



The Guadalupe Gardener



September 2013



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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

One of the perks of being a certified Master Gardener is that you may

attend our Master Gardener classes for free. I was fortunate to squeeze in the time to hear Clara Mae Marcotte's talk on Growing Vegetables. She did a marvelous job. Good comments all around from the students. On another day there was an opportunity to take an Advanced Power Point Class at the Seguin Public Library that Treva Hicks, our Speakers Bureau Chair, put together for our members. In this newsletter you will find the September opportunities to broaden your horizons.

Improvements are continuing at our Community Garden. The Odvody's and their team have come a long way this year with the donation of the Pavilion by Pulte Homes, installation of electricity, the completion of the green house and the donation of funds from Bexar County Master Gardeners. We are thankful for all the help from the Adult Probationers. Not all the duties require physical labor. We are looking for a team to help plan workshops and activities for both adults and children. Education is our mission.

What are your interests? Please let a board member know. We will help you find an activity that fits you. The nominating committee has been meeting so, when called upon, take the challenge to engage yourself in our

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September 19th - 7 PM

Speaker - Kathleen Scott

"Hummingbird Hotspot"

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

AUGUST GCMG MEETING

Dr Rebecca Kelso

Common Skin Conditions in the Sun-Exposed Skin



Dr. Rebecca Kelso, Certified Dermatologist, presented the August education hour to the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Dr. Kelso, a practicing dermatologist at the Alamo Heights Dermatology Clinic in San Antonio, presented a slide show on “Common Skin Conditions in the Sun-Exposed Skin”.

The slides reviewed common aging skin conditions including liver spots, melasma and actinic purpura. She showed a normal skin layer versus a damaged skin layer. She discussed pre-cancerous conditions that can easily be treated by your dermatologist.

She then reviewed with pictures common skin cancers, how to detect them, how they are treated and the dangers when not treated.

For skin protection, Dr. Kelso, reported on the benefits of UPF clothing, now gaining popularity in sportswear. She suggested dark colors versus lighter colors to protect from the sun rays.

Wear sunglasses and a wide brim hat, at least 4 inches wide. If you wear a ball-cap wear a nape cover and remember your ears are not going to be protected and are a very susceptible area for lesions.

She recommended SPF 30 for sun screen, and called anything greater “fluff”. The preference for lotion, spray or gels is your own personal preference. Sun block should be put on every 2 hours and after a swim. She recommends using a shot glass full size (or golf-ball size) of lotion each time you apply. She believes make-up with SPF protection is inadequate and suggests you wear your SPF lotion under your make-up. She also stressed not to forget your lips. Recommended ingredients to find in your sunscreen are parsol 1789, helioplex, mexoply and zinc oxide.

Warning Signs. Any skin discolorations which are irregular in borders; multiple colors, ie., tan, black, red, blue or brown; have a diameter greater than the size of a pencil eraser; are asymmetrical or if there is a change in the lesion; ie., color, size elevation, itching, bleeding, crusting should be reported to your physician.

Dr. Kelso suggests avoiding the hottest part of the day in the sun between 11am and 3pm, and stresses it is never too late to start protecting your skin.

Article submitted by Sandy Foss.

Photos by Marvin “T” Taylor

Common Skin Conditions in Sun-Exposed Skin

Rebecca Kelso, MD
Alamo Heights Dermatology, P.A.
414 W. Sunset Ste 210

AUGUST 2013 MEETING

Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor



Welcome!

We celebrate the ten Class 25 students who attended the August sponsor social, educational program and/or business meeting.

Mary Lucky won the raffle of \$19.50, and Pat Schultze won the \$10 gift certificate to Schulz Nursery.

REFRESHMENTS

Toni Guiles, Bob Teweles, Mary Lucky, Deedy Wright, Carol Calentine, and Betty Hughes brought refreshments. We still need members to sign up for the September and October meetings.

Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator

NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENER



Diane Lippe was recognized as being a newly certified Master Gardener; she received her certificate, name badge, and membership card from President Peggy Jones at the August meeting.

Photo by Marvin "T" Taylor

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.

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

Ag Extension Office Workday

On Saturday, August 10th at 8:00 AM. Three fantastic volunteers, Liz Romero, Pat Schultze and Betty Hughes, met to put down some supplemental mulch and to weed in the landscape beds at the Extension Office.

Special thanks to Hughlene Micheli and her hubby who made their own Ag Building Workday a couple of days earlier when they brought their lawn mower and together did the mowing.

Kudos to the Michelis!

Liz Romero , Chair

Volunteer Recognition Program

This program began on July 1. Congratulations to Cindy Martin, our August Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing winner. As our August Volunteer, Cindy won a \$20 gift certificate to Schulz Nursery. In addition to Cindy, Stan Wieding, Virginia Biggs, Diane Lippe, and Elaine McIntyre's names were drawn for entry into the year-end grand prize drawing for a \$150 gift certificate.

To qualify for the Monthly Volunteer Recognition Program drawing, certified GCMG Master Gardeners must report a minimum of 5 volunteer and continuing education hours earned during the month to the Hours Coordinator 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. GCMG had 10 members who qualified for the August drawing.

Don't forget to earn and report your hours by 31 August 2013 to be eligible for the September Membership Meeting Drawing.

Big Red Barn



Covering corn kernels



Watering in the new plants

Article and photos courtesy of Gretchen Ricker

August 23 was our first planting day – this date selected by checking several sources. We are hoping for cooler, wetter weather soon. The typical fall crops of squash varieties, broccoli and cabbage were set out along with bush beans, corn, tomatoes and potatoes. The volunteers are experimenting with planting the potatoes in bushel baskets. We also planted some in the ground. The usual weeding and watering keeps us busy as does trimming the okra. We were grateful to have some of Karen Wallock's grandchildren to lend their hands to the tasks. They alphabetized all our crop signs so that the next planting day will go smoothly and they planted our corn.



Planting potatoes in bushel baskets



Alphabetizing crop signs



Okra



Courtesy photo

GREEN THUMBS: Aug. 1, the Geronimo Lions Club enjoyed a presentation from Gretchen Ricker of the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Lions got a tour of all the work that is on going at the gardens of the Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center, "Big Red Barn". Fall planting is taking place which includes prize winning pumpkins. Pictured are Ricker and Melissa Murley, President of Geronimo Lions Club. Visit the "Big Red Barn" for a tour of the gardens. Geronimo Lions meet on the first and third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m.

In the News!

From the August 6th, 2013 issue of the Seguin Gazette



LOCAL HAPPENINGS: See what's going on with local clubs, page 6

More Big Red Barn!

Susan Casto has recruited a talented volunteer who has made tables and signs for the Red Barn Gardens for several years. The latest project of Dr. Gerald Smeztter has been new benches for the students to sit on in the Pavilion. These replace the authentic but scratchy hay bales that have been used in the past.



Photos provided by
Gretchen Ricker.



Newsletter Staff

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Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz

City of Santa Clara Teams with Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Recently some of the Guadalupe County Master Gardener have been spreading their enthusiasm about gardening in Guadalupe County. Santa Clara City Hall has been hosting GCMG speakers for the public to come and enjoy every 3rd Tuesday. Some recent speakers have talked about roses, compost, irrigation and there are many more subjects set up for the future.

Mayor Jeff Hunt of Santa Clara also accepted the donation of some plants out in the Santa Clara City Hall grounds. So keep an eye out for some beautiful foliage when you drive by.

Photos by Joyce Friesenhahn & Holly Christian



The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association

Is a

VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Master Gardeners Attend Advanced Power Point Class

On August 22, 2013, the Master Gardeners' 1st Advanced Power Point Class was held at the Seguin Public Library meeting room. Silvia Christy, assistant director of the SPL, gave a fun and informative 2 hour presentation to a group of Master Gardeners interested in learning how to improve their Power Point presentations. Our own Diane Lippe was very helpful in giving individual help where needed. Attendees were: Treva Hicks, Toni Guiles, Elaine McIntyre, Liz Romero, Judith Johnson, Peggy Jones, Deedy Wright and Daryl & Mary Styblo.



The classes have been so well received by the Master Gardeners that there will be a 2nd Basic, or Power Point 101, Class at the Seguin Public Library on September 26th from 2-4pm and the class is free. Anyone interested in taking the class please contact Treva Hicks; hicks1t@lycos.com, or call 830-303-4712.
Photo by Mary Styblo

Speakers Bureau

On July 25th Jose Contreras gave a presentation to the Sunset Lions Club at the Bona Sera Restaurant in Seguin explaining what the Guadalupe Master Gardeners are doing for Seguin and surrounding areas in the County. Jose had 10 Lion's Club members at the presentation.

On August 24th Dave Elder had 23 people attend a presentation about Composting with Worms at the Schultz Nursery in Marion.

Deedy Wright gave a talk on Vegetable Gardening at Schulz Nursery in Marion. There were 34 attendees, the largest crowd that Schulz Nursery has had at their seminars.

Treva Hicks, Speakers Bureau, hicks1t@lycos.com

(President—continued from page 1)
organization. Please take a moment to turn in your Volunteer Hours and participate in the Volunteer Recognition Program.

"More than anything I must have flowers, always, always."—Claude Monet

Peggy Jones, President, Guadalupe County Master Gardeners
210 649-4002 home, 210 218-4031 cell pljones@swbell.net
www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

KWED need volunteers

The KWED Lawn & Garden Show is on KWED 1580AM radio every Saturday beginning at 9:05am. The radio station is located at 905 East Court Street in Seguin. Master Gardeners, Master Gardener interns & students research a garden subject to talk about and go on live radio with by-your-side support from: Bob Grafe, program emcee, or Ryla Cottingham filling in for Bob Grafe, plus their frequent assistant and behind-the-scenes MG, Gene Griffin.

The September guest list follows:

September 7 – Charla Bading - Agrilife Agent – Preserving the Harvest

September 14 - Bradley and Hazel Mondin – chickens in the backyard

September 21 – Ryla Cottingham – Topic TBA

September 28 – Larry Taylor – October Gardening Checklist

Volunteers always appreciated - Please contact Bob Grafe (alaskagrafe@yahoo.com)

Off-Grid Desert Vegetable Gardening - The Field Lab

While John Wells, former professional New York City fashion photographer, is not “officially” a Master Gardener as designated by Texas A&M University’s AgriLife Extension Service, he certainly is rapidly becoming a Texas “master” gardener - and a desert gardening specialist to boot!

I stopped by to visit with and to record an interview with John for the KWED Lawn and Garden Show a couple of months ago at his fascinating sustainability complex located about 65 miles south of Alpine, Texas and 20+ miles north of Terlingua and the Mexico border. You won’t find him too easily using the various Internet map searches as his Southwest Texas Alternative Energy and Sustainable Living Field Laboratory (aka The Field Lab or just TFL) is located about three miles off the nearest paved road.

To say that John is “off-grid” might be the understatement of the day. Well, almost. He has no direct access to public electricity, sewer, water, natural gas, trash removal, road maintenance or door-to-door salesmen. But, the local telephone company finally provided him with a land-line once he had established himself as a permanent (over five years now) resident - and not just another desert escape artist.

But, telephone or not, it’s really not too easy for a “Yankee” (or anyone else for that matter) to figure out how to effectively “garden” in the Texas desert ... but, he has!

Here’s a quick way for Master Gardeners and others to learn about what John has been doing to be able to grow sufficient fruit and vegetables in the Texas desert’s extreme weather conditions to sustain himself year-around; how to keep a compost “pit” productive; and how to collect enough natural rainfall water to sustain his greenhouse growing operation, to feed a couple of long horn cattle (his “pets”), and to have enough water left over to take care of his personal needs ... and the personal needs of his “pet” rooster, Carl.

To learn more about John’s sustainable desert gardening and to learn the background of how John actually ended up in the Texas desert back in 2007, take a peek at John’s website at www.thefieldlab.org/ and his daily blog (nearly 2 million hits at this daily photo journal) at <http://thefieldlab.blogspot.com/>

John’s interview with KWED Lawn and Garden Show Host, Master Gardener Bob Grafe was aired on KWED 1580 AM on Saturday, August 24. Submitted By: Compost Bob Grafe, Host, KWED Lawn & Garden Show

See Photos on Following Page



Photo #1: The Field Lab's John Wells standing outside his one-man-built greenhouse with rainwater roof catchment system and water storage tanks in the West Texas desert 20 miles north of Terlingua. Photo #2: Rain water is gathered in an adjacent ground run-off "catchment" area near The Field Lab's greenhouse, pumped into large water storage tanks and finally pumped to the greenhouse later as needed. Photo #3: Additional water storage tanks adjacent to the ground run-off "catchment" area. Photo #4: John Wells hand-waters container-based trees and plants inside The Field Lab's desert greenhouse. Photo #5: Fresh spinach being eyed inside The Field Lab's desert greenhouse by Carl the "pet" rooster belonging to John Wells. Photo #6: Fresh-picked squash from inside The Field Lab's desert greenhouse. Photo #7: Fresh tomatoes from inside The Field Lab's desert greenhouse. Photo #8: The 4ft. by 8ft. by 4ft. deep compost "pit" at The Field Lab. Photo #9: Front view of The Field Lab greenhouse ... and telephone booth in the middle of the West Texas desert 20 miles north of Terlingua and 65 miles south of Alpine. Photo #10: Typical desert view from The Field Lab. Note more water (the key to desert living and growing sustainability) storage nearby.

Photo credits: Bob Grafe and John Wells

GCMG Class 25

Class 25 started August 7th with 18 enthusiastic students. The efforts of all certified members in publicizing the class are deeply appreciated.

Members are invited to attend the Class 25 classes at no cost - although we ask that you sit in the back of the classroom. We have had three or four members attend each class this month. We have scheduled the best speakers available including several subjects that may be new to you. Classes are at Schertz United Methodist Church and run from 10:00 until 2:30. Please make your own arrangements for lunch.

Classes for September and October are:

- 4 September - Soil Science with Dr. Mark McFarland
- 11 September - Native Landscape Plants by Deedy Wright
- 18 September - Propagation, Sorry but for students and those who missed previous year's classes only
- 25 September - Composting Science by Gail Johnson
- 2 October – FireWise and Oak Wilt with Will Boettner
- 9 October – Plant Health and Diagnosis by Dr. Greta Schuster
- 16 October – 10-12, Xeriscapes with Marty Ruona; 12:30-2:30 Trees with Mark Peterson
- 23 October – Rainwater Harvesting by Liz Romero and Jim Johnson
- 30 October – Insects and Integrated Pest Management with Molly Keck

Guadalupe County Fair is coming soon

The Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, in partnership with the Guadalupe County Agri-Life Extension Office, manages the Horticulture Division of the Guadalupe County Fair each year. This is an event where the GCMG group makes a valued contribution to the community each year.

The Fair will run from Wednesday October 9 to Sunday October 13. The Master Gardeners are responsible for:

- Setting up the exhibit booths
- Conducting the entries and judging of the produce and field crops
- Provide educational sessions
- Interact with the public to promote sound practices and to inform them about the Master Gardener program
- Provide gift baskets to award winners
- Provide prizes for the raffle (raised bed and rain barrel)
- Conducting activities for children
- Break down and store materials from the exhibit booth

Volunteers are already hard at work to prepare for this important event but more are needed. Sign-up sheets will be available at each of the monthly meetings and emails will come to you to remind you to sign up.

The Fair Planning Team includes Dale and Ann Odvody, Karen Wallock, Diane Lippe, Peggy Jones and Cindy Martin. Our most esteemed Betty Hughes will be holding down the fort at the GCMG office each Monday and is coordinating the children's activities and the information/seed give away.

Thanks to Ruben Roecker, who has agreed to build a raised bed for our raffle and invite a new Class 25 student to help him. Other volunteers are needed to assemble a rain barrel, assemble gift baskets, prepare seed packets for the seed giveaway, prepare handouts and man the booth throughout the Fair.

If you have never volunteered for this event, you are missing out on a fun and low hassle event that is important to our mission of education and outreach.

Hope to see you! Contact Karen Wallock to volunteer karenwallock@att.net or call 830-305-0024

Green Team



The Green Team has been busy keeping things looking good at Seguin's City Hall. We gave all the roses their "August 15th" pruning so once it rains they'll be ready to produce more of their beautiful blooms.

Although it's a holiday, we plan to work on Monday September 2 - so, if you need someplace to go or something to do come join us. We'd love to have you.

For more information call Hughlene Micheli 830-379-5673 .

FUTURE PROGRAMS

October - Liz Palfini, Texas Parks and Wildlife, "Weeding Through Heirlooms, Historic and Just Plain Good Old Days Gardening Propaganda. How to make informed consumer garden choices"

November - Paul Johnson, Texas A&M Forest Service, "Proper Tree Pruning"

December - GCMG Christmas Party

Thanks to Jeff McKee for arranging these wonderful programs.

Guadalupe County Community Garden



At the August GCMG meeting Lisa Nixon, President of the Bexar County Master Gardeners, presented Dale Odvody a check for \$1,500 for all the help that the GCMGs gave during the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. This money will be used at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. (Photo left by Marvin "T" Taylor)

Over 3,100 pounds of produce has been donated to the Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program and the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Marion. There are two youth probationers, and 10 adult probationers that help in the garden.

The trenches have been dug for the electricity to the green house, shed, and pavilion, and covered when work was finished. The greenhouse has been covered, and propagation will be done there. Two ceiling fans will be put in the pavilion so it will be cooler when classes are held there. Everyone is welcome to come out and help on Tuesdays and Fridays starting at 8:00 a.m.

There is a colorful brand new sign at the garden compliments of Ann Odvody's daughters Sandee Morgan and Carole D'Alessandro (picture right).



See Ann Odvody's Updates on next page.

Community Garden Updates from Ann Odvody

8/2 - Another hot one, but we got some things done that have been on our 'to do' list forever. The front gate has a fresh coat of paint and it sure perked up the entry to the garden. Thank you, Mary! Also, Bob T and one of our teen age helpers cleared the floor of the greenhouse, so the greenhouse is ready to be clad. Plants look a little tired, but then it is really hot and they are reaching the end of their productivity. We sure are looking forward to cooler weather and fresh fall crops. We harvested 160 pounds 8 ounces today, giving us 2,552 pounds 14 ounces for the year. Electricity tomorrow..fingers crossed.

8/9 - The temperatures this week have made being in the garden a challenge. Spider mites can become a problem when it is this hot and dry. We are removing some of the tomatoes we planted in the spring that are not worth carrying over to the fall garden. We have planted several Tycoon tomatoes for the fall and they seem to be doing well. We added some new squash plants for the fall this week and hope they can stand up to the heat. The squash and cucumbers planted in the spring are still producing, but the vines look horrible. To catch up on the harvest totals since the last email, on 3 August 32 pounds 14 ounces, on 6 August 95 pounds 1 ounce, and today 156 pounds 12 ounces. The total for the year is 2,834 pounds 9 ounces. The installation of electricity is still in progress. The trenching has been completed and passed city inspection. The pipe for the wiring has been laid and the trenches will be filled in Saturday. The green house has been covered and looks nice. We had been looking at the bare frame for way too long.

Photos taken 8/11 by Ann.



8/13 - Another very warm

day in the garden. Mary, Dale and our teenage helpers took care of the harvesting and weighing, a big job as you will see. Will, Debbie and I mounted an assault on the weeds in Mary's pumpkin patch. The weeds were responding well to the drip irrigation. Two rows and paths are done.-two more to go and we will have worked our way to the orchard. The orchard also is in need of weeding. The harvest for today was 240 pounds 14 ounces, giving us a total of 3,075 pounds 7 ounces. We will be back at it again on Friday.

and very busy

8/20 - It was nice in the garden as we began the morning chores. Dale, Mary, Tristan, & Andrew went to work harvesting. Debbie, Ruth, Will and I went back to weeding the rows by the orchard. Row 4 is almost done, so we should be working in the orchard sometime next week. The bermuda grass is pretty dense so it takes awhile to get it cleared out. To catch up on the harvesting, we brought in 180 pounds last Friday and another 174 pounds 10 ounces this morning. The total for the year is 3,430 pounds 1 ounce. We also hope to get another three beds ready to plant this week. Time to get the fall plantings in the ground.

8/27 - Great clouds this morning that kept things comfortable. No weeding today, but Will and Dale built the border for the beds around the pavilion. Mary, Lily, and I pulled up the corn and Ruth recycled it for use in craft projects. We had two empty beds that are now planted with 12 each of broccoli, cauliflower, collard greens, cabbage and bok choy. Putting transplants in the ground on a cloudy day is usually a good thing. Everyone pitched in with the harvesting. To catch you up on our harvest totals, last Friday we picked 87 pounds 1 ounce and another 112 pounds 3 ounces today. We have now harvested 3,629 pounds 5 ounces this year. Friday Dale will be working on a decorative 2' tall decorative fence that will enclose the pavilion flower beds. The fence should discourage foot traffic through the beds. When you have time, stop by and see how far we have come this year. We are there every Tuesday and Friday from 8 a.m. until at least 10:30 a.m.

BUNNY GOLD

A special focus on the benefits of rabbit manure – the manure of choice for Master Gardeners
by Bonny Wagoner, Master Gardener, Columbia County, Oregon

In the Master Gardener circle, over and over you will hear gardens powered by rabbits are the very best gardens. Rabbit manure is referred to as super fertilizer, bunny gold and many other great names. In this article I will share why that is. There are two basic categories of fertilizers, chemical and organic. Fertilizers supplement a soil's native nutrient supply. They are essential to good plant growth when the soil nutrient supply is not adequate. Rapidly growing plants, such as vegetables, generally need more nutrients than slower growing plants such as perennials. What each fertilizer type does for the plants is essentially the same but the difference is in how it is available to the plants, duration of availability and the soil structure benefits.

Chemical fertilizers are manufactured by man or are made from natural ingredients, concentrated to make the nutrients more available to plants. You don't have to wait for them to break down to go to work. The nutrients they have are made available as soon as it's applied. Chemical fertilizers supply nutrients for the plants only and do nothing for the structure or composition of the soil. The nitrogen in chemical fertilizers is vulnerable to leaching loss from heavy rain or irrigation. Once the nitrogen moves below the root zone, it is no longer available to the plants and may leach into the groundwater. Chemical fertilizers are not available long term and require more frequent applications. More recently the chemical companies have gotten better about encapsulating their fertilizers for "timed release" applications but it's still not comparable to the time release properties of manure sources.

Organic fertilizers are natural products that have undergone little or no processing and come in a variety of forms. They include both biological (plant and animal) and mineral materials. Some of the most common forms are manure, blood meal, alfalfa, bat guano, chicken manure, fish emulsion, bone meal, horse manure, kelp meal, rabbit manure, steer manure... the list is actually quite extensive. Each has its own unique nutrient properties. Typically organic fertilizers are slow-release because their nutrients become available to plants over the course of the growing season. They are in a less concentrated form than chemical fertilizers. One of the major benefits to organic fertilizers is it adds to the composition of the soil (a very big perk to gardeners). It helps to hold in moisture and promotes healthier root growth. It naturally helps to maintain the ph balance in your soil. Side by side, organic fertilizers will out perform chemical fertilizers in the long term.

Fertilizer 101. All fertilizers are rated on its primary nutrients. On the side of commercial bags and containers, you will notice a three number system. This is standard throughout the fertilizer industry. The first number indicates the percentage of Nitrogen (N). The second number indicates the percentage of Phosphorous (P) and the third is Potassium (K). A "complete" fertilizer is one with a nutrient value in each category. All organic fertilizers are complete fertilizers. The only incomplete fertilizers you will find are chemical/man-made compositions (ex: 21-0-0).

Here are some examples of manure ratings:

	N (%)	P (%)	K(%)
Bat guano	5.7	8.6	2.0
Beef steer	2.0	.65	1.6
Chicken	3.6	1.3	1.3
Dairy cow	3.3	.35	2.0
Horse	2.5	.25	.80
Rabbit	4.8	2.8	1.2
Sheep	3.5	.55	1.0

As you look at this list, you are probably wondering what the big deal about rabbit manure is. Here are the bells and whistles of those "magic grow pellets". Every one of the fertilizers on this list had to be composted so it wasn't "hot" or so potent... *with the exception of rabbit manure*. Rabbit zoo-do can be spread directly in the garden. Talk about an easy fertilizer to use! As the pellets breakdown, it builds and stabilizes the soil structure reducing

(Continued on page 14)

(BUNNY GOLD - Continued from Page 13)

erosion and improving soil porosity and drainage. It holds water and nutrients for plants and soil organisms. It is a long term, slow-release storehouse for the nutrients, which continuously become available as the soil microorganisms break down organic matter. Your amended soil will foster all kinds of earthworms, which in return will be working your soil from beneath, making an even better garden environment. Worm manure is good stuff too (1.5-2.5-1.5). Speaking of worms...you can grow some serious fishing worms in the right environment. You probably guessed it already...with rabbit manure. When is the best time to apply manure? Typically in the early spring. You can also apply in the fall, but some of the nutrients may be lost in the winter. Fall applications are best accompanied with cover crops to hold in the nutrients. Consult your local extension office for recommendations on appropriate cover crops for your area. The beauty of using rabbit manure is you can also apply more during the growing season with the same benefits. Depending on how many rabbits you are currently hosting, you might consider sharing with your friends and neighbors. Within one growing season, they will be hooked on "magic grow pellets" too.

Ed. Note: I called Bonny to get permission to reprint this article, which she kindly gave. She also told me of a program she had where she has gardening friends bring her empty 5 gallon buckets labeled with their name. She fills the buckets with her bunny gold and leaves them out for her gardening friends to pick up. What wonderful recycling!

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Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Jose Contreras Alternate

One Year Term - Cindy Martin—Linda Bruno Alternate

Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs

Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks

Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

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 - Cindy Martin, Diane Lippe, Karen Wallock

Historian - Open

Class 25 Coordinator - Bob Teweles

Facebook Editor - Open

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

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.

Every Tuesday, Friday and 2nd Saturday are work days at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. **Start hour is 8 AM** Check with Ann Odvody (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 830-305-1664) for details.

KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show always looking for volunteers.

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.

The Guadalupe County Fair - October 9th thru 13th. Diane Lippe, Karen Wallock and Cindy Martin are planning this event. See page 10.

LaVernia Primary School Master Gardener Project. Nothing is more exciting than watching children digging in the dirt and watching plants grow. Watch them taste veggies and herbs as well as smell the native flowers. They learn so much from the activities and develop gardening skills that will last a life time! You can help make the gardener of the future! If you can help please contact Iris Seale at 830 779-2834 or iseale@gvec.net or Peggy Jones 210649-4002 or pljones@swbell.net. Dates: 2013-2014 School year (project will be during the school day; not after school) Location: La Vernia Primary School 13 volunteers needed (one per teacher). We still need 7 more volunteers!

The 1st Annual Cibolo Creek FFA Agriculture Awareness Day – October 19 from 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Toby Connor Ag Complex, 541 Schlather Lane, Cibolo. GCMG will have two tables at this event and will need workers.

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

Treva Hicks is looking for members to volunteer to set up the chairs before each monthly meeting. Contact her at hicks1t@lycos.com

GARDENING EVENTS

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER 2013 CONFERENCE

Oct 17 – 19 (Thu-Sat)



Texas Master Gardener 2013 Conference will be held in McAllen Texas. Go to <http://2013tmgaconference.org/> for details on registration and the agendas.

The Permian Basin Master Gardeners (from Midland/Odessa) are chartering a deluxe bus to transport them to the conference. The bus route will be coming thru San Antonio on **WED Oct 16** and returning at the end of the conference on **SAT OCT 19**. If you have questions or are interested in this, please contact Barbara Porsch at bporsch@sbcglobal.net

Green Spaces Alliance Fall Gala October 17th

For further information go to <http://www.greenspacesalliance.org>

Gardening RADIO Shows

Bob Grafe on **The Lawn and Garden Show** on KWED AM 1580 (Seguin) on Saturday at 9:05am.

David Rodriguez and Bill Rohde's **The WOAI Home and Garden Show** on AM 1200 on Saturday from 7:00am – 10:00 am.

Dr. Calvin Finch and Dr. Jerry Parsons on **Milberger's Gardening South Texas** on KLUP AM 930 both Saturday and Sunday from noon to 2pm.

Bob Webster on **South Texas Gardening** on KTSA AM 550 on Saturday from 5:30 am - 9 am and Sunday from 8 am - 11 am.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center 9th annual Fall Wildlife Festival & Plant Sale Saturday, October 19th from 9 am - 3 pm.

This FREE family event features activities, programs and exhibits and a great plant sale!

**REMEMBER
TO
TURN IN
YOUR HOURS**

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

San Antonio Botanical Garden Seminars

5 Ways to Remove a Stubborn Lawn - Friday, September 6 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm;

Planting in the Fall - Saturday, September 7 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Plant Propagation - Thursday, September 12 from 9:00 am - 11:00 am

No Money, No Time, No Experience. No problem! -Friday, September 13 -from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

New Gardens for Newcomers - Saturday, September 14 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Japanese Gardens - Friday, September 20 from 10 am - 12 pm

Ecological Landscape Design - Saturday, September 21 from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Water Wise Landscape Design - Saturday, September 28 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

To register online, please visit www.sabot.org. For fees and more information, please contact 210.207.3270 or programregistrar@sabot.org.

Grounds Maintenance Workshop

September 6, 2013 (Friday) 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Dairy Parlor, 3201 E. Houston, San Antonio

Workshop will target professional groundskeepers, turfgrass and landscape managers, other service providers, and interested members of the general public in urban areas, focusing on five major solutions:

- Efficient irrigation systems
- Irrigation evaluations and auditing
- Plant selection to conserve water
- Best management practices to improve plant water use
- Proper application of fertilizers and pesticides

Registration fee is \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door. RSVP no later than Sep 3, Tuesday, 12 noon. For more information contact Angel Torres at **210 467-6575**

Texas Fruit Conference and Texas High Tunnel Conference

Sep 30 - Oct 1 and Oct 2

The **Second Annual Texas Fruit Conference and Texas High Tunnel Conference** will be held at the Best Western Old Town Center Hotel in Bryan, TX. The 1 & ½ day fruit conference will provide timely topics and practical fruit growing and marketing information for new and experienced fruit growers, covering a diverse slate of topics and orchard crops. Conference Conveners: Monte Nesbitt, Larry Stein & Jim Kamas, Texas A&M AgriLife Ext. On-site/In-Person Registration is \$90 for Texas Fruit Conference (\$80 online) & \$55 for High Tunnel Conference. Special Combo Online Registration for both events (2.5 days): \$125. Registration and Online Registration at <http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>



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

On Tuesday September 10, 2013 meetings will resume. Liz Palfini, botanist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will present "The Traveling Plant - Discover How Plants Move, Slither, and Explode." The presentation delves into the mechanics of plant motion, seed dispersal and physiology. Plants move so much more than people realize and they do it in a variety of different ways.

The Guadalupe County Chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at the St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465 Marion. We do not have meetings in July, August or December

There will be a plant/seed exchange and welcome at 6:30 pm followed by the program at 7:00 pm The meeting is open to the public and visitors are welcome. For more information, directions to St John's Lutheran Church or membership applications contact our website at: www.npsot.org/wp/guadalupe.

Directions to St John's Lutheran Church: From FM 78 turn South on FM 465 just past 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.

2013 Fall Youth Gardens Educator's Training September 21, 2013 from 9 am – 2pm (8:30am – Registration) Education Service Center, Region 20, 1314 Hines San Antonio

This program is designed for teachers, educators, and volunteers in support of Youth Gardening in the classroom and community. Participants will learn how to begin a youth garden. Breakout sessions will be conducted to aid educators in enhancing their garden curriculum. If you are interested in starting a gardening program in your school or community do not miss this educational opportunity! Plant materials will be distributed to participants who complete this training. Plant material is given per school/institution.

Training and lunch is provided at no cost to participants.

Certificates & **CPE hours (4 credits)** will be awarded for completion of this program. For additional information, call Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Bexar County office at 467-6575, or go on the web and download your application from: <https://bexar-tx.tamu.edu/>

Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist October 7-8 2013

Texas Agrilife Extension Service, Kerr County, Kerrville, Texas
MG Vegetable Specialist Training to be held in Kerr County by the Hill Country MGs. For more information contact Deborah Hill-Russell, russhill@beecreek.net

Master Gardener Tree Care Specialist
October 28 through October 30, 2013
Tarrant County Master Gardeners – Ft. Worth, Texas

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS October 1, 2013. For additional information please call Billie Hammack at 817-884-1296 or e-mail Billie at blhammack@ag.tamu.edu

BACKYARD BASICS EXPO
Sept 14 (Sat) 9:00am – 3:00pm

Madison High School AgriScience Magnet School, 5005 Stahl Road, San Antonio.

The agenda is at https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/dropinn/materials/material_467.pdf

To Register go to <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/index.cfm/productDetails/productid/1310/http://agriliferegister.tamu.edu>

The registration fee for the expo will be \$25 (children under age 16 are free).

Beekeeping Basics

Oct 11-12 (Fri-Sat) 8:30am - 3:30pm on Fri and 9am - 2pm on Sat (Field Day)

Rain Date Oct 19

Beekeeping Basics will be presented by local Texas Beekeepers, Mike and Travis Cole, at Bexar County Extension Office, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Ste. 208 (Friday-Classroom) and the Saturday Field Day at Adkins, TX. Fee is \$50 and registration deadline is Oct 2nd.

For more information, please contact Molly Keck at 210-467-6575 or mekeck@ag.tamu.edu (8 CEUs)

“Top 10 Bugs in Your Fall Garden”

Tuesday, Sept 17th, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Santa Clara City Hall, 1653 North Santa Clara Rd

The city of Santa Clara cordially invites all to attend a program given by Molly Keck on Tuesday, September 17th beginning at 11:30 am. Molly is an Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist & Board Certified Entomologist who works for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Bexar County. Her program will be “Top 10 Bugs in Your Fall Garden”. You are invited to bring your own brown bag lunch. Water and dessert will be provided. We will start with introductions at 11:30 and at 12:00 noon Molly will begin her program, immediately followed by a question and answer period.

Please call Santa Clara city hall @ 830-914-4443 or visit the website www.cisantaclaratx.us for more info. See you there.

Joyce K. Friesenhahn, GCMG Class 23

Fanick's Garden Center Educational Seminars

Sep 7 (Sat) 10:30 am - Noon **Earth-Kind Educational Seminar: Growing a Fall and Winter Vegetable Garden** will be presented by David Rodriguez at Fanick's Garden Center 1025 Holmgreen Rd San Antonio. Bring plenty of questions and a notebook.

Landscape Design School Series XXIII, Course III

September 23-24, 2013

**Christ United Methodist Church, 4201 State Highway 6, College Station
(979) 690-4673**

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSep13/LDAnnouncSep13.pdf>

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSep13/LDIITentSch.pdf>

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/LDSep13/LDSRegSep13.pdf>

October is Coming

Guadalupe County Master Gardener Recertification Requirements

October is quickly approaching and with it, your opportunity to recertify as a Guadalupe County Master Gardener for 2014. To meet the recertification requirements, Certified Master Gardeners must complete twelve (12) hours of volunteer service and six (6) hours of continuing education and report those hours to the Hours Coordinator, Dale Odvody at odvodyd@swbell.net not later than 31 Dec 2013. Once you have met and reported your recertification requirements you may pay your annual 2014 dues of \$20.00 at the October or November GCMG Monthly Meeting. Please remember the Treasurer cannot accept your dues until you have submitted the minimum hours required for re-certification.

For **Class 24** students:

If you certified in December 2012, to recertify in 2014, you must complete twelve (12) hours of volunteer service and six (6) hours of continuing education and report those hours to the Hours Coordinator, Dale Odvody at odvodyd@swbell.net not later than 31 Dec 2013 and pay your \$20 dues.

If you certified in 2013, to recertify in 2014, you have met your volunteer and continuing hours requirement. You are encouraged to pay your \$20 dues at the October or November 2013 meeting, but must pay them not later than 31 Dec 2013.

If you have not met your volunteer and continuing hours requirement to certify, you may request a Leave of Absence due to extenuating circumstances, such as injury, extended illness, a family member's extended illness, call to active duty or other personal situation. See Chapter 5 of the Policies and Manual for specific instructions.

September 2013



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

GCCG - Guadalupe County Community Garden



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

Peggy Jones	President
Bob Davis	Past President
Bob Teweles	President Elect
Jeff McKee	Vice President
Pat Schultze	Secretary
Cindy Waechter	Treasurer
Open	Education Chairman
Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Carol Calentine	Volunteer Chairman
Bob Teweles	MG Training Chairman
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

September Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2013 - 7:00 P.M.

AgriLIFE Extension Building
210 East Live Oak St, Seguin, Tx 78155

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination by the Master Gardeners is implied, and no endorsement by the Master Gardeners is implied. Educational programs conducted by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners serve people of all ages, regardless of socioeconomic level, color, sex, religion, handicap, or national origin.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor
(elaine@tindomorgans.com)