



# The Guadalupe Gardener

APRIL 2011



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



## Words from George

It seems like every time I turn around I get my monthly notice from our astute newsletter editor to remind me to get with the program and send my comments so she can include them in the newsletter. Unfortunately for Elaine I tend to push this to the very end of time, yes the day it is due. Elaine, I promise I will try to get this done earlier in April.

In last December a fellow member asked "Well, George, what grand things do you envision for GCMG for 2011". With very little thought I told her that I really hadn't given it much thought. Well now I think I have an idea. First, I want to say thanks to the many active and supportive members. Being president is not a difficult thing as long as you have an executive committee that is dedicated to the cause. Yes, once again I have been blessed to be able to work with an outstanding board.

My major plans are to try to keep the enthusiasm up. This will easily happen as long as we keep up our meeting attendance, contributions of time and effort on the part of the members pressing forward with great educational activities.

In looking at the activity calendar for the month of April, I think everyone should be able to earn both volunteer hours and educational hours. Please remember to turn in your hours monthly, or at least quarterly. We have completed the first quarter of the year, so turn in those hours for us to use as a gauge in tracking our endeavors.

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## APRIL MEETING

*April 21, 2011*

**Apr 21 - Pollinators.** Monta Zengerle, Master Naturalist and member of the Guadalupe Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, will discuss pollinators. Pollination is very important in the plant food industry.

Jeri Doyle, Suzanne Brown, Bob Davis, and Betty Hughes have agreed to provide refreshments.

Don't forget to bring your plants for the plant exchange table.

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## March Meeting Program

Andy Chidster, Travis County Master Gardener, was our March program speaker. Andy is an employee of John Dromgoole's Natural Gardener, located in South Austin and Dripping Springs and manufacturer of Lady Bug Natural Brand products. Andy provided some free samples of John's Recipe, a 3-1.5-2 fertilizer. Andy Chidster has also declined a stipend for her talk and asked for us to bring in nonperishable food products to give to a local food bank.

Organic farming and gardening has been strongly advocated by Malcolm Beck and others. Improving the organic material in soil is highly desirable. Composting is a major tool to inoculate beneficial microbes into the soil and improve the soil food web. Compost not only enriches the soil but improves soil texture, permeability and water retention.

Compost is produced through decomposition of certain organic materials such as grass clippings, leaves, straw, sawdust, shredded tree branches, and nearly all kitchen scraps (meat and fat excluded). Compost is usually produced in some type of bin or container where it can be tended (turned every few days). Adequate moisture, air, and sunlight enhance the decomposition process. Measurable temperatures in the compost pile should reach approximately 130 degrees Fahrenheit or more to kill off bad pathogens and weed seeds. Do not let the temperature exceed 150 degrees Fahrenheit or drop too low. Turning the material often with moisture control should help maintain adequate temperatures.

Andy provided a formula for the amount of compost needed for an area such as a lawn. The formula is: length (in feet) times width (in feet) times depth (in inches) divided by 324 equals the cubic yards needed.

Andy talked briefly about the Square Foot Gardening technique which uses compost. The simple formula is 1/3 blended compost (if purchased blend a variety of composts), 1/3 peat moss, and 1/3 coarse vermiculite mixed in equal parts by volume, not by weight.

Vermicastings (worm poop) provide a valuable source of organic matter. Earthworms consume plant material and provide tiny particles of organic litter that microorganisms can eat. They increase the porosity of soil, create root paths and help bind soil particles together. A healthy worm population is a clear sign of a healthy food web community.

Compost tea is a concentrate of beneficial, aerobic microbes. These teas are made by adding compost (and extra nutrients such as molasses to feed the microbes) to dechlorinated water. Mixing and aeration should be performed for a day or two depending on the system being used. Do not allow direct sunlight on the system. Compost tea brewers can be purchased or home-made using aquarium pumps. Once the compost tea has been prepared, it needs to be used within eight hours.

Dr. Elaine Ingham, Ph.D., is an expert in soil science. She has a variety of information including compost tea brewing at her website: [www.soilfoodweb.com](http://www.soilfoodweb.com).

Andy Chidster can be reached at the Dripping Springs site at 512-858-9090 for more information on composting.

## A GIANT THANK YOU TO DOUG BIGGS

If you've enjoyed these thorough recaps of the meeting programs, you have Doug Biggs to thank. He not only finds our speakers, he also writes the meeting program recaps. THANK YOU DOUG!

# Association News



## NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS

Jose Antonio Contreras, Debbie Zeilins, and Karl Ikred (l-r) receive their certificates from Bob Teweles (rt). Paul Mladenia was also certified, but missed the photo. Welcome to all!

## REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact Sandy Foss, our Secretary, [sandyfoss@satx.rr.com](mailto:sandyfoss@satx.rr.com) or call 210-651-9053.

March meeting refreshments were provided by Peggy Jones, Polly Rupert, Clara Mae Marcotte, Linda Bruno, Ryla Cottingham, and Betty Hughes.

The raffle of \$28.50 was won by Pat Schultze. Jim Johnson won the gift certificate. Gloria Saenz won the four pots donated by Jim Johnson.

Bob Davis brought boxes of zinnia seeds donated by his wife, Bev, for the plant exchange table.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

**May 19 - Master Gardener Program Changes** - George Ammermann. Review and discuss what needs to be done for meeting changes

**June 16 - Composting Worms in the Garden** - Cassandra Truax, The Worm Lady, will talk about building soil with worms.

**July 7 - Summer Social**

**July 21 - Citrus Greening** - Penny Glawe, Fellow Master Gardener, will provide information about a disease devastating citrus trees in Florida and the eastern United States.

**Aug. 18 - Wildflower Folklore** - Liz Palfini will present legends and fun stories about wildflowers and plants.

## New (to us) Chipper

Peggy Jones and her husband generously donated a chipper to the GCMGA. It needs a tune-up and Joe Bruno has offered to do this. What a help It will be in future cleanup projects!

## TMGA DIRECTORS MEETING

The Texas Master Gardener Association's Board of Directors meeting was February 19, 2011 in College Station. This month's meeting was the first of a planned series that will focus on making the TMGA more responsive to the needs of the local associations. The TMGA conducted a survey last year under the leadership of Guadalupe's own George Ammermann (Chairman, TMGA Outreach Committee) in which they found that many local associations didn't really understand how the TMGA could help them. This survey brought to light the need for TMGA to more directly focus on support to local associations. Perhaps, the TMGA's most important role is that it serves as the umbrella organization for local associations to attain their tax exempt status. Under IRS rules, an umbrella organization can extend its federal tax exempt status to organizations that are members of the association without the need for the member organization to undertake the lengthy and expensive process needed to gain their own exemption. TMGA also works to provide local associations with needed information on a range of topics such as sales tax requirements and horticulture permit requirements. Recently, TMGA initiated support for individual roles in the local associations. For example, the TMGA's new webmaster, Ron Wiliford, (Comal County) is working with several other local association webmasters to develop a support group for the webmasters and training on the website software. Guadalupe's webmaster, Randee Malmsten, has been very active in getting this program started.

The survey also found that many TMGA directors didn't really understand what their responsibilities are. To address this problem, Ginger Bason (Tarrant County) made a presentation on the duties and responsibilities of the director delegates both to their local associations and to the TMGA. She explained that the TMGA is a non-profit corporation and that each member association has the opportunity to appoint two directors to the governing body of TMGA. Directors are to serve as communicators between the state and local associations and to represent the needs of their local associations and to guide the direction of the TMGA. She challenged the directors to carry back the contents of each meeting to their local associations and to bring issues to the TMGA of concern to the local association.

Each of the TMGA standing committees made presentations at the February meeting and the Glen Rose association reminded everyone of the TMGA conference which will be held in Glen Rose. The annual TMGA conference is designed to give master gardeners from across the state the chance to hear some exceptional speakers, see some exceptional venues and have some fun to boot. Next year, the conference will be in San Antonio.

The TMGA serves as an important communications channel between AgriLife Extension and the Master Gardener associations across the State. The state coordinator, Jayla Frye, attends the TMGA meetings, makes presentations on topics of concern and is available for questions. This communication channel will be increasingly important in the months ahead as Master Gardener associations will likely see more changes at AgriLife as the agency faces an ever more demanding financial situation. Early indications are that AgriLife may see budget reductions of 15% to 20% for the next two year budget. This will put yet more pressure on our local agents and probably some additional demands on Master Gardeners as we support our agents through this very difficult time.

submitted by Gail Johnson,, TMGA Director tfrom GCMGA

The Master Gardener Association is a **volunteer organization.**

## **GCMG MENTORING PROGRAM**

Linda Bruno, Chair of the Education Committee, invites all Guadalupe County Master Gardeners to something new and a little different from our normal seminars, gardening events and working in the dirt activities.

It's a workshop to help plan a Mentorship Program for our new students, and we could use your input. Your experience as a Guadalupe County Master Gardener is what qualifies you to help us brainstorm the things we might do to make this new program the best it can be.

**Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m.**

at the AgriLife Extension Building, 210 East Live Oak in Seguin

The workshop will be about two hours long. Bring us your ideas as to what should be included in our Mentorship Program so we can kick this into gear in time for the new Class starting in August. Please email your rsvp to [romelia@gmail.com](mailto:romelia@gmail.com) so we can plan seating and snacks for everyone.

Here, courtesy of Polly Ruppert, is the recipe for the Ham and Rice Salad everyone enjoyed and asked about at the March meeting.

### **Ham and Rice Salad**

(an American Heart Association Recipe)

#### **Ham Salad**

1 cup brown or long-grain rice  
1 cup low-sodium chicken broth  
6 ounces lean, low-sodium ham, all visible fat removed, cut into 1/4-inch cubes  
1 cup fresh or frozen no-salt-added whole kernel corn, thawed (2 medium ears or 5-6 ounces frozen)  
1 cup frozen no-salt-added green peas, thawed (about 5 ounces)  
4 green onions (green and white parts), thinly sliced  
1 medium red, yellow, or green bell pepper, finely chopped  
4-5 radishes, finely chopped  
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley  
1 tablespoon fresh dill weed or 1 teaspoon dried

#### **Dressing**

1/2 cup nonfat or low-fat Italian salad dressing  
1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 small head lettuce, preferably red leaf  
Fresh mint or parsley sprigs

Cook rice according to package instructions, substituting broth for 1 cup of the liquid and omitting salt. Allow to cool. In a large bowl, combine rice with remaining ham salad ingredients. In a small bowl, whisk together salad dressing and mustard. Stir dressing into rice mixture. Cover and refrigerate. Serve at room temperature or chilled. Place a scoop of salad on a bed of lettuce and top with mint. Serves 8

## **Policies & Procedures Manual & By Law Revision the “Legal” stuff**

Well, we talked about it last year and the time is finally here. As the GCMG organization is growing, we are finding that what we do and how we do it too often is not written down. So “because we always did it that way” doesn’t work anymore. The manual continues to grow section by section. And the sections of the By Laws that pertain to day-to-day operations will be moved into the manual.

The By Laws have been amended eleven times since adoption in April, 1993. This time we are doing a revision, meaning a complete rewrite from the beginning to end. Short, easy to read ,and making sure that all the legal stuff is covered.

Does this mean that the GCMG membership will have less say in what happens? No. The Polices & Procedures manual is being written so that when you have questions, the answers are all there in writing. No more asking someone who isn’t sure or gives you a “maybe” answer. No more getting different answers from different people. And the best part – as we continue to grow, the manual will grow with us. If you are interested in running for an officer position and want to know how all the board members’ jobs interact, you’ll be able to find it in the manual. If you want to know what is acceptable for volunteer hours, it’s there in writing, and applies to everyone the same way.

Questions? Comments? Let me know. I’m going to give you an update each month on where we are in the process. Our goal is to have everything done and ready to present to you in July for first reading. Email [jbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jbruno@gvec.net) or call me, Linda Bruno, at 210-363-8380.

## **Publicity**

The Schertz Chamber of Commerce had our March 26th Herb Seminar at the Schertz Community Garden on their Calendar of Events. Their website is <http://schertzchamber.chambermaster.com/directory/jsp/events/EventPage.jsp?ccid=595&eventid=675>

## **Project Coordinators**

If you need volunteers for a workday or project, email [jbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jbruno@gvec.net) with details and we will get your request for volunteers out to the membership.

## **SUMMER SOCIAL**

Our Summer Social will be hosted by Nancy Masterson on July 7th. More information next month.

## **REMEMBER THE TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER**

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG. Email [jbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jbruno@gvec.net) for further information or see article in last month’s issue of this Newsletter.

## Friends of the Schertz Community Garden,

Just wanted to update you on some events that are coming up.

Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, we have scheduled a community workday. Our friends from the Schertz United Methodist Church will be there for a volunteer day and we are planning some special projects. We are up to 12 beds but need more, so we may be doing bed construction. We also have two tomato trial beds to complete.

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a Composting Workshop. More details on that to follow.

We are still doing our Tuesday morning workdays, starting about 8:00 a.m. We have lettuce, peas, garlic, onions, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, and radishes in the ground. We just put in eggplant, cucumbers, peppers, squash, and greenbeans. We harvested radishes, lettuce and green onions for RACAP and have more onions and other greens that will be ready next week. Tomatoes will be planted soon. The potatoes are up and the herb bed looks good. There are two purple martin families living in the new bird apartment that was put up a just a few weeks ago. We should have our new banner up on the fence shortly so everyone can find us.

New beds are growing thanks to the generous donation of \$250 by Dr. Rodriguez of the Schertz Animal Hospital.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Bruno [jlbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jlbruno@gvec.net) or call at 210-363-8380.

## Herb Seminar at Schertz Community Garden

Robbi Will, Antique Rose Emporium, spoke on Mediterranean Herbs on Saturday, March 26th at the Schertz Community Garden and the table was covered with plants that smelled wonderful as the breeze blew over them and towards the audience. We touched, smelled and tasted the herbs that were passed around as Robbi talked about the qualities of each one. We also learned some new planting techniques that many of us will be putting to use right away. Thanks so much to Robbi for spending her morning with us.



Gloria Saenz has volunteered to keep our **MG SCRAPBOOK**. If anyone has articles or photos about MGs or MG events, please send them to Gloria, [saenz2252@sbcglobal.net](mailto:saenz2252@sbcglobal.net). It's difficult to keep a scrapbook with no contributions or information!!!!

## Class 23 - Daytime - in Cibolo

Classes will be held Wednesdays, August 24, 2011 – December 7, 2011 at St. Paul Evangelical Church, 108 South Main Street, Cibolo, Texas.

*Are you interested in learning about vegetable and flower gardening, trees and the environment? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge of plants and gardening with people in your community? Would you want to participate in positive community service programs with volunteers that have similar interests? Then the Master Gardener program could be for you.*

Learn from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension specialists, staff and local experts. Topics cover botany & plant growth, entomology, xeriscaping, propagation, herbs and vegetables, tree care and pruning principles, composting and organic horticulture, water conservation and much more. **Sign up now before the classes are full.** Registration is \$170 with a 10% discount for early payment. For more information, please contact Jose Antonio Contreras at [elmerojose@gmail.com](mailto:elmerojose@gmail.com)

(WORDS continued from page 1)

In past years we have talked about and tried different ways to have an effective mentoring program. This year we will make it happen. There will be a mentoring workshop on April 7<sup>th</sup> at the AgriLife Extension office. The emphasis at this meeting is to get ideas on what is needed and how we can accomplish our goal. This meeting is for our membership. Come share your thoughts and ideas. The more suggestions we gather at this meeting the easier it will be to have an outstanding mentoring system before Class 23 starts up in August.

There is a lot of discussion, questions, comments and even some fear about the "Partial Cost Recovery Initiative" which became effective on March 1st. In looking at the effect of the proposed funding cuts this year on the AgriLife Extension program, some of the things that in the past were done without charge to volunteer groups and the general public will now have to be paid for. Yes, this will affect some of our programs and operational items, BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE SKY IS NOT FALLING.

This is the year for a complete re-write of our by-laws. The board has begun working on this  
(continued to next column)

(WORDS Continued from prior column)

and will have it and the newly proposed operations manual in time for our elections in November along with a new system for dealing with the membership as of December 31 for ensuing years.

Keep up the good work and remember what we do should be fun and enjoyable.

George Ammermann

### New Book

There is a new book on "Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies" available through the Xerces Society. Take a look at <http://www.xerces.org/announcing-the-publication-of-attracting-native-pollinators/> for more information.

### S A Stock Show and Rodeo

There was a write up in the paper specifically thanking Joe Bruno and Dale Odvody for all their help.

# MEMBERS AT WORK

Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>

## at Maldonado Nursery

The KWED Garden Show, hosted by Ryla Cottingham with George Ammermann and Linda Bruno, was live from Maldonado Nursery in Seguin on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Celebrating the annual Spring Fling, Ryla talked with Mark Maldonado about all the new bedding plants in the nursery. Linda Bruno gave the listeners information on vermiculture (worm farming), making George roll his eyes at her scatological references.



Following the show, Clara Mae Marcotte and Deedy Wright, GCMG Vegetable Specialists, gave a Spring Vegetable Planting seminar. At the end of the talk the 12 MGs and 2 other participants received goody bags from Maldonado Nursery.



## at the AGRILIFE Building

Jim Johnson, Liz Romero and Betty Hughes worked in the Native Plant Garden. They outlined the main bed with green steel for the new landscape at the Extension Bldg and located and flagged the emitters for the sprinkler system so they are not accidentally dug up or covered up. This will be converted to drip irrigation in the fall. They dug and potted up a few of the perennial wildflowers that were too close to the emitters. The perennials have begun to bloom again and are so robust that they will be left to be worked around when planting shrubs. On the other side of the building, Peggy Jones and Pat Schultze pruned and otherwise shaped up the Earth-Kind Rose Garden.

## Wilson County Gardening Day March 5th in Floresville

A huge plant sale and event was held on the grounds of the Floresville Alternative School to benefit the South Texas Alternate School Gardening program. Despite the windy weather, it was great fun.

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners gave away seeds and gardening information and accepted donations. We sold our cookbooks, the Grow Green Landscape books, and sold the last of our aprons. Our grand total was \$88.77. Also 7 potential students signed our "interested in the next master gardener class list".

For the morning shift Jennifer Wilson, Kathy Carroll, and Ramonita Cardona volunteered and for the afternoon shift Nancy Cantergiani, Janice Knobles, and Jerilyn Preston volunteered. Betty Hughes and I were there for the long haul.



During the live broadcast of the KLUP gardening show, we were given the opportunity to mention our organization and the Schertz Community Garden.

This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for us to participate in this event. Each year they have progressively become more organized. It would be my recommendation that we participate again next year.



Thank you again to all who gave of their time.

Peggy Jones

## Springs Hill Workday

Clara Mae Marcotte and Nancy Masterson worked the cleanup at Springs Hill on March 17th. There was extensive loss from the cold temperatures this winter. Plants that died were gulf muehly, bulbine, copper canyon daisy and fall asters. The Mexican feather grass survived beautifully. Some of the loss included problems with the drip irrigation. Pictured is Liz Romero making those repairs with Clara Mae looking on.



## Speakers Bureau

March has been a busy month. Dave and Peggy Love have presented 2 programs on Container Gardening: March 9th to 13 at the Elm Creek Education Association and on March 10th to 14 at the Marion EEA. Elaine McIntyre spoke on Composting for Kids to 20 girl scouts on March 11<sup>th</sup> at Randolph Elementary. Clara Mae presented a program on Container Gardening to 6 at Clear Springs EEA on March 16th. On March 19th, Clara Mae and Deedy Wright spoke to 14 at a program on Spring Vegetable Gardening at Maldonado Nursery and Peggy Jones presented a talk on Roses to 19 at the Sunrise Rotary.

Speakers, please let me know how many listeners are in each group, your subject, and when and where the talk is given. Membership: if you belong to a club that needs speakers, please contact me, Clara Mae Marcotte at [rcm.marcotte@gmail.com](mailto:rcm.marcotte@gmail.com). We have speakers on FireWise, plant propagation, Oak Wilt, rain-water harvesting, greenhouse management, composting, Citrus Greening, entomology, vegetables, wild-flowers, and floral arranging.

## Tor Drive Planting

Tor Drive Planting Alternatives – Clifton (Buddy) Nagel reported a work day April 2nd at 8 a.m. He needs about 4 people for about 2 hours.

## SCHERTZ GUTIERREZ PARK

If you weren't at Gutierrez Park in Schertz on a beautiful Saturday morning, March 19<sup>th</sup>, you missed out on some real fun. Four Master gardeners, Patty Violet, Polly Ruppert, Teri Viroust, and Tammee Trawick, worked hard doing some spring cleaning that included some weeding (never ends does it?), planting, laying down some soaker hoses, mulching, raking, and adding some crushed granite to the pathway around the xeriscape. Look for before and after pictures in the next issue.



### Members in Service

#### **Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors**

Two Year Term -Gail Johnson; Jim Johnson, Alternate  
One Year Term - Deedy Wright; Pat Schultze, Alternate

#### **Project Evaluation Committee**

Gillian Siemens, Barbara Gettig, Janice Knobles

**Membership Outreach Committee** - Merv Cook

**Speakers Bureau** - Clara Mae Marcotte

#### **Schertz Community Garden Operating Committee**

Linda Bruno, Holly Christian

**Master Gardener Office/Library** - Betty Hughes

**AgriLife Building Workdays** - Liz Romero

**2011 Guadalupe County Fair** - Peggy Love

**New Member Support** - Bob Teweles

**Hours Reporting** - Dale & Ann Odvody

**Notification** - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies

**Refreshment Coordinator** - Ryla Cottingham

**Class 23 Coordinator** - Jose Antonio Contreras

**Newsletter Editor** - Elaine McIntyre

**Web Master** - Randee Malmsten

## MEMBER NEWS

**Marika Bordes** will be speaking on "Creativity & Sustainability" at the Mosaic Community Church, 1201 W. Court St. in Seguin, for the Siempre Sustainable Network, starting at 7:00 p.m. Potluck dinner precedes the meeting.

**Ryla "Wolfe" Cottingham**, our very efficient Refreshment Coordinator, will be missing in action through May. Ryla is preparing her role in the comedy, "House For Sale", at the S.T.A.G.E. group in Bulverde located at the Krause House, 1300 Bulverde Road. The show runs May 5th - 22nd and includes a great dinner followed by the play. A couple of our master gardeners had the chance to see Ryla in action last year and they think she stole the show!

## Texas Wildflowers

### *The Wandering Gardener*

This may not be the year we all were hoping for in regards to wildflowers around our State. There are a few out there, but you really have to look. Last year was a very different year. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, there are 5,000 species of wildflowers across the State of Texas. Their website contains an online guide and a map of reported sightings of certain wildflowers. There is another site, [lone-star.net](http://lone-star.net), which also posts a map with wildflower sightings and places you can post what you saw, when and where. These websites I have found very helpful when I want to go driving on some back country roads to see flowers not available in our area. Usually the wildflower bloom will be somewhere in the state from mid-March thru the end of May.

One of my favorite places to go is on the Willow City Loop. This is located about 24 miles north of Johnson City. The loop winds thru the Hill country and it is very pretty at any time of the year, but when the bluebonnets are in full bloom, there is one overlook that makes you believe there is a blue lake below, but it is really bluebonnets. This is also a good drive if you like pictures of bluebonnets, cactus and native rocks. I have also found that the area around Brenham is very scenic during the bluebonnet bloom time.

I have attached some pictures I took last year around this time on a drive down to Choke Canyon area south of San Antonio off I-37.

Marilyn Moltz (830 914 2975) is *The Wandering Gardener*



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Volunteer Committee Chairman Needed

Maintains list of all volunteer projects & contacts coordinators or chairmen to determine whether volunteers are needed. Keeps membership informed of those needs. Follow up after activities are completed to get after action reports. Contact Linda Bruno at [jlbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jlbruno@gvec.net) if interested.

## The Seguin Green Team



We've been working very hard to get all the frozen plants at City Hall and the Annex cut down. Like every other landscape there was a lot of damage and it's turning out to be a really big job. Fortunately the City comes by and picks up the huge piles we make and this helps save us time by not having to bag everything. We should finish this week and then will probably put in replacement plants if the City chooses to do so.

Hughlene Micheli

## Master Gardeners,

Do you enjoy putting together Family Photo Albums on the Flickr or Picasa websites? We are looking to our membership for a volunteer to establish a Guadalupe County Master Gardener Photo Album that will be linked to our GCMG website.

The Photo Album volunteer would have to be able (or learn to) organize photos by some category or event, caption the photos, establish guidelines for our members who send photos (size, captioning, album category) and post the photos appropriately. As photos age, they will need to be "rolled off".

If you are interested in this, please contact Peggy Jones at [pljones@swbell.net](mailto:pljones@swbell.net) or 210 649-4002.

## KWED Lawn & Garden Show

Anyone with a topic/speaker idea for the KWED Lawn & Garden Show broadcast heard live every Saturday morning should call Bob Grafe at 830-743-3399 or Janet Grafe at 830-305-1446. Just maybe, the person calling "is" the speaker with a great gardening topic that needs to be shared with our local radio listening audience. The Lawn & Garden Show is a great way to share gardening expertise with the public while building up both Master Gardener education and service hours. We'd love to hear about any potential gardening show topic/speaker.

**Imagine 2011 Student Peace Summit**  
**Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

The GCMG will be at the Samuel Clemens High School for this all-day event sponsored by the Students for a Peaceful Society. We will be promoting gardening in all its aspects and also the Schertz Community Garden as a community service possibility for the students and their parents. The invitation to the event has gone to various groups in San Antonio and Austin so, if you enjoy talking to teenagers, this may prove to be an interesting event. For more information, email Linda at [jlbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jlbruno@gvec.net)

**Seguin Earth Day - April 30th**

*9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in downtown Seguin during Trade Days*

GCMG will host three designated booth spaces with various educational demonstrations, displays and handouts including seeds. Volunteers have been assigned and filled these time slots.

*9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.: Work the booths - 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: Take down booths*

This is another fun day with lots of good food, live music in the square and is during Trade Days so you can buy plants and other good stuff from the vendors, including natives from the NPSOT folks who usually set up right next to the GCMG booth. Co-Chairman Carol Calentine has invited you come out and have fun & stop by our booth - someone might need a break.

830-305-1715 cell or email [carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us](mailto:carolc@co.guadalupe.tx.us)

**Other Volunteer Opportunities**

**Sebastopol May Fest, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Seguin.** We are looking for someone to coordinate the GCMG displays & volunteers for this event. Big family day & a lot of fun. For more details, email [jlbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jlbruno@gvec.net).

**Schertz Community Garden** – Standing Tuesday morning workdays, weather permitting. 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz, behind the County Annex Building. Contact [jlbruno@gvec.net](mailto:jlbruno@gvec.net)

**Master Gardener Office - Help Wanted!**

Monday, from 9 a.m. to noon, except for federal holidays, the Master Gardener office is open at the Extension Building on 210 East Live Oak. In March Betty will especially need volunteers to package seeds for our April Earth Day activities. Email Betty Hughes, [ehughes5@satx.rr.com](mailto:ehughes5@satx.rr.com) for more information.

# EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

**The Antique Rose Emporium**  
**7561 E. Evans Road, San Antonio, TX 78266**  
**210-651-4565**

April 2 - The San Antonio Rose Society will be in the Garden to answer questions.

April 16 - 10 a.m. What Makes Heirloom Plants So Great? with Judy Barrett. FREE

April 20 - Noon - 4 p.m. Roses of Yesterday and Today by Bexar County MG. FREE

May 7 - 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. An Herb Affair by Comal County MG. FREE

May 7 - 10 a.m. - Noon. The San Antonio Rose Society meeting. Open to all.

May 14 - The San Antonio Daylily Society Show and Sale. FREE

May 14 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Children's Day in the Garden with Bexar County MG. FREE

May 21 - Preserving Your Garden Harvest. FREE

**“Gardens of Meaning and Memory”. by Tom Spencer**  
**April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.**

**3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston.**

**San Antonio Garden Center Club** will meet Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at 3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston. Tom Spencer, CEO of Austin Area Interreligious Ministries and host of Austins' Central Texas Gardener PBS show, will talk about “Gardens of Meaning and Memory”. Bexar County Master Gardeners are hosts. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information go to our website [www.sanantoniogardencenters.org](http://www.sanantoniogardencenters.org) or call us at 210 824-9981.

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

At the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, Sir Oliver Smith (Smitty) will talk about the use of vines in the garden. Vines are one of the fastest growing effective plants to enhance the landscape, with a wide spectrum of colorful flowers, seeds and fruit which also attract butterflies, birds and hummers.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday at The Library, 500 Bulldog, Marion. There is a plant exchange and “getting to know you” at 6.30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. We welcome all visitors. For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: [www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/](http://www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/).

**Fruit Tree Grafting Seminar**  
**Apr 16 (Saturday) 9 a.m. to Noon**  
**Fanick's Garden Center, 1025 Holmgreen Road, San Antonio**

Dr. Larry Stein, Ph.D., Horticulturist, will demonstrate grafting of various fruit trees. Bring your questions on the care and planting of fruiting trees and bushes. This is a popular and well-attended event; come early for best seating and parking options. Bring folding chairs if you cannot stand for all of the grafting demonstration in Fanick's orchard. Admission is free. For more information please call 210-467-6575.

**Plants Need Ants**  
**Saturday, April 16th, - 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Mitchell Lake Audubon Center**

People have been launching an all-out warfare on "unwelcome" bugs such as ants, termites, and cockroaches for centuries. But when it comes to measuring the health of our habitats, few other organisms play as important a role. It's the very bugs we try to get rid of that are responsible for the critical recycling of nutrients in ecosystems - just as important as photosynthesis! Dr. Daniel A. Najera will discuss the importance of large scale decomposers (particularly ants, termites, flies, and a few others) on ecosystems.

Free for MLAC members, non-members \$5 - Space is limited, RSVP is required

For more information or to rsvp, [mlac@audubon.org](mailto:mlac@audubon.org)

**Internet Classes**

Earthkind classes are available at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>

AgriLife is now charging \$10 to take the Tomato 101 class found at <https://agrilifeevents.tamu.edu/events/details.cfm?id=641> but it is well worth it.

You may not take over 3 credits a calendar year.

**Master Gardener Specialist Training Update**

**May 20-21** (Friday - Saturday) **Plant Propagation Specialist Training** at Montgomery County Extension Center, 9020 Airport Road, Conroe, Texas. Cost \$125. For more information, contact Tom LeRoy, Extension Horticulturist, 936-539-7824 or [t-leroy@tamu.edu](mailto:t-leroy@tamu.edu)

**June 22-24** (Wednesday - Friday) **Composting Specialist Training** at San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, Texas. Cost \$225. Call Angel Torres at 210 467-6575 no later than April 20, as only 30 applicants will be accepted. (Limit 2 Master Gardeners per county.)

For information on other training, see listings on the TMGA website <http://txmg.org/for-members/specialist-training-2010/>

# GARDENING EVENTS

## **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Spring Plant Sale & Gardening Festival**

**Saturday & Sunday, April 9 and 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Did your garden suffer from record drought and heavy freezes? Time for a refill. At the Wildflower Center's Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival you can choose from over 300 species of Texas native plants. The event also features artists and authors signing their works in the store, guided walks and talks and tips for your garden from experts.

Admission: \$8 adults, \$7 seniors and students, \$4 UT faculty, staff or students with identification, \$3 children 5 through 12, members and children under 5 free.

## **Encino Park Home and Garden Show**

**Apr 9 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Encino Park Home and Garden Show:** Spring garden and water conservation information will be available as well as plants for sale.

## **Gardening Volunteers of South Texas**

**Saturday, April 9**

**Walk Across Texas Plant Sale** San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org)

**"Drip Line Gardening"  
Thursday, April 7, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

NEISD Community Learning Center, room 208, 8750 Tesoro Drive, San Antonio, TX, 78217. For registration information, contact [www.communityed.neisd.net](http://www.communityed.neisd.net)

**Rose Show & Seminar**  
**Saturday, April 23, 2011**  
**San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 North New Braunfels**

Spring is here – that means it is time for the Annual Spring Rose Show. The San Antonio Rose Society invites everyone to see the most beautiful roses in all of Texas at their Annual Spring Show, Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 North New Braunfels.

Show hours are 1 p.m.– 4:00 p.m. following the show judging that morning. Admission is FREE and there will be an educational seminar, starting at 2:00 p.m. on “How To Grow Roses”. It’s a great opportunity to talk to Master Rosarians one-on-one about growing roses in your garden. Cut roses and bouquets will be available for purchase.

**TMGA Annual Conference, Glen Rose Texas**  
**April 27-29, 2011**

2011 TMGA Conference The convention is in Glen Rose outside of Fort Worth, April 27-29. Cost is \$155. Sponsors are hoping for 1000 participants.

Go to <http://2011tmgaconference.org/> for information on education sessions, tours, and workshops.

**Green Spaces Alliance**  
**Farm and Range Forum: Conserving our Rural Heritage, Uvalde**  
**Apr 1-2, 2011**

The 2011 Farm and Range Forum will be held in Uvalde and will include a ranch visit and dinner social Friday evening and a full day of seminars on Saturday. Topics will include habitat and riparian area management, income diversification, legislative updates, weather modification, rural building conservation and much more. For more information contact Susan Hughes at [susan@greensatx.org](mailto:susan@greensatx.org) or 210-222-8430 ext. 301.

**HELP - HELP - HELP**

If anyone has any information on escarpment cherries or capulin cherries, please contact Bill Schneider, Devine Avocados, phone 830-663-2492. Bill is doing some new grafting experiments - this time with cherries.

# LAVENDER

Don't know where my husband found these pictures, but aren't they beautiful?  
The Blanco Lavender Festival will be coming June.10 - 12, 2011.

Elaine McIntyre



© Getty Images

# April 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  APRIL FOOLS DAY	2 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
3  ● New Moon	4 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON  <b>Green Team</b> 	5	6	7	8	9 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
10	11 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	12	13	14 GCMG Board Meeting	15	16 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
17  ○ Full Moon	18 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON  <b>Green Team</b> 	19	20	21 GCMG Meeting 7 PM	22	23 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
24  <b>EASTER!</b>	25 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	26  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	27	28	29  <b>Arbor Day</b>	30 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.



**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 AgriLIFE Extension <http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/> 830-379-1972  
Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

### **GCMG Officers & Board of Directors**

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Bob Davis	President Elect
Doug Biggs	Vice President
Sandy Foss	Secretary
Bob Teweles	Treasurer
Linda Bruno	Education Chairman
Peggy Jones	Publication Chairman
Open	Volunteer Chairman
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

### **April Meeting** **Thursday, April 21, 2011** **Time – 7 P.M.**

*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.

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Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener