



The Guadalupe Gardener

LABOR
DAY

September 2015



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

President - Autumn Buzz

Our August membership meeting was a just few minutes from starting when an excited and wide-eyed, but seasoned and sober member approached me exclaiming, "Can you feel the energy?" There was, in fact, a palpable buzz around us. You felt the sense of excitement in the lobby. It grew as you signed and became obvious as you entered the room. Its origin might have been the meeting room's poor acoustics, but poor sound design alone would not account for the level of intensity. Or maybe it was the extent to which members and guests - there seemed to be more guests present than in recent months - anticipated what Cathy Downs had to say about monarch butterflies. Or perhaps it was the rain that graced a good number of our lives - depending on where you live - during the previous 24 hours. Or maybe it was because in that unusually early cold front we sensed summer's end approaching and the birth of another autumn - a time when Master Gardeners' activities and all the excitement that comes with giving to community grows exponentially. Then again it could have been nothing more than the good food. Or the blessing of each other's company.

"Yes!" I said, "Isn't it wonderful!"

Looking back a week later I can't help but wonder if it just wasn't all those good things working together to make our lives that night richer for the experience.

As we approach the dawn of changing color, falling leaves and cool dry air (remember that?) we are mindful of the commitments that come with the season - some recurring, others new:

Class 27 is sailing in calm waters every Wednesday through December with experienced hands of meeting planner Kay McElveen at the helm. All 14 students have had their background checks approved, have been added to the VMS system and may begin to

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September Meeting

Thursday

September 17th - 7 PM

AgriLife Building

Program: Keith Amelung on "Bog Plants and Gardening".

Social & Refreshments 6:30 PM

Program at 7 PM

Followed by Business Meeting

Don't forget your name tags - and plants for plant exchange

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Association News

August Meeting Program Saving the Monarchs

Cathy Downs, Texas Master Naturalist and Monarch Watch Conservation Specialist, presented an educational program on the Monarch Butterfly for the GCMG August meeting. Cathy's program included a slide show, a variety of handouts, examples of native milkweed plants and free milkweed seeds. She is chairperson of the Bring Back the Monarchs to Texas.

Cathy reviewed the life cycle of the Monarch showing the stages of the 30 day cycle. She explained that only one generation lives for 9 months, migrating from as far away as Canada to Mexico. Her maps showed Texas as the fly-way from the Oyamel Fir Trees in Mexico where the Monarch over winter.

In the 1990's, there were a billion Monarchs, today there is 57 million. Loss of the butterfly is due to herbicides, development and the logging of the fir trees. The goal of Cathy's organization is to maintain the present population and hopefully increase it. They would like the butterfly to go on the endangered species list. It is also hoped this program will enhance the bee and the hummingbird population.

The monarch lays eggs only on the milkweed plant. Cathy is educating the public to establish Monarch Waystations to create, conserve and protect the Monarch Habitat. For information on how you can have a certified waystation go to www.MonarchWatch.org.

Cathy explained there are 38 varieties of milkweed in the US. Native Texas milkweed is the antelope horn milkweed, green antelope horn milkweed, and zizotes milkweed. She cautioned buying milkweed at a nursery as many have been sprayed with herbicides and kill the caterpillars feeding on the plant. Two nurseries in the area that sell non-systemically treated native milkweed, native nectar plants and tropical milkweed are: Rainbow Gardens in San Antonio, and Hill Country Gardens in New Braunfels. Cathy cautioned that those buying the tropical milkweed (most often sold in the nurseries) should cut it back in October so the Monarch won't stay in the area.

If you plant the free seeds, November first to Christmas is the time to plant. Mix with sand and spread on the ground. Do not bury; you can pat down (she cautioned no shoes with ridges). She suggested planting on a rainy November day. A fully developed milkweed plant takes 3 years. She also talked about harvesting the seeds and reminded everyone the pods must be brown and the seeds will be brown if they have matured.

Two other websites with information: www.monarchjointventure.org and www.monarchconservation.org

Article submitted by Sandy Foss; Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor.



AUGUST MEETING



REFRESHMENTS

I want thank all the Master Gardeners for bringing the wonderful snacks for the August meeting. If I have missed someone, I apologize. They were Carol Suchan, Kathy Bennett, Betty Hughes, Marvin Borth, Janette Barrow, Alice Cortez, and Pam Turner. I appreciate Carol and Kathy's help setting up all the tables and chairs. I also what to thank Pam and everyone who stayed after to help with the cleaning up the meeting room and putting away all the chairs and refreshment supplies. Sincerely, **Treva Hicks**, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator.

\$79 was collected in the raffle and winner John Lewicki took home \$39.50. Martha Edwards won the Door Prize, a \$10 gift certificate to Maldonado's.

Photos by
**Marvin "T"
Taylor**



Newly Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener



KJ Kjolhede
was congratulated and presented his Master Gardener certificate by GCMG President Jose Contreras.

Photo by Marvin "T" Taylor

New Class 27 Attends GCMG August Meeting - IN FORCE!



Photos by Marvin "T" Taylor

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners – Class 27

AgriLife Bldg, 210 Live Oak, Seguin

Wednesday, 10:00 – 2:30 thru December 9

Here's a brief update on our new class for those of you who could not be at the August membership meeting. We have gotten off to a great start. We have 14 people in the class and, based on the feedback from the students, the first two sessions went extremely well. The first session was Orientation in the morning and Dennis Hale did his introduction to landscaping and how to take a soil sample in the afternoon. He did an outstanding job.

The second session was on Soils. We had a new presenter, Dr. Jake Mowrer from A&M who had been in Texas for a month (he came here from Georgia) and on the job for two weeks. I think he deserves praise for managing to show up, but his presentation was great! He has a real talent for making scientific information understandable to us novices.

Class 27 is going to be outstanding. I had some of the students asking about volunteering during our first meeting. For those of you working on projects that need new "volunteers", I think we will have some good ones. Now if I can just get everyone over their apprehension about Bob Gafe's radio show.

I want to thank all of the members for their support in making this class happen, whether it was recruiting, agreeing to do presentations, or whatever!

Kay McElveen, Class Coordinator, kay.mcelveen@yahoo.com 830-401-4420

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Class 27 Schedule

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Sep 2 | How to Propagate Plants. Wear grubbies! <u>Kathy Carroll & Bob Teweles</u> , Propagation Specialists, Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardeners |
| Sep 9 | Composting. <u>Lee Franzel</u> , Certified Comal County Master Gardener in the morning. In the afternoon -12:30 - 2:30, <u>Peggy Jones</u> will be making her "Let's Talk Roses" presentation. |
| Sep 16 | How to Grow Vegetables You Like to Eat ... And Some You May Learn to Like.
<u>Patty Leander</u> , Certified Travis County Master Gardener, Master Gardener Vegetable Specialist, Contributor to <i>Texas Gardener Magazine</i> |
| Sep 23 | How to Design & Create the Landscape You Want. How to Grow Better Lawns.
<u>Dennis Hale</u> , Landscape Designer, Former Wilson County AgriLife Extension Agent. |
| Sep 30 | How to Use Native Plants to Bring Nature Back to Your Landscape. Field trip to Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin. <u>Deedy Wright</u> , Propagation & Vegetable Specialist; Founder, Guadalupe County Native Plant Society |
| Oct 7 | Herbs, Peppers & Vinegars – How to Spice Up Your Landscape. <u>Cindy Meredith</u> , Proprietor, The Herb Cottage http://theherbcottage.com Lavaca County TX between Schulenburg & Hallettsville |
| Oct 14 | How to Evaluate Plant Health & Diagnose Problems in Your Landscape. <u>Greta Schuster, Ph.D.</u> , Faculty, Texas A&M University – Kingsville Extension Plant Pathologist |
| Oct 21 | Firewise. <u>Jose Contreras</u> , Firewise Specialist; President, Guadalupe County Master Gardeners
Low Water Use Landscaping. <u>Calvin Finch, Ph.D.</u> , Director, Urban Water Program, Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Resources |

(Continued on following page)

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Oct 28	How to Harvest, Store & Re-use Rain. <u>Liz Romero</u> , Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener How to Make & Install a Rain Barrel for Your Home. <u>Dave Elder</u> , Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener How to Make Your Own Drip Irrigation System. <u>Jim Johnson</u> , Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener
Nov 4	Insects, Bugs & Integrated Pest Management- How to Tell Good Guys from Bad ... And Do Less Harm. <u>Molly Keck</u> , Entomologist, Bexar County AgriLife Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist
Nov 11	How to Produce Your Own Fruits & Nuts at Home. <u>Larry A. Stein, Ph.D.</u> , Professor & Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M
Nov 18	How to Select, Plant and/or Nurture Trees in Our Guadalupe County Landscape. <u>Nancy Masterson</u> , Certified Arborist, Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener, Master Naturalist

Class 27 Student Recap

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Class 27 met for the first time on August 12. Class orientation was presented by Travis Franke, Jose Contreras, and Kay McElveen. Several other MG were also present. The volunteer, outreach and public education aspect of MG was present in the form of several sign-ups. My impression was that Mg volunteerism can occur at almost any comfort or interest level.

Orientation was followed by Dennis Hale, who introduced soil sampling and landscape design. Students were directed in proper soil sample collection technique. Sample results, along with a sketch of the sample area, will be used in the September 23 class. It's clear that sample results are valuable at many levels and that they form the basis of best management practices for home gardeners as well as industry.

On August 19, Dr. Jake Mowrer presented a summary of Soil Nutrient Management. Physical and chemical soil properties define soil fertility, which is evaluated via soil testing. Soil components vary by geology, climate, vegetation, physical properties, structure, chemical properties, biology and management history. Test results define which of the many tools should be applied to soil in order to accurately balance components, enabling plant uptake.

Submitted by Mike Woodlee, Class 27

GCMG Support for Texas A&M Gardens



At our August meeting, Peggy Jones announced that Guadalupe County Master Gardeners contributed \$870 to the Texas A & M Gardens (formerly known as Greenways and Gardens). \$108,440 has been donated from 36 counties. Our name will be on a plaque as donors to the project. The entire \$870 was not from our budget, but was all donated by our members. We still can make donations until November 1. She recognized with certificates Cynthia Lyssy (pictured) and Dave Elder for their contributions.

Photo by Marvin "T" Taylor

Master Gardeners' RUMMAGE SALE

November 14, 2015 - 9 am to 2:30 pm
AgriLife Meeting Room & Parking Lot

Goods donated should...Work - Be Clean, Not rusty. If it needs paint, paint it!

Volunteers will decide price of goods.

Goods will not be sold on consignment.

Volunteers will set aside items not suitable for sale.

Items not sold will be donated to charity.

Bring goods to AgriLife Thursday, November 12th, 12 to 6 pm or Friday, November 13th, 9 am to 6 pm.

Large items - Tell us in advance what you will bring. Bring on Saturday, from 7 to 8 am

Goods will not be picked up.

Goods will not be stored on site in advance of these dates/times

Goods may not be brought on Saturday except for large items like furniture, lawn equipment, etc.

We need plastic bags and boxes (bring to next meeting).

We will need volunteers to help (job descriptions, shifts and sign up sheets at next meeting).

What We'll Sell - Clothing: Children's, Teens', Ladies', Men's; Shoes; Sporting goods; Toys; Household items; Tools; Books and magazines; Furniture; Office items.

What We Won't Sell - Combustibles, Firearms, Large Appliances, Mattresses, Upholstered Furniture, Outdated electronics, Undergarments, Swim suits, Cosmetics, Medicines, Food, VHS Cassettes.

August Lunch and Learn

The August Lunch and Learn Programs at Seguin and Schertz were dedicated to "Butterflies and Butterfly Gardens in Texas". Master Gardener Judy Stanley and a passionate butterfly enthusiast gave a wonderful program on butterflies that are common to this area and how to attract them to your yard. She showed us examples of types of host plants for egg laying, nectar plants for food, and plants that give them cover from predators and weather. Judy had a short video on the cycle of the Monarch Butterfly beginning from the egg to hatching and inflating its wings that was so beautiful and fascinating. Judy brought several plants that she recommended for you to growing in your landscape. Many of the attendees were able to take a plant home for their garden.



Article submitted by
Treva Hicks.
Photos by
Bob Cox

GUADALUPE COUNTY COMMUNITY GARDEN

2nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair With Garden Demos and Food Drive

Sat 9/26/15 from 10 am to 3 pm

1101 Elbel Rd(Behind Tax Office) Schertz

- Up to 30 Crafters/Vendors including Master Gardeners and Native Plant Society

Demonstrations

10- Tour of Garden

10:30am - Plants for Shade

11:30am & 2 pm - Cooking with Vegetables

- Drip Irrigation & Rainwater Harvesting Displays
- Keyhole Garden Display
- Elevated Garden Bed Kits for Sale



Raffle Tickets \$1 or 3 for \$2 - Prizes include

Keyhole Garden Kit & Solar Lights, etc.

Food Drive for RACAP & Marion Immaculate
Conception Church Food Banks

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING



BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Community Garden - Updates

8/1 - It has been four HOT workdays since you have heard from me. We have been busy harvesting and weeding. We have had our first okra picking and it looks like the plants are about to take off. Okra had a very late start this year due to cool temperatures in late June. The green beans have been pulled out, but we should have black eyed peas soon. Tomato plants are looking a little tired though they are still producing some tomatoes. The spring cucumbers will be removed next week and about the same time we will begin harvesting the Armenian cucumbers. We augmented the elevated beds with organic compost and planted broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower and jalapeno peppers. Also put out a six pack of Celebrity tomatoes in the regular beds. Seems a little early to me - we shall see. We harvested 75 pounds 5 ounces of produce for a total of 2,153 pounds 5 ounces this year. Come visit us and see how we are doing.

8/21 - About all I could have said about the previous week in the garden is it was HOT!!! This Tuesday we caught a break and had good cloud cover until about 10:30 a.m., so we got 18 broccoli and 12 red cabbage in the ground. As of this morning the rabbit has not eaten them and they look good. Yesterday's rain perked up all the new transplants we have put out over the last three weeks. This morning we picked the veggies in a mix of drizzle and light rain, but it was nice and cool. Hoping we get more rain later in the day. We harvested 305 pounds 11 ounces over the last two weeks, giving us 2,603 pounds 2 ounces so far this year. Mary, we missed you! Terri, it was good to see you back and we really appreciated the help...pavilion beds look much better.

Information on Texas Gardener Subscriptions

If you need to renew your subscription or place a new order for a new subscription to Texas Gardener magazine, please follow these instructions. Make your check payable to "Guadalupe County Master Gardeners" or "GCMG" in the following amounts: 1 Year Subscription \$24.95, 1 Year plus Calendar \$34.95, 2 Year \$42.95, 3 Year \$56.95. Please mail your check to Jim Johnson, 1166 County Rd 259, Gonzales, Tx 78629. In the alternative, you may leave your check in the Master Gardener tray at the Extension Office marked to my attention.

As a non-profit organization, when we place an order on your behalf, we receive a lower price than the retail price that you pay if you order your subscription directly from Texas Gardener. Last year we collected over \$1200 in subscriptions and received over \$300 in savings that were used to help fund our programs.

Thank you for your support. **Jim Johnson**, Treasurer

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact: Welta Burris Secretary 210-273-5025, or e-mail hwburris@ctxu.net.

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Elaine McIntyre
Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor
Distribution - Doug Biggs
Proof Reader - Bob Teweles
Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz
What Is It? - Katie McLean

GCMG Outreach

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

Let's All Go to the Park! - Park West News

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners continue to show up and make a difference in Park West. We and our affiliates (Guadalupe Master Naturalists, Guadalupe Native Plant Society of Texas and Nogales Garden Club), collectively known as "Nature in Seguin Parks Alliance", are working steadily to remove exotic invasive plants from the beautiful elm and oak forest. We are getting a lot of help from the Seguin Parks and Recreation Department. I never knew a chain saw could sound so good! Some of the large Ligustrum, Chinaberry and Golden Rain trees just won't submit to our loppers. That's when we're really glad to hear the chain saws fire up. (For more information on invasive plants visit texasinvasives.org)

In May Master Gardener Pam Turner organized a visit from Central Texas Trail Tamers. The Trail Tamers are expert trail builders (see their website trailtamers.org). They came to walk the proposed nature trails and make recommendations for construction and maintenance. They visited the park twice with Master Naturalists and Parks Department director Jack Walker, then made a presentation at the evening Master Naturalists meeting.

On June 25th and again on July 30th Monte Zengerle (Guadalupe Native Plant Society chapter) led work groups as we continued our invasive plants removal. In June, Clara Mae Marcotte and I checked a designated area for desirable native trees and marked them with yellow tape. We identified and saved some Texas Mountain Laurel, Sandpaper Tree (Anacua) and Live Oaks. Our own Moses Herrera (Class 17) was there leading the Seguin Parks crew. Moses and his crew cut the larger Ligustrum; we got the smaller stuff with loppers, and pulled branches to the brush pile. In July Master Gardeners Clara Mae Marcotte, Pam Turner and Janet McGee continued "taking out" the villainous invaders.

The next time you are on the west end of Seguin, drive by the park. The Skate Park is now open. Construction is underway on the concessions and splash pad area. Within a few months more areas of the park will be open for use, and we can begin to plan some of our educational programs. I'll let you know as soon as the next events are scheduled. See you at the park!



Clara Mae and me on "yellow tape" patrol (note trees with tape in the background).



Moses in action (note Ligustrum leaves in foreground).

Submitted by Liz Romeo, Guadalupe County Master Gardener

(PRESIDENT - BUZZ. Continued from page 1)

volunteer for Fall projects to complete their certification requirements. Master Gardener recertification requirements are due soon. See article on page 13 for opportunities to fill your volunteer requirements and information in the Education-Classes-Seminars section which begins on page 17 to complete your education recertification requirements. So there was substance behind the August meeting buzz after all.

Best wishes, Jose

Nominating Committee

It's that time of year again. Secretary Welta Burris is requesting volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year's slate of officers. If you'd like to help create a slate for next year's officers and board, contact Welta Burris or Jose Contreras.

Thank You Volunteers – August Recognition

A special shout out goes to **Mary Bowe**, who reported 34 hours in August. We'd also like to recognize the following members for reporting **25 or more hours** for the month: **Kathy Bennett, Mike Chandler, Janice Knobles, Kay McElveen, Dale Odvody and Ann Odvody**. Thank you Master Gardeners for your service!

Members Reporting 5 or More Hours in Jul 2015

August Volunteer Recognition Program					
	LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME		LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME
1	Bennett	Kathy	13	McElveen	Kay
2	Bowe	Mary	14	McIntyre	Elaine
3	Cardona	Ramonita	15	Micheli	Hughlene
4	Chandler	Mike	16	Odvody	Ann
5	Cottingham	Ryla	17	Odvody	Dale
6	Cox	Robert (Bob)	18	Preston	Jerilyn
7	Darrough	Kim	19	Schultze	Pat
8	Elia	Debra	20	Seale	Iris
9	Jones	Peggy	21	Stanley	Judy
10	Knobles	Janice	22	Styblo	Mary
11	Lewicki	John	23	Tyler-White	Patricia
12	Martin	Cindy	24	Watkins	Patricia

24 Certified Master Gardeners qualified for the August Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing. Having done so, all 24 also qualify for one entry into the \$150 Annual Recognition Drawing. Congratulations to **Ryla Cottingham** our August winner. As our August Volunteer, Ryla won a \$20 gift certificate to Maldonado Nursery.

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 September 2015 to be eligible for the October Membership Drawing.

Submitted by Cindy Waechter

LaVernia Primary School Planning Meeting

Another school year's kicks off at the La Vernia Primary School in La Vernia, TX with a planning meeting involving Guadalupe County Master Gardeners and teachers.

- In the first picture, John Lewicki, Master Gardener, and Valarie Ahr, Primary School Teacher, discuss plans for "Mr. John" to open the school year by visiting her class to discuss gardening activities with her students.
- In the second picture, Iris Seale, (l) formerly a teacher at the La Vernia Primary School, and the person responsible for beginning the gardening program at the school, talks to a new teacher involved in the program as Carol Suchan, (r) a Master Gardener and volunteer in the program, listens.
- In the third picture are other Master Gardener volunteers who help with the various gardening projects at the school. From left to right are: Kathy Bennett, Laura Dylla, Peggy Jones, Kay Cover and Dixie Bradbury.

To name some of the activities the volunteers help students with at the school are: three keyhole gardens, an official butterfly garden, raised bed gardens, square foot gardens and a composting project. In addition, the students and volunteers planted native flowers in the median at the front of the school.



Article & Photos by [Bob Cox](#)

County Fair

We will be giving out free seeds at the County Fair, so it is time to replenish the seed supply in the Master Gardener office. We also need 12 oz soda bottles for a children's craft activity. Drop your contributions off at the AgriLife building. We need volunteers to sign up for children's activities as well as someone to volunteer to be Chair Cindy Martin's new assistant. Dates are October 8 for set-up and Fair is open October 9-11. Master Gardeners are eligible for the pop-up green house raffle. They do not have to be residents of Guadalupe County. Please help make the Fair a successful Master Gardener project.

Submitted by [Cindy Mar-](#)

Mushroom Farm Trip

September 8

There is still room for those interested in the Mushroom Farm trip on September 8. Mushroom compost is \$12 a yard for personal use and free to Master Gardener projects. For further information contact [Treva Hicks](#), hickslt@lycos.com

Guadalupe County Master Gardener Recertification Requirements

October is Just Around the Corner

October is quickly approaching and with it, your opportunity to recertify as a Guadalupe County Master Gardener for 2016. 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 in VMS (Volunteer Management System). The good news is 48 of our 132 Master Gardeners have already met the hours requirement. Another 54 of you are busy working on the requirements. And 30 of you have not yet started.

For those of you needing Volunteer and Continuing Education Hours, there are lots of opportunities to earn hours during the next 3 months.

- The Big Red Barn is requesting volunteers for Friday workdays starting at 8AM. Volunteers are also needed to serve for Fourth Grade Agri-fair tours on September 21-24 and Pecan Fest on Nov 20-21. POC is Janice Knobles.
- The Guadalupe County Community Garden is requesting volunteers to work on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8 – 11AM. POC is Ann Odvody.
- The Guadalupe County Community Garden is also requesting volunteers to work the Garden Fair and Craft Show on September 26. POC is John Lewicki.
- The Guadalupe County Fair is also just around the corner. Set-up is 8 October and the fair runs from 9-11 October. Monday workday volunteers are needed at the extension office. Volunteers are also needed for children's activities. POC is Cindy Martin.
- And don't forget our Rummage Sale scheduled for Saturday, 14 Nov 2015.
- If you need Continuing Education hours, opportunities abound, especially now with Class 27 in progress. You are welcome to attend all Class 27 sessions except for Propagation and the Wildflower Trip. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 10AM to 2:30 PM at the AgriLife Extension Office. Bob Teweles announced an exciting members-only propagation refresher workshop where interested MG's decide which plants to propagate and commit to grow and nurse some for next spring's plant sale.

There are also several Lunch and Learn opportunities provided in both Seguin and Schertz. If you need assistance finding CE opportunities contact Treva Hicks, our Education Chairperson.

Submitted by Cindy Waechter

RECIPES: Maria Borth's Southwest Soup

1 lb ground chicken	1 box Vermicelli
1 29 oz can sweet corn	2 box of Vegetable broth
1 1lb 13 oz can Goya black beans	Mexican blend cheese
1 28 oz Petite diced tomato	Sour cream
Salt, pepper, chili powder to taste	

Brown ground chicken, add all ingredients, except salt, pepper and chili powder. When vermicelli is about done, add seasonings to your taste. Enjoy!

Report from the Big Red Barn

Summer is almost over, it even rained at my house last week! At the Big Red Barn we have been busy getting the garden ready for fall planting and doing the initial fall planting.

We have some crops still producing – the okra and egg plant are looking really good and putting out tasty produce. We have planted some fall crops such as pumpkins and squash as well as put out seeds for spinach, beets, brussel sprouts, swiss chard, etc. Tomatoes and broccoli will be next.

In one of the Plots we are doing things a little differently this fall. Based on some information gained at the Vegetable Specialist class at A&M, we have broken the area into defined 4 ft. beds, which we will build up over time, with mulched walkways (2 ½ ft) between so that you can work the beds from either side without compacting the soil In the beds. When the mulch deteriorates, it will be spread on the beds and the walkways re-mulched. I will keep you posted on how this goes.

All in all, we should have the garden at the Big Red Barn ready for the start of school tours in September thanks to all the hard work from our volunteers during the heat of summer.

Submitted by **Kay McElveen**

“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece”

— Claude Monet

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

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Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Alternate - Marvin Borth

One Year Term - Peggy Jones - Bob Teweles, Alternate

Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs

Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks

Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden - John Lewicki & Kim Darrough

Historian - Sandy Foss

2015 County Fair - Cindy Martin

Ag Awareness Fair - Lo-Ra Dick

Class 27 Coordinator - Kay McElveen

Christmas Tree Decorating - Betty Hughes

Facebook Editor - Cynthia Leos

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Bob Teweles

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the MG office/library is open from 8:30am-noon except for holidays. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Betty Hughes. 830-401-4066 or e-mail ehughes5@satx.rr.com.

Every Tuesday and Friday are work days at the Guadalupe County Community Garden. Check with Ann Odvody (odvodyd@swbell.net 830-914-3593) for start hour and access at other times.

Every Friday 9 am is a workday in the gardens at the Big Red Barn. Check with Janice Knobles, 830-379-6193 or e-mail jmknobles@yahoo.com for details.

KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show is always looking for volunteers. Contact Janet Gafe at 830-639-4199 or e-mail to janetgrafe@hotmail.com.

For our meetings, we could use help with setting out chairs since we usually put out 80 chairs. That way we are not putting out chairs during the program. If a few people came 30 minutes early, that would help a lot. Treva Hicks.



Leaders Needed - Contact Jose Contreras

Sep 3 - Ag Awareness Fair, Big Red Barn, 3 days, LoRa Dick needs co-chair

Oct 27-29 - Cibolo Ag Fair. FA Barn. Need Chair and co-chair.

December (date tba). Christmas Tree Decorating Seguin. Betty Hughes needs a co-chair.

We need someone to step up and serve as Volunteer Chair.

The Education Chair position will be coming open in January. If anyone is interested in helping with providing Continuing Education for Master Gardeners, please contact Jose or Treva Hicks.



GARDENING EVENTS

Future State Master Gardeners Conferences

2016 State Conference will be held in Collin County (NE of Dallas), May 17-19. Great line-up of speakers and tours in one of two venues; and workshops on producing educational videos, technology, electronic magazines and garden journals. Registration includes lunch on Tue, Wed and Thu; Tue evening Reception; and, Wed Awards Banquet. Cost thru 12/31/2015 = \$175; 1/1/2016 thru 3/16/2016 cost = \$200; from 3/17/2016 to the conference cost = \$225; Tours additional \$40. [Website \[ccmgatx.org/txmg2016\]](http://ccmgatx.org/txmg2016) is not up yet, but will be shortly.

All Texas Master Gardeners will be receiving a survey from the Texas Master Gardener Association to determine whether or not you favor holding the **2017 State Conference** on a 4 day Princess cruise from Galveston to Cozumel! Please complete the survey even if you have no intention of attending.

2018 Master Gardener State Conference will be held in College Station.

Art In The Garden

Sept 5 Austin, TX

www.wildflower.org

HummerBird Celebration

Sept 17-20 Rockport TX

www.rockporthummingbird.com

Comal Co Fair and Rodeo

Sept 23-27 New Braunfels TX

www.comalcountyfair.org

Marfa Lights Festival

Sept 4-6 Marfa, TX

www.marfachamber.org

Submitted by Marilyn Moltz

Green Spaces Alliance Sweet Honey Soire

October 1st at The Veranda.

An inspired evening celebrating the beauty of our natural world and our very special "community pollinator," Linda Hardberger. Garden Party Attire. Sponsorship and ticket information at www.greensatx.org.

San Antonio Botanical Garden (SABOT) Two-Day Plant Sale

Sat, Sep 12 and Sun, Sep 13 10am-2pm

This 2-day plant sale (at 555 Funston, San Antonio) offers thousands of plants, over 200 varieties, with special emphasis on natives and other watersavers. Admission to sale is free with paid admission to the Garden. SABOT Member's admission starting at 9am.

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

MG EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES

SEP 3 THUR, Seguin, Lunch and Learn Program, “Drip Irrigation”, by Jim Johnson, AgriLife Extension Office, 210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin TX. Drip Irrigation in your Landscape. Install an easy and inexpensive drip Irrigation system. Ways to save you money and make watering easier and more efficient. Free. Attendees welcome to bring a lunch. For more information call 830-303-3889 or visit guadalupe-mastergardeners.org.

SEPT 8 TUE, Schertz, Guadalupe County Native Plant Society Chapter, “Inviting All Birds and Butterflies”, Meredith O'Reilly, Texas Master Naturalist and NWF Habitat Steward. 6:30 pm plant/seed exchange followed by Program at 7:pm. For more information go to <http://npsot.org/wp/guadalupe/>. St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX

SEP 14 - MON, Schertz, Lunch and Learn Program, “Companion Planting in the Landscape and Vegetable Garden” by Peggy Jones, Guadalupe County Master Gardener. GVEC Community Room, 908 Curtis Street, Schertz. Peggy will talk about planning your gardens to take advantage of the natural friendships between plants. Learn what plants enhance the growth and quality of each other and those that attract beneficial insects or repel them.

SEP 16 - WED, San Antonio, “Texas Superstar Plant Specialist Training”, San Antonio Botanical Garden Education Room, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX. For information: <http://dhrrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu> or call David Rodriguez at 210-467-6575. Space is limited.

SEP 17 - THUR, Seguin, AgriLife Extension Office, 210 East Live Oak St. Seguin, Master Gardener Monthly Meeting, Speaker will be Keith Amelung on “Bog Plants and Gardening”. 6:30pm Social/Meet&Greet, Program at 7:00pm Membership meeting to follow.

Oct 1 THUR, Lunch and Learn Program, “Fall Bulbs” Deedy Wright, GCMG, AgriLife Extension Office, 210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin TX. The best fall bulbs to plant in Guadalupe County. How to plant fall bulbs. Caring for your bulbs. Free.

Oct 12, MON Schertz Lunch and Learn Program, “Lawn Care”, Marvin Borth, Guadalupe County Master Gardener. GVEC Community Room, 908 Curtis Street, Schertz. Marvin will talk about the different types of tuff grasses for South Texas and where they will grow, proper watering and mowing of your lawn, the appropriate time and amount of fertilizer to apply, and how to control weeds and insect pests to have a healthier lawn.

Indoor Plant Décor

San Antonio Garden Center Clubs will meet **Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 10 am** at 3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston. Program will feature Austin designer and author Jenny Peterson, who will talk about "Indoor Plant Décor." Her book by the same name will be available for purchase/autograph. Join us for coffee at 9:30; meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.sanantoniogardencenter.org or call (210) 824-9981.

How to Pot up Your Plants Now for the Spring Plant Sale Saturday October 3, 9am-12

Bob Teweles will be doing a Mini Refresher Program to the members on "How to Pot up Your Plants Now for the Spring Plant Sale". Bob will be doing demonstrations and there may be hands on training by members. Anyone interested please let me know, so that we have an idea how many will be attending. Our new Class 27 members that would like to attend are very welcome. Anyone interested please contact Treva Hicks, hickslt@lycos.com or call 830-303-4712

MG Specialist Rainwater Harvesting Training Tue, Wed, Thu, Oct 20-22 1600 Smith Rd. Austin, TX

Hosted by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office - Travis County. 15 CEUs. Fee: \$250 for three-day training session and includes a 55-gal rain barrel to take home. For more information, call [\(210\) 467-6575](tel:(210)467-6575).

Landscape Design School Series XXIV Course III George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station September 21-22, 2015

Registration will be \$145 until September 1st and \$165 thereafter. Registration materials and questions contact Michelle Wehmheim, 313-649-1067 or e-mail texaslandscapedesignschool@gmail.com

Texas Master Gardener Specialist Training - Entomology September 28 through October 2 Montgomery County Extension Office, Conroe

The training is designed to provide an in-depth exposure to the world of insects: 4.5 days of insect-oriented field trips, lectures and hands-on insect collecting and photography. Montgomery County is not currently accepting applicants for the program, but for updates and further information see <http://agrilife.org/insectspecialist/>

Fall Vegetable Seminars

September 5, 10:30am - Noon. Fanick Garden Center. David Rodriguez from the Agrilife Extension Service will show you how to properly plant, grow and harvest your vegetables. Seminar is free but any donation to the Children's garden is welcomed.

Sep 12, 10:30am - Noon. Milberger's Landscaping & Nursery, Come visit with David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Horticulturist, who will guide you and your family to a successful fall vegetable garden. Free, but donations to the Children's Vegetable Garden Program would be appreciated.

Beekeeping Basics

Sat, Oct 9 Classroom and Field Day options - Oct 10 (Adkins) & Oct 11(Leon Springs)
3355 Cherry Ridge, San Antonio,

If you have ever been interested in keeping bees, or need to know the basics of how to get started, this course will answer those questions for you. We will cover the equipment, space and tools needed, where to get bees, what you need to get started, and resources for future help. Taught by beekeepers with experience. Cost is \$60, lunch included. Class fills quickly, register soon! Registration form available from Molly Keck mekeck@ag.tamu.edu or 210-467-6575

"Second Steps" Beekeeping

September 25th from 9am-3pm

PreK4SA facility on 5230 Eisenhauer Rd, San Antonio



This program is geared to those who may still be new to beekeeping, but have their bees and may be asking "what now?" It will offer more in depth information on disease and pest ID and management, year round nectar producing plants for your landscape, registration and what the Texas Apiary Inspection Service can offer, how to get your bees as your tax exemption, how and when to split, how to recognize stress, how and when to requeen, and more! Many of these will be concurrent sessions so you can choose which topics are of more interest to you.

For more information, contact Molly Keck at mekeck@ag.tamu.edu or 210-467-6575

Master Gardener First Detector Specialist Training

Presented by Dr. Kevin Ong, PHD, Plant Pathology, and Texas A&M

Mon-Tue, Sep 21-22

Bell County AgriLife Extension Service, 1605 N Main St Ste 102, Belton

Cost: \$50, which you can get back upon completing your certifying volunteer hours. Register by calling Bell County AgriLife Office, 254-933-5305 or mail to SBarreras@agtamu.edu?subject=First Detector Specialist Training. Mail registration fee to Bell County Master Gardeners, 1605 N Main St, Belton, Tx 76513. Cutoff date for registration is September 15th. Class is limited to 25.

2015 FALL FLORAL DESIGN SCHOOL

Fall Classes will focus on Ikebana Floral Arranging. The first class will be an introduction to Culture and Tradition of Ikebana.

- **FIRST CLASS - Tuesday, September 8, 12noon - 3pm.** Introduction to Japanese Floral Arranging with Old School Ikebana Arranging. Alisan Clarke – Austin, Texas . Certified Ikebana Instructor
- **SECOND CLASS - Tuesday, September 15, 12noon - 3pm.** Eastern Flare for a Western Home. Brian Dalton – Dallas, Texas. Certified Ikebana Instructor
- **THIRD CLASS - Tuesday, September 22, 12noon - 3pm.** At Home with Ikebana. Alisan Clarke – Austin, Texas. Certified Ikebana Instructor

\$75 tuition for all three classes includes fresh flowers and greenery. Bring your own kenzan (metal frog). Kenzans will be available for purchase at the beginning of each class. All classes are held at the San Antonio Garden Center.. Enrollment is limited. Register by September 1, 2015. Registration forms available at 3310 N. New Braunfels Avenue or call (210) 824-9981 or www.sanantoniogardencenter.org Make checks payable to San Antonio Garden Center. Tuition for missed classes cannot be refunded.

NATIVE LANDSCAPE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

presented by the
Native Plant Society of Texas, Lindheimer Chapter

Learn the value of including and preserving native plants in your landscape in our day-long **Native Landscape Certification Program (NCLP)**. This Level 1—Introduction to Native Landscapes Class, is recommended for homeowners, native plant enthusiasts, landscape architects, landscape designers, nursery personnel, Master Naturalists, teachers, citizens, Master Gardeners, engineers, and more.

- When: **September 26, 2015—8am to 4pm**
- Where: **Tye Preston Memorial Library, 16311 Access Road, Canyon Lake, Texas 78133**
- Cost: **\$37 — Snacks provided. Lunch not included.** Bring your own lunch or order box lunch when registering - \$10

Check out class descriptions, class schedules, or register online at <http://npsot.org/wp/nclp/about>. For more information, or to complete a mail-in registration, contact Meg Inglis at nlcp@npsot.org or 512-589-1316

2015 Texas Fruit Conference

**Mon & Tue, Oct 5-6
1600 Smith Rd. Austin**

11 CEUs. Hear and discuss the challenges and successes of fruit growing in Texas. Online Registration is \$80.00/person before 9/25/14. On-site registration \$90.00. For more information, contact Monte Nesbitt (979) 862-1218, or MLNesbittW@tamu.edu.

Look what Dale Odvody Found!

How to Dote on Toads - National Wildlife Federation

Welcome these insect-gobbling amphibians to your garden with a properly placed abode. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that a single adult toad can eat 10,000 insect pests over the course of an average summer. For this and more fabulous toad info and toad abodes, go to: <http://www.nwf.org/news-and-magazines/national-wildlife/gardening/archives/2006/backyard-houses-for-toads.aspx>

And another find from Dale via John Lewicki

How to make a Bee Hotel: a house for Mason Bees and other Solitary Bees

A wonderful article on the solitary pollinators who can assist your honey bees and bumblebees.

http://foxleas.com/bee_house.htm

September 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GCCG Workday	2	3 <u>LUNCH and LEARN - Seguin</u>	4 GCCG Workday Red Barn 9 AM	5 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
6	7 <u>LABOR DAY</u>	8 GCCG Workday	9	10 <u>GCMG Board Meeting</u>	11 GCCG Workday Red Barn 9 AM	12 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show
13 ● NEW MOON	14 Master Gardener Office/Library\\ 8:30-Noon <u>LUNCH and LEARN- Schertz</u>	15 GCCG Workday	16	17 <u>GCMG Membership Meeting</u>	18 GCCG Workday Red Barn	19 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show .
20	21 Master Gardener Office/Library	22 GCCG Workday	23	24	25 GCCG Workday Red Barn	26 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>
27	28 Master Gardener Office/Library O - Full Moon	29 GCCG Workday	30			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>

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Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
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Cindy Waechter	Membership Chair
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

September Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015 - 7 PM

*AgriLIFE Extension Building
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx*

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Elaine McIntyre, Editor
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