



# The Guadalupe Gardener



May 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

By the time you read this **Earth Day** will be past (see page 7) but I am writing this before it comes to pass. With all the hard work that has been going into our Earth Day event, I just know

the community we support will be very proud of our efforts. The Earth Day committee has outdone themselves. Good Job! To all our volunteers - Thank You!

The month of May is full of opportunities to broaden our horizons as Master Gardeners. Please talk with our Volunteer Chairman, Carol Calentine, to help fill the slots at the **Water Fairs** at our local elementary schools. Children are so impressionable at this age. Let's share our knowledge.

Bob Teweles announced at the April Membership Meeting that it is time to "**Propagate Master Gardeners**". The next Master Gardener Class begins August 7<sup>th</sup>; registration ends July 20<sup>th</sup>. Please let your friends and neighbors know about our upcoming class. Word of mouth is the best advertisement. Details are on our website

[www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org).

Mark your calendars for the **Festival of Flowers** in San Antonio on May 25<sup>th</sup>. From the exhibitors, the seminars, to the organic roundtable, anyone  
(continued on page 5)



## May 16th , 2013 - 7 PM

May 16 – Dr. Gus Gross, Treating Poisonous Snake Bites

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

Don't forget your name tag

—and plants for the plant exchange.

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# Association News

## April Meeting Program - Let's Talk Roses



Peggy Jones, President of GCMG and 15 year member of the San Antonio Rose Society, stepped in to give the program for the April GCMG meeting when the scheduled speaker became unavailable. Peggy's slides showed a pictorial view of her rose garden. She has a wide variety of beautiful roses and explained their origins, care and feeding. Peggy says she became a rose lover when she helped her grandmother care for her rose garden as a child.

She reported on and promoted Earth-Kind roses. These are roses endorsed by Texas A&M and the Texas Department of Agriculture. These roses are developed to be drought tolerant (once established), disease resistant and heat tolerant. She shared a brochure from the Texas Department of Agriculture showing 15 identified Earth-Kind roses that thrive in Texas.

She explained roses require at least 6-8 hours of full sun, like sandy soil, and plenty of room for air circulation. She recommended raised beds and encourages the use of at least 3 inches of mulch to discourage weeds and retain moisture. She further recommended keeping the mulch at least 6 inches away from the plant.

She spent little time on pruning, as February is pruning time. However, if you have not pruned, she encouraged you to deadhead aggressively. Minimally deadhead down to the first 5 leaflet on the stem. Her handout gives an overview of rose care. Peggy likes to use liquid fertilizer and describes her mixture and technique in her handout.

She also reported 2 diseases, Rose Rosette, which is a virus that is transmitted by a mite and destroys the plant. There is no treatment, and the plant should be eliminated and the area and equipment sanitized. The second disease, downy mildew, a purple mildew, can be pruned off the plant and discarded. Again keep tools sanitized.

Websites for more information: [www.sarosesociety.org](http://www.sarosesociety.org) and <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkindroses/>

Submitted by Sandy Foss

## Speakers Bureau

On April 11, 2013 Jose Contreras did a program for the Seguin Noon Lions Club on "What you can learn at the Master Gardeners new Class of 25". He had 28 very interested listeners

April 16, Liz Romero gave a presentation on Rainwater Harvesting to the Santa Clara Civic monthly meeting. There were 11 in attendance.

We are working on scheduling a Basic Power Point Class at the Seguin Library for the members in June with an advanced class at a later time. The Power Point Class has limited space, but since there have been so many members at the Master Gardener meeting who are interested in taking the class, we may have two classes. The classes will be during the day and free. If you are interested in taking the class please contact, Treva Hicks: [hicks1t@lycos.com](mailto:hicks1t@lycos.com).

## APRIL 18th GCMG MEETING

Debra Elia won the raffle of \$17.50. Ann Odvody won the gift certificate. Bob Grafe donated two tickets for the Kiwanis Annual Flapjack Jamboree held on April 20. Doug Biggs won the tickets. Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor.



The April refreshments were graciously provided by Kathy Pape, Doug and Virginia Biggs, Elaine Zehner and Betty Hughes. Thank you all very much. The Room was set up by T. and Kat Taylor.

The May 16<sup>th</sup> refreshments will be provided by Debbie Lowe, Mary Jean Lucky, and Sandy Black. Marilyn Anderson and Sandy Foss will be setting the room up for the meeting. I thank you all for your help.

Treva Hicks, Refreshment Chair

Here's what is buzzing...

## THE GCMG JUNE SOCIAL

Date: Friday, June 21, 2013

Place: Immaculate Conception Catholic  
Church hall

213 N. Barnett St., Marion, Tx

Time: 6:30 pm til 8:30 pm



*Theme: Master Gardeners are Busy Bees.*

We do not realize how important we are as gardeners until the wonderful presentation at our MG March meeting. Bees are so vital to our lives and the environment and so are we. *Please send me your ideas and let's make this a truly exciting and fun filled evening. I will appreciate your help. Please sign up to help set up and plan our Bee Theme.*

Directions: You can see the hall from Hwy. 78. It is across the railroad tracks from Hild's Feed.

Joyce Friesenhahn. GCMG Class 23

[joycefriesenhahn@yahoo.com](mailto:joycefriesenhahn@yahoo.com)



**The Hive Will Be Jumping**

## Newly Certified Master Gardeners



Newly certified Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Kat Taylor and Bob Cole receive their certificates and name badges from President Peggy Jones and Assistant Class 24 Coordinator, Cindy Waechter.



Regina Benfield, who was certified in December 2012, received her name badge from President Peggy Jones.

Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor.

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

(President - continued from page 1)

can participate in the Horticulture Show. All the information is at [www.safestivalofflowers.com](http://www.safestivalofflowers.com). Remember this is also a great opportunity to earn Education Hours.

The **Texas Master Gardener Conference** is just around the corner October 17-19. A tentative schedule is posted on the website [www.2013tmgaconference.org](http://www.2013tmgaconference.org). Hotel Reservations should be made now.

One more item - Bob Teweles has graciously agreed to take the position of **President Elect**. To make it official according to our Bylaws under Article VI, Section 9 a special election by the voting members is required. This special election will take place at the May membership meeting.

Peggy Jones, President

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST  
YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

June – GCMG Social

July – Deedy Wright, “Fall Vegetable Gardening”

August – Dr. Rebecca Kelso, “Preventing Skin Cancer”

September – Open

October – Open

November – Paul Johnson with Texas A & M Forest Service, “Proper Tree Pruning”

December – GCMG Christmas Party

## 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](mailto:jbruno@gvec.net)

## GCMG Class 25 - Time to Propagate Master Gardeners

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will conduct Class #25 in Schertz, Texas from August 7th through November 20th, 2013. Classes will be held at Schertz United Methodist Church, 3460 Roy Richards Drive, on Wednesdays from 10 AM to 2:30 PM. The program will include over 50 hours of instruction on plant biology, soil science, plant propagation, tree care, vegetable gardening, landscaping, lawn care and much more. Upon graduation from the class, students will qualify as Master Gardener Interns. Cost of the program is \$190 and includes a personal copy of the Texas Master Gardener Handbook. A link to the GCMG Class 25 Application Form can be found on the GCMG home page. The application deadline is July 20th.

Let's all get behind this class - advertise it, promote it, and get people to sign up. There are never enough Master Gardeners!

More information can be found on our website (<http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org>) home page link "Master Gardener Certification Training 2013" or by contacting Robert Teweles at [rteweles@att.net](mailto:rteweles@att.net) or by phone at (210) 289-9997.



Ox-Eyed Daisy  
Photo by Marvin “T” Taylor

## SEGUIN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION - April 27th Hundreds Take Part in Kids' Crafts, 40-Gallon Challenge

Hundreds of kids and adults visited the popular MG booth staffed by enthusiastic volunteers and participated in craft, water conservation, and informational activities April 27 during Seguin's 2013 Earth Day. The 30 plus-foot booth attracted hundreds of visitors for a wide variety of activities and information, and was one of the most popular exhibits in the Square.

Committee chair Randy Rye extends a **huge thank you** to the leadership committee coordinating Earth Day, and to the more than 30 MG members who volunteered at the booth. Members of the coordinating committee were Cindy Martin, Marvin "T" Taylor, Kat Taylor, Judy Johnson, Cindy Waechter, and Ellen Laubhan.

Kids participated in the *Bug's Life on a Rotting Log* activity, took the *Touch a Worm Challenge*, and dug in to make Earth Day seed cards to take home and plant.



Volunteers enthusiastically drew in Earth Day attendees to the booth to take the state of Texas' "40 Gallon Challenge," learning easy ways to conserve water at home, both indoors and outdoors. The surveys will be entered in the state database, and Guadalupe County is in the running for the top spots statewide and nationwide for the highest number of participants. Go Guadalupe County!

At the information area of the booth, MG members answered questions, provided handouts, free seeds, and talked to attendees about the overall MG program.

More than 200 persons registered for the free drawing to win one of three trees (a Kieffer Pear, Mountain Laurel, and Fan Tex Ash) donated by local nurseries – Maldonado Nursery (Seguin), Schulz Nursery (Marion), and Joe's Home Grown Tree Farm (Seguin).

GCMG also thanks local businesses CMC Steel Texas and Caterpillar Inc. for donating \$100 each to help buy materials and items for our Earth Day activities.



Photos  
by  
Marvin "T"  
Taylor

## Community Time in the Community Garden

Spring has sprung and our efforts to produce and teach are ongoing. Most of the Winter crops have been harvested, the corn is not quite as high as an elephant's eye (unless you have a short elephant) and we are about ready to plant more Summer crops. Tomatoes are blooming and the strong winds keep blowing their cages over. Okra seeds will go into the ground next week and we will transplant other veggies from the local nurseries.

Sunday, April 21, was an eventful day. We had eight volunteers from the United Methodist Church in Schertz come out and help harvest, plant, and more importantly to us older folks - dig. No that isn't the hippy version of "dig it." We are talking of physically digging the earth. Well, I guess that is what all us gardeners do; dig it; physically and psychologically. Anyway, way back when we first started the Guadalupe County Community Garden, we were acting on a shoestring and took short cuts. Well, Murphy, the little guy who sits on Joe Bruno's shoulder, got his glory.

We tried to solarize the grassy area on the SE end of the garden where we had the tomato test beds two years ago. The soil we used appears to have been full of Bermuda grass seeds and/or roots and the grass got away from us, so we covered it with thick black plastic hoping the sun would burn the grass out. Well, even though we weighted down the outside edges of the plastic with cattle panels and steel fence posts, those 60+ mph winds we had in late February and March picked up the panels and plastic and snapped off several faucet heads giving us instant water features. As a result, the garden committee determined we needed to upgrade the water system and replace the vertical water lines with galvanized steel pipe. This entails digging out the water lines to the lateral feeder lines. Basically it is 30 holes, 12" in diameter and about 14" deep, cutting the PVC laterals, removing the PVC vertical lines and replacing them with new joints and galvanized vertical lines. We will use the existing faucets and have the fittings which were purchased in part with, **now pay attention**, two \$25 coupons provided by Seguin's Home Depot. They did that and cut up 60 feet of galvanized pipe in two foot lengths and threaded the ends for us. Hey! You mechanical nerds want to see a tool in operation? Buy a 10' stick of galvanized pipe and ask Home Depot to cut it and thread the ends. Of course it helps if you buy the pipe at the Home Depot. I mean, it is slick enough to want to have the tool, even if you never use it. Talk about bragging rights.

We have half the holes dug and would like some younger backs than ours to dig the rest. Joe Bruno and I will work on replacing the pipes next week and start on the lower half of the garden.



Article by Dale Odvody. Photos by Mary Bowe

## Guadalupe County Community Garden First Planting at Schertz Butterfly Garden



The Native Plant Society (see page 16) is developing a butterfly garden for the Guadalupe County Community Garden outside the Community Garden fence. Thanks again to Kathy Carroll, Judy Stanley and Bob Teweles for all the preparatory work and now planting.

Photos by Monta Zengerle.



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## Great Publicity for the Community Garden

If you do not live in the Schertz area you probably missed this article. Look up this outstanding news item on the Guadalupe County Community Garden and our Master Gardener organization. Great job Linda Bruno! [www.schertzmagazine.com](http://www.schertzmagazine.com) Check out the March 2013 magazine on pages 34-36.

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## Updates from Ann Odvody

4/2 - It was warm in the garden yesterday. The previous week was a lesson in how box kites (covered tomato cages) work in high winds. Kudos to all who wrestled with the problem and won. Tomatoes are looking good. Squash and beans are up. The broccoli plants we planted in the fall are about done producing edible florets. Spring planted broccoli looks good, but the plants may not produce due to the very warm weather we have been having. Production for the year is 208 pounds. **Our starting time will change Monday, 8 Apr to 9 a.m.**  
4/8 - A little drizzle to start the morning, but it was cool out which is always a bonus when we are harvesting fresh lettuce, spinach and Chinese cabbage. We had lots of hands helping today. Watermelon is planted and we are again experimenting. The mulch was weeded last week and since we can not use the beds by the orchard because of the Bermuda grass, we planted the vines in the mulch. Gives the plants lots of room to spread. Hope it works. We added jalapenos to our collection of peppers. We also got the coral honeysuckle and jasmine planted by the front gates. In addition to greens, we also picked beets, onions, carrots, snow peas, cabbage and broccoli. Production so far this year is 229 pounds 6 ounces. Purple martins have returned to their house in the garden and they are so much fun to watch.

4/21 - It was a beautiful morning in the garden! We would like to especially thank the volunteers from the Schertz United Methodist Church who came out today to help. They helped Dale work on the irrigation system, harvested a bed of beets and carrots, cleared a large area along the back fence, and planted two coral honeysuckle vines in the area they had cleared. We harvested 46 pounds 8 ounces of produce this morning and delivered it to the food bank. Our total for the year is 321 pounds 9 ounces. We will be in the garden again in the morning to weed and prep beds for planting bush beans and okra.

## Green Team



It has been suggested that the Green Team meet once a month so that potential volunteers would not be overwhelmed with a twice a month commitment. At our last workday we, too, decided this was a good idea - so, in the future, we will be meeting on the first Monday of each month at 8 a.m., and as always, at the City of Seguin Annex on North River. Joanne Rand has joined us and we welcome her with open arms. Call Hughlene Micheli 830-379-5673 for more information.

### 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](mailto:clydepat6@aol.com).

### GCMG Outreach

Virginia Biggs is GCMG's Outreach Chairman. If anyone knows of a GCMG that needs a meal, please let her know 830-560-1976

### Newsletter Staff

Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Proof Reader - Patti Zgabay

Distribution - Doug Biggs

Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz

Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor

## M E M B E R S I N S E R V I C E

#### Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Jose Contreras Alternate

One Year Term - Cindy Martin—Linda Bruno Alternate

#### 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

Facebook Editor - Open

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

## Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farm

April 24, twelve members of GCMG, class 24, braved the chilly morning to enjoy a tour of the Kitchen Pride Mushroom Farm ([830/540-4516](tel:8305404516)) in Gonzales, TX. With required hair and beard nets, we were ready to peer into the dark, dank rooms which housed the mysterious mushrooms. Kitchen Pride is an apt name for this first class operation that distributes only in Texas. It became apparent that this locally owned company does take great pride in the way they handle the composting, casing, cultivation, packing and distribution of these little gems.

Their mushroom production consists of Shiitake (a very rich, concentrated, woody, earthy, piney flavor), Oyster (a mild seafood flavor - hence the name), White Button (a delicate, mild flavor), Baby Bella, a.k.a. Crimini (a brown, earthy flavor), and Portabella (merely a mature Crimini with a diameter of up to 6" with the flavor and texture of a steak).

Our tour guides were very informative and extremely proud of their product and operation. It was fascinating to see the various stages of mycelium growth throughout the beds, and to watch the pickers collecting the "rooms". The pickers, some of which can make very good money, are paid by the piece. The growers have great status, requiring an abundance of science and art. A good maintenance team is an absolute necessity, for the success of the entire production is determined by a properly functioning plant.

If sunshine and balmy days are your idea of great gardening, you would be surprised to see a mushroom farm, for darkness is a priority, strict temperature controls and the highest standards of sanitation. Their compost is actually pasteurized. Unfortunately, other bad molds, especially green mold, enjoy the same environment, so strict standards must be enforced.

The history of this fascinating little fungi is ancient. Man discovered through trial and error which mushrooms were safe, deadly poisonous or worthy of a religious experience. Early Greeks and Romans used the edible fungi as a major part of their daily food. The selling of wild mushrooms was governed by laws forbidding the sale of poisonous species. Paris, during King Louis XIV, became a central commercial center for growing mushrooms. The limestone caves under the city provided an ideal environment for their growth. By 1900 there were over 500 miles of mushroom beds in the caves, and over 10 million pounds sold commercially.

Mushrooms can be sauteed, grilled, roasted, fried or fresh with limitless combinations of herbs and spices. They are super rich in anti-oxidants to fight free radicals and a great source of essential B vitamins, potassium and selenium to name a few. So don't leave this delight in the dark. Bring it out and enjoy all it's benefits. Keep it cold (33-40F"), avoid plastic bags and use while fresh. The shelf life is about 12 days. Kitchen Pride also sells their spent compost for \$10/yd (even less for quantities over 7 yds), picked up at their plant (except for Thursdays). It is full of beneficial microbes, bacteria and fungi, with a pH of 6-7. It is very rich with slow release organic matter, but the abundance of available nutrient salts restricts planting directly into this medium. It is suggested to use not more than a 1:3 ratio when mixing with soil. Better yet, use as a top dressing and water thoroughly soon after application.

If you want to have a different gardening experience, there are mushroom kits available from mail order seed houses such as Burpee Seeds, Jackson Perkins Co. and George Park Seed Co. By the way, this excellent tour at Kitchen Pride would not have happened had it not been for Cindy Martin pulling this great adventure together for us. Thank you Cindy. Article by Frank Zehner.

**Kudos to Jose Contreras for encouraging Class 24 to continue to get together as a class once training was completed. They are a very cohesive group. Their next outing will be to Ellen & Randy's Farm on 4 May. Cindy Martin is doing a wonderful job of keeping the group organized.**

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the MG office/library is open from 9am-noon except for holidays. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Betty Hughes. 830-401-4066 or e-mail [ehughes5@satx.rr.com](mailto:ehughes5@satx.rr.com).

Every Monday, Thursday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday are work days at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. **Start hours 9 am.** Check with Ann Odvody ([odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net) 830-914-3593) for access at other times.

Every Friday 9 am is a workday in the gardens at the Big Red Barn. Check with Gretchen Ricker ([gricker@satxrr.com](mailto:gricker@satxrr.com) 830-305-1664) for details.

**May 2, 2013, 5 to 9pm Ag Fest-** two needed. Location: Texas Agricultural Education & Heritage Center, Big Red Barn, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. Pick up supplies from Master Gardener Office, set-up display board, talk about plants and gardening. Have Seeds to give away and handouts including handouts of upcoming Class 25.

### **Extension/Master Gardeners Water Fairs:**

**May 6,** 9:45 to 11:45 - 5 needed. Location: Jefferson Elementary, 215 Short Avenue, Seguin

**May 24,** Noon to 2 - 5 needed. Location: Schertz Elementary, 701 Curtiss Ave, Schertz,

**May 29,** 8:30 to 10:30 - 5 needed. Location: Watts Elementary, 100 Deer Meadow, Schertz

**Note:** All shifts will have an Extension agent to assist volunteers. All supplies will be provided by the Extension Office. Master Volunteers set up and run Rainfall simulator, Water Cycle, Enviroscape, Edible Aquifer displays, and games. Demonstrations are for 3rd 4th or 5th graders in 15-20 minute increments. Contact Carol Calentine 830-303-3889 or email [carol.calentine@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:carol.calentine@ag.tamu.edu) to sign up

**June 21st. Friday Summer Social 6:30 p.m.** (NO Thursday meeting) see page 4 for details. Need: items for door prizes (even a plant, but, nothing expensive please); help with the social; and with set up and tear down. Sign-up sheet and food sign-up sheet will be at the May Meeting - or contact Joyce Friesenhahn, Social Chair, email [omaannie2@gmail.com](mailto:omaannie2@gmail.com)

**WANTED:** A team of volunteers to assist the Guadalupe County Jr MG coordinators (Lo-Ra Dick, Pam Turner and Peggy Jones). This team will be planning contacts with Guadalupe County school administrators to further Jr MG programs and teacher training. They will also be developing presentations to assist teachers with displays and gardening plans for their schools.

**KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show** needs 2 volunteers to sign up each Saturday in July: 6, 13, 20, and 27.

**WANTED:** Chairperson for Gutierrez Xeriscape Park in Schertz. We still need a chairperson - or two co-chairpersons - for the Gutierrez Xeriscape Park, 1300 block of Borgfeld Road (which is across from the Animal Shelter) in Schertz. The chairman's responsibility is to schedule workdays using volunteers from Master Gardeners and The Key Club at Steele High School. The Key Club is a great group of kids who assist master gardeners in maintenance of the bed area at the Park. Workdays are usually called but weeding and watering can be scheduled and done on an individual basis. Hardscape supplies will be provided.

If you would like to join in for the fun, please call Carol Calentine 830 303-3889 or email [ccalentine@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:ccalentine@ag.tamu.edu)



## *The Wandering Gardener* - Marilyn Moltz

### **Botanical Gardens, Corpus Christi, TX**

Located on the western side of Corpus Christi is their Botanical Gardens. It is 180 acres large and is bordered by King Ranch. The Garden has many sections including a large wetland area which has a long trail loop and boardwalk over the water - be careful as you just might see a small gator! If you are a birder it is a great place to spot Roseate Spoonbills, egrets, white pelicans and ducks, not to mention other Texas birds and migrating birds depending on the season you visit.

The flower garden has a hibiscus garden, 250 plumeria plants representing 75 varieties, rose garden, a bird and butterfly trail, arid garden, hummingbird garden, sensory garden, and the Larkin Memorial Orchid Greenhouse. Here you will find a collection of 2000 orchids most have been donated to the botanical garden.

You can find lots of living creatures in the botanical gardens. There are exotic birds in their cages tucked away in the bushes, lizards running around the ground, lots of hummingbirds and other birds flying around your head and you can enter the butterfly house and have butterflies land on you!! This is an interesting place to visit any time, but the most colorful would be March, April or May. In April they have an orchid sale if you are interested. They also have a concrete sofa you can sit on and enjoy the rose garden.



# GARDENING EVENTS

## 2013 Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest Festival of Flowers - May 25, 2013

The Bexar County Master Gardeners invite members of the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners to participate in the 2013 Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest that will take place during the Festival of Flowers on May 25, 2013 at the Alzafar Shrine, 901 N. Loop 1604, between Blanco Rd. and Stone Oak Pkwy. The horticulture show and contest is presented by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Bexar County Master Gardeners (BCMG) and Texas Nursery and Landscape Association (TNLA).

The show and contest is open to all amateur home gardeners from Bexar and the surrounding counties. Gardeners of all ages are encouraged to enter the show including gardeners 17 years old and younger who are judged separately from the adult exhibitors.

We are encouraging area youth to participate in the show. If you are affiliated with a scout or church youth group, mentor a school garden or other youth organization, please share this information with our area young folks including family members and neighbors.

Exhibitors may bring their entries to the Alzafar Shrine between 3 -7 pm Friday, May 24, or 8-10 am on Saturday, May 25. There is a fee of \$5 for each person entering one or more exhibits in the show. Each exhibitor will receive one coupon good for admission to the Festival of Flowers on Saturday, May 25. For more information contact Mary Ann Johnson 210-497-5446 or esjmaj@sbcglobal.net.

## Garden Tour to Washington DC in June

JUNE 3-11 Dr. Welsh is leading a garden tour to Washington D.C.! He will visit Monticello, Mount Vernon, Williamsburg, and more. Please see the following link for information and spread the word to anyone interested. <https://www.earthboundexpeditions.com/>

## Mother's Day Plant Sale

May 11 (Sat) 9am to 2pm

Mother's Day Plant Sale benefitting Bexar County Extension Education Association Scholarship Program at Good News Lutheran Church, 11020 Old Corpus Christi Road. Hanging baskets and 10 inch beautiful bloomers. Contact Dr. Connie Sheppard at [210 467-6575](tel:2104676575) for any questions

## 2013 Texas Master Gardener Conference

October 17 - 19

<http://www.2013tmgaconference.org/>

Do you plan on flying to McAllen, TX for the 2013 Texas Master Gardener Conference? If so, please use PROMO CODE: 99H3AD for a group discount. Follow link for more info.

<http://www.aa.com/homePage.do>

## The Comal Master Gardeners Herb Festival

Previously known as Herb Affair, the Comal Master Gardeners Herb Festival has a new location and a new look. Starting this year the name has changed to Herb Festival and will be located at Conservation Plaza, 1300 Churchill Dr, New Braunfels. The date is the same, May 11th (day before Mothers Day) - 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. and the festival is bigger and better including vendors with Herbs, sales and crafts. Mother's Day couldn't be any easier. Herb of the year is the Elder and of course the master gardeners venues will be incorporating this into their presentations. As always this festival is FREE.

Also, we are accepting donations for the Conservation Plaza's silent auction. [Please contact the Conservation Plaza at 830-832-9699](#) for more information

## BCMG is Selling Orchids

The month of May has some very important dates in it - including Mother's Day, Graduations, and be nice to yourself day. We have made arrangements with a wonderful orchid grower who was trained in Japan to be able to sell orchids to raise funds for our community outreach. Did you know that the Moth Phalaenopsis Orchid has actually been designated as a Texas Superstar Plant? These orchids are quart size - and come in 4 solid colors (purple, white, pink, and yellow) in addition to "surprise me color" which will be a uniquely different color or multi-color. The cost for 1 or 2 orchids is \$20 each while the cost of 3 or more will be \$19 each. (NOTE: The retail value of these orchids is \$30).

The deadline to order the orchids is Monday May 6th. The orchids will be available for pickup at BCMG offices (3355 Cherry Ridge Suite 208 San Antonio, TX 78230) on either Friday May 10th between 11am and 4pm or Saturday May 11th between 9am and 12pm.

After Friday, April 12th there will be pictures of the orchids on our webpage - [www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org](http://www.bexarcounnymastergardeners.org)

# EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

## The San Antonio Daylily Society Annual Show, Exhibition and Sale

The San Antonio Daylily Society, (SADS) will have their annual show on Saturday, May 18 at the San Antonio Garden Center located at 3310 N. New Braunfels Ave., in San Antonio, Texas.

The show will have a judged exhibition of daylily flower entries, with ribbon awards being presented in various categories. Two other judged events that are part of the exhibition are a tri-color floral arrangements section and a photography contest.

A daylily sale will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. SADS members will be on hand to answer questions about daylilies.

The public is invited to attend the awards exhibition portion of the show, free of charge, from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. This is after the winning entries are selected. The San Antonio Daylily Society will have presentations on related topics, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

## Rainwater Harvesting –Monday, May 13th, 7 pm

San Antonio Rose Society will meet Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm at the San Antonio Garden Center 3310 N New Braunfels @ Funston. Mark Peterson, the Project Coordinator of Conservation at SAWS, will speak on “Rainwater Harvesting”. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information go to [www.sarosesociety.org](http://www.sarosesociety.org)



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

<http://www.npsot.org/wp/guadalupe>

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month - May 14, 2013 at St John’s Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion. 6:30pm - meet/greet and plant/seed exchange. 7:00pm - the program will be presented by Linda Valdez, a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist; about what plants you should use in your garden and landscape to attract butterflies.

Directions to St. John’s Lutheran Church: From FM 78 turn south onto FM 465 just past the Marion School on the right. From IH 10 go north on FM 465 towards Marion; the Church will be on the left.

The Purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote research, conservation and utilization of native plants and habitats of Texas through education, outreach and example. Come learn with us – we have speakers about flowers, trees, butterflies, bats, invasive plants, water harvesting and much more!

Visitors are always welcome!!

## Backyard Gardener Series

### How to Build a Raised-Bed Garden and Saving Water/Money through Drip Irrigation May 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

The Backyard Gardening series program “How to Build a Raised-Bed Garden and Saving Water/Money through Drip Irrigation” will be presented by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service office for Bexar County. The program will be held in Suite 208, 3355 Cherry Ridge Drive in San Antonio. David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension horticulturist, will be joined by Bexar County Master Gardener Ron Csehil who will discuss the benefits of drip irrigation and give a basic demonstration on how to install a drip system into a raised-bed garden. The program registration fee of \$10 will be collected at the door. Make checks payable to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. For more information and to RSVP for the workshop, contact Angel Torres at 210-467-6575 or [metorres@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:metorres@ag.tamu.edu).

## San Antonio Botanical Garden Educational Offerings

Native Plant Walks. Come explore the Texas Native Trail with a Master Naturalist! Meet at 10:00 am at the Carriage House.

Friday, May 17 Hill Country

Friday, June 14 East Texas

For more information visit [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org)

## Master Gardener Specialist Training Update

### Master Gardener Specialists Conclave Training at Texas A&M Campus

The MG Specialist Conclave is an opportunity for certified master gardeners to gain specialist training in one or more subject areas in a conference setting. Three specialist courses will be taught concurrently at the Texas A&M Horticultural Sciences Department building on the Texas A&M University Campus at College Station, Texas. Certified master gardeners with approval and support of their county coordinator may register for one or two training sessions listed below.

**Pecan:** The pecan specialist training is intended to prepare a master gardener to recognize common home pecan production problems (insects, nutritional disorders, diseases) commonly seen in county extension offices and to provide guidance to homeowners in water, fertilizer, tree training and other basic pecan cultural practices. The course also prepares the specialist to coordinate and assist in management of a county or regional pecan show with directed training in the area of pecan variety identification, sample preparation and judging.

**Vegetable:** The vegetable specialist training will address topics necessary to increase knowledge and improve skills in vegetable gardening. Topics covered include soil building, garden location and setup, insect, disease, and weed management, organic options, raised bed gardening. The workshop will also consist of a hands-on tomato grafting session where participants will graft their own plants and take home for planting.

**Earth-Kind Landscape:** The Earth-Kind Landscape training will expose master gardeners to Earth-Kind landscape principals and prepare them with basic knowledge on how to identify and solve common landscape problems. This training will also focus on one of the Earth-Kind landscape principals: proper plant selection, as proper plant selection and care reduces landscape inputs in the future. Plant materials will include a wide range of woody and herbaceous plants, and a 'tree walk' on campus will be part of the training.

These classes are available in May. The GCMG Board approved \$100 for two members who finish the specialists training and certify for Vegetable and Earth-Kind Landscape, each. Also, when you finish the course, and finish your volunteer hours, the state will send you \$50. If members are interested, they need to submit their request to Travis Franke, AgriLife Extension Service agent

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June 12 - 14 (Wed - Fri) Master Gardener Specialist Composter Training hosted by Bexar County at San Antonio Botanical Gardens. Registration cost is \$225. Payment and application must be submitted by May 20th. For more information contact David Rodriguez 210-467-6575 or [dhrodriguez@aq.tamu.edu](mailto:dhrodriguez@aq.tamu.edu)

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

## Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard

**May 3 (Fri) 9am - 2pm**

Preserving and Serving the Harvest at Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard, Elmendorf, TX. Olive Oil tasting, Lunch-"Sandy Burgers", Herb Presentation, Soaps & Beauty Products from Olive Oil, exciting goodie bag! \$55/per person. To register and for more information: <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu> Keyword online: backyard basics.

## A New Texas Superstar



The BHN-968 cherry tomato's name may be bland, but a San Antonio tasting panel found it sweeter than any comparable cherry tomato. Not only is it one of the sweetest, but is one of the easiest to grow and higher yielding cherry tomatoes, said David Rodriguez, AgriLife Extension horticulture agent in Bexar County and member of the Texas Superstar board. For these reason and others, the BHN-968 cherry tomato has been named a Texas Superstar for 2013.



Texas Superstar plants undergo extensive tests throughout the state by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension horticulturists. To be designated a Superstar, a plant must not just be beautiful but also perform well for consumers and growers throughout Texas. Superstars must also be easy to propagate, which should ensure the plants are not only widely available throughout Texas but also reasonably priced.

“The BHN-968 tomato is the most naturally disease-resistant cherry tomato we have seen in our evaluation trials,” Rodriguez said. “It is genetically resistant to the diseases of verticillium wilt and fusarium wilt, as well as tobacco mosaic virus and tomato spotted wilt virus.” It is also the first cherry tomato variety found to be nematode resistant since Small Fry, a tomato developed by AgriLife Research horticulturists. It is also one of the most flavorful varieties available to home gardeners. In taste tests, the BHN-968 was rated “four times sweeter” than any comparable cherry tomato. The taste panels consisted of 10 to 12 individuals ranging in age from 50 to 83. This is the first tomato of any type to be taste-tested by AgriLife Extension to receive a unanimous favorable rating at every testing.

The BHN-968 has also been tested by agents and, in a way, even given the ‘kid test,’ and got high marks. “We’ve used it quite a bit locally in our children’s vegetable garden program, as well as our youth gardening program,” Rodriguez said. “As productive as it is, and as hardy as it is, every child gets to taste a few, even when the teacher is only growing a few plants.”

The BHN-968 was developed in Florida and initially used as a greenhouse tomato, then as a commercial field tomato. But allegedly it wasn’t productive enough for commercial growers. Also, commercial growers need tough-skinned plants that will survive handling and shipping. The BHN-968 had a somewhat softer fruit that didn’t meet these criteria, which gives it another plus score for home gardeners. “But what’s that old saying? ‘One man’s trash is another’s treasure?’” Rodriguez said. “In our trials here (in Texas) it was very reliable as a container plant as well as for the home gardener. Though BHN-968 might perform well in specialty growers - if they stake them - it’s probably not something that’s going to be grown by large-scale producers. I really think it’s only for the small gardener, or the patio grower, or the specialty grower – I think it’s really an excellent choice for them.”

Another advantage for the home gardener is that BHN-968, unlike other cherry tomatoes, is semi-determinate, also called a “naturally determinate” variety. Most cherry tomato varieties are predominantly indeterminate, meaning the plants can grow very large and get ‘out of bounds,’ you might say. But as the BHN-968 is semi-determinate, it’s not likely to spread out and outgrow a medium-size tomato cage, which for the average home gardener with space limitations makes it easier to manage.

Because BHN-968 is a highly productive variety, it will need good fertility, particularly nitrogen, as do all modern tomato varieties. Without good fertility, the bush will be smaller and produce less fruit. Gardeners will most likely only be able to find transplants at home improvement stores and nurseries. If they want to start their own seeds, the only big seed company that currently makes seed available for both commercial and home gardeners is Johnny’s Selected Seeds. Gardeners may also locate a retailer by visiting the Texas Superstar program website at <http://texassuperstar.com/> and clicking on “Retailers”.

# May 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Red Barn 8 am	4 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
5	6 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30 - NOON  GCCG* Workday ?PM  Green Team - 8 am	7	8	9  GCCG Workday  GCMG Board Mtg 6:00 pm	10  Red Barn  ● NEW MOON	11 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m  GCCG Workday.
12  MOTHER'S DAY  	13 Master Gardener Office/Library  GCCG Workday	14	15	16  GCCG Workday  GCMG Meeting	17  Red Barn	18 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
19	20 Master Gardener Office/ Library  GCCG Workday	21	22	23  GCCG Workday	24  Red Barn	25 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.  ● FULL MOON
26  Newsletter Deadline	27  GCCG Workday  MEMORIAL DAY	28	29	30	31	



**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 Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension <http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/> 830-379-1972  
Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

### **GCMG Officers & Board of Directors**

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Open	President Elect
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Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Carol Calentine	Volunteer Chairman
Bob Teweles	MG Training Chairman
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

### **May Meeting**

**Thurs, May 16, 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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