



The Guadalupe Gardener



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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We will make a difference!

What a wonderful start we have had for the New Year! Ninety-two people attended the January Membership Meeting including 17 guests to hear Mark Fanick's informative talk on fruit trees. Much of the meeting was devoted to planning our Spring events. When the sign-up sheets were passed around we had over twenty volunteers sign up for Seguin Earth Days on April 26th, twelve for our Rainwater Harvesting class on May 17th, and ten for the Ag Festival on May 1st. It is very gratifying to see your enthusiastic volunteering because it makes for a great event and makes organizing the event much easier.

If you weren't there, read this month's article (page 6) about our two "Preparing Your Spring Vegetable Garden" classes. Clara Mae, Deedy, Kathy and Jim provided excellent presentations and timely recommendations to the 43 "paying" attendees and the MG workers who were able to attend. We were all disappointed when a broken heater put a "chill" on the Seguin event.

"Let's Rodeo, San Antonio" time is here and several hardy members are already working construction. This event will last most of February and is our major volunteer effort this month. If you have not signed up, there are many "slots" still available. Contact information is on page 16 in this Newsletter. I would suggest you consider pairing up with someone who "knows the ropes" to ease navigation, parking and transportation. Lots of volunteers with strong backs will be needed February 3 and 4 to help distribute plants and other finishing touches.

You won't want to miss this month's Meeting!

Bob Teweles

February 20th - 7 PM

Program- Composting. Andy Chidster, The Natural Gardener, manufacturer of Lady Bug Products

6:30 pm refreshments, 7 pm program
8 pm meeting

Don't forget your name tag - and plants for the plant exchange.

SERVICE PINS

80 Members to Receive Service Recognition Pins at February Meeting!! Read more on page 4.

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 23RD**

Association News



January Meeting Program Mark Fanick -Fruit Trees

Submitted by Lisa Foss for Sandy Foss
Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor



The speaker for the January's Master Gardener's meeting was Mark Fanick of Fanick's Garden Center. He touched on a variety of subjects - fruit trees in American culture, bare root/container transplanting, soil preparation, identifying pests and diseases, and chill hours.

When the nursery receives bare root fruit trees they are dipped in root stimulator. Mark discussed 2 types of root stimulators, Organic (Thrive, Bio-Tone starter plus, Carl Pool) and non organic (Green-Light, Fertilome, Super-thrive). Thrive and Bio-Tone contain beneficial bacteria and fungi, Carl Pool is a good root activator and Super-thrive is good for recovering plants, not for growth. The trees are then pruned and stored in sand pits until purchased by customers. When sold the tree is bagged in wet compost and rock phosphate, to increase root growth. Two composts were mentioned, Lady Bug and Back To Nature.

There are certain diseases (brown rot, peach scab, and fire blight) peach leaf diseases (leaf curl and mildew) and pests (stink bugs, weevils, scale, and borers) common to peaches. Remedies for diseases include Liquid Copper, Captan, Serenade and for fire blight Ferti-lome. Oil sprays work best on whitefly, spinosad and oil sprays for leaf miners, and for scale spinosad is best. Some organic cures include Captain Jacks, and Green Light products. Oil sprays in winter get you a good start on pest control. The "Red Baron Peach" is a good tree for our area. It has beautiful red flowers, forms good fruit, and has a good flavor.

Open center pruning is well suited to peach trees. This requires leaving 3 or 4 well-spaced wide angled branches to form a bowl-shaped framework. Pear trees should be pruned to a more upright candelabra shape. Cut limbs above nodes with growth in the direction you want.

Pecan trees need one pollinator tree for every 10 trees. Largest problem for pecan tree is pecan scab. This is best treated with a copper fungicide starting from June 1st on.

'Celestial fig' and 'blue giant' fig trees are 2 good varieties for our area. Mark suggests staying away from the 'brown turkey' fig.

Fruit trees require a certain number of chill hours for good fruit production. Any hour of cold between 32 F and 45 F contributes one hour to satisfying a tree's chilling requirement. To guarantee good production it is a good idea to have trees with diverse chill hour requirements. For our area trees with chill hours between 350-650 are good. Leave frost damage alone to protect the tree, don't prune until they are about to bud, around Feb. 14.

Marks tidbits...

- leave frost damage alone to protect the plant, don't prune until Jan-Feb
- fog or heavy mist weather is the best time to transplant evergreens
- chicken wire and 90-100% castor oil around dripline of plant to stop gophers
- don't plant bare root plants above the graft
- Elmers wood glue can seal cuts
- yellow sticky cards placed around plants can help to identify bug problems.

New Peach Varieties

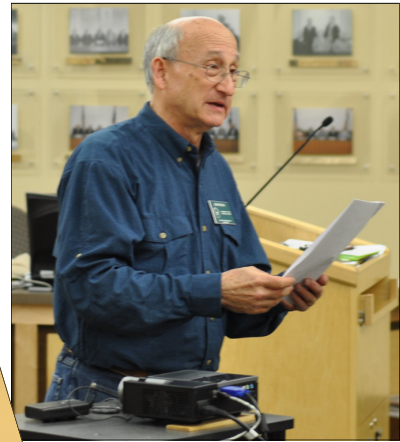
New Peach Varieties are going to be available. Read about it at <http://today.agrilife.org/2013/12/30/new-peach-varieties-available-in-january-for-home-gardens-across-texas/>



January Meeting

Mark Fanick brought two fruit trees and three plant items for giveaways. Guadalupe Rodriguez and Gail Johnson won the trees. Deedy Wright, Lillian Augustus, and Joanne Rand won the other items.

Dave Elder won \$29 in the raffle. Chuck Slaten won a \$10 gift certificate to Maldonado's.



Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor

Election of Texas Master Gardener Association Directors

At the January Membership Meeting Peggy Jones was elected as a Director to the TMGA from GCMG. Bob Teweles was elected as the Alternate. Dave Elder has another year on his term as a Director and Linda Bruno has another year on her term as an Alternate.

Refreshments

The Refreshments for the January meeting were provided by Betty Hughes, Pam Turner, and Treva Hicks. In addition I want the members who also brought brownies, cookies and other donations to know they were greatly appreciated also. Thank you all very much.

I want to thank Marilyn Anderson, Maria Montalvo, Doug Biggs and everyone who helped unload and setup the tables and equipment and move chairs as well as take down the tables and the equipment for the meeting. We could not do it without your help. Sincerely submitted by: Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator

GCMG Annual Awards Recognition Program

Over 80 members are eligible to receive "Years of Service" (left) and "100-Hour" (right) pins at the February Membership Meeting on the 20th. You won't want to miss this initial distribution of Service Recognition Pins for 3, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years of service as a Master Gardener. Those Master Gardeners who earned and reported 100 or more volunteer hours in 2013 will receive a "Watering Can" pin which can be worn during 2014. Guadalupe Master Gardeners appreciate the volunteer service of our members and we want the World to know!



Walnut Springs Trail Planning Process

The Seguin Main Street Committee asked several volunteer groups to attend a meeting to ask for input about the Walnut Springs Trail. Liz Romero, Betty Hughes & Penny Wallace attended representing Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. This meeting was held on November 22nd & 23rd, 2013. There will be a follow up meeting on January 30th at 7:00 p.m. at the GBRA Annex. The City Planner will give a 30 minute presentation on the Master Plan; the Parks and Recreation Director will talk for about 30 minutes; and there will be a question/answer session.

This is an earth-breaking endeavor. The GCMG will be an integral part of the planning process, so look forward to upcoming volunteer opportunities. We will keep you posted.

Did You Know??

The Guadalupe Co. Master Gardeners Association was incorporated in 1993. The original name was Seguin Master Gardeners but was quickly changed to Guadalupe County Master Gardeners.

Four of the first five training classes were held at Samuel Clemens High School in Schertz. Class #2 was held at Seguin High School. Classes #6 through #10 were conducted at the Guadalupe Co. Extension Service building in Seguin. Two classes were conducted in 1993, 1994 and 2000. There was no training class in 1999.

Your President is eager to appoint a Training Coordinator for 2014's class. Many members have offered to help conduct the class but they need a leader. The ideal time to schedule speakers is fast approaching so now would be a good time to step forward!

Please Volunteer!!

SPEAKERS BUREAU

January 4, 2014 Jim Johnson was on KWED Radio speaking about Spring Vegetable Gardening and Starting Seeds indoors.

January 11, Deedy Wright spoke on KWED Radio with Bob Grafe about Trees in Guadalupe County and their care, she also spoke about January Spring Vegetable Workshop sponsored by Guadalupe County MG's and the February Natives to Fly For: Workshop sponsored by Guadalupe County NPSOT.

Liz Romero gave a 2 hour presentation on January 13th, to the Lazy Daisy Garden Club, on "My Terrace Garden".

Submitted by: Treva Hicks, Speakers Bureau Coordinator

January Volunteer Recognition Program

Seven Master Gardeners participated in the January Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing. Congratulations to Cynthia Lyssy, our January Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing recipient. As our January Volunteer, Cynthia 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 Joyce Briscoe, John Lewicki, Pam Turner, and Patricia Tyler-White. Other members who qualified for the drawing were Joyce Friesenhahn and Elaine McIntyre. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and effort.

To qualify for the Monthly Volunteer Recognition Program drawing, certified GCMG Master Gardeners must report a minimum of five volunteer and continuing education hours earned during the month to the Hours Coordinator by the last calendar day of the month. Hours earned for attendance at the monthly GCMG Membership Meeting are not included in the minimum five hours, except those earned for meeting setup.

Don't forget to earn and report your hours by 28 February 2014 to be eligible for the March Membership Drawing.

Dual Preparing Your Spring Vegetable Garden Presentations Seguin & Schertz



Betty Hughes' table at the Schertz presentation.

In a "Bold Move", GCMGs conducted two classes at the same time in both Seguin and Schertz on Saturday, January 18th. Titled "Preparing Your Spring Vegetable Garden", in Seguin GCMG Vegetable Specialists Clara Mae Marcotte and Jim Johnson gave an excellent presentation covering vegetable selection, soil preparation, seed starting and strategies to combat cold weather. GCMG Vegetable Specialist Deedy Wright and Propagation Specialist Kathy Carroll gave an equally excellent presentation at the Guadalupe Co. Annex in Schertz. There was a good turnout of 36 paid attendees in Seguin and a somewhat disappointing 7 paid attendees in Schertz. A "Bonus" were the 17 GCMG workers who stayed to attend the classes.

Attendees gave the classes outstanding evaluations for presentation and content but the Seguin participants were not shy about commenting on the cold. We regret that the cafeteria heater was broken during the entire class. Many of the students expressed a desire to attend future classes. The contributions of the many GCMGs who helped conduct the classes are greatly appreciated. "Good Job!"

There are a limited number of class handouts left over which will be available to GCMGs at the February meeting. There is also an excellent Texas Gardener article at <http://www.texasgardener.com/pastissues/janfeb03/10secrets.html>

Photos by Penny Wallace & Peggy Jones

DON'T FORGET TO TURN IN YOUR HOURS!

Volunteer Agreement

If you haven't completed your 2014 Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement, please do so during February. The form can be printed from January 2014's Guadalupe Gardener newsletter, can be found on our website, <http://quadalupcountymastergardeners.org/files/2012/08/Guadalupe-Co.-Volunteer-Agreement-2014.docx> or will be available at the February meeting. Thanks to Doug Biggs for assisting members in completing the form at January's meeting.

History - Guadalupe County Community Garden

The first two photos were taken during the spring of 2009 at the backside of the Guadalupe County Annex Building in Schertz--the location of the then "proposed" new Schertz Community Garden. In the group photo are Mary Bowe, Bob Grafe, Linda Bruno, George Ammermann, Kay Wolverton and Kathy Carroll. The "walking over" photo was an "action" scene of the first Schertz Community Garden Committee: Mary Bowe, Linda Bruno, Kathy Carroll, George Ammermann, Kay Wolverton and Deedy Wright. The third photo is a photo of the GCMGA Board that spring, along with Travis Franke, who actually took the action necessary to move ahead with the adoption of the plan to move forward with the Schertz Community Garden plan.

These are wonderful "older" photos for the history of the garden. Originally, the garden was set aside by the Guadalupe County Commissioners Court as the "second" community garden for the Juvenile Probation Department at my request, as the department's chief, through Commissioner Wolverton. The Juvenile Department received a five-year "lease" to use the property now occupied by the community garden. George and I discussed that for some time before agreeing that the space might be better utilized by the Master Gardeners - especially on the west-end of the county. That was later proposed and agreed to by the commissioners court. That's actually how the garden became a reality.



Photos and article submitted by Bob Grafe