



The Guadalupe Gardener



JANUARY 2012

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



GREETINGS And HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we begin the New Year with high expectations and ambitious plans, I would like to give a special thanks to George Ammermann for his many years of service to this organization and his role as a mentor for all of us and particularly the patience he has shown to yours truly.

Also, thoughtful thanks to our immediate past Vice President, Doug Biggs, and Secretary, Sandy Foss.

One of the first items on our 2012 agenda is the criminal background check. As we have mentioned 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. In this newsletter (on page 10 & 11), you will find the application and instructions for filling out the form. Please fill out, DATE and SIGN the form. Enclose in a sealed envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL and addressed ONLY to Travis Franke. Mail to Texas AgriLife Extension Service, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155 or bring the form to the January or February membership meeting. Without exception, all forms must be returned no later than February 16, 2012.

With our primary goal of community education in the diverse opportunities of horticulture, one undertaking is the Jr Master Gardener program (JMG) planned for 2012 which provides new beginnings
(continued on page 7)

JANUARY MEETING

January 19th

Mark Gretchen, owner of Gretchen Bee Ranch, will provide a presentation about his bee business and honey production. He will discuss how bees are great pollinators for many of our plants.

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



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Association News

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The GCMG Christmas Social was held in Marion at St. John Lutheran Church on December 15. Approximately 110 people shared in the festivities for the evening. Once again we had a "pot luck" meal with the turkeys provided by Dale and Ann Odvody and Betty Hughes. Pat and Clyde Schultze cooked the ham. Linda Bruno was our MC for the night. Our main program was the graduation ceremony of the GCMG Class #23. Jose Contreras and Romelia Escamilla presented their certificates for completing the class (see pages 3 & 4). Pat Schultze, Joyce Friesenhahn and Treva Hicks were the coordinators for the event. Ten members participated in the table designs with Helen Griffith winning a prize with her painted cowboy boot decoration (see page 5). There was also a raffle for the beautiful sculpture made by Marika Bordes; Elaine McIntyre was the lucky winner, and the Community Garden is \$190.00 richer. Thank you so much, Marika! The other raffle of \$45 was won by a guest, Kristin Stamper, an ESL teacher at Woodlake Hills Middle School. Sharon Delcambre donated her Angel Tree table decoration and it was won by Gillian Siemens. To round out the evening, George Ammermann passed the gavel to Bob Davis, our GCMG President for 2012.

Our members were very generous once again, bringing 3 large boxes of toys for Blue Santa in Seguin, and 5 large boxes of non-perishable items for RACAP in Schertz.

A BIG thank you to all the people that helped with serving the food, clean up, etc.

Pat Schultze



Elaine McIntyre winning Marika Bordes wood sculpture, Royal Eloquence.



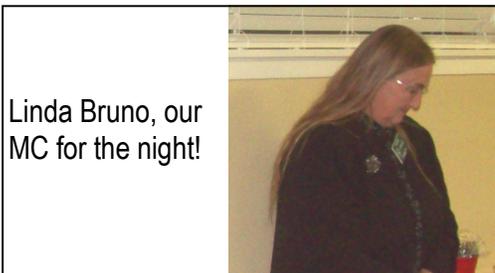
George Ammermann passes the gavel to Bob Davis, our GCMG President for 2012.



Treasurer, Bob Tewelles, dispenses raffle tickets.



President George Ammermann thanks Guadalupe County AgriLIFE Extension Agent, Travis Franke, for all his help and support.



Linda Bruno, our MC for the night!

Photos by
Mary Bowe
Dave Elder
&
Jerilyn
Preston



NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENER

Brandi Midkiff

From Class 22, shown with Class
Coordinator, Bob Teweles and
President George Ammermann.
Photo by Jerilyn Preston



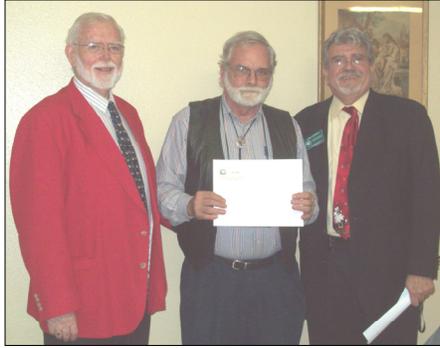
NEW GRADUATES NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS

**Sharon Delcambre
Helen Griffith
John Sells
Mary Styblo
Cindy Waechter**

Photo by Mary Bowe



Individual photos in same
order left to right, top to
bottom. Photos taken by
Dave Elder and Jerilyn
Preston.



NEW INTERNS from Class 23

Left to Right, Top to Bottom:
Dave Elder, Joyce Friesenhahn, Witten Harris, Martha Grimes, Randy Rye & Ellen Laubhan, Jessica Longoria, Debbie Real, LaVerne McKenney, Cyndy Winkelman, Mary Real, Linda Waite.



Above, all new Interns are receiving their graduation certificates from Class Coordinator Jose Contreras and GCMG President George Ammermann.

To the left are the inspiration for these new Interns and Master Gardeners: Jose Contreras and Romelia Escamilla.

Photos by Dave Elder & Jerilyn Preston

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - DECORATIONS



Just a sample of the beautiful and novel table decorations. Winner, by Helen Griffith, is shown bottom left and with award presented by Pat Schultze in center. Photos by Dave Elder and Mary Bowe.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

It's always a feast when master gardeners meet!



Photos by
Mary Bowe
and
Jerilyn
Preston

(GREETINGS - continued from page 1)

for those interested. Linda Bruno and Gina Mullen are working with Matt Miranda, Guadalupe County 4-H coordinator, who has provided a Gardening and Horticulture Master Plan which will be initiated in January. Stay tuned for more information.

Regarding the Guadalupe County Community Garden, thanks to Ann & Dale Odvody and numerous volunteers. The first full year of production has produced over 1,963 lbs of produce. Folks, that's almost one ton of food for the community. OUTSTANDING! This is one venue that allows MG volunteers to accumulate the hours needed, notwithstanding, enjoying the elements of nature.

The GCMG volunteer hours for 2011 exceeded 11,000 hours. At a conservative \$21.00/ hr, the GCMG provided Guadalupe and surrounding counties a labor value of \$231,000+.

Class 23 graduated 20 students and certified seven. With dedication and spending more time and hours than I can count, Jose Contreras and Romelia Escamilla provided an exceptional curriculum for this class and the projected enthusiasm these folks have will bring dividends for our organization.

Wrapping up 2010 with the annual Christmas social, Pat Schultze and her volunteers provided 110 members and guests with a wonderful evening. If anyone left hungry, it was their own fault. Class 23 and other MG class volunteers were introduced by Jose as we finished a grand evening.

Thought for the Day

Yesterday is history—Today is a gift and that is why it is called the present—Tomorrow is a mystery.
Bob Davis

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/?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

Seguin Christmas Tree Decorating Contest 2011

The Master Gardener Christmas Tree decoration at the Seguin Square was a huge success. Thanks to our volunteers, we had a beautiful Christmas tree with a vegetable theme and won second place. Carol Calentine coordinated the project on very short notice. Dean Webb put up the tree and put on the lights. Gail Kiehn, Gina Mullen, Brandi Midkiff, Helen Griffith, Kathy Pape and Lo-Ra Dick created the ornaments. Fortunately, the rains kept the vegetable ornaments fresh. Betty Hughes, Carol Calentine and Brandi Midkiff decorated. A truly team effort.

MAKING THE ORNAMENTS



DECORATING THE TREE



Photos by Betty Hughes & Carol Calentine

Texas Master Gardener Association Meeting

The Texas Master Gardener Association met the first week of December in College Station.

Treasurers were reminded that the dues form is available on the TMGA website and dues must be paid by March 1. The form can be filled in on line now and then printed for inclusion with the payment.

The 2011 Awards Handbook is available on the TMGA website. There is a Q&A link to submit questions and all the questions and answers will be posted. Associations that don't get their dues in on time won't be eligible.

If you do not currently receive the TMGA newsletter but you would like to, you can sign up on line. There is a calendar of events available for Master Gardener activities. Please keep your postings brief—they will be edited if they are too long. You can send flyers as attachments, but the calendar is only for Master Gardener events—no other organizations. Please send them in several weeks in advance and include both a start and end time.

There are some great specialist training opportunities coming up. Visit the TMGA website for more information. Irrigation specialist will be March 26, 27 & 28; Rainwater Harvesting May 24, 25 & 26; and Compost 13, 14, & 15.

The 2012 State Conference will be in San Antonio in April. The cost will be \$210 for the conference, \$40 for workshops and \$50 for tours. Details and registration will be available on the Bexar County Master Gardener website right after the first of the year. The sessions (particularly the workshops) will have limited seating, so sign up early to be sure that you get the sessions you want. The meeting will be held at the North Conference Center at I10 & 410 on the north side of San Antonio. The 2013 Conference will be in McAllen in October 2013.

Texas AgriLife Extension wanted everyone to know that no credit reports will be done as part of the new mandated background checks for volunteers. If you are given a form that has that on it, please feel free to cross out the credit language before you sign it. The form is provided by the contractor and they have not been agreeable to changing it for the Master Gardeners but they aren't going to do the credit reports because they aren't going to get paid for them.

TMGA is pilot testing an on-line volunteer reporting system. They hope it will make volunteer reporting easier for the associations.

Finally, the International Master Gardener Conference will be a cruise to Alaska on Holland Cruise Lines on September 7th through the 14th, 2013. More information will be available on the TMGA website.

Submitted by Gail Johnson

The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association

Is a

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION



Volunteer Application Form

And consent for criminal background history check authorization/waiver

To be completed by Extension program volunteers (EFNER, BLT, etc.) and Master Volunteers only.

4-H volunteers must register online via 4-H CONNECT or by completing the 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-1.056)

Please print:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. APPLICANT'S FULL, LEGAL NAME _____</p> <p>3. ADDRESS _____</p> <p>5. FIRST 5 DIGITS OF SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____</p> <p>7. DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER (optional) _____</p> <p>9. Are you of Hispanic ethnicity? Yes / No</p> <p>RACE (circle one) White / Black / Asian / American Indian</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Alaskan Native / Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander</p> | <p>2. COUNTY _____</p> <p>4. CITY _____ ZIP _____</p> <p>6. DATE OF BIRTH _____/_____/_____</p> <p>8. GENDER (circle one) Male / Female</p> <p>10. VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AREA _____</p> |
|--|---|

Previously Screened

11. I verify that I have been previously screened including a criminal background check and PASSED. Yes No
- If yes, by who? _____ When (Year): _____
- For what purpose? _____
- Did you pass? If not, what restrictions were imposed? _____
- If you have been screened and passed a criminal background check through an Extension-approved entity, a letter/proof must be submitted.

Please sign at the bottom of the form.

12. I hereby authorize VNNFYI and/or its Service Provider and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service to request and receive any and all background information about or concerning me, including but not limited to, my Criminal History, Driving Record, Employment History, Military Background, Civil Listings, Educational Background, Professional License from any Individual, Corporation, Partnership, Law Enforcement Agency, and other entities including my Present and Past Employers. I authorize the Texas AgriLife Extension Service or any of its components to make reference checks relating to my volunteer service. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility as a volunteer/employee with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service.
- The criminal history, as received from the reporting agencies, may include arrest and conviction data, as well as plea bargains and deferred adjudications and delinquent conduct committed as a juvenile. I understand that this information will be used, in part, to determine my eligibility for an employment/volunteer position with this organization. I also understand that as long as I remain an employee or volunteer here, the criminal history check may be repeated at any time. I understand that I will have an opportunity to review the criminal history as received by client/agency and a procedure is available for clarification, if I dispute the record as received. I also understand that the criminal history could contain information presumed to be expunged.
- I further release and discharge VNNFYI and their Service Provider and all of their Subsidiaries, Affiliates, Officers, Employees, Contract Personnel, or Associates, from any and all claims and liability arising out of any request for information or records pursuant to this authorization and/or procurement of an investigative consumer report and understand that it may contain information about my character, general reputation, personal characteristics, and mode of living, whichever are applicable.
- I understand that I have the right to make written request within a reasonable period of time to VNNFYI for additional information concerning the nature and scope of the investigation. I acknowledge that I have voluntarily provided the above information for employment/volunteer purposes, and I have carefully read and understand this authorization.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| 13. Date _____ | 14. Applicant's Signature _____ |
|----------------|---------------------------------|

Volunteer Application Form Instructions

1. Applicant's Printed Name – Complete with first name, middle name and last name.
2. County – Complete with the county name in which you are applying to be a volunteer.
- 3/4. Address – Complete with your current mailing address, city and zip code.
5. Social Security Number – Complete with at least the **first five** digits of the social security number. The social security number is an individual descriptor that enables the system to complete a national criminal search of 47 jurisdictions.
6. Date of Birth – Complete with the month, day and year of birth.
7. Driver's License Number – Complete with current driver's license number and state. Although optional, this helps affirm your identity during a background check.
8. Gender – Complete by circling one of the options.
9. Race – Complete the race and ethnicity section by circling the answers that apply. This field is optional; however, it is very important in confirming accurate identity.
10. Volunteer Program Area – Complete with the program area you are volunteering for (e.g., Better Living for Texans, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, Master Wellness Volunteer). **4-H volunteers should complete the Texas 4-H Adult Volunteer Application (4-H 2-1.056).*
11. Previously Screened – Texas AgriLife Extension Service will accept prior screenings conducted within the past three years from other entities. The approved list of prior screenings either as an employee or volunteer include: school districts, churches, youth groups/associations (Little League, sports associations, etc.), youth agencies/organizations (Big Brother/Big Sister, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, after school/extended care programs), law enforcement (county, state or federal/prison system), Texas Youth Commission, Department of Defense – Child and Youth Services, Department of Defense – Family Programs, concealed handgun license; and/or licensed childcare workers.
** The minimum requirement is a criminal background check conducted through DPS or a National Criminal Search entity.**
*** Other sources may be considered based on documentation provided with screening criteria and specifics.***
**** Documentation is required for screenings from other entities. This could include a letter of acceptance from the employer or volunteer group, or a letter written from the screening entity to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service stating you have been screened and tested.*
12. Authorization Statement – State agencies screening volunteers are required by legislation to use the Volunteer Center of North Texas. The Volunteer Center contracts with VeriFYI. VeriFYI is a background verification software system that accesses multi-jurisdiction checks utilizing one of the largest private-sector criminal history databases in the nation (180 million records). All information received is held in confidence and not shared at the county level. Criminal record results are shredded when a volunteer's status is determined.
13. Date Completed
14. Applicant's Signature

GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN Schedule

Jan. 14th is a Saturday Workday. Weather permitting, bed construction and mulch moving are on the agenda. Start time to be announced based on temperature.

Jan. 28th – Judit Green will speak on Attracting Hummingbirds to the Garden from 9 - 11 am. One of the most popular birds that people love to invite to their gardens are hummingbirds. Learn about the natural history of these flying jewels and tips on how to identify and attract them to your backyard, and about the many native plants that offer up nectar for these birds which will provide endless wildlife viewing pleasure!

Mar 10th– Please keep your calendar open for our plant sale. If you have plants to donate or want to propagate, email jlbruno@gvec.net Want to help with planning? Or get your name on the volunteer list for that day? We welcome the help. This will be our first major fund raiser for the Garden & we want it to be a big success.

THANKS to all of you who are still braving the weather to help on Tuesday mornings. Keep an eye on the Garden's Face Book page for updates & watch for Ann Odvody's emails on what's planned.

Updates from Ann Odvody

11/29 - This week's freeze finished off a lot of plants so we had a really good clean-out day. We also planted more cold crops and some new (to me) varieties of carrots (one is round). We harvested 12 pounds 2 ounces of produce today. For the year that puts us at 1,946 pounds 10 ounces. THERE WILL NOT BE A WORKDAY ON FRIDAYS UNTIL FEB OR MAR UNLESS IT IS ANNOUNCED BY EMAIL. We are only harvesting salad greens at this time and twice a week is picking too heavily. Also, the garden was left open last week. If you are there working, other than Tuesday, please be sure to lock up when you leave. If you have a key and want to pull weeds in the paths or mulch, feel free to come to the garden anytime. If you want to weed the beds, if you are not sure it is a weed or it is growing in a row, please leave it alone. We have carrots, shallots, garlic, radishes, and beets coming up from seed. Thanks for all the support and hope to see you all again next Tuesday!

12/8 - From Dale Odvody - Tomorrow will not be a work day. We harvested Tuesday and I shut off the water because of the cold weather. I will turn it on again Friday and since Ann thinks I am Anal retentive, I need to do this myself so I have a purpose in life.

12/13 - It was very damp in the garden this morning. Rain gauge said we have had another inch of rain since last Tuesday. We harvested Thai peppers, lettuce, spinach, Bok Choy, cilantro, green onions and one lovely head of cauliflower. Greens don't weigh much, but our total so far this year is 1,950 pounds 1 ounce.

12/20 - Cool and **WINDY** today. We uncovered two beds and mulched them in with pine needles, hoping to discourage the rabbit. We harvested 13 pounds 4 ounces of produce this morning. So far this year 1,963 pounds 5 ounces. Hope you all have a Merry Christmas!

12/27 - Sun was out, but it was cool in the garden this morning..we had ice in the buckets! Our rabbit has polished off almost everything down to the ground. We set a humane trap in an attempt to catch it. Just doing too much damage to keep it around, so we are hoping to relocate it to a new home. We had 45 pounds 9 ounces of cabbage this morning. Our total for the year is 2,008 pounds 14 ounces.

12/27/2011

**OVER A TON!!! OF PRODUCE FOR THE NEEDY!!!
FROM TEN BEDS - DURING A DROUGHT!!!
ALL VOLUNTEER!!!**



From Linda Bruno: WOW! WOW! WOW! Ann you are the best! Without your guidance and perseverance it would not have happened. And thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed to the effort. I think they will all agree with me how important you are to what gets accomplished there.

Speakers Bureau

Chuck Slaten spoke to 500 to 600 Navarro High School students on Agriculture, Nov. 30, during a six hour time period. In January, Clara Mae Marcotte will speak to the Lazy Daisy Garden Club on butterfly gardening, and Peggy Jones will speak to the Nogales Garden Club on roses. For the year 2011, the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners' Speaker's Bureau spoke to an approximate total of 970 people.

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.

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG. Email jlbruno@gvec.net for further information.

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

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 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

FUTURE PROGRAMS

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.

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.

GUADALUPE COUNTY MASTER GARDENER 2012-2013 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Contact Carol Calentine Volunteer Chairman

Volunteer signups or questions at carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us

To help you fulfill your volunteer obligations for the year, here is a list of Guadalupe County Master Gardener volunteer projects. Some have a chair or coordinator listed so that you can ask questions or volunteer. Others have no chair or coordinator; you are welcome to take the project. Remember, all of these projects need you to help. Even if you do not want to be the chair, you can still volunteer and help make Guadalupe County a better place.

Master Gardeners Library/Office/Support Staff, 210 East Live Oak, Seguin, 830-379-1972 Ext 210. Chairman Betty Hughes, Co-Chairman Esther Pinter. Every Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 except county holidays. Helpers always needed for filing, copying handouts, sorting seeds and bagging seeds for upcoming presentations.

KWED Lawn & Garden Show, 905 East Court Street, Seguin, KWED1580AM. Every Saturday 9:15 - 10 am. Master Gardeners, Master Gardener interns & students talk on garden subjects. George Ammermann/Bob Grafe/Ryla Cottingham.

Landscape at Texas AgriLIFE Extension Office, 210 East Live Oak, Seguin. Chairman Liz Romero, Co-Chairman Betty Hughes. Maintenance of garden done by volunteers on scheduled workdays - notified by email, newsletter and at Master Gardener's Annual meetings.

Green Team In Seguin, 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 8:00- 10:30am except for holidays and none in July. Meet at Seguin City Hall Annex, 205 North River Street, Seguin. Bring your pruner, bucket, gloves and other tools. Just show up ready to work

Guadalupe County Finance Center, Court Street, Seguin. Chairman Carol Mycue, Co Chairman Pat Schultze. Volunteers assist in maintenance and reconstruction of flower beds at the Court Street side of the building, pulling weeds and watering, replanting new flowers & roses, pruning (only in season)

Gutierrez Park, Elbel Rd, Schertz. - Chairman Tamme Trawick ttrawick@sbcglobal.net.

Speakers Bureau - Clara Mae Marcotte. Finds opportunities where Master Gardener's can talk to groups about garden related topics; matches speakers with groups; keeps the Speakers' calendar. This group works closely with the Education Chairman, Linda Bruno.

Master Gardener Mentoring Program – Jose Contreras. Mentor for Future New Master Gardener Classes. Read the newsletter and watch your email for information. The success of this program is going to depend on solid support from our members.

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks. Sign up to bring refreshments for Master Gardeners monthly meeting.

MG Scrapbook - Gloria Saenz. Keeps articles about our MG chapter together.

MG Web Page - Randee Malmsten

MG Newsletter - Elaine McIntyre

MG Website Photo Album - Jerilyn Preston

MG Publication - Dave Elder

Schertz Community Garden. Guadalupe County Annex Building, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz - Chairman Linda Bruno and Dale Odvody, Co-Chairman. Workdays scheduled every Tuesday, and 3rd Saturday of each month. Volunteers will monitor, maintain, repair, plant. This is a teaching garden as well as a raised bed garden that provides produce for Food Banks and other needy programs.

Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn - Herb & Butterfly Garden, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. Chairman Susan Casto, Co-chairman Gretchen Ricker. Every Friday morning weeding and trimming, mulching, re-planting, re-creating new beds.

Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn - Educational Garden, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. Chairman Gina Mullen, Co-Chairman Mary Jeanne Lucky. Every Friday and sometimes Saturday workdays. Duties of the vegetable garden: planting and weeding, as well as setting up designated watering times. Stan Wieding helps on the plowing and is our advisor of the garden. Helpers always needed. The garden is maintained for the sole purpose of Educational Presentations for Ag Fair and Pecan Festival in October and Ag Fest in May.

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, Freeman Coliseum, San Antonio, January 17th thru February. Joe Bruno, Construction Chairman/Dale Odvody, Volunteer Chairman. Volunteers assist Bexar County Master Gardeners in pre-construction phase January 17th - 19th, construction starts on January 23rd and now includes the entire building. February 9th is the start date to work booths. For more information contact Dale Odvody odvodyd@swbell.net

Showcase Seguin (Seguin COC) - March 2012. Volunteers man booth in Coliseum answering questions. Chairman OPEN

Wilson County Gardening Day, Saturday, March 3rd. Chairman Peggy Jones. Volunteers take material and man booth in Floresville and answer questions (also a good source to buy plants).

Earth Day in Seguin. April 30. Chairman OPEN. Set up three booths and kids table. Volunteers carry materials, set up display, talk to people about plants and gardening, answer questions, demonstrate compost.

Ag Fest, Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. May 3. Chairman OPEN, Co-Chairman Gina Mullen. Volunteers take material, set up display, and talk to people about plants and gardening.

Master Gardener Summer Social - June 16. Chairman OPEN. Plans party, finds location, set up and clean up with volunteers.

Guadalupe County Fair, City of Seguin Coliseum, 950 South Austin Street, Seguin. October 10-14. Chairman, Co Chairman and Kids Table OPEN. Master Gardeners are responsible for acceptance of horticultural and other related entries to be judged. During the Fair, Master Gardeners operate information and demonstration booths where they talk to the public and answer questions and give seeds and handouts.

Water Fairs in October - this is a 2-day event. Volunteers set up rainfall simulator and/or water cycle display. This is a shorter time demonstrating than the Ag Fair and Ag day for Kids.

Ag Fair, Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. October 15-31. Chairman Clara Mae Marcotte, Co-Chairman Gina Mullen. Volunteers talk to 3rd, 4th, or 5th graders about importance of gardening and produce in 15-20 minute increments around 12 times during the day.

Pecan Festival, Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. October 27 & 28. Chairman - OPEN, Co-Chairman Gina Mullen. Volunteers will man the vegetable garden at the Big Red Barn answering questions -- we need folks in the garden, volunteer shifts (ideally, two volunteers per shift; volunteers are welcome to serve on more than one shift). Also at other stations in the Barn you still get credit hours helping with kids activities.

Cibolo Ag Fair, Cibolo FFA Barn. November 1 & 2 (a 2-day event). Chairman & Co-Chairman - OPEN. Volunteers set up display, with gardening/produce, horticulture and water shed stations during 15 to 20 minute presentations around 12 times each day. Presentations to 3rd or 4th grade elementary students.

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, Seguin. November 29 & 30. Chairman Betty Hughes, Co-Chairman OPEN. Plan, make theme decorations, decorate and take down tree in Seguin's Central Park.

Master Gardener Social, December 14. Chairman Co-Chairman & Assistant OPEN. Coordinates Christmas Social. Plans party, finds location, set up and clean up with volunteers.



Website Photo Album

To reach the Guadalupe County Master Gardener Website Photo Album go to www.flickr.com/photo/gcmg. We need more photos, especially of past classes, events, etc. To send pictures to add to the album go to alfredpreston@yahoo.com. Please include the date, the event, location, and names of most significant people or other items in the photo. And if you see a photo in the album you know more about, please e-mail winddancers@dishmail.net or give me a call .830-996-3520.

Jerilyn Preston

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

The construction crew will gather at the storage area off of Hwy 90 and Loop 1604 on the West side of San Antonio about 8:00 am, Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Pickups, trailers and mostly laborers are needed. If you don't want to go out to the storage area, laborers will also be needed at the Texas Experiences building next to the Freeman Coliseum to unload and stage the building materials around 10:00 am the same day. Dale Odvody will send out instructions on how to get to both places by email. January 18 is reserved for further movement of building supplies, if necessary. Actual construction begins at 8:00 am, Thursday, January 19, in the Texas Experiences building. Tools, gloves, knee pads, and the like are necessary. What kind of tools? Well, Dale says he packs the back seat of his Ford Explorer with about every tool he owns and uses most of them at least once during the three week construction period. You say you don't have construction experience. No problem, laborers are needed to be helpers for those with construction experience by holding tools, etc. For example, cedar rail legs have to be anchored into the asphalt floor by drilling a hole in the asphalt and driving a spike in the hole. The laborer drills the hole through the leg and asphalt and hands the drill to the helper while the helper drops the spike in the hole and hands a three or five pound maul to the laborer. The laborer hammers the spike in the asphalt, hands the maul back to the helper, gets the drill back and both move on to the next cedar leg. It is a smooth efficient process and the laborer doesn't have to stop and look for where he/she laid down a tool last or hunt for a spike. Helpers also run for needed tools and parts.

What are the benefits of working construction? Free parking, earning volunteer hours in a covered, enclosed, "heated" building (albeit, it is hard to heat a tin barn on a really cold day) and a hearty lunch, including dessert, every day. Coffee and water are provided. Since sodas are a personal preference, please bring your own. You don't have to sign-up, just show up when you can. Dale says, in the five years he's been doing this, the only people he's seen standing around idle are the supervisors. Work-days start around 8:00 am, but if you cannot make it before 10:00 am, that's fine too. Quitting time is usually by 3:30 pm, to allow everyone to beat the other San Antonio quitting time traffic. If you have any questions, please email Dale Odvody at odvodyd@swbell.net.



San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

I need to request one person to help provide lunch for the S.A. rodeo workers on Wednesday, Jan. 25 and again on Wednesday, Feb. 1. Kathy Pape and I need one more person. My faithful friend Esther Pinter will be out of state on those days, so she will not be able to help this year.

For more information, anyone interested can contact me at 830/401-4066 or email me at ehughes5@satx.rr.com

Betty Hughes

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

A BIG BIG welcome to Helen Griffith who has volunteered to serve on the Education Committee. Her ideas are behind two of our big events coming up in February and March. We expect good things from the lady under the cowboy hat as we welcome her to our group.

So what's already 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.

Junior Master Gardener Training the week of **Jan. 22nd**, to be held at the Extension Building in Seguin. Gina Mullen, our JMG Specialist, will cover the program in depth along with how to connect with the community to help promote JMG through youth gardening. We will do some hands-on workshops and discuss sample training agendas. We will also establish goals for the GCMG JMG program. If you are interested, email jbruno@gvec.net and make sure you are on the email list for more details. This will be either a full day or two half days. Watch your email and the website for updates on these events and more as we put it all together.

Linda Bruno, Education Chairman

Landscape Design Study Course IV - February 20-21, 2012

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/>

Earth-Kind Gardening Series

Jan 14 (Saturday) 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Earth-Kind Gardening Series: "The Home Fruit Orchard"** Come visit with David Rodriguez at Schulz Nursery, 100 West Huebinger in Marion. He will guide you on the basics of growing fruit trees. For more information, call [210-467-6575](tel:210-467-6575).

Jan 21 (Saturday) 9 a.m. - noon. **Earth-Kind Gardening Series: "Fruit Tree Planting and Pruning Seminar"**. Come visit with Dr. Larry Stein, at Fanick's Garden Center, 1025 Holmgreen Road in San Antonio. He will guide you on the basics of selecting, planting, growing, training and pruning fruit trees. For more information, call [210-467-6575](tel:210-467-6575).

Jan 28 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Earth-Kind Gardening Series: "The Home Fruit Orchard"** Come visit with David Rodriguez at Schulz Nursery, 3700 Broadway in San Antonio. He will guide you on the basics of growing fruit trees. For more information, call [210-467-6575](tel:210-467-6575).

Honey Creek State Natural Area - www.honeycreekfriends.org

January 14, 2012 - **Birds of Prey Program** - 1pm (*Advanced Training Hours*)

Doris Mager, known nationwide as the Eagle Lady, will be presenting her Birds of Prey program at 1:00 pm on January 14th. This program includes live owls, a caracara, and an American Kestrel. Since this event is scheduled the weekend between the two January hunts, on a historically slow weekend, I'm hoping we have a good crowd. If the weather permits we will have an owl hike on the evening of the 13th, just after dusk.

Comal Master Gardeners

January 23, 2012 - Matt Warnock Turner - 6:30pm

A special notice to "save the date" for a really outstanding speaker, Matt Turner, author of "The Remarkable Plants of Texas". In this intriguing book, Matt Warnock Turner explores the little-known facts - be they archaeological, historical, material, medicinal, culinary, or cultural - behind our familiar botanical landscape. The Comal Master Gardeners meetings are free to the public, and as they are held at the GVTC Auditorium, there is plenty of room for anyone interested in attending. For more information: contact Lee Franzel at leefranzel@gvtc.com



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

On Tuesday January 10, 2012 Andrea Sanger, owner of Hill Country Gardens, will present a program about using Native Plants in the landscape.

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 Andrea Sanger 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

Texas Heirloom Bulbs

January 4th - San Antonio Garden Center

The San Antonio Garden Center is excited to have Danny Fowler as the speaker for their Wednesday, January 4, 2012 meeting starting at 9:30 am. Visitors are encouraged at all of our events located on the corner at 3310 N. New Braunfels and Funston, West of the Botanical Gardens.

Danny Fowler will speak about "Texas Heirloom Bulbs." He is the founding member of the Texas Flower Bulb Society and the owner of Texas Tulips. He studied at the University of Illinois and the Universite de Paris, and has been a recognized designer in the floral arts for more than twenty years.

Pecan Orchard Management Program
January 4 - 9 am - noon Frio Pecan Farm, 144 E Ranch Road 337, Leakey

The Texas AgriLife Extension Service office in Real County will conduct a pecan management program from 9 a.m.-noon Jan. 4 at the Frio Pecan Farm. The farm is located at 144 E. Ranch Road 337 in Leakey. From the Leakey County Courthouse, go south on Market Street or Highway 83, turn left on 6th Street, which is also Ranch Road 337 East. The farm is 1.8 miles down 6th Street on the right. "Pecan trees have suffered due to the drought and prolonged hot weather like everything else this year, but now is the time to start thinking about next year," said Travis Helm, AgriLife Extension agent in Real County. "The dormant season is a good time to catch up and gear up for next year's production. The goal of this program is to help producers literally nurse their trees back to health, and we've gathered our area's top most experts to share their knowledge on how to do that." The program's scheduled speakers are Drs. Larry Stein and Mark Black, AgriLIFE Extension horticulturist and plant pathologist, respectively, at the Texas AgriLIFE Research and Extension Center in Uvalde. Their topics will include:- 2012 Orchard Management-Impacts of drought and how to manage orchards to recovery. Disease and Pest Management-Past season insect and disease pressure and the products and know-how to treat them. Three Texas Department of Agriculture continuing education units will be offered – 1.5 general, one integrated pest management and 0.5 drift minimization. Individual preregistration is \$10 due Jan. 3 to the AgriLIFE Extension office in Real County. For more information or to RSVP, call the AgriLIFE Extension office in Real County at 830-232-6673.

INTERNET CLASSES

Earth-Kind Drought Preparedness. Go to: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/drought/> go through the entire section and complete and submit the On-line Evaluation to earn 2 Continuing Education Hours.

Earthkind classes are available at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

AgriLife is now charging \$10 to take the Tomato 101 class found at <https://agrilifeevents.tamu.edu/events/details.cfm?id=641> but it is well worth it.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Although GCMG policy is that you may not take over 3 credits a calendar year for on line courses, the board voted that, in this instance, we can take an additional 2 CEU's over and above the 3 CEU limit for

GARDENING EVENTS

The Southern Region MG Conference
May 1-4, 2012
Natchez, MS

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

January 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
8	9 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON O Full Moon	10 9 am GCCG Workday	11	12 GCMG Board Meeting	13	14 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m. GCCG Workday 9 AM
15	16 Master Gardener Office/Library GREEN TEAM 9 am	17 GCCG Workday Rodeo Moving Day	18 Rodeo Moving Day	19 GCMG Meeting 7 PM Background Checks Due	20	21 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m.
22	23 Master Gardener Office/Library Rodeo Construction Starts ● New Moon	24 GCCG Workday	25	26 Newsletter Deadline	27	28 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:15 a.m. GCCG Speaker On Hummingbirds
29	30 Master Gardener Office/Library	231 GCCG Workday				



**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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Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Carol Calentine	Volunteer Chairman
Jose Antonio Contreras	MG Training Chairman
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

January Meeting
Thurs, January 19, 2012, 7 P.M.
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.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor
(elaine@tindomorgans.com)

Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener