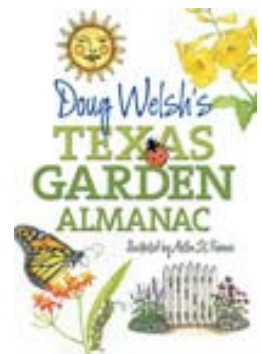
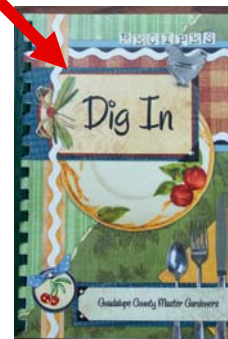
- 1] your name
- 2] the name of your recipe[s]
- 3] page number in cookbook
[if you know]

I will compile a list as an addendum
to the cookbook so we have **NAMES**
to go with our recipes.

We still have “Dig In” cookbooks and
Dr. Doug Welsh’s “Texas Garden Almanac”
available for sale.

Go to our office in the AgriLife Extension
Building on Mondays or Garden Delights
Tuesday – Saturday to buy copies.

Both make excellent gifts!



IN MY BACKYARD

By Marcia Richardson

On this chilly overcast morning as I look out into my backyard: most of the birds are gone, there is no color anywhere, the trees are leafless and the grass is ugly, all brown and dried up. My backyard seems to echo the condition of my heart. On Dec. 23rd I lost my beloved husband of over 50 years to a rare form of leukemia. In three short months it took his life and his passing has left a gigantic vacant hole inside of me, and I don't seem to know who I am anymore.

A wise person once said, *"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."* For those of us who have lost a mate, it seems that death is only an ending. But for the survivor, it must also be a beginning.

This is not a beginning most of us ever planned to make and we are not prepared. Opening our hearts and our mind to accept this most terrible loss puts us on the path of eventual understanding. Yet it is a path that we alone can make meaningful. For it is the process of grieving that changes us and finally permits us to emerge from widowhood to personhood. This transiting cannot be rushed; but like the spring at the end of a cold and bitter winter, it will come.

These words of wisdom comfort me because I know they are true and my healing and restoration will soon begin to take place in my own backyard. I yearn for the next few months to pass swiftly so I can once again feel the warm sunshine upon my face and can sink my hands into the healing arms of Mother Earth. I anticipate finding many friendly earthworms as I once again gently work the soil, preparing it for the many seeds I intend to plant. Each year as spring arrives I can almost feel the pulsating of the earth; it draws me like a magnet and I cannot keep pull myself away from the garden. I achingly recall the many times Tom would yell out the back door at me, "Marcia, get in outa the sun this minute, you are gonna cook your brain!"

Tom was so proud of my being a Master Gardener and kept a careful account of my volunteer hours and sent them to Dale Odvody on a regular basis. He knew all the names of the flowers in our garden and would proudly take all visitors on a "tour" of our beautiful yard. Often I would chide him and laughingly say *"Now honey, be sure and tell everyone who the real gardener is, you know the one who does all the grunt work."* After much begging and pleading, he bought me an ole beat up red Toyota pickup so I could haul compost from Gardenville to my heart's delight. I am the worlds worst at directions and so Tom always drove me to all my speaking engagements and often he would put in his 'two cents' worth, (often telling funny stories on me, to my great horror and embarrassment).

Gardening is life's greatest lesson in patience, you can't slam dunk. I know that as my garden slowly springs forth into new life and beauty, so I too will slowly, but surely, emerge from this *valley of sorrow*. In the coming months I hope to share with you the simple pleasures of my little garden as well as my progress in rebuilding my new life.

I'll see you in the Garden!!!



Tom Richardson, Dec. 28, 1933 - Dec. 23, 2008



February 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|---------|-----------|---|--------|--|
| 1 | 2 Master Gardener office / library open every Monday | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. Grow Local Festival |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.  |
| 15 | 16  | 17 | 18 | 19 Monthly Membership Meeting 7:00 PM | 20 | 21 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. |
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GCMG Officers & Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
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| Linda Bruno | President-Elect |
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| Clara Mae Marcotte | Volunteer Coordinator |

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Randee Malmsten | Web Master |
| Travis Franke | <i>AgriLIFE</i> Agent Master Gardener Coordinator |

Next Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2009

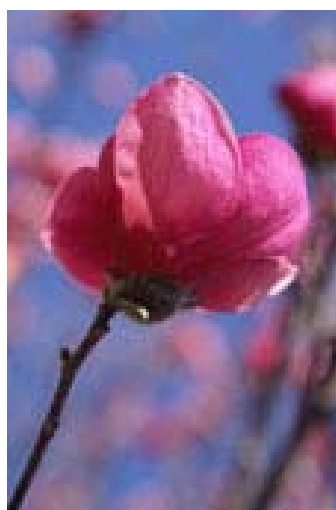
Meeting Time – 7:00

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

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

Marilyn Anderson, Editor
MarilynA@access4less.net
Marcia Richardson, Reporter

Linda Belz, Photographer
Marilyn Moltz,
The Wandering Gardener



**"The February sunshine steps your
boughs and tints the buds and swells
the leaves within."**

- William C. Bryant



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

<http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org>

<http://guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/Newsletters.cfm>

<http://www.texasmastergardeners.org>