

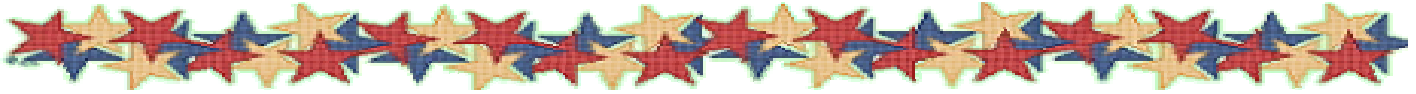


# The Guadalupe Gardener



July 2008

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



## President's Point of View by George Ammermann

Gee, it seems like I just finish writing a column for our newsletter and another deadline date is knocking on my door.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have worked so diligently the first half of the year to make this year GREAT!! We can only achieve great things when our members step up to the plate and hit those home runs. It is a good feeling to stand before the membership when things are getting done and there is not a lot of complaining.

It kinda reminds me of the pictures of two donkeys trying to each eat their hay but because the rope they are tied together with is too short, neither one can get to the food. Therefore, instead of each pulling in their own direction they come together, both ate from the same hay, and when they finish it they go to the others hay. Cooperation is great and makes it much easier to complete a given task.

Keep up the good work. See you at Max Starke Park for our next meeting. It will be a social featuring salads and desserts.

## July 17th Salad & Dessert Social

**7:00 P.M.**

**Bowl at Starke Park**  
**Bring a Salad or Dessert**

**Casual Dress,  
Hawaiian is Best!**



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# June Meeting Highlights

## Daylilies are Dandy

Marcia Richardson has a great love for many things in her life, but daylilies must surely rank somewhere on her “top ten” list! She is always willing to share with others her knowledge of the care, propagation and beauty of this beloved garden plant.

Marcia is not only a member of our local Master Gardener group but is also an active member of the San Antonio Daylily Society.



She is also a contributor to the *Guadalupe Gardener*, writing articles for her column “In My Backyard.” As you can see, she is a very busy lady.

Our members were fortunate to learn about daylilies at the June meeting. Marcia even brought an Olympic Showcase daylily as a prize; Jan Quello was the lucky winner. OK Jan, this is what you can look forward to!



## Newly Certified Members



**Marika Bordes** receives her certificate from President George Ammermann. Marika earned part of her volunteer hours landscaping at the Silver Center.



**Jim White** is now a fully certified Master Gardener after completing his fifty hours of volunteer work.

Forty-two people signed the roster at the June meeting – thirty-five certified Master Gardeners, four Interns and three guests.

The Green Gate gift certificate was won by Donna Bohnenberger and Virginia Biggs won the raffle money.

# Guadalupe County Activities

## Gardening Q&A Blog

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners now have a presence in Wilson County! Peggy Jones, Publications Chairman, has announced our new gardening blog in the Wilson County News. Peggy reported, "The website address is

[www.wilsoncountynews.com](http://www.wilsoncountynews.com). Go to Blogs down on the left hand side of the home page and choose "Gardening Q&A".



Questions and topics are already being posted, so go to the site and add your comments and/or answers. We need a viable site that has **ACTION**; nothing worse than a stagnant blog! That translates into 'nobody cares about this topic' and that is certainly NOT how we want ours defined.

## Hummer-Bird Celebration

Jean Vanderhider is organizing the day trip to Rockport for the Hummer-Bird Celebration. Here's the vital information.



Date: Saturday, September 13, 2008

Time: 6:30 am - leaving from Seguin

Cost: \$23.50

Seats Available: 55 **Deadline to sign up July 25**

[After July 25<sup>th</sup> remaining seats, if any, will be made available to other interested groups.]

This is a "direct flight!" No stops will be made along the way.

E-mail Jean Vanderhider [Jeanvand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jeanvand@sbcglobal.net)

or send your check to her at:

2605 Hidden Grove Lane  
Schertz, TX 78154

## Fall Training Class

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will hold their next Master Gardener training class from Aug 6 to Dec 3, 2008. Classes are on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Schertz Civic Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway, in Schertz, Texas. Registration is \$170 with a 10% discount if received with payment by July 10<sup>th</sup>.

We have a full line up of speakers including Malcolm Beck, Flo Oxley from the LBJ Wildflower Center, Bob Webster, Patty Leander and more. For more information, an application and a list of speakers, please email [jbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jbruno@gvec.net) or call 210-363-8380.

## Van to Schertz for MG Classes



From Amy Harris, County Extension Agent - Family and Consumer Sciences

"I will be taking the County Extension Van to Schertz every Wednesday (except a couple of days) during the training. Someone else is welcome to sign up and drive the van on the couple of days that I am scheduled for something else.

If there are people interested in signing up that do not want to drive from Seguin, please let them know to contact me for a ride."

Amy can be reached at the Agri-LIFE office:

210 E. Live Oak

Seguin, TX 78155

Phone: 830-379-2153

Metro: 830-303-3889

Fax: 830-372-3940

[akharris@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:akharris@ag.tamu.edu)

# Gardening Events

**June 29 - August 31**

**Bonsai Exhibit Opens**

**Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**

Bonsai with native plants! This exhibit features 8 to 10 specimens, all Texas natives including persimmon, yaupon, cedar elm and juniper. All are on loan from the Austin Bonsai Society. In the courtyard Sunday, June 29, through Sunday, August 31

## *"Leadership in the Garden"*

**Friday, July 11, 12:30-6:30 p.m. and  
Saturday, July 12, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm**

This two-day workshop is based on curriculum developed by the American Community Gardening Association. There will be \$35 fee (on a sliding scale) for materials and meals.

For more information, contact Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas at 210-222-8430 or [www.greenspacesalliance.org](http://www.greenspacesalliance.org).

**Comal Master Gardeners** are hosting the

**Malcolm Beck Seminar, July 12** at 10:00 a.m., at the Texas AgriLife Extension Service - Comal County office, 325 Resource Dr., New Braunfels (just off of SR 46, 4.5 miles west of New Braunfels).

See and hear noted Texas author, lecturer, farmer and entrepreneur Malcolm Beck give the scoop on how to grow greener lawns, stronger plants and better fruits and vegetables — and conserve soil, air and water at the same time. Well-known as an entertaining speaker, Beck also uses photos to bring the subject home to his audiences. His four books grew out of 40+ years of experimentation and experience in farming and soil enhancement in South Texas. Free admission. For more information, call (830) 620-3440 or (830) 629-1127.

Monday, July 21, 2008

12n - 3:15pm

San Antonio Garden Center

3310 N. New Braunfels

Gardening Volunteers of South Texas

### **Session 1:**

Gardening Calendar -

**"August in the Garden - What To Do When, Why, and How"**

Presented by Dr. Tom Harris, GVST Board President and The Hill Country Gardener.

Focus - **"Yes, You Can Grow Olive Trees in South Texas"**

Presented by Sandra Winoker, Shady Oaks Olive Orchard.

### **Session 2:**

Enrichment -

**"Go Green in the Shade with Watersaving Plants and Shrubs"**

Presented by Mark Peterson, Forester and Conservation Planner for San Antonio Water System.

## **New Chapter Guadalupe County Native Plant Society**

First meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, September 9, 2008.

More information will be provided at a later date. Contact Jennifer Wilson at [jenniew@felpsis.net](mailto:jenniew@felpsis.net) or 830-391-3391 for more information.

## IN MY BACKYARD

Marcia Richardson, Master Gardener, Class 13

About two months ago I visited my dermatologist to have some skin cancers burned off both arms and one leg. The liquid nitrogen burned like fire, almost bringing me to tears. After this painful experience I began to think seriously about the sun. We gardeners need the power of the sun to drive the process of photosynthesis which enables our plants to grow. We could not live without the warming rays of our sun, but the sun is probably the biggest danger in our backyards, even greater than power tools, bugs, snakes and poison ivy. Over exposure to the sun can cause heat stroke, sunburn and worst, skin cancers.

So I am determined to garden smarter. As soon as I get up and have my two cups of morning coffee, (one cup per eye) I hit the yard. I have a small clock on the wall of my back porch and when it gets to 10:00 I start to wind down, put tools away and roll up the garden hose. (10:00 is also when Tom starts yelling at me, "Marcia, get in the house, NOW!!!) Between 11:00 and 3:00 is when the strongest UV rays reach the earth's surface. No wonder the South American culture has a tradition of taking a siesta (a rest, catnap, snooze, forty winks) during the heat of the day; we would be smart to follow their example.

It's best to wear loose light colored clothing. I'd rather wear my old shorts to stay cooler, but my dermatologists says she is seeing more and more cancers on the legs, so I wear long pants and a long sleeve shirt. I have a special hat my kids bought me that has a big brim, but also a flap that covers my ears and the back of my neck, like the old bonnets our grandmothers wore. My brother-in-law lost the top of one ear to skin cancer, so be sure to cover your ears, baseball hats are not a good choice, a wide brimmed hat of a woven material is best as its cooler. And be sure to wear sunglasses!!

**Stay hydrated!** Sip water often as you garden, if you wait until you feel thirsty, you are already becoming dehydrated. Sports drinks with electrolytes are okay, but just lots of plain ole water is best.

My dermatologists advised me to wear a sun blocker with at least a SPF of 30. I protested that I wore a big hat so why did I need that, but she told me that reflected light is just as harmful as direct sunlight.

Skin cancers are usually silent and painless; they creep up on you. The most common type is Basal Cell Carcinoma, and it's the most easily treated and least likely to spread. It may first appear as a growth or a scaly, crusted rough spot. It sometimes takes the form of a sore or pimple that won't heal. I though I had an insect bite on my leg, it was swollen, red and it itched. But after a month when it didn't go away, alarm bells began to go off in my head. Sometimes the sore may bleed or ooze fluid, then crust and scab over, only to ooze again, which is exactly how my supposed 'insect bite' evolved.

The most serious type of skin cancer is Melanoma and it's responsible for most skin cancer deaths. If Melanoma is on the outside of your body it can be treated, but when it gets into your blood stream then you are in big trouble. So periodically check your body for moles that change color and size, or bleed.

Be forewarned, skin cancers affect people of all skin tones, including those with darker complexions. The American Academy of Dermatologists reports that skin cancers are on the rise and that 1 in 5 Americans will have a skin cancer in their lifetime. Prevention should begin in childhood because most people get about 50% of their lifetime sun exposure before age 18. I've tried to explain this to my grandchildren, but do you think they listen to me? DUH! (They think their silly ole grandma doesn't know anything.) But seriously fellow gardeners, protect your skin from the harmful rays of our scorching Texas sun. Be alert to anything abnormal on your skin and get regular skin exams. We want to be around for along time, there is always just one more seed to plant, one more flower to enjoy and one more tomato to pick!!!



# Backyard Water Saving Tips

## ***Efficient watering and common sense saves this precious resource***


According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), nationwide, landscape irrigation is estimated to account for almost one-third of all residential water use, totaling more than 7 billion gallons per day. Irrigation experts estimate that up to 50 percent of water used for landscape irrigation may be lost due to over-watering, evaporation, or bad irrigation system design/maintenance. Here are several things you can do to conserve water right in your own backyard:

- Know and follow the watering restrictions in your community.
- Install drip irrigation systems around your shrubs, hanging baskets, and flower and vegetable gardens. Delivering water right to the plant roots is the most efficient way to conserve. Drip irrigation uses up to 50 percent less water than conventional sprinklers.
- Install a home irrigation system. Watering efficiently, and only when your plants and lawn need it, can save a great deal of water.
- If you already have a home irrigation system, make sure you're getting the most out of your timer. New technology makes it easier than ever to program and monitor your watering needs. Consider upgrading your timer and check with your local water agency to identify systems that offer water-saving technology. Automatic, programmable timers save more water than mechanical models.
- Make sure your irrigation system has a rain sensor that shuts off the watering program when it rains.
- Think longer, infrequent run times. Deep watering, less often promotes good root growth.
- Know your soil type. Different types of soil have different watering needs.
- Raise the blade on your lawn mower. Closely-cut grass requires more water.
- Don't fertilize during hot, dry weather. Applying fertilizer can enhance drought problems. When you do feed your lawn and garden, use a slow release fertilizer.
- Make sure you're watering early in the morning to reduce evaporation. (Before 6:00 a.m. local time is best if your city regulations allow.)
- Recycle your grass clippings back into your lawn by using a mulching mower. You will not only conserve water, but save time while mowing.
- Choose drought tolerant plants for your landscaping. Picking plants that are native to your climate can reduce watering needs.
- Put a layer of mulch around your plants to retain moisture. A generous amount of 3 to 5 inches is best.
- If you use a hose and portable sprinkler, purchase a hose end timer to regulate your water use.
- Sweep your sidewalks and driveway rather than hosing them down.
- When you're washing your car, turn the hose off between rinses.

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# July Activities Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 	5 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
6	7 Master Gardener office / library open every Monday	8	9	10	11	12 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17 <b>Summer Social</b> 7:00 PM Starke Park Bowl	18	19 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
27	28	29	30	31		

### GCMG Officers & Board of Directors

George Ammermann	President
Mike Smith	President-Elect
Doug Biggs	Vice President
Pat Schultze	Secretary
Betty Hughes	Treasurer
Linda Bruno	Education Coordinator
Peggy Jones	Publication Coordinator
Jerilyn Miller	Volunteer Coordinator

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Travis Franke	Web Master <i>AgriLIFE</i> Agent Master Gardener Coordinator
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### Next Meeting Thursday, July 17, 2008 Meeting Time – 7:00 Starke Park Bowl

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Marilyn Anderson, Editor	Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener
Marcia Richardson, Reporter	

### The Heart of America

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<http://www.theholidayzone.com/fourth/poem5.html>

America, land of the free  
Home of the brave  
Set off the fire works  
Let your banners wave

From sea to shining sea  
All across the land  
Let people of all races  
Come to together hand in hand

United we stand  
Divided we fall  
Let's put aside our differences  
Once and for all

Thanking God for our freedom  
Let's make a joyful sound  
In the heart of America  
Let love always be found



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<http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org>

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

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