



The Guadalupe Gardener



November 2014

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 Go Exploring?

While serving as your President I have tried to learn more about what Guadalupe Master Gardeners do - and I have discovered a lot! We have 130 members and no two have the same interests which leads to a wide variety of volunteer efforts. Perhaps like me, you aren't aware of the many ways GCMGs serve our Master Gardener goal of "Horticultural (and Environmental) Education". The following discussion might serve as a "roadmap" if you should decide to explore for GCMG activities that might interest you.

Direct Support - Borrowing an Army term, I feel some of our most important efforts are participation in programs conducted by the Guadalupe Co. Extension Office such as their Spring Water Fairs in elementary schools, the Horticultural Division of the Guadalupe County Fair, and the Fall Ag Days for Kids. It would be nearly impossible for the Extension Service to conduct these educational programs without our support. To me, these programs represent the core of what GCMGs are about and I would have hated to say "Sorry, we can't be there".

Original Programs - Educational programs organized or presented by GCMGs such as our Spring Vegetable Garden, Rainwater, and Propagation seminars are a valuable resource in Guadalupe County. These programs require a lot of effort not only in the speaker presentations, but in organizing, publicizing, and conducting the event. Perhaps our contributions to the KWED gardening show could be included as "original programming".

(Continued on page 7)

NOVEMBER MEETING

Thursday, November 20th, 2014 - 7:00 PM
Guadalupe County Justice Center, 211 W. Court St.

Nov. 20 - Nitrogen in the Landscape: Beyond Bluebonnets. Dr. Kelly Lyons, asst. professor of biology at Trinity University, awarded a USDA grant to study links between invasive weeds and diverse native grasslands

Social & Refreshments - 6:30

Program - 7pm

Followed by the Business Meeting

Followed by Volunteer Recognition & Drawings

Don't forget your name tag

In This Issue

Page 2 - Meeting Program, Slate of Officers

Page 3 - Meeting Photos

Page 4 - Class 26 Aha Moments & LBJ Wildflower Center Tour, Meeting Refreshments

Page 5 - Class 26 Member Report

Page 6 - Christmas Social

Page 7 - October Meeting Winners

Page 8 - Cooking in the Garden Fair & Crafts

Page 9 - Texas MG Conference, Dues

Page 10 - Gutierrez Xeriscape Park

Page 11 - Volunteer Recognition Program, Tee Shirts, New Standing Membership Committee

Page 12 - A&M Gardens & Greenways, The Wandering Gardener, ICCB Bachelor Button Bed

Page 13 - 14 - Big Red Barn

Page 15-16 - Community Garden

Page 16 - LaVernia School Children's Garden

Page 17 - Guadalupe County Fair

Page 18 - Gardening Events

Page 18-19 - Volunteer Opportunities (Incl Hoermann Tract)

Page 20-22 - Education-Classes-Seminars

Page 23 - November Calendar

Association News

October Meeting Program Perennial Forest Gardening Systems



Kirby Fry , a graduate from Texas A&M in forestry science and natural resource conservation, discussed his passion for permaculture design at the October GCMG education session. Permaculture design is “the conscious design, creation, and maintenance of an agriculturally productive ecosystem that has the stability, resilience, and diversity of a natural ecosystem.” The system uses plants native for the local climate that have “beneficial relationships”. The key to permaculture design is soil and water conservation.

Kirby’s passion is to take back the land for agriculture that has been lost to desert or near desert ecosystems due to mismanagement.

The basic element of the design is conservation terraces or berms and swales. The swales at 12 inches deep and the berms 12 inches high and each about 8 feet across. The soils are enhanced with green sand, ag lime, soft rock phosphate and sulfur and other nutrients. Selected fruit trees line the top of the berm. Kirby listed his favorite fruit trees including the Hachiya persimmon, the Satsuma orange, the Wonderful pomegranate, the Keiffer pear, the celeste fig and the black mulberry. Along with the fruit trees are farmer’s trees and include the mesquite, the black locust and eve’s necklace. The garden also includes annual cover crops such as clover, rye, oats, buckwheat, carrots, collards, mustard, lettuce, spinach, sorrel and comfrey to name a few.

Kirby’s Principles of permaculture are:

To get the highest return for your investment.

Every element must have multiple functions

Every essential function in the system is supported by multiple elements.

For resources, Kirby recommended An Introduction to Permaculture by Bill Mollison . For those facebook members , Texas Permaculture Design Projects is available. Kirby can be reached at Kirby-Fry9@gmail.com

Article submitted by Sandy Foss, Photo by Marvn “T” Taylor

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG

2015 GCMG Slate of Officers

President: Jose Contreras

President Elect: Marvin Borth

Vice President: Cynthia Lyssy (Chairman of the Program Committee)

Treasurer: Jim Johnson

Secretary: Welta Burris

Nominating Committe: Pat Schultze, John Lewicki, Cynthia Lyssy



October Meeting & Social

Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor

Aha Moments from Class 26 Members



Beth Henry: So far we've had five classes on landscape design, plant disease, a trip to the LBJ Wildflower Center in Austin and composting. So much info in such a short time. I have learned to not become so overwhelmed but to go back to basics: location, water, & sun - and to research which plants are right for the location and the area - native plants being especially useful. Just focus on the basics.

Bob Cox: What she said. As a social scientist I realize that for things to change, first I must change. The manual for the class is a resource forever. After Gail Johnson's presentation on composting, I have a Troy-bilt rototiller sitting in my garage for sale. Dennis Hale who talked re design gave out a great resource from University of Florida. The trip to the LBJ Wildflower Center was wonderful. What I've taken away so far is how to lean on the other master gardeners. It's been an incredible experience.

Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor



Class 26 Tours Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center



Photos from Cindy Waechter compliments of Bob Cox and Class 26 members.

REFRESHMENTS

I want to thank, Welta Burris, Beth Zies, Joyce Johnston, Joyce Friesenhahn, Carmen H Rosas, Toni Guiles, Betty Hughes, and everyone else who brought all of the great food that we all enjoyed at the monthly meeting. I want to especially want to thank Welta Burris for all her help setting and overseeing the refreshment table. I will send an email reminder the week before the meeting to the members who signed up to bring refreshments to the November 20th meeting.

Submitted by Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator

More from Class 26

Howdy Master Gardeners from Class 26. Like the plants in our gardens, we continue to grow with the knowledge that has been bestowed upon us in this month's classes. We started out with Cindy Meredith's presentation on Herbs, Peppers and Vinegars along with How to Spice up Your Landscape. I was never into Herbs that much but after listening to her I picked up a variety and potted them, more for an experiment than anything else. I also came away from that class with a better understanding of the timing of planting peppers which I will definitely follow in the upcoming year.

The next class was How to Evaluate Plant Health and Diagnose Problems in Your Landscape by Dr. Greta Schuster. Great presentation, she kept the class on their toes. We all learned a lot about the nasty bugs that make meals of our gardens, trees and landscape. She set up a "lab" in the classroom and we were able to see the critters, with the help of microscopes, that had infested samples of leaves, flowers, etc that students brought in.

The third class of the month was How to Incorporate Composting Into Your Environment by Gail Johnson. Everyone uses compost in one form or another but I don't think we really knew the total benefits of it. After this class we came away with the knowledge of how things break down in the environment either mother nature's way or manmade. Composting is a super good way to nourish everything we have be it lawns, flowers, gardens, etc.

The last class was How to Be Firewise in Your Landscape Design by Jose Contreras. Super Class! I know that everyone came away from that class scratching their heads wondering how Firewise their home and properties are. I, for one, came home and did a walk around to see what my next projects are going to be and I can only assume that everyone else did the same. Yes I've got a bunch of tree trimming to do!

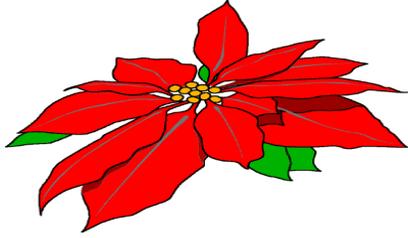
Other happenings this month were the Ag Days at the Red Barn as well as the Pecan Fest. Volunteers led the school kids through the garden during Ag Days teaching them all aspects of gardening. I know everyone learned quite a bit especially one inquisitive student that decided to eat a Pequin Chile Pepper. It got him a bowl of ice cream but I'll bet he leaves the peppers alone from now on!

Pecan Fest brought quite a few people through the garden with plenty of comments on how wonderful the garden looked. Lots of questions were answered on a wide variety of topics as well as people taking handouts to further their knowledge in their gardening endeavors.

Lastly I want to congratulate Kathy Bennett, Mike Chandler, Beth Henry, Kay McElveen, Marla Miller, Melissa Murley, Carol Suchan and Karen Patterson who have all attained their 50 Volunteer Hours for their Master Gardener Certification.

Michael Murley, Class 26

**PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS
USING THE NEW VMS**



You and a guest are invited

To the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners,

Of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service

Christmas- Holiday Social

Thursday December 18, 2014, 6:30PM- 9:00PM

At the The Red Barn, (Texas Agricultural Ed. &Heritage Center)

390 Cordova Road, Seguin, 78155

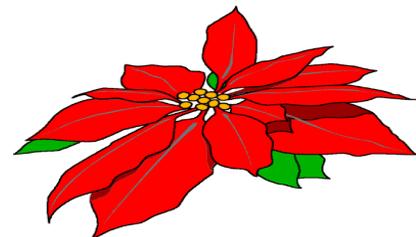
Turkey, Ham and Beverages will be provided

Bring a Side Dish or a Dessert

Please join us for good fun, food and fellowship.

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

Or Carol Calentine Cell: 830-305-1715



(PRESIDENT—Continued from page 1)

Participation in Local Events - We participate in events such as Earth Day, Wilson County Garden Days and Pecan Fest to provide gardening information and also to publicize our Association. The "heavy lifting" for these events is done by other groups with our responsibility being to provide a professional looking booth and helpful information.

General Support - A large percentage of the volunteer hours donated by our members each year are for the Guadalupe County Community Garden, the gardens at the Big Red Barn, and work at the MG office on Mondays. Much of this work is of the "hands in the dirt" variety which many members enjoy most. I don't think our educational efforts would be successful without this type of continuous support. Because this type of work is needed throughout the year, we almost always have an opportunity to earn volunteer hours.

Master Gardener Training Class - We have all taken this class, so we know that without the class we wouldn't have GCMGs. Conducting this class is probably our most intense project and without a quality and inspiring class I don't think we would motivate students to become enthusiastic Master Gardeners. Presenting the class takes organizers, MG presenters, sponsors, and a host of other volunteers working almost all year!

Organizational Support - One of the VMS project categories is "organizational support". To me this is the thread that holds our Association together and includes work by our Board, maintaining our Bylaws, the Guadalupe Gardener newsletter, and our website. Our monthly business meetings, e-mails and other information sharing might be included as organizational support.

Continuing Education - If we are to be teachers, then we need to be educated. I think that learning is what first brought many of us to Master Gardeners and there is not limit to the benefits of "CE". I have written in the past of the value in MG "Specialist" Certification.

Social Functions - Humans are social by nature and I suspect that many of our members value social interaction with other members above our educational mission. Our Spring and Holiday Socials as well as our pre-meeting socials are important functions which require a unique effort to which every member can contribute.

Other Efforts - I'm sure that I have not mentioned some of the projects that are most important to some of our members, and I know that I still have a lot to learn - so this is a disclaimer and my apology!

My hope is that by sharing with you my newly learned view of our Association, I can encourage you to "Go Exploring" for additional GCMG activities that you might find personally satisfying. Our newsletter, website, and meetings are a great place to start. You can explore by coming to an event or taking a class - but please keep an open mind about how you can help GCMGs "Make A Difference": Many hands make light work!

Bob Teweles

NOTE: As I prepared this month's article, my spirits soared as I thought of the extraordinary work done by so many GCMGs this year. I look forward to next month when I will have an opportunity to thank all of you for your contributions!!

Bob Teweles



October Meeting Winners

Cynthia Lyssy won \$26 in the 50/50 raffle. Jose Contreras (pictured) won the \$10 nursery gift certificate door prize. Photo by Marvin "T" Taylor.

COOKING IN THE GARDEN FAIR & CRAFTS - 10/18/14



On Saturday, October 18, 2014, the first annual Fair and Crafts Show was held at the Guadalupe County Community Garden in Schertz with over 20 vendors and 60 attendees. Organizer Mary Bowe thanked Terri Virost, Kim Darrough and Sharon Delcambre for all their help. They made almost \$450 and received many favorable comments. They look forward to even higher attendance next year. Hour long demonstrations were held on Drip Irrigation with Master Gardeners Dale Odvody and Vince Vita. The audience appreciated the tips and the big board display of equipment used in drip irrigation. Master Gardener Denise Bonds demonstrated Cooking with Fall Vegetables. Her show was a tremendous success with people clamoring for more. One of her hits was roasted radishes with olive oil and seasonings. The last demonstration was on Pet Friendly Gardening with Krista Hanna, DVM from City Veterinary Hospital/Friendship Pet Hospital. Her tips on good vegetables included squash, cucumbers and okra and she suggested avoiding rubber/cocoa/bark mulches. Also she stressed checking the ASPCA web site for toxic and non-toxic plants for pets: (<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>.)

Article by John Lewicki.
Photos by Mary Bowe.



Terri Virost & Polly Ruppert



Nancy Cantergiani & Kim Darrough

VENDORS:



Texas Master Gardeners 2014 Annual Conference

The Texas Master Gardeners 2014 Annual Conference was held in Odessa from September 25th to 27th. The conference was well-organized with numerous excellent speakers on a variety of interesting topics - and the Permian Basin Master Gardeners were great hosts. This was my first annual conference and I thought the experience was worth the time and effort of visiting a new place - although the



cost of travel, lodging, and the conference itself were significant. There were about eleven hours of Continuing Education available with four speakers to choose from each hour. The speakers were from all over the Southwest and the eight lectures I attended were very current and provided information useful to all Master Gardeners. A Saturday half-day tour of five unique Odessa gardens was most interesting to Joanne and I. I wonder why we can't do something like a garden tour here in Guadalupe County like they do in Austin and San Antonio?

The quarterly TMG Director's meeting was held as part of the Conference. Two items of general interest are that the 2015 Annual Conference will be in Belton and the 2017 Conference in Austin (the 2016 conference will be northeast of Dallas). Two briefings were presented on the Texas A&M Gardens and Greenway which are being planned around the Horticulture school buildings in College Station. More information is presented on page 12. Our GCMG participation will be discussed when we have more information on the EarthKind garden.

Bob Teweles, Alternate Director



Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues at the November Meeting

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will be collecting 2015 dues at the November Membership Meeting for those Certified Master Gardeners who have met their recertification requirements. This will be your last opportunity to pay your 2015 dues at a Membership Meeting.

Please remember **the Treasurer cannot accept your dues until you have** met all the requirements.

- Complete 12 hours of volunteer service
- Complete 6 hours of continuing education
- Report hours in the on-line Volunteer Management System (VMS)
- Complete and sign the annual Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement
- If your background check expires in 2015, complete and sign the Volunteer Consent for Criminal Background History Check

For **Class 25** students:

If you certified in November/December 2013, to recertify for 2015, you must complete twelve (12) hours of volunteer service and six (6) hours of continuing education, report those hours in VMS not later than 31 Dec 2014, complete and sign the annual Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement and pay your \$20 dues.

If you certified in 2014, to recertify in 2015, you have met your volunteer and continuing hours requirement. Once you complete and sign the annual Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement, you may pay your \$20 dues at the November meeting, but must pay them not later than 31 Dec 2014.

Key Club Works with Master Gardeners to Beautify Gutierrez Park By Cynthia Gentry



Front row kneeling (left to right): Daniel Diaz, Krystel Sagun, Vanessa Villegas, Kailah Kraus, Centaine De La Cruz, Jenna Arce, Cynthia Gentry, and Sarah Lopez.

Back row standing (left to right): Marvin Borth, Welta Burriss, Jeffery Pardubsky, Judy Stanley, Makayla Childers, Baylee Correu, Megan Czeisszperger, Jacob Frentzen, Thomas Avila, Denise Leverich Lesly Salas, and Jalaiyah Chisholm. Picture by John Lewicki.

Early Saturday morning, fifteen students toiled under the rose-pink light of dawn that shone dimly on Gutierrez Park. The Key Club members had assembled that morning to devote hours of their weekend to beautify the park. The Key Club members were split into four groups and each group was given a task such as planting wildflowers, establishing a butterfly garden, weeding and cleaning, and a Master Gardener was assigned to each band of high schoolers.

One of the group leaders was Welta Burriss, a retired school teacher with silver hair and a slow southern drawl. A year prior, Burriss was taking a Master Gardening course that taught her all about plants and soil, and what it takes for plants to grow. To obtain the coveted title of Master Gardener, one must never cease to pursue knowledge about botany and spend at least six hours of continuing education and doing twelve hours of community service each year. "I enjoy volunteering here [Gutierrez Park] because we always get to work with kids," she stated smiling proudly at a few Key Club members planting flowers in the distance.

The Steele Key Club has volunteered at Gutierrez Park for the past few years. Previously, members have pulled weeds, trimmed trees, painted the gazebo and planted wildflower seeds. The club is actively involved with countless community service projects and is committed to taking on global crises, like UNICEF fundraising to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, a deadly illness that can be prevented. Members of Key Club are supporting the community with their selfless actions and making a big difference.

Sarah Lopez, a sophomore and two-year member of Key Club, alluded that sometimes the work that is done can be physically demanding, but it's always rewarding. At the end of the day all the hard work is worth it. Even though my back hurts and I'm tired, when I look at the happy faces of the people I've helped, it makes my heart beat a little better."

October Volunteer Recognition Program

71 Master Gardeners, more than half of our Certified members, have participated in the 2014 Program. Of special note, 4 members have been eligible for the drawing all 10 months; Joyce Briscoe, Joyce Friesenhahn, John Lewicki, and Elaine McIntyre. Another 3 Master Gardeners have qualified every month but one; Mary Bowe, Cynthia Lyssy and Iris Seale. Well done!

33 Master Gardeners, 6 who were 2014 first time participants, qualified in the October Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing. Congratulations to Karen Wallock our October winner. As our October Volunteer, Karen won a \$20 gift certificate to Maldonado Nursery. In addition, four other names were drawn for entry into the year-end grand prize drawing for a \$150 gift certificate. They were Cynthia Lyssy, Kathy Carroll, Treva Hicks, and Bob Davis. To date Cynthia Lyssy has 5 chances in the year-end grand prize drawing. Bob Davis is close behind with 4 chances. 10 Master Gardeners have 2 chances: Kimberly Darrough, Treva Hicks, Betty Hughes, John Lewicki, Janet Magee, Hughlene Micheli, Gretchen Ricker, Mary Styblo, Pam Turner and Karen Wallock. Thanks to all our volunteers for your hard work and effort.

To qualify for the Monthly Volunteer Recognition Program drawing, Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardeners must report a minimum of 5 volunteer and continuing education hours earned during the month in VMS by the last calendar day of the month. Hours earned for attendance at the monthly GCMG Membership Meeting are not included in the minimum 5 hours, except those earned for meeting setup. Board members do not participate in the Volunteer Recognition Program.

Don't forget to earn and report your hours by 30 November 2014 to be eligible for the December Membership Drawing.
Submitted by Cindy Waechter

GCMG Tee Shirts

Thank you all for the great response on the T-shirts at the last meeting. There are a few T-shirts that were requested last meeting and you will be called when the order is in. I will try to make T-shirts available at the monthly meetings and extra T-shirts will be available at my wife's store (B.E.A.D., 113 E Wright Blvd, Universal City, Texas). Please call 210-263-7500 for hours and availability (after the November meeting). I am gladly doing this for the GCMG organization as an individual, so please be patient with me and I will try to respond to everyone's request. Aprons, Polos, and Hats are on the Horizon. From what I understand, old logo T-shirts are still available at the print shop in Seguin. Call GCMG office for store info. Thanks again and see you at the next meeting.
Marvin Borth

New-Membership Standing Committee

The GCMG Board approved having a Membership Standing Committee with the Chairman as a member of the Board. The Membership Committee would:

Serve as the VMS/Hours Coordinator

Maintain the electronic membership list in VMS (name, addresses, email, and telephone numbers)

Determine eligibility for members in good standing and recertification

Periodically check in and keep up with Associate, Leave of Absence and Interns throughout the year

Maintain the GCMG Background Check Roster

Manage the GCMG Volunteer Recognition Programs

Arrange for a Meeting Greeter and Raffle Ticket Seller at Membership Meetings.

Texas A&M University. The Gardens and Greenway Project

The Texas Master Gardeners have been presented with an incredible opportunity to leave a forever and indelible stamp on one of the most exciting projects going on at Texas A&M University. The Gardens and Greenway Project will be a world class university garden complex. As project manager for the development, Dr. Doug Welsh, founder and former coordinator of the Master Gardener program in Texas, has given the Master Gardeners the opportunity to obtain naming rights to one of the specialty areas of the Teaching Garden Complex within the Gardens and Greenway. With your help in raising the needed funds, these gardens can be named The Texas Master Gardeners Earth-Kind® Gardens. For further information please see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1-rxf7suh-MT3NYMDFnV2d2Q0E/view?pli=1> Also, please take the time to view the YouTube video "Exploring the Texas A&M Gardens & Greenway" by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-RRz5VzRLs&feature=youtu.be>

The Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz Balboa Park San Diego, CA

Balboa Park is only minutes from downtown San Diego and is a must stop when you are in the area. It is on 1200 acres and is a place to go to stroll and relax, get something tasty to eat, attend a cultural event, go to the zoo, visit a museum, watch birds and butterflies and much more.

The park has 15 major museums - Spanish Village Art Center, Automotive Museum, San Diego Hall of Champions and Marston House to name a few. You would need a week or more just to visit the museums. The park is a horticultural paradise with areas as different as a formal English garden to a desert garden featuring 1300 succulents and drought resistant species.

The park offers free tours, Park Ranger tours and a Spanish Renaissance architecture tour. You can take your own audio walking tour if you prefer. The park also has 11 restaurants and many street vendors for you to try. The world renowned San Diego Zoo is also part of this area.



Article & Photos by Marilyn Moltz

Bachelor Button Bed at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church



Remember the bachelor button bed at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Marion. Amazing how they've grown. The kids are so proud.



Submitted by Joyce Friesenhahn.