



The Guadalupe Gardener



January 2009

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



Gardening Conundrums by Bob Grafe, President

A hardy “Thanks ... thanks ... thanks!” to Immediate Past President George Ammermann, all of the 2008 board members and committee chair-persons, and to all of the Master Gardener Association members who helped “lift the load” making 2008 a wonderfully successful Master Gardener year for Guadalupe County.

As we look forward into 2009 we see many meaningful opportunities for Master Gardeners to assist our county’s AgriLife Extension Service by helping to provide meaningful horticultural-related educational experiences for the residents of Guadalupe County, Master Gardeners themselves and others.

For example, opportunities to be of educational service include such events as the new Grow Local event in Schertz, the Master Gardener training classes, the weekly Lawn and Garden Show heard each Saturday at 9:05 a.m. on KWED-1580 AM radio, Ag-Days for Kids, AgriFest, the Guadalupe County Fair horticultural judging and booth, Jr. Master Gardener programs and many more.

Where do you learn more about these fun opportunities? Right here at this newsletter is a very good start. Also, you can always check out the Guadalupe County Master Gardener Association’s wonderful website at guadalupecountymastergardeners.org. But, probably the best place to get the most up-to-date Master Gardener information while you’re having a great time, is to attend the monthly meetings held each third Thursday beginning at 7 p.m. at the Agri-Life Extension Office in Seguin.

Just one of the reasons that you may want to personally attend each monthly meeting (besides the great educational program and terrific food at the meetings) is that gardeners know the best darn dirt!

Hope to see you at the meetings ... or I’ll just see ya out in the garden!

January 15, 2009

Meeting

7:00 PM – Program

“Companion Planting” presented by Liz Palfini

Companion planting is putting plants that can benefit each other in proximity schemes providing nutrition, shade, pest control, etc.



A good site to read about the topic is:

<http://www.companionplanting.net/>

See page 5 for more information!

7:45 – Refreshments

served by Susan Casto, James Hajek, and Pat Schultze. Call Pat to volunteer to bring refreshments – 830- 914-3191 or e-mail clydepat6@aol.com

8:00 Membership Meeting

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Activities of Special Interest

New Board Workshop Session



Standing: George Ammermann, Betty Hughes, Bob Grafe.
Sitting from left: Linda Bruno, Doug Biggs, Randee Malmsten, Peggy Jones, Pat Schultze, Travis Franke, Jean Vanderhider, Dale Odvody.

The 2009 Board of Directors and Officers met on Saturday, January 10th for several hours. Their goal was to plan for the coming year, identifying the target activities and general direction for our organization in 2009.

Several Board Members commented on the positive atmosphere and successful planning that resulted.

Our Board can set the course, but all organizations – especially one composed of volunteers - need willing members.

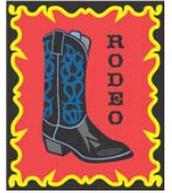


You are an important piece of the puzzle; without you, we are not complete.

Resolve to be an active, participating Master Gardener in 2009 and we will have a



Master Gardener Booth San Antonio Livestock Show



Dale Odvody is the Guadalupe County “trail boss” for the San Antonio Livestock Show & Rodeo. The Bexar County Master Gardeners have a wonderful booth which is partially constructed and manned by Guadalupe County Master Gardeners.

What a fun way to share your love of gardening, go to the Stock Show, meet new friends, and clock volunteer hours! **Master Gardeners Gerald and Rosette Reed, Gillian Siemens, Chuck Slaten, Moses Herrera, Dale and Ann Odvody and Interns Catherine Lopez, Bill Ermel, Janice Tucker and Ralph Albright** have signed up to work.



Contact Dale at 830-914-3593 or e-mail odvodyd@swbell.net to get on the list. Dale is sending e-mail notices to keep us informed.



Hate to “bug” you, but Pat Schultze needs everyone to sign up on the 2009 meeting refreshments sheet.

GROW LOCAL FESTIVAL

Saturday, Feb. 7th

9 a.m. to 3:30

SCHERTZ CIVIC CENTER,
1400 Schertz Pkwy



Thinking about putting in a vegetable garden this spring? Want to grow tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and other edibles? Don't know what to do to get started? Let the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners show you how it's done. Join us Saturday Feb. 7th starting at 9 a.m. for the First Annual "Grow Local Festival" at the Schertz Civic Center located at 1400 Schertz Parkway

Co-sponsored by Schulz Nursery, New Earth Soils and Compost, Fanick's Garden Center and the City of Schertz.

Admission to the Vendor Area is free to the general public. Shop for bedding plants and seeds, annuals, fruit trees and other quality garden products. See a demonstration of rain water harvesting. Have your hand tools sharpened. Get advice from local experts on gardening and landscaping.

Need more in-depth gardening info? Attend the "Backyard Vegetable Gardening" seminar from 9:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. The seminar will cover

- the "basics of raised-bed vegetable gardening - the "how" and the "why"
- the best vegetables to plant and how to do it
- how to harvest rainwater to water your garden

Pre-registration seminar cost is \$25 per person or \$35 per couple; \$30 & \$40 at the door. Registration includes a hot lunch catered by McBee's BBQ and chances to win great door prizes.

For more information visit our website at www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org or contact Linda Bruno, 210-363-8380 or jlbruno@gvec.net.



2009 State Master Gardener Conference

April 23 - 25, 2009

<http://tcaaa.tamu.edu/09statemeeting.htm>

The 2009 State Conference will be hosted by the Harrison County Master Gardeners in Marshall, TX. Yes, that's way over yonder in east Texas. Registration, hotel information, tours, etc. are posted on the website and this looks like another GREAT conference.



Marshall Civic Center will be the site for the Conference and all motels are within 1-2 miles of the Civic Center. There are also facilities for you RVers!

This is a beautiful area of Texas most of us seldom have the opportunity to explore.



CONGRATULATIONS

Clara Mae Marcotte was the first to ID **Gillian Siemens** as the Mystery Master Gardener for December. The picture was taken at the Christmas Party.

Clara Mae wins a \$10.00 Gift Certificate to Garden Delights!

January Mystery Master Gardener



Know who this is??? Call your guess to Marilyn at 830-379-5755 or 830-372-1945; you may also e-mail your answer to: MarilynA@access4less.net

Companion Planting

By Valerie Dancer

Companion planting is based around the idea that certain plants can benefit others when planted next to, or close to one another.

Companion planting exists to benefit certain plants by giving them pest control, naturally without the need to use chemicals, and in some cases they can give a higher crop yield .

Generally, companion planting is thought of as a small-scale gardening practice, but it can be applied on larger-scale operations. It has been proven that by having a beneficial crop in a nearby field that attracts certain insects away from a neighbouring field that has the main crop can prove very beneficial. This action is called trap cropping.

While companion planting has a long history, the benefits of companion planting have not always been understood. Traditional recommendations, for companion planting have been used by gardeners for a long time, but recent tests are proving scientifically, that they work.

Other ways that companion planting can be beneficial is to plant a crop like any Legumes, on an area where it will feed nitrogen into the soil, then it will not be necessary to use any chemical fertilizers for the next crop.

The African marigold, along with other plants, are well known for companion planting, as they exude chemicals from their roots or aerial parts that suppress or repel pests and protect neighbouring plants.

Companion planting also exists in a physical way. For example, tall-growing, sun-loving plants may share space with lower-growing, shade-tolerant species, resulting in higher total yields from the land. This is called spatial interaction, and can also yield pest control benefits, for example, the presence of the prickly vines is said to discourage raccoons from ravaging sweet corn.

Another type of companion planting is called Nurse cropping, where tall or dense-canopied plants may protect more vulnerable plants through shading or by providing a windbreak. For example, oats have long been used to help establish alfalfa and other forages by supplanting the more competitive weeds that would otherwise grow in their place. In many instances, nurse cropping is simply another form of physical-spatial interaction.

Beneficial habitats-sometimes called refugia-are another type of companion planting that has received a lot of attention in recent years. The benefit is derived when companion plants provide a good environment for beneficial insects, and other arthropods, especially those predatory and parasitic species that help to keep pest populations in check.

Companion Planting is enjoyable and rewarding.

[You are welcome to use this article, written by Valerie Dancer, for your website or publication providing it is copied in it's entirety, including the web site address, linking back to us. www.companionplanting.net

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Texas Urban Landscape Guide



The following is from the Texas Urban Landscape Guide which promotes WaterWise approaches to landscaping.

Appropriate Plant Selection

No strategy creates more controversy than telling people what to plant in their yards and gardens. On the plant selection section of this Web site is a list of common urban landscape plants and their potential water use based on the location of the garden in the state. Use of this type of independent evaluation mechanism also includes additional inputs such as fertilization, pesticides, etc. which impact runoff and the amount of irrigation needed to "water in" the additives. Use of an independent evaluative tool such as the PlantSelector eliminates many arguments over plant lists in ordinance or rule making situations.

Advance work with plant nurseries and retail nurseries is advised before implementing any plant selection strategy. A normal landscape has a lifespan of 5-7 years so water savings actions need to take into account the design and replanting of current landscapes.

The PlantSelector database is regionalized so that the order in which plants are presented to you varies with the locality. The landscape plants in the database have each been rated by a team of [plant experts](#) knowledgeable about the best plants for their region.

Another factor important to the success of plants in the landscape is light exposure. Blooming plants flower profusely only when day length and amount of sunlight is right for them. Therefore, sun and shade placement of plants is an essential consideration. Hardscape reflects both light and heat, so plants with little heat tolerance should be placed away from walls and fences, particularly southern or western exposures. Trees and shrubs can be placed strategically to shade western sun and to shield air conditioning units, cutting back on energy use, which in the long run also cuts down on water use by the energy provider. Shade tolerant plantings under natural shade cover reduces water needs and are part of a water wise strategy.

<http://urbanlandscapeguide.tamu.edu/selector.html>

[01/10/09]

January 2009 Calendar

HANG IN THERE



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
4	5 Gardener office / library open every Monday 	6	7	8	9	10 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. Board of Directors meeting
11	12	13	14	15 Membership Meeting 7:00 P.M. SA Rodeo Mst. Gardener booth construction begins; see pg 2	16	17 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
18	19	20	21 New MG Class starts in Schertz	22	23	24 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
Rodeo Construction 01/15/09 – 02/03/09						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.

GCMG Officers & Board of Directors

Bob Grafe	President
Linda Bruno	President-Elect
Doug Biggs	Vice President
Pat Schultze	Secretary
Betty Hughes	Treasurer
George Ammermann	Education Coordinator
Peggy Jones	Publication Coordinator
	Volunteer Coordinator

Randee Malmsten	Web Master
Travis Franke	<i>AgriLIFE</i> Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Meeting Time – 7:00

***AgriLIFE* Extension Building**

210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, TX

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

Marilyn Anderson, Editor
MarilynA@access4less.net
Marcia Richardson, Reporter

Linda Belz, Photographer
Marilyn Moltz,
The Wandering Gardener



**"Bare branches of each tree
on this chilly January morn
look so cold so forlorn.
Gray skies dip ever so low
left from yesterday's dusting of snow.
Yet in the heart of each tree
waiting for each who wait to see
new life as warm sun and breeze will blow,
like magic, unlock springs sap to flow,
buds, new leaves, then blooms will grow."**

- Nelda Hartmann, *January Morn*



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Seguin, TX 78155

<http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org>

<http://guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/Newsletters.cfm>

<http://www.texasmastergardeners.org>