



The Guadalupe Gardener

MARCH 2011



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



Words from George

It is hard to believe we have already completed 2 months of great activities and programs. Our meeting attendance is holding at a very high attendance rate.

The Chartering report has been submitted to the Texas Master Gardener Program Coordinator. This is a computation of all activities for 2010. The roster of officers, directors and alternate directors for Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA) has been submitted to the TMGA secretary. And last but not least the payment of or dues to TMGA has been sent to the treasurer. The payment of dues must be received by the TMGA treasurer by March 1 of each year for our association to be eligible to enter the awards contest.

On January 19th Gail Johnson, Bob Davis and I attended the first quarterly directors meeting of TMGA held at A&M. Joining us on the trip were Collin and Carol Bond from Gonzales. The January TMGA meeting had the highest attendance of record. The topic of discussion centered on the duties of directors. Two way communication was stressed. The current Executive Committee has been at work since December putting together a program of growth and service. TMGA is in the process of establishing a system so that each association will have a liaison contact for help with any questions concerning items pertaining to the Master Gardener Program and the Master Gardener Association.

Gonzales is starting a Master Gardener Program and holding their first training class. Our members Gail and Jim Johnson have been very instrumental in helping to get this program off to a great start. (continued on page 4)

MARCH MEETING

March 17, 2011

Andy Chidster, employee of "The Natural Gardener, Inc." manufacturer of Lady Bug products, will present The Benefits of Composting.

Clara Mae Marcotte, Polly Ruppert, Betty Hughes, Peggy Jones, and Ryla Cottingham have agreed to provide refreshments.

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

In This Issue

- Page 2 - February Meeting Program
- Page 3 - Association News
- Page 5 - Class 23
- Page 6 - Schertz Community Garden Workshop
- Page 7 - Members at Work
- Page 8 - AgriLife Building Workday
- Page 9 - Volunteer Opportunities
- Page 11 - Education-Classes-Seminars
- Page 13 - Gardening Events
- Page 16 - Mosaic Community Garden Herbs
- Page 17 - March Calendar

February Meeting Program

At our February membership meeting, Patty Glenn Leander, Travis County Master Gardener and contributing writer to "Texas Gardener", provided a presentation on why our diet should consist of significant quantities of vegetables and fruit. Patty has a degree in nutrition from Texas Tech University and is widely sought as a speaker on backyard gardening.

Patty began her presentation with the bad news of our present day eating habits. The American diet now consists of packaged and processed food, fast food, and sugary drinks. We are constantly bombarded by marketing hype about certain foods processed in a certain way to appear to be beneficial to our health when, essentially, they are not. She pointed out that we have outsourced our food and abandoned the kitchen. In the process we have curtailed our physical activities, preferring our electronic toys to outdoor ventures.

The good news is we have a choice to consume more vegetables and fruit which are good for our health. This was made very apparent when Patty visited the Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center (VFIC) located at Texas A&M University. The VFIC consists of greenhouses and laboratories studying how to improve the flavor, appearance, disease resistance and nutrient content of fruit and vegetables. Scientists are studying organic compounds found only in plants and known as phytochemicals. Many have antioxidant properties which help neutralize free oxygen radicals, prevent damage to cells, and help slow abnormal cell growth.

Patty talked about a number of phytochemicals located in certain foods and associated with promoting good health. She referred to these as "eat your colors": Red colored - Lycopene found in tomatoes, pink grapefruit, watermelon and strawberries; Green colored - Lutein, Zeaxanthin found in broccoli, collard greens, kale and spinach; Yellow and orange colored - Beta-carotene (vitamin A) found in winter squash, sweet potatoes, oranges, and carrots; Blue and purple colored - Anthocyanin found in grapes, blueberries, red cabbage, red onions and blackberries; and White colored - Quercetin found in onions, garlic and leeks. Many of these phytochemicals can be found in over-the-counter dietary supplements. The real source is far better than a pill.

USDA 2010 Dietary Guidelines include: 1) increase intake of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, dry beans, nuts and seeds; 2) choose foods that provide more fiber, potassium, vitamin D and calcium; 3) increase intake of fat-free or low-fat milk; 4) choose seafood in place of some meat and poultry; 5) reduce saturated fat and foods containing transfat; 6) limit cholesterol to <300 mg/day; 7) reduce added sugar to 25-35 gm/day; 8) limit sodium to <2300 mg/day; and 9) balance calories with physical activity to maintain healthy weight. Following these guidelines will help to minimize health problems.

Patty provided references to several publications. They include "What to Eat" by Marion Nestle, "Food Rules" by Michael Pollan, and "Phytopia" by Barbara Gollman and Kim Pierce. Interesting web sites are American Dietetic Association - www.eatright.org and Life's Simple 7 - <http://mylifecheck.heart.org>. Patty can be contacted at 512-301-0923 for further information.

Association News

NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENER



George Ammermann welcomes **Tracy Caraway**, class 22, as a newly certified member of GCMG and presents her with her nametag.

We also welcome **Terri Loe**, newly transferred back to the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners.

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact Sandy Foss, our Secretary, sandyfoss@satx.rr.com or call 210-651-9053.

February meeting refreshments were provided by Marika Bordes, Lynn Pfullmann, Don Hilbert, Cecelia Cook and Ramonita Cardona.

Hughlene Micheli won the \$20.50 raffle. Cecelia Cook won the Greengate gift certificate.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Apr 21 - Pollinators - Monta Zengerle, Master Naturalist and member of the Guadalupe Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas

May 19 - Master Gardener Program Changes - George Ammermann. Review and discuss what needs to be done for meeting changes

June 16 - Summer Social

July 21 - Citrus Greening - Penny Glawe, Fellow Master Gardener, will provide information about a disease devastating citrus trees in Florida and the eastern United States.

The Master Gardener Association is a ***volunteer organization.***
We need **YOU** to help with our projects.

Free Stuff

Lynn Pfullman reported there are used planting trays available if you need them. There are about 100 flats (probably 20 pots per flat) of empty 4" pots. For information contact Wanda Purifoy, 830-865-3200 or wjpurifoy@yahoo.com.

There is also an upcoming plant swap in Buda. For more about this, contact Lynn Pfullmann 830-560-1894 or email lynn.pfullmann@pfullmannlaw.com.

(WORDS continued from page 1)

With the anticipation of drastic funding cuts it is more important than ever that we help pick up the cost of our existence. We need to be aware of the cost of copying materials. The paper is one thing, but the cost per copy also gets involved in the extension budget. We may see the need to establish a fee schedule for attendance at our sponsored workshops, etc. Travis will have more detailed information in early March, but freebies maybe something of the past.

Linda has a good listing of activities for the months of March and April. See page 12, Schertz Community Garden Workshops, and watch for announcements in her email notices for more information.

You have the opportunity to receive the state master gardener newsletter directly to your email each month. There are two options for making this happen. One, is for our association to send our membership roster (name and email address only) to Donna Hagor, newsletter editor, or you may submit your information to her individually. If we choose to send our roster information to Donna, there is an unsubscribe feature you may use to remove your information from the listing.

We also must remember that we need to change our bylaws or start over with a new set. In this process we will look at things that fit better into the operations manual. This will not take away the vote by the membership on items that need to be
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(WORDS continued from prior column)

changed. For instance, should it become necessary to change the amount of annual dues, this can be accomplished without the cumbersome situation required to amend the bylaws. Stay tuned - more information to follow.

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

CLASS 23



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Training Course

Become a
Certified
Master Gardener



Master Gardeners is an education sharing horticultural program.
Members commit to continuous learning and volunteer service.
Learn more at our website: <http://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/>

Dates
Wednesdays,
August 24 to December 7, 2011

**Registration
Deadline**
August 1, 2011

Times
12:00 to 4:30 p.m.

**Class Size
Is limited**

Location
St. Paul Evangelical Church¹
108 South Main Street
Cibolo, Texas 78108

Cost
\$170
10% discount (\$153) if
Registered by July 8th

For more information contact:

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



¹ Location by Mapquest:

<http://classic.mapquest.com/maps?city=Cibolo&state=TX&address=108+S+Main+St&zipcode=78108-3528&country=US&latitude=29.561251&longitude=-98.226813&geocode=ADDRESS>

Schertz Community Garden Workshop

sponsored by

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners & Texas AgriLife Extension Service

If you were not at the Workshop at the Schertz Community Garden on Saturday, February 26th, then you missed the chance to get some of the basics you'll need to get your garden going. Dr. Mark Black covered plant disease, molds, fungus and just some general guidelines on when and how to plant. Dr. Noel Troxclair showed the various bugs we will be dealing with, what to do about them and which ones to leave alone. Then Dr. Larry Stein, after a brief powerpoint presentation, moved everyone out into the Garden orchard to demonstrate fruit tree pruning. He left two of our trees a lot shorter!

This was not only a great learning experience, but gave lots of people a chance to see our Garden. We had 38 people in attendance (not counting Travis), garnering a nice donation for our local food bank since the entry fee was a food donation for RACAP.

Thanks to AgriLife Extension for sponsoring and all the GCMG members who helped with putting everything together. And a really big Thank You to Commissioner Jim Wolverton for the use of the County Annex Building.



Dr. Mark Black tells us what's killing our plants.



Dr. Noel Troxclair speaking on Bugs



Dr. Larry Stein powerpoint presentation



Dr. Larry Stein hands-on pruning demonstration.



Update on the Schertz Community Garden

Spinach
for
dessert!

We just added four new beds which will soon be full of tomato plants. Ann Odvody reports that the following veggies have been planted: Red Lasoda potatoes, Red Cored Chantenay carrots, 1015Y onions, Black Seeded Simpson lettuce, Cherry Belle radish, early cabbage, broccoli and spinach; and the snow peas are up and looking good. We know the spinach is very tasty since there is a very pesky rabbit that keeps munching on it! We desperately need Elmer Fudd.

Questions about other work days or what you can do to help? Please email jlbruno@gvec.net



MEMBERS AT WORK

Speakers Bureau

During February Penny Glawe spoke on Citrus Greening to a group in Dallas. Clara Mae Marcotte gave a powerpoint presentation on wildflowers to the Nogales Garden club at their February meeting, and we have four presentations planned in March. 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.

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

Dale Odvody reports that 18 Guadalupe County Master Gardeners volunteered 328 hours at the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo from February 3rd thru February 20th. A very exhausting tear down was completed from the 21st thru the 23rd by Dale Odvody, Joe Bruno, Dave Love and J. R. Knight.

Red Barn Volunteers

Stan Wieding continues to do all the planning and planting of the vegetable garden. Now we have a GCMG group headed by Susan Castro who are working on the Herb Garden. What great volunteerism!

Tor Drive Planting

Clifton (Buddy) Nagel reports that the landscape plan has been accepted, and he is waiting for the weather to begin installation.

AG BUILDING WOKDAY - February 19th

We had a great turnout on Saturday for the landscape work project (photos by Clara Mae Marcotte and Ryla Cunningham). We had 13 people helping. We took up most of the green steel edging and stored it in the storage shed, pruned the heck out of the perennials, prepped the left-hand wildflower side so it can be turned into an attractive landscape. We had a mountain of brush to dispose of, but what we couldn't cram into the back of my truck, we bagged and left for the trash pickup. We really need a chipper so the brush doesn't go to the land fill. If anyone has one to donate, we would be grateful, or maybe we can talk the board into approving a purchase. The spot for the Carolyn Hyatt memorial bench is cleaned up and ready for its installation. All in all, an extremely productive work-day.
Betty Hughes



Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term -Gail Johnson; Jim Johnson, Alternate
One Year Term - Deedy Wright; Pat Schultze, Alternate

Project Evaluation Committee

Gillian Siemens, Barbara Gettig, Janice Knobles

Membership Outreach Committee - Merv Cook

Speakers Bureau - Clara Mae Marcotte

Schertz Community Garden Operating Committee

Linda Bruno, Holly Bustamente

Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes

AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero

2011 Guadalupe County Fair - Peggy Love

New Member Support - Bob Teweles

Hours Reporting - Dale & Ann Odvody

Notification - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies

Refreshment Coordinator - Ryla Cottingham

Class 23 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

Texas Agricultural Heritage Center (the Red Barn) Volunteer Opportunities Information Session

On February 15th our Master Gardeners participated in an information session on the various volunteer opportunities that are available, along with the events that are scheduled for this year at the Texas Agricultural Heritage Center (the Red Barn). Since the Red Barn is a non-profit organization that promotes education of the public about the importance of agriculture, volunteering at the Red Barn, even for those events that are not garden related, does count as GCMG volunteer time. Our participants included Clara Mae Marcotte, Jerilyn Preston, Ramonita Cardona and Karen Heinemeyer.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

AgriLife Extension Building Workdays

There will be a workday on the Earthkind Rose Garden on March 19th at 9 a.m. Contact Liz Romero , lromero16@satx.rr.com or call 830-372-3106 if you have any questions.

The Seguin Green Team



After our brief hiatus we're going to get back to work. Like all the other lawns in the area, the City Hall sites have a lot of frozen plants/shrubs. So, bring your pruners, loppers and whatever else you like to work with and we'll meet at 9:00 a.m. at the annex building on N. River St. I'll remind Mary Jo to get us bags or whatever she wants us to use for the debris. We work on the first and third Mondays of each month. See your there!!! (Unless, of course, we have another serious cold spell - in that case we'll work when weather permits.

Hughlene Micheli

Gutierrez Park Clean-up Day Saturday - March 19th - 9 a.m.

The Park and the Butterfly Garden in Schertz need maintenance. We will be cleaning the beds, putting soaker hoses down, mulching, and fixing the landscape borders. We will also get the walkway cleaned up and put more crushed granite down. We will also probably want to plant a few new items, as needed. We have a Girl Scout troop that would like to be included in the project. What a fantastic opportunity to teach kids about natives and what attracts butterflies & bees, seed collecting, and gardening - fabulous! All help will be greatly appreciated. To volunteer and for questions, contact Tammee Trawick, 210 945-8635.

Seguin Earth Day - April 30th

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Seguin during Trade Days

GCMG will host three designated booth spaces for various educational activities. We need the following volunteers:

8:00 a.m. -9:00 a.m. - Set up booths - need one more person

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon - Work the booths - need 2 more people

12:00 Noon - 3:00 p.m. - Work the Booths - need 2 more people

3:0 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Take down booths - need 1 more person

This is another fun day with lots of good food, live music in the square and is during Trade Days so you can buy plants and other good stuff from the vendors, including natives from the NPSOT folks who usually set up right next to the GCMG booth. Contact Carol Calentine if you can come out and have fun & work. 830-305-1715 cell or email carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us

Volunteer Committee Chairman Needed

Maintains list of all volunteer projects & contacts coordinators or chairmen to determine whether volunteers are needed. Keeps membership informed of those needs. Follow up after activities are completed to get after action reports. Contact Linda Bruno at jlbruno@gvec.net if interested.

Imagine 2011 Student Peace Summit Saturday, April 2nd

The GCMG will be at the Samuel Clemens High School for this all-day event sponsored by the Students for a Peaceful Society. We will be promoting gardening in all its aspects and also the Schertz Community Garden as a community service possibility for the students and their parents. The invitation to the event has gone to various groups in San Antonio and Austin so, if you enjoy talking to teenagers, this may prove to be an interesting event. For more information, email Linda at jlbruno@gvec.net

KWED Lawn & Garden Show

Anyone with a topic/speaker idea for the KWED Lawn & Garden Show broadcast heard live every Saturday morning should call Bob Grafe at 830-743-3399 or Janet Grafe at 830-305-1446. Just maybe, the person calling "is" the speaker with a great gardening topic that needs to be shared with our local radio listening audience. The Lawn & Garden Show is a great way to share gardening expertise with the public while building up both Master Gardener education and service hours. We'd love to hear about any potential gardening show topic/speaker.

Master Gardener Office - Help Wanted!

Monday, from 9 a.m. to noon, except for federal holidays, the Master Gardener office is open at the Extension Building on 210 East Live Oak. In March Betty will especially need volunteers to package seeds for our April Earth Day activities. Email Betty Hughes, ehughes5@satx.rr.com for more information.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Wilson County Gardening Day (see page 15)
Schertz Community Garden - Tuesday mornings

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

The Antique Rose Emporium
7561 E. Evans Road, San Antonio, TX 78266
210-651-4565

March 5th, Saturday - **Herbal Body Care: Make Your Own Lotion and Liquid Soap** \$25 for workshop - Preregistration Required - Limited Seating

March 6th, Sunday, 1 pm - **Vegetable Gardening: From the Ground Up** with Bracken Farmers Market's own John Peterson FREE

Internet Classes

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.

You may not take over 3 credits a calendar year.

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

Be a champion for native plants, learn how to explain to local authorities the advantages of natives and how "weed laws" can be changed. At the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas meeting on Tuesday, **March 8, 2011**, Jan Daniels, Vice President Advocacy with NPSOT, will talk about local ordinances and how they can be updated.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday at The Library, 500 Bulldog, Marion. There is a plant exchange and "getting to know you" at 6:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. We welcome all visitors.

For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/

Plant Propagation Class

Mar 10 (Thursday) 9-11 a.m. at the San Antonio Botanical Garden.

Learn the techniques our horticulturists and volunteers use to propagate plants in the Garden. Participants will make their own cuttings to take home and receive a free small plant. They will also have the opportunity to explore the greenhouse and purchase some of the beautiful plants expertly cultivated by the San Antonio Botanical Society Plant Sale Volunteers (exact cash or check only). Most plants are \$8/gallon. Limit 20 participants. Fee: \$20. To register, please contact Sasha Kodet at (210) 207-3270 or sasha.kodet@sanantonio.gov

Spring Vegetable Seminar Saturday, March 19th Maldonado Nursery

Clara Mae Marcotte & Deedy Wright, Guadalupe County Master Gardeners and Certified Vegetable Specialists, will be at Maldonado Nursery, 3011 Hwy 90 West, in Seguin, on Saturday, March 19th for a Spring Vegetable Seminar. The KWED Master Gardener Radio Program will be live from Maldonado's at 9:15 a.m. The Vegetable Seminar will start at 10:30 a.m. Maldonado's will have lots of vegetable plants for your garden as well as goodie bags for seminar participants.

Schertz Community Garden Workshops

Please mark your calendars for these scheduled workshops. We are doing these on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. so you can invite your neighbors, listen to the speakers and then have time to work in your own gardens. Volunteers are also needed to help set up. Need more information? Email jlbruno@gvec.net

Mar 26th – 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Robbie Will from Antique Rose Emporium, on **Gardening with Mediterranean Herbs**

April 23rd – 9 a.m. Elaine McIntyre & Linda Bruno on **Composting & Compost Bins**

May 28th – Pedro Schambon, My Father's Farm, **Hot Weather Vegetables & Organic Growing**

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
Saturday, March 19, 2011, 10 a.m. to noon
Soapberries and Friends: Investigating Plants

Peggy Spring, Education Coordinator for the City of San Antonio Natural Areas, will help us investigate soapberries, agave fibers, oak galls and cactus. Fun activities will include making some soapy suds, twisting some string, making ink and writing with a quill pen and making some "bug juice. Space is limited, RSVP is required. For more information or to rsvp, mlac@audubon.org

Free Family Program

Water in the Garden

Mar 17 (Thursday) 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Bexar AgriLife Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge Dr. Suite 208

Learn why water conservation is important; learn about drip irrigation, low water use landscaping, rain-water harvesting, minor irrigation repair, and other water related topics. 2 CEU credit RSVP Angel Torres 210-467-6575 matorres@ag.tamu.edu

Master Gardener Specialist Training Update

Mar 28 - Mar 30 (Monday – Wednesday) Master Gardener **Specialist Training – Irrigation Efficiency**. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place. Follow this link for details and registration. <http://urbansolutionscenter.tamu.edu/courses/mar-28-30-2011-master-gardener-specialist>

May 20-21 (Friday - Saturday) **Plant Propagation Specialist Training** at Montgomery County Extension Center, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe, Texas. Cost \$125. For more information, contact Tom LeRoy, Extension Horticulturist.

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

GARDENING EVENTS

Spring Break at the Botanical Garden
Mar 14-18 (Monday-Friday) 10 a.m.

Daily children's programs include Pioneer Life in the Garden, Seed Ball Making, Japanese Gardening & Culture, Birding for Kids, Wiggling Worms at Work, and Junior Gardeners. For more info, visit www.sabot.org

**TMGA Annual Conference, Glen Rose Texas
April 27-29, 2011**

2011 TMGA Conference REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!! The convention is in Glen Rose outside of Fort Worth, April 27-29. Cost is \$155. Sponsors are hoping for 1000 participants.

If you are planning to go to the state convention, get your hotel reservation as soon as possible as accommodations will be tight. If you aren't or you haven't yet signed up to attend, better do it now before the workshop you want is full. Go to <http://2011tmgaconference.org/> for information on education sessions, tours, and workshops. Register early to get the best choice of education sessions, tours and workshops!

San Antonio Garden Center Spring Plant Sale*

Friday, March 11 & Saturday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston

Bedding Plants, Hanging Baskets, Daylilies, Herbs, Cacti, Succulents, Native Plants, Perennials and an assortment of Unique Plants at the Donation Station. The donation plants are contributed by members from their own yards and gardens.

Shop early for the best selection! For more information check out our website at www.sanantoniogardencenter.org or call us at 210 824-9981. Cash and Checks Only.

**Green Spaces Alliance
Farm and Range Forum: Conserving our Rural Heritage, Uvalde
Apr 1-2, 2011**

The 2011 Farm and Range Forum will be held in Uvalde and will include a ranch visit and dinner social Friday evening and a full day of seminars on Saturday. Topics will include habitat and riparian area management, income diversification, legislative updates, weather modification, rural building conservation and much more. For more information contact Susan Hughes at susan@greensatx.org or 210-222-8430 ext. 301.

MORE GARDENING EVENTS

Mar 11 (Friday) 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Fresh Air Friday** at Main Plaza sponsored by Alamo Area Council of Governments Natural Resources and San Antonio Office of Environmental Policy. This is an information only event—no sales will be held.

Apr 9 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **Encino Park Home and Garden Show:** Spring garden and water conservation information will be available as well as plants for sale.

Wilson County Gardening Day, Saturday, March 5th 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Huge Plant Sale in Floresville located at the Floresville Alternative School, 335 Alternative Lane. The event will benefit the South Texas Alternate School Gardening Program and will be held on their school campus off Sutherland Springs Road as you drive into Floresville going south on Hwy. 181. The event is sponsored by Wilson County News, SAWS, KLUP Radio, & Milbergers Nursery and will include the following:

- Annual Plant Sale from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
- Live music by County Line Band from 10:00 a.m. until Noon
- KLUP Live Radio Show from Noon until 2:00 p.m.
- Free Xeriscape Plants
- Informative Presentations beginning at 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.
- Hourly gift prize drawings (must be present to win) and a Silent Auction

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will be giving away seeds and free gardening information. The MGs who participate always have a good time while they are working. If you would like to join in the fun, please call Peggy Jones at 210 649-4002 or email pljones@swbell.net

Second Annual Native San Antonio! Celebration March 26th 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Land Heritage Institute

The Native Plant Society of Texas and the Land Heritage Institute urge San Antonians to GO NATIVE! This free event will be held at the beautiful Land Heritage Institute which is across from the Toyota plant on the Medina river (between the Medina River Natural Area and Mitchell Lake Audubon Center). This fun outdoor festival will celebrate all things native to San Antonio and educate participants about the incredible resources we have right here.

The first Native San Antonio! 2010 drew hundreds of participants and our former San Antonio Mayors Phil Hardberger and Howard Peak gave keynote presentations. The goal of this second year's event is to educate and encourage over 500 participants to responsibly use and preserve our local environmental, cultural, and recreational resources. We want to motivate San Antonians to increase the use of native plants in our landscapes, thereby conserving water and reducing the use of added fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides. Having this year's event at the beautiful and historical Land Heritage Institute on the Medina River will help local residents understand and appreciate San Antonio's rich cultural and environmental heritage. Features we plan to present are:

- Free native trees (while supply lasts) Native plant sales Hay rides & longhorn viewing
- Interpretive nature walks Hands on activities for families Local music
- Native American hot rocks cooking demonstrations Education and conservation tips
- Local ranching history and chuck wagon demonstrations Contemporary arts and crafts
- Various presentations by local outdoor groups & exhibits by sponsors

If you choose to submit a generous donation – this is of course welcome, and you can be aware that this supports invaluable environmental education that helps to preserve San Antonio's precious native resources. By "Going Native" we all can continue to use our parks and greenways to promote mental and physical well-being.

Mosaic Community Gardens Favorite Herbs

Planting the herb gardens at Mosaic Community Gardens has been a real learning experience. We had a theme, we had a basic design, but we had no experience with growing herbs! Oh, sure, I had Rosemary in a pot and some creeping Oregano. But I had not designed an entire planting revolving around herbs.

The biggest challenge was trying to select the right mix of annual and perennial herbs so that we would have year-round interest. Sure, we struggle with that problem in any bed design, but narrowing the field of choices to material generally considered herbs made it even more difficult. Add to that the challenge of even finding the plants! I scrounged around local nurseries, including The Green Gate, Schumacher's Native Plants, the Antique Rose Emporium, Schultz Nursery and even Home Depot, picking up a few more common herbs that way. However, the very best source was the San Antonio Herb Market, held at the Pearl Brewery in the Fall of 2009. I was able to find most of my "wish list" at that sale.

The herb garden was one year old in August of 2010, so by now we know what works well. The survivors have been through a record breaking drought and some recent freezes. Some did not survive; others have been beautiful surprises. I'd like to share my personal favorites with you:

Bouncing Bet (*Saponaria officinalis*) If you can find it, buy it! This perennial has beautiful green foliage, phloxlike flowers and blooms all summer long. It is used to make your beer foamy or to wash your fine delicacies. As a bonus, it is a Texas native. I bought one at the Herb Market (I wish I had bought ten). Sorry, I don't have a photo.

Spanish Lavender (*Lavendula stoechas*) Very tough perennial with beautiful gray-green fragrant foliage and dark purple to maroon flowers. Not a heavy bloomer, but I would grow it just for the foliage. It must have very good drainage, so I planted three in pots in 50% sand. I found Spanish Lavender at the Herb Market and the Antique Rose Emporium.

You are invited to wander the garden any time. Most of the plants are labeled. We will be planting warm season annuals soon, so there will be more to see as the weather grows warmer.

Liz Romero, Guadalupe County Master Gardener



Spanish Lavender in pot with Calendula to right (April 2010)

March 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 ● New Moon	5 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
					● New Moon	
6	7 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON Green Team 	8	9	10 GCMG Board Meeting	11	12 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
13 Daylight Savings Time Begns	14 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	15	16	17 GCMG Meeting 7 PM ST PATRICK'S DAY 	18	19 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. ● Full Moon
20	21 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON Green Team 	22	23	24	25	26 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. Newsletter Deadline
27	28 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON					



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Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

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March Meeting **Thursday, March 17, 2011** **Time – 7 P.M.**

AgriLife Extension Building
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx

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