



The Guadalupe Gardener



January 2013

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
Extension Service

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

A huge thank you to Bob Davis, the board members, committee members and the membership for a wonderful 2012. Guadalupe County Master Gardeners should be proud. Now it is 2013. Wow! As always our MG calendar is full. On pages 7 * 8 you will find our 2013 calendar. Please mark your personal calendars for these events. January and February are full of fun with us participating in the Stock Show and Rodeo. On a special note: the **Texas Master Gardener Conference** is in October in McAllen with a theme of **Birds, Blooms and Butterflies**. Check it out at www.2013tmgconference.org. It is not too early to make hotel reservations. A big thank you goes out to County Judge Jim Wolverton for working with Pulte Homes to donate and build a pavilion at our Guadalupe County Community Garden in Schertz. This should be constructed in January. I envision volunteer opportunities for seating to be built. Benches? Picnic Tables? Set up for a water harvesting collection display. Both Community and JMG/Youth education opportunities. As we move into the first quarter of 2013 our plate will be full. So I challenge each and every one of us to take on the team effort to make 2013 a success. Peggy Jones, President

"My green thumb came only as a result of the mistakes I made while learning to see things from the plant's point of view." ~H. Fred Dale

January Meeting January 17th, 2013 - 7 PM

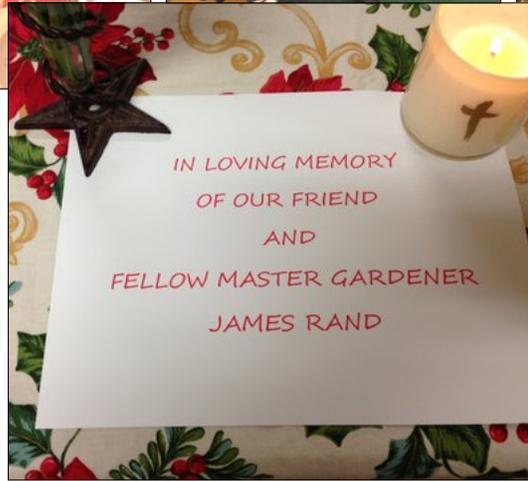
Jan 17 - **Proper Tree Trimming**. Paul Johnson will be the presenter. Paul is a member of the Texas A&M Forest Service. Paul is an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Board Certified Master Arborist and Municipal Specialist. He serves as V.P. of the Texas Chapter of ISA and has been elected to the ISA Board of Directors.

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

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GCMG Christmas Social 2012 - Photos by Bill Jones



Association News

Jim Rand 1956-2012

On December 13, 2012, the GCMG Class 24 lost a member of their class to a tragic automobile accident.

Jim was born in Madison, Ohio in 1956. He served in Air Force for 20 years. He and his wife, Joanne, lived for the last several years in the Kingsbury area on a small ranch. Jim was a six year cancer survivor.

Jim did volunteer work for the City of Seguin Main Street Program. He met Jose Contreras at the Earth Day celebration in May in downtown Seguin and learned about the Master Gardener Program.

Although Jim and Joanne had just joined the GCMG, Jim was already well known in the community from working with the County Extension office on trial Huisache abatement programs to assisting with the local VFD with their chili cookoffs and helping out at the Seguin Main Street Program. Jim was also involved in the Junior Master Gardener Program and recently built a portable table to be used as a demonstration for square foot gardening.

Jim was certified posthumously at the Christmas Social graduation on December 14th, and his wife Joanne was graduated in absentia. Information on Jim is on the website for Tres Hewell Mortuary in Seguin at www.treshewell.com. To send a card to Joanne Rand and family, the home address is 7207 Wilke Rd, Kingsbury, TX 78638.



A Note of Appreciation from Joanne Rand

I would appreciate it if you would let all the fellow Master Gardeners know that I truly appreciate their kind words, thoughts, and prayers. They keep me lifted.

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year. I look forward to seeing you.

Green Team



We, the Green Team, were just getting to know Jim Rand - we liked everything about him and were so happy to have him on our crew. He was so excited to be graduating and having his 50 hours so he could be certified. His enthusiasm showed in everything he did. And just that quickly we are going to have to learn to do without him and we are so sorry. We so enjoyed working with him, he was such a great worker and will be sorely missed. Huglene Micheli

Square Foot Gardening Table Big Red Barn

Jim and Joanne Rand are in the Guadalupe Master Gardeners' Class #24. As a community service project they have built a square foot garden table for the Big Red Barn. After teaching hundreds of kids about square foot gardening during the Ag Fairs offered at the Big Red Barn and Toby Conner Ag Complex, they realized they could enhance these classes with building a full sized demonstration table. Young children are concrete learners who want to experience and apply what they learn, and gardening is a perfect tool to teach science, math, and environmental conservation. In a collaborative effort with the Big Red Barn, the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners are hard at work developing youth gardening with emphasis on sustainability and nutritional awareness. The Master Gardeners' youth initiatives involve demonstrations in square foot gardening, promoting school support through a buddy program, teaching landscape and vegetable garden design software for classroom technology, as well as offering the award winning Junior Master Gardener teacher's material to schools and youth organizations.



Jim and Joanne met in Turkey while serving in the US Air Force as electronic technicians. At the time they may not have realized that 30 years later they would be farming and ranching in Kingsbury Texas, but then life's road seldom tells you where your destination is going to be, and along the way they have truly learned the importance of making a difference. As a brain cancer survivor, Jim has been given the time and opportunity to give back to his community. Jim was impressed with a number of new gardening techniques that the Guadalupe County Master Gardener's classes offer, especially training in water and soil conservation. Square foot gardening implements these concepts in a fun, easy, and productive method, perfect for schools and backyard gardeners.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Feb 21 - **Drip Irrigation for Raised Bed Gardening.** Ron Csehil will be the presenter. Ron is a member of Gardening Volunteers of South Texas, 2012 Board Member of GVST, and a Bexar County Master Gardener.

Mar 21 - **The Role of the Bumble Bee in Nature.** The presenter will be Michael Warriner. Michael is a member of Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Annual Seguin Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

The tree decorated by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners won second place. They had a lot of fun making ornaments and decorating the tree. Thank you to the huge crew who helped. Photos by Betty Hughes and Pam Turner



DUES REMINDER

Dues can still be paid! Cindy Waechter is the new Treasurer – so dues can be sent to her (26226 Lewis Ranch Rd, New Braunfels, Tx 78132) or to the Extension office.

Members who did not earn enough hours in 2012 to recertify should consider requesting Associate status so they don't have a lapse in membership.

Class 24 Celebrates 100% Graduation



Row 1: Stan Posey, Pam Holl-Colvin, Pam Turner, Patte Tyler-White, Betty Anderson, Patti Zgabay, Regina Benfield

Row 2: Guadalupe Rodriguez, Denise Bonds, Kat Taylor, Berny Croan, Joanne Rand, Ruben Roecker

Row 3: Will Roberts, Arnold Truax, Karen Wallock, , Diane Lippe, Cindy Martin, Patricia Watkins,
Elaine Zehner, Helena Torralva, Tracy Pingel, Andres Pérez

Row 4: T Taylor, Jim Rand Carlos Cárdenas, Bob Cole

Not pictured: Frank Zehner

December 5, 2012

Ode to Class 24

So much to know about how to grow—
The course went fast and now it's past—
Jose, Cindy and crew did their best,
Now it's up to us to do the rest—
The speakers were great and we learned a lot.
I hope the important things are not forgot—
Fifty volunteer hours is a lot to obtain, but well
worth it for the knowledge gained—
Using both inside and outside voices, our
instructors taught us good gardening choices—
Our thanks to those who led the way
for Class 24 to reach Graduation Day—

Stan Posey, Class 24

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners 2013 Calendar of Events

January

- 10 Board Meeting
- 17 Membership Meeting
- 22 **SA Stock Show and Rodeo** - we move parts and equipment into the Texas Experience building. This may last one day or several days depending on the equipment the stock show committee makes available to us.
- 28 **SA Stock Show and Rodeo Construction** begins 8 am to 3:30 pm. No sign up; just show up. Parking is free and a free lunch will be served daily.
- 31 Deadline to submit Charter Documents
- 31 Officers/Directors Roster due to TMGA

February

- 2 Lazy Gardener Workshop, Schertz Civic Center, NPSOT
- 2 TMGA Meeting at Texas A&M, College Station (IRS Presentation)
- 6 **SA Stock Show and Rodeo Final day of construction**
- 7-24 **SA Stock Show and Rodeo**
- 14 Board Meeting
- 21 Membership Meeting
- 25 - 27 **SA Stock Show and Rodeo** - tear down and store

March

- 2 Wilson County Gardening Day in Floresville
- 14 Board Meeting
- 21 Membership Meeting

April

- 11 Board Meeting
- 18 Membership Meeting
- 27 Earth Day in Seguin Central Park

May

- 2 Ag Fest at the Big Red Barn
- 4 TMGA Meeting, Texas A&M, College Station
- 9 Board Meeting
- 16 Membership Meeting

June

- 6 Board Meeting
- 13 Summer Social

July

- 11 Board Meeting
- 18 Membership Meeting
- TBA Junior Master Gardener Workshop for Teachers

August

- 3 TMGA Meeting, Texas A&M, College Station
- 8 Board Meeting
- 15 Membership Meeting

September

- 7-14 International Master Gardener Conference www.uaex.edu/imgc2013
- 12 Board Meeting
- 19 Membership Meeting

October

- TBA Ag Days for Kids
- 10-13 Guadalupe County Fair
- 10 Board Meeting - Budget
- 17 Membership Meeting
- 17-19 Texas Master Gardener Conference in McAllen www.2013tmgaconference.org
(No TMGA meeting at conference)
- 25-26 Pecan Fest

November

- TBA Cibolo Ag Day
- 14 Board Meeting - Budget Approval
- 21 Membership Meeting

December

- 3 City of Seguin Parks and Recreation, Christmas Tree Decorating Contest.
- 7 TMGA Meeting, Texas A& M, College Station
- 12 Board Meeting
- TBA Christmas Social

Every Monday the MG office/library is open from 9am - noon except for holidays.

Every Monday, Thursday and 2nd Saturday are work days at the GC Community Garden.

Every Friday is a workday in the gardens at the Big Red Barn.

The Green Team works on Seguin city beds the first and third Mondays.

Please refer to the Volunteer Opportunities tab on our website for more information.

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

Texas A&M Forest Service Issues Safety Tips for Holiday Season

Conditions could line up for an active winter wildfire season in some parts of the state, and Texas A&M Forest Service officials are urging residents to take precautions. The agency has identified an “area of concern” where large wildfires could occur this winter if conditions are right. The area includes everything north of a line from Fort Stockton along I-10 to San Antonio, north to Austin, northeast to Tyler and east along I-20 to the state line. That region didn’t get enough rainfall this year to eliminate drought but did get enough to increase grass growth.

Low humidity, dry conditions and high winds can cause fire to spread rapidly. Although there are particular areas of concern, fires can occur anywhere in the state, and residents should remain cautious.

Any time the state experiences dry periods with strong, gusty winds, the threat of wildfire will increase and extra caution is encouraged to avoid devastating wildfires.

Several precautions are suggested for the holiday season:

- Check for and obey burn bans and fireworks restrictions.
- When and where outdoor burning is allowed, keep the fire small, never leave it unattended and remove flammable leaves and other materials from the area surrounding the fire. Avoid lighting piles on windy days.
- Keep water nearby in case a fire starts. A spark or burning ember can ignite dry, fine-textured fuels like grass and weeds.
- Read and follow label instructions on how to properly discharge fireworks.
- Use fireworks with close adult supervision and only in areas clear of dry vegetation.
- Avoid using fireworks, particularly aerial varieties, around buildings. Wind can carry hot fireworks onto roofs where leaves or other flammable debris may have accumulated.
- Remove your natural Christmas tree soon after the holidays and consider community tree recycling projects. Christmas trees can be ground up for mulch or provide shelter for birds and other wildlife.
- Dispose of wrapping paper, boxes and other holiday waste by recycling, when practical. Burn paper and cardboard in a burn barrel or other fire-proof receptacle topped by a metal screen or grill, as winds can carry embers over long distances.

Contact: Jan Amen, Fire Prevention Specialist, (936) 546-1004, jamen@fs.tamu.edu

Big Red Barn Volunteer Work for Square Foot Gardening

I greatly appreciate the willingness of Jim and Joanne Rand along with Marvin Taylor to help in building a square foot gardening demonstration table and demonstration kits. Tuesday, December 4th, the Rands delivered a table to the Big Red Barn. Jim is also constructing a top to allow this table to have multiple uses, and Joanne is preparing 32 tiles that will complete a teaching kit that goes along with it.

In addition, Marvin has volunteered to build the 4 demonstration kits that can be easily transported to classes. If anyone saw my prototype they know how grateful I am for expertise and skill! Wow, thanks for all the help class #24!

Submitted by Lo-ra Dick

Refreshments

Refreshments for the January 17, 2013 meeting will be provided by: Janice Knobles, Judy Johnson, Bob Teweles and Treva Hicks. Sincerely; Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator, hicks1t@lycos.com

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact
Pat Schultze Secretary, 830-556-6751 or
e-mail clydepat6@aol.com.

Speakers Bureau

On November 20, Dave Elder gave Composting presentation at the Santa Clara Civic Center. Dave had 3 listeners.

November 20, Nancy Masterson gave a presentation to the Nogales Garden Club. Nancy spoke to 13 members on "Attracting Birds to Your Garden".

December 4, at the Navarro High School Career Day Chuck Slaten spoke to 25 students about career opportunities in the field of Agriculture. Treva Hicks answered questions about gardening.

This brings Speakers Bureau to a total of 1019 people that listened and learned from Guadalupe County Master Gardeners in 2012.

I would like to say thank you to all the Speakers for their hard work in 2012. I look forward to working with you in 2013 and if there is anything that I can do to help, please let me know.

Treva Hicks, Speakers Bureau Coordinator, hicks1t@lycos.com 830-303-4712

Join the Master Gardeners Every Saturday Morning on the Radio!!!!

During December, show guests included Master Gardeners Gail Johnson, Larry Taylor, Gene Griffin and Janet Grafe.

During the first quarter of 2013, we would like to feature several Master Gardeners discussing the topics of: Water Harvesting; Spring Vegetable Gardening; Planting Fruit and Nut Trees; Landscaping Design Techniques; Raised Bed & Container Gardening; Spring Annuals and Perennials; Feeding Your Plants and Trees; and more of "Your" other gardening topics. Contact the KWED Lawn & Garden Show scheduler, Janet Grafe, at 830-305-1446 for details and to reserve your Saturday morning show in advance.

GCMGs ARE THE GREATEST!

Linda Waite has been picking up and mailing the Newsletter hard copies to those members without internet access, but due to a new job, can no longer continue. A big thank you to Linda for a job well done.

Responding to a request in the last issue, Doug Biggs has volunteered to take over the mailings. No begging and pleading and scouring the bushes for a volunteer. One simple request was all it took.

At the Christmas Social Carol Calentine asked for an assistant to help her with the Volunteer Chair duties. Her request was also answered: Don Hilbert has volunteered to assist Carol.

Ask and ye shall receive! GCMGs are definitely the greatest! Thank you Doug & Don!

**Santa Clara Loves Gardening!
And talks on Gardening ... But Which Ones? - You Decide!**

There are not many places one can go around Santa Clara and Marion and not see a garden, a flower bed or people in love with nature. Some of us are natural gardeners - some of us not so much. But one thing we have in common - we'd love to learn how to do it better.

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners can help. Come tell us the gardening subjects you'd like to learn about - the topics you'd like to hear - and we'll schedule them for you. Help us decide which subjects to schedule first and we'll do our darndest to make it happen.

We've got lots of speakers and lots of topics but no way of knowing if you're interested in what we have - and if you are, which are most important. Unless of course you show up to tell us.

The above article was included in the recent Santa Clara Newsletter.

**The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association
Is a
VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION**

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Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder

One Year Term - Cindy Martin

Project Evaluation Committee

Gillian Siemens, Barbara Gettig, Janice Knobles

Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs

Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks

Guadalupe Co. 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

Hours Reporting - Dale & Ann Odvody

Notification - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

Volunteer Chair Assistant - Don Hilbert

Guadalupe County Fair - Helen Griffith

Historian - Gloria Saenz

WebSite Photo Album - Jerilyn Preston

Class 25 Coordinator - Bob Teweles

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Updates from Ann Odvody

Because the weather is getting colder, we are going back to our winter start time of 9:00 am. This will be effective Thursday, 1 Nov 2012.

11/30 - It was a cool start, but warmed right up so it was pleasant working yesterday. We removed the green beans and planted more cabbage and broccoli in that space. We have also planted 400+ onions, so far - all 1015Y. Hope to get another 400 or so in next week some of which will be red onions. We harvested 48 pounds 1 ounce of produce. The total for the year is 3,344 pounds.

12/6 - Weather has been great for getting out in the garden. Cool, damp, and foggy start this morning, but then it cleared up and the morning was gorgeous. We got a lot done this morning. We all did the usual harvesting and weighing. We had one really beautiful head of cauliflower! Then we moved on to clearing the bed that had the butternut squash in it and preparing it for onions (thanks Dale). Mary and Terry got additional cabbage transplants in the ground and watered in. Sam (Class 24) and I set out eight bundles of onions, so we now have 1015Y, Bermuda, Red and Texas Early Sweet White in the ground. Now, as for the numbers, we harvested 32 pounds 4 ounces on Monday and 31 pounds 1 ounce this morning. Total for the year is 3,407 pounds 5 ounces.

12/12 - **We will delay start until 10:00 am. Going to be cold!**

12/20 -It was cold and WINDY in the garden this morning, but three hardy gardeners persevered. We cleared three beds of tomato, pepper and zucchini plants we lost in the first freeze. That will give Dale a project preparing them for the next round of planting. To catch up on harvest totals, we had 3 pounds on 17 Dec 2012 and 11 pounds 13 ounces today. Our total for the year is 3,448 pounds 11 ounces. I have attached a picture of our new mascot. He is cute, but I doubt he will help with the rabbits.



The Community Garden Mascot needs a name. Submit your suggestions to Ann.

12/21 -When we had the light freeze last week, four of the five Melnor water timers cracked internally and started to leak. Fortunately, Linda Bruno went by the garden the next morning on her way to work and shut those faucets off. Ann and Dale bought four new Orbit brand timers and switched the broken ones out. As we were suppose to get down to 24 degrees this morning, yesterday afternoon Dale went to the garden, shut off the water at the meter, and opened the drain line. Joe Bruno and Dale installed and drained the field (disconnected all the timers and hoses and opened all the faucets). This afternoon, Dale reconnected all the timers and hoses, shut off all the faucets without timers and hoses and turned the water back on. The fifth Melnor timer had cracked and was leaking water. Dale replaced it with an Orbit brand timer. We are forecasted to get freezing temperatures Wednesday and Thursday mornings, so will shut off the water and drain the field Monday before we leave the garden and then turn on the water before we leave the garden Thursday morning. Temperatures permitting, the water will be turned back on Friday morning.

The Guadalupe County Annex building will be closed the next two Mondays and Tuesdays for the holidays. So no restrooms and water those Mondays. So since Ann and Dale have no plans for the holidays, you all can take the week off and come back the Thursday after New Years. What little there is to harvest, we'll take care of. Have a merry Christmas and happy new year assuming the Mayan calendar is wrong and we survive the night.

Texans Being Urged to be on the Lookout for a New Bug in Town

Excerpted from an article by Steve Byrns, 325-653-4576, s-byrns@tamu.edu

With the holiday season gearing up, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service entomologists are urging travelers to be wary of a new species of unwelcome six-legged hitchhikers itching to become full-time Texans. The brown marmorated stink bug is hitting some states hard. It's a great hitchhiker which is probably one, if not the main, reason it has spread to so many states. Adults seeking overwintering sites tend to get in recreational vehicles, travel trailers, etc. This pest can cause lasting foul smells in homes and other confines, plus cause major damage to a wide variety of crops and plants.

So far, there has been only one confirmed in Texas. That single find last November at Corpus Christi was from a pest control operator investigating a stink bug infestation in a trailer or RV that had been moved to Corpus from Pennsylvania. That's why AgriLIFE wants the public, pest control operators and those in the landscape industry to be aware that they really want to know about possible sites before they escalate as they have elsewhere. New detections in Texas will more likely come from this group of folks, rather than an agricultural 'bug scout' in the middle of a soybean field. The pest is not a health threat to people or animals, but has the potential to become a problem in a variety of outdoor settings. It's possible that it's already in various parts of the state, and people don't know about it, so they're not reporting it.

The pest is originally from Asia and is found in China, Japan, Taiwan and Korea. It was spotted in Pennsylvania in 1998 and has spread from there. Since it's an invasive species, natural predators and parasites can't help to keep populations in check. It also seems that the pesticides we have do not do much to help manage the populations. Populations in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and other states have built up to high levels as they feed on apples, peaches and other fruits. This stink bug will probably feed on pecans in Texas, adding to the losses we may experience from it, and will probably be a huge problem in grapes because just one or a few stink bugs can taint the flavor of a whole vat of wine. They also indiscriminately dine on tomatoes, peppers and a wide variety of other garden crops and ornamentals and could pose a threat to those industries. The main concerns among Texas field crops are soybeans, pecans and possibly cotton. In the fall when they start looking for a place to spend the winter, they can cause problems for homeowners. In some areas of other states, they have entered homes by the thousands and tens of thousands where they leave a very lasting and foul odor. So they are not only an agricultural problem, but also a very troublesome household pest. Folks in the worst affected areas vacuum them up daily, and their homes still smell like stink bugs for weeks.

As with most home insect invaders, excluding them from the home is the best and safest course of action should the pests gain a foothold in Texas. In the meantime, the entomologists are asking all Texans to report and submit suspected samples so they can confirm if and where the insects may be taking up residence in the state. Though they are not a direct human health threat, they are a nuisance that could live almost anywhere in Texas.

"The brown marmorated stink bug looks just like other stink bugs, but it's a drab brown with black mottling on its back and a distinctive pattern of alternating white and black triangles around the outside of the abdomen. If folks start noticing a new stink bug, one they haven't seen before, then AgriLIFE wants to know about it.

Samples should include the name and contact information of the sender, the location the bug was found, and the plant or place where it was found. Specimens should be put in something like a pill bottle (preferably dead) and sent to Kira Metz, Minnie Belle Heep Building 216D, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475. The specimens could also be sent to any AgriLife Extension agent.



Brown marmorated stink bug; adult and nymph stages. (Courtesy photo)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities January

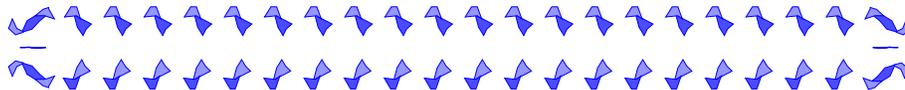
There are volunteer hours available to work at the Community Garden and to make exhibit boxes for the Junior Master Gardener program. Also on Friday mornings members can work at the Big Red Barn.

Jan 22 - Feb 27 - San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo - (see below)

Rodeo Volunteer Sign Up

It's that time of year again Master Gardeners - time to gear up for Rodeo 2013! If this is the first time you've volunteered for rodeo here's what you need to do:

1. **Sign a notarized Rodeo Waiver.** You can come by the Guadalupe County AgriLife Extension Office on Tuesday, Jan. 2nd thru Tuesday Feb 6th and get your form completed. It is a necessary document in order to volunteer at rodeo. Signing a waiver does not obligate you to volunteer during the rodeo. So if you're not sure you'll be able to volunteer, sign up anyway in case you decide to. See Kim Luensmann, she has the form and can notarize it for you. We will also have a Notary Public at the Jan 17th general membership meeting. If you want to get the Rodeo waiver form notarized at a place of your convenience, it is now online at: <http://www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org/home/rodeo-2013>.
2. **To sign up for volunteer shifts** contact Peggy Armstrong from the BCMG: texastoosie@satx.rr.com. Peggy will assign you to your desired shifts on a first come first served basis. So slackers won't get their first choice of shifts. You do not have to sign up for the construction or tear-down portions of the SASS&R. Show up when you can for as long as you can.



Roselle (Florida Cranberry)

This is a photo of Clara Mae Marcotte's roselle plant before the freeze. It is also called Florida cranberry. The calyxes are gathered and boiled; then the juice is strained and used for drinking or for jelly. The plant grows well here; however, it doesn't start blooming until November, so it really is for further south. It also is too big for a small garden. Photo by Clara Mae Marcotte.

GARDENING EVENTS

3rd Annual Jammin' Jams Fruit and Nut Tree Adoption Jan 26 (9am-1pm) , Pearl Brewery Farmers Market.

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department will adopt out 500 fruit and nut trees (limit one per household). David Rodriguez will give the fruit tree presentation (very informal). How to plant them, take care of them, etc. [Contact David for further questions dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu.](mailto:dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu)



Lazy Gardener's Workshop Coming Sat., Feb. 2, 2013

Are you a fed-up gardener tired of poor soil, struggling plants and a high water bill? Then a day at "The Lazy Gardener's Landscape: Working with Nature" workshop at the Schertz Civic Center on Saturday, Feb. 2 is for you. Offered by the Guadalupe County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas and Maldonado Nursery, Seguin, the 5-hour workshop will help homeowners design personal landscape projects that thrive naturally on little water, are easy to maintain, pleasing to the eye and healthy for the environment.

Heather Venhaus, the leader of the workshop, is a landscape architect specializing in small areas such as residences. Venhaus is the author of the Landscape for Life (www.landscapeforlife.org) curriculum sponsored by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. She spent the last decade working with scientists and educators on sustainable design, land restoration and environmental education. Currently she is the principal of Regenerative Environmental Design, a sustainable design consulting firm.

The Lazy Gardener's Landscape event will feature a 5-hour, interactive workshop that will cover the topics of soils, water and plants and will teach participants how to work with, and not against, nature. The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2 at the Schertz Civic Center at 1400 Schertz Parkway in Schertz. The cost for the full-day workshop, including lunch, is \$36 per person.

In addition, a gardening fair will be held to complement the ideas discussed in the workshop. Vendors will offer native plants, Texas gardening books and other gardening items for sale. Local community groups will have exhibits and information on working with nature. Also, kids can enjoy special garden-related activities. A drawing for raffle items that include a quilt, 2 decorated rain barrels, and a large euphorbia plant will be held at the end of the workshop. All these attractions except the workshop will be open to the public for a \$2 admission fee.

For more information or tickets, contact Monta Zengerle at 830-285-4083 or zengerlem@sbcglobal.net or Deedy Wright at 830-214-6330 or dwright24@satx.rr.com.

Take the Earth-Kind challenge at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/> and learn how Earth-Kind your landscape is.

Looking for local gardening and landscaping information?

Go to: <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/programs/earth-kind-horticulture/>

Texas Bluebird Society - 2013 Season Kickoff Advanced Training
Kerrville, Texas 1001 Junction Hwy, Kerrville, Texas
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2013 9:00 am - 2:30 pm

Featured Speakers

Mark Klym - Wildlife Biologist and author with Texas Parks and Wildlife - Wildscaping Options for Bluebird Enthusiasts - Seasonal Movement of Bluebirds

John English - Photographing Cavity-Nesting Birds

Additional Presentations - Bluebird Basics, House Sparrow Control, NestWatching, and more

FREE Nestbox to members who pledge to "NestWatch" at least two nestboxes. Complete information available for this event: <http://www.texasbluebirdsociety.org/Events.php> .On-line registration: <http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?429794>. Early Bird Registration Deadline: January 9th - Advance Registration Deadline: January 26th. At-the-door Registration: No lunch and no door prize chances

For More Info: Jeri Porter jeripster@gmail.com (512) 773-1076

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Master Gardener Specialist Training Update

For information on specialist training, see listings on the TMGA website <http://txmg.org/for-members/specialist-training-2010/>

Backyard Gardening Series **Composting 101: Making Black Gold for your Garden** **Jan 15 (Tues) 6:30-8:30pm**

Composting is the ultimate way for the home gardener to recycle by reducing and not contributing to the insanity of sending unneeded materials to our overburdened landfills. This in turn, allows us to have "FREE" organic materials for our gardens and become better stewards of the environment. Come visit with Master Gardener Composter Specialist John Sells and Horticulturist David Rodriguez to learn about starting and maintaining a functional and practical home composting program. This is a great training for that backyard gardener, community garden person or that small acreage producer. Registration fee is \$10 and will be open to public located at 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive, Suite 208. For more information, call Angel Torres at [210-467-6575](tel:210-467-6575) or visit <http://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/>.

Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course II in College Station Feb 18-19. 2013

Master Gardeners who complete a course are usually able to apply 12 hours of credit to their requirements for continuing education in their county. Registration materials may be downloaded from: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDFeb13/> or requested from Mrs. Merlene Schumacher, 303 N. Baylor, Brenham, Tx 77833 (979-836-0612, outofbounds@sbcglobal.net) or Ms. Cynthia Mueller, Department of Extension Horticulture, 225 HFSB TAMU MS 2134, College Station, TX 77843-2134, by telephone (979) 845-7344 or by e-mail at c-mueller@tamu.edu. Registration for the course will be \$125 (including two lunches). Make check payable to **LANDSCAPE DESIGN** and send to Mrs. Merlene Schumacher.

For further information please contact: Mrs. Merlene Schumacher, Registrar, at 979-836-0612, outofbounds@sbcglobal.net.

Pruning Seminar January 19, 2013

**Fanick's Nursery, 1025 Holmgren Rd, San Antonio
Starts at 9:00 AM sharp to Around Noon**

Come visit with Dr. Larry Stein, Professor and Horticulturist with the Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension Service. He will show you how to properly select, plant, maintain and train fruit and nut trees.

Cost: Free, but donations to the Children's Vegetable Garden Program are welcome.



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

New meeting location!!

On Tuesday, January 8, 2013 Deedy Wright, life-long Texas gardener, certified Master Gardener, and one of the Co-founders of the Guadalupe County Chapter of NPSOT will give a presentation explaining what the NICE program is and why it is important for native plants, gardeners, and native plant lovers/enthusiasts.

The Guadalupe County Chapter meets the Second Tuesday of the month. Starting in January we will be meeting in a new location, St John's Lutheran Church, 606 S. Center St. (FM 465) in Marion, just past the Marion school.

There will be a plant/seed exchange and welcome at 6:30 pm followed by the program by Deedy Wright at 7:00 pm. It is open to the public and visitors are welcome.

For more information, directions to St. John's Lutheran Church or membership applications, contact our website at: www.npsot.org/wp/guadalupe

Start Planning Your Spring Gardening Now

By Brandi Midkiff, GCMG

This article first appeared in The Northeast Texan (see www.northeasttexan.com)

The summer of 2011 was a tough one for Texas gardeners (Ed. Note - as was 2012), with record-high temperatures and little rainfall, but the return of cooler weather always revives hope and energy in the gardener's heart. Put that autumnal zest to good use by planning and preparing now for next spring's garden.

Check out your tool situation.

Spend a few minutes sorting through what you have and making note of anything that needs to be repaired or replaced. Clean shovels, spades, hoes, and rakes all over with a good hosing, then condition the wooden handles with linseed oil to prevent cracking and splintering (increase the oil's penetrating power by setting the can in a pot of boiling water for a few minutes to warm it up.) Keep these tools rust-free by storing them in a 5-gallon bucket filled with oily sand (fill the bucket 2/3 full of coarse sand, then mix in half a quart of linseed oil). Tools like pruners, loppers, and shears need extra care to keep their cutting blades sharp and their moving parts functioning smoothly. Wipe blades with an oily rag, and keep springs and joints in shape by treating them with lubricating oil once a year. If you notice any gaps in your tool collection, take steps now to fill them. Estate sales can be good sources of older tools that last longer and perform better than those manufactured more recently. If you buy new, do yourself a favor and pay more for higher-quality tools. A cheap tool isn't a true bargain if it falls apart at the end of the season.

Look into drip irrigation.

Water conservation is a subject dear to the hearts of Texas gardeners, and drip irrigation is far more efficient than sprinklers or soaker hoses. Systems can be customized to suit your needs, and drip irrigation is more forgiving of design error than sprinkler irrigation. The materials are inexpensive, too. Any time you spend educating yourself about this system will be well rewarded later.

Spend some quality time with those seed catalogs.

Poring over seed catalogs is traditionally a winter occupation, but in Texas, where tomatoes and peppers need to be started from seed as early as January, we're better off doing our research earlier. Choose reliable varieties known to perform well in your area, but leave room in your order for a little whimsy, like a cute new squash. Order early; popular items might sell out in the late-winter rush.

Start a gardening notebook.

A three-ring binder is best because you can add stuff to it—newspaper articles, magazine pages, Internet print-outs, seed packets, anything that can go through a hole-punch. Keep detailed, dated records of what you do in your garden, making note of whether or not a particular gardening method or plant variety works for you. Don't worry about neatness or writing style; just get the information down. Make the notebook serve you. Think of it as a guidebook to your future self.

Get outside and walk around your garden site.

Take along some paper and a pencil. Measure your garden space and make a quick sketch, including buildings, fences, trees, anything that will affect your garden. When you get back inside, plot out next year's garden on some grid paper, the kind with quarter-inch squares. There's a lot to consider here, and taking the time to plan it all out now will save you some future frustration. Some crops shouldn't be planted in the same bed two years in a row. Some do well in companion plantings, and others should be kept away from each other. You might have to go through several different scenarios before you come up with one that satisfies several requirements at once. When you have a workable plan on grid paper, put it in your notebook. You'll be glad to have it when planting time comes.

Don't let fear of failure hold you back from trying something new. In the words of George, Lord Halifax, "He who leaveth nothing to chance will do few things ill, but he will do very few things." If you're a new gardener, be prepared for a long apprenticeship period with plenty of successes and failures, and dig in. Research is invaluable, but true learning comes with experience.

January 2013



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



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.
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Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

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January Meeting

Thurs, January 17, 2013- 7:00 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.

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