



The Guadalupe Gardener



AgriLIFE EXTENSION
Texas A&M System

January 2010

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

NOTES FROM THE GARDEN - of Linda Bruno, President

Did you know that January is named after the god of the doorway and comes from the Latin word for door? And that the god has two faces, one looking backward and one looking forward?



So let's take a quick look backward first and thank all of our Master Gardener volunteers who put in so many hours in support of our various projects and our community. Your commitment and your dedication make each and every one of you special.

Turning forward, we have a very full year ahead of us. Take a look at the 2010 calendar in this newsletter. With a membership of approximately 140 certified master gardeners, interns and students, we have a lot of projects that will need that same commitment and dedication for this year. If there is a project that really appeals to you, please consider volunteering to chair or co-chair that particular event. If you have questions about any of the events listed or want to get your name on the volunteer list now, just let me know.

The monthly Board meeting dates are listed in the calendar. Please feel free to attend those meetings.

If you haven't been to a membership meeting in a while, we would love to see you. There is something special about talking to other gardeners, especially early in the spring when we are all making plans about what we are planting this year.

Please watch your email for reminders or confirmation about upcoming projects and volunteer opportunities. Email is a very fast and efficient way to communicate especially with such a large group. If you do not receive an email related to master gardener business at least twice a month, please let me know. The website and the newsletter are also important tools for
(Continued in Column 2)

January Meeting

JANUARY 21, 2010

Hydroponic Raised-Bed Gardening by Dwight Sitta

A hydroponic system is used to develop the root system of plants. The plants can then be transferred to raised beds for further development. This high density vegetable gardening technique allows for the increased production of more food in a limited space.

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communicating what is going on in our organization. Please take the time to read the newsletter and visit the website at least a couple of times a month.

If you have any questions, concerns, suggestions or just want to talk about what we are doing, I would love to hear from you. My email is jlbruno@gvec.net

GUADALUPE COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

9 Board Meeting / Workshop
 18 Start set up for SA Stock Show & Rodeo
 (Bexar County MG)
 21 Membership Meeting
 31 Deadline for receiving hours & dues or mem
 bers dropped

FEBRUARY

4-21 SA Stock Show & Rodeo - assist BCMG w/
 daily activities
 11 Board Meeting
 18 Membership Meeting
 20 Schertz Community Garden – official opening
 27 Schertz Grow Local Festival

MARCH

2-3 Showcase Seguin–Seguin Chamber of Com
 merce–Mini Seminars/Info Booth
 6 Wilson County Gardening Day – Information
 Booth set up
 11 Board Meeting
 18 Membership Meeting
 29-31 MG Specialist Training – Irrigation Efficiency
 Training, Bexar County

APRIL

8-10 Texas Master Gardener State Conference,
 Dallas
 TBA TMG Director's Meeting – Marshall
 8 Board Meeting
 15 Membership Meeting
 17 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday
 24 Earth Day – Information Booth set up

MAY

13 Board Meeting
 20 Membership Meeting
 22 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday

JUNE

10 Board Meeting
 17 Summer Social
 19 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday

JULY

8 Board Meeting
 15 Membership Meeting
 17 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday
 TBA Fall Gardening Workshop – Schertz Commu
 nity Garden

AUGUST

11 Class 22 Orientation (Seguin, evening class)
 12 Board Meeting
 19 Membership Meeting
 21 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday
 TBA TMG Director's Meeting – College Station

SEPTEMBER

9 Board Meeting
 16 Membership Meeting
 18 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday

OCTOBER

5 - 10 Guadalupe County Fair activities
 9 CenTex Conference, Schertz Civic Center
 14 Board Meeting
 21 Membership Meeting
 23 AgriLife Extension Building – Landscape
 Workday
 11 - 29 Agricultural Heritage Center
 30 - 31 Pecan Festival

NOVEMBER

4 – 5 Cibolo Ag Day
 11 Board Meeting – Budget review & approval
 for 2011
 18 Membership Meeting – Annual Mtg/Election
 Officers & pymt of dues

DECEMBER

9 Deadline for Class 21 Students to Certify
 TBA TMG Director's Meeting – College Station
 TBA Christmas Tree decorating (Seguin)
 TBA Christmas Social
 31 DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT OF DUES &
 REPORT OF HOURS

Association News

ANOTHER MG MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Betty Hughes demonstrated and worked with young people at Country Christmas December 19th and 20th. At this Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center event, Betty showed many children and their parents how to press flowers and then how to make bookmarks out of the pressed flowers.

Actually, part of this was done in a dark back corner of the big education barn. They wanted ambience so had the lights off except for Christmas lights. I turned that section of the lights back on, and I don't think that anyone in the rest of the barn noticed.

Reported by Clara Mae Marcotte

NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS

Two new certified Master Gardeners: Bob Davis, shown with George Ammermann and Bob Grafe, certified when he graduated from Class 21. Janice Tucker, shown with Bob Grafe, certified at the GCMG December Meeting.



Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Doug Biggs – One Year Term
Kay Wolverton – Two Year Term
Sandy Foss – Alternate, Two Year Term
Deedy Wright – Alternate, One Year Term

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Feb 18 – Sherri Anderson Kilman, Omni Farms, Herbs
Mar 18 – Police Chief Steve Star - Poisonous Snakes
Apr 15 – Mark Fanick - Fruit Trees for Home Landscapes
May 20 – Liz Palfini, Texas Parks and Wildlife - Plants and Human Affairs
Jun 17 – Summer Social

WHAT a PARTY!

Excellent company . Great food. All set up for your enjoyment by Anna Schodowski, Liz Romero, Betty Hughes, and also Lynda Taylor of Mosaic Church. Thanks to Peggy Jones for the wonderful pictures. Bob Grafe, President, welcomed everyone and thanked members for bringing the great food, their donations for the Christian Cupboard, and the toys for Blue Santa. He also thanked the GCMG for all their volunteer work in the county this year, and then handed over the gavel to President-elect, Linda



Bruno. who presented Pat Schultze with a gift for being the Refreshment Chairman for the last two years. Dee Dee Ashworth won the door prize - a pillow hand-made by Ann Odvody. Three further prizes were won by Sandy Tremaine, Doug Biggs and Janice Tucker. These were provided by Dee Dee Ashworth



This year's holiday party was a great success! I am unsure of the actual final number (for I didn't even remember to sign-in). In attendance were such celebrities as not only our president, but our most recent past president. And of course our future president was in attendance as well!!!! We also had the mayor of a neighboring city. But the fun didn't end there. Hours of stimulating conversation floated above the gentle beat of Christmas instrumental music. Delicacies from these county's best chefs filled four huge tables. And there was not a sad eye in the bunch when Pat gave of her bountiful citrus trees! YUMMY! Those who were there blessed our gathering; and those who were not were missed (Please come next year)!



A big thanks to Mosaic Church and Liz, Fred, Betty, and Linda for the set-up help! For the clean-up crew, I thank everyone in attendance!! The hall was picked up quickly by everyone!

Enjoy your Holidays! See you in a year!

Anna Schodowski

Mosaic Community Garden First Harvest

Fall brought our first harvest from the Mosaic Community Garden. From our first raised vegetable bed, we picked eggplant, peppers and green beans. Sadly, our Juliet tomatoes never ripened and we were not able to pick them before the first December freeze. Considering our late planting date (August 29th) along with the drought and heat, we are all pleased with our yield. Eggplant, anyone?

Our first herb bed was also a big success, with 'way more Basil than we could ever use. Now that the Basil and Purslane have frozen, we can actually see our Rosemary, Chives, Sage, Bay Laurel and Oregano. All are thriving! On November 24th, several Mosaic community members, including Lynda Taylor, Irma Rodriguez (MG), Anna Schodowski (MG), Granella Hendricks and I, gathered in the Community Center to try out pesto and eggplant recipes. It was great fun; we are looking forward to many more harvest parties!

On January 31st Mosaic Community Center will be hosting a Vegetable Gardening talk presented by our friends Clara Mae Marcotte and Deedy Wright. We will begin at 2:00PM with a one hour PowerPoint presentation and talk, followed by questions and ending with a tour of the garden. All are welcome; look for an announcement in the Seguin Daily News.

Spring will begin for us on February 6th with TLU's "Day of the Dogs" community service event. We hope to do some early planting, mulching and work on a new brick walkway. We are so grateful to have help from TLU students and GCMG's.

Happy New Year to you all!

Liz Romero, Master Gardener



Meghan, Emma and Abby Taylor with fresh produce



Granella Hendricks with an armful of Ichiban eggplant

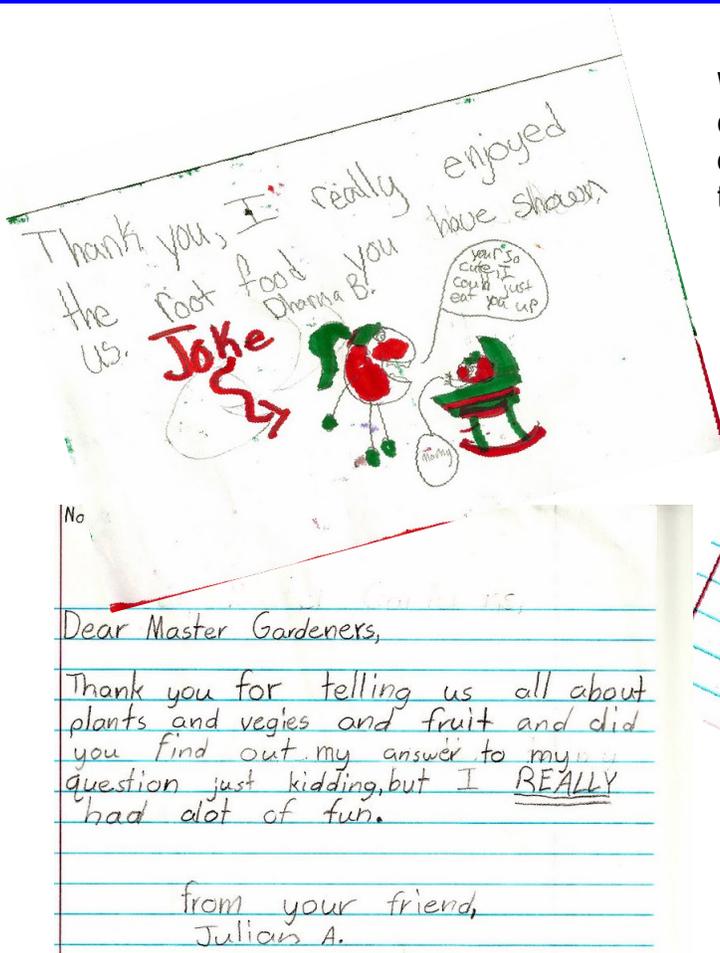
Springs Hill Demonstration Garden

The Springs Hill Demonstration Garden planning is coming along with input from several Master Gardeners. The future garden, located at 5510 S. 123 Bypass in Seguin, will show the public a colorful Xeriscape of low water use plants recommended for home landscaping.

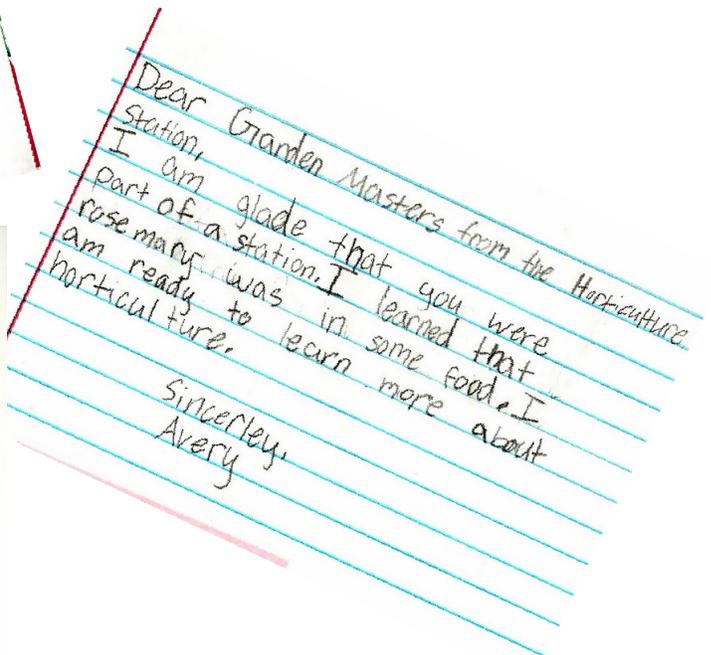
Sherri Tijerina, Clara Mae Marcotte, Liz Romero and Polly Ruppert have suggested an extensive list of low water use and deer resistant plants. Our list includes small trees such as desert willow, Eastern red cedar, flameleaf and evergreen sumac, roughleaf dogwood, Texas buckeye, Texas mountain laurel and Texas persimmon. Shrubs may include agarita, ceniza, esperanza, oleander, pineapple guava, pomegranate, soft leaf yucca, sotol, rosemary, yaupon holly and vitex.

Among perennials, flowers and herbs suggested are many types of salvia, pigeonberry, American beautyberry, Turk's cap, amaryllis, artemisia, plumbago, Texas betony, wedelia, periwinkles, zinnias, purple coneflower, rock rose, skullcap, verbena, lantana and bluebonnets. Ornamental grasses may include muhlys and purple fountain grass.

The Springs Hill customer parking lot drains into the garden area, and a large guttered carport lends itself to a rain-water catchment system at the site. If you have any other plant suggestions for the Springs Hill Demonstration Garden, send them to Nancy Masterson at nmasterson@earthlink.net



Wow! Look at a sampling of the thank you notes received from children who attended the Ag Fair in Cibolo on November 5th & 6th. This really makes the volunteering worth while!



GROW LOCAL FESTIVAL 2010

We are still adding vendors. The Dinner Garden, a national organization that provides fruit and vegetable seeds free of charge, will be giving away free packs of seeds. Check the website at www.growlocofestival.com

DISCOUNTS - - - - -Did you know.....

Many of our best gardening vendors give a discount to Master Gardeners. Some of them are: Fanicks Garden Center, Maldonado Nursery, New Earth Soils & Compost, Schulz Nursery, and Schumachers Gardens. If you know of others, let me know and I'll post them so everyone is in the know. If you don't know, ask. And don't forget to patronize and thank these wonderful businesses.

2009 CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CONTEST

Pat Schultze and her committee members, Iris Seale, Polly Ruppert and Peggy Jones, purchased the tree from Lowe's, donated the cost of the ornaments and tree, and decorated the tree on December 2nd. The theme this year was "Victory Gardens – Community Gardens - Patriotic." The decorations were all red, white and blue. Many had patriotic sayings on them. The topper was a red star with U.S. flags on it.

Beautiful as it was, our tree did not place this year. Linda Bruno said, "You may not have placed with the Christmas tree judges but you certainly placed with us. Thank you again for all the great work you have done on that project for the last few years. We would put you up against any of them."

SCHERTZ COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE



Thanks to Elaine McIntyre, who did the lettering for us, we finally have a sign up at the Garden.

Also, a big thank you to Ann Odvody. With one side of fencing to be completed and factoring in the rain and cold weather, it has been a real challenge to get enough people on the same schedule to get that last piece of fence up. Ann's donation of \$450 will cover the cost to have the fence finished. Josie Williams Fence Company, who has worked with us through this project, will complete it before the end of the year. Saturday after Christmas, we started working on the gates and did the final securing of the existing fence. Now we can move on to putting up the greenhouse and getting the first beds constructed. If you want to help, email jbruno@gvec.net

MEET OUR NEW 2010 MASTER GARDENER PRESIDENT, LINDA BRUNO

By Marcia Richardson



In February Linda Bruno will celebrate being a Certified Master Gardener for seven years (Class 15). Linda admits that when she took the Master Gardener Training Class she was not real revved up about gardening, plants were the last thing in her mind. At that particular time she was dealing with some very powerful stress factors in her life. She chuckles as she remembers that she took the class as a much needed escape, something completely different, a sort of mini vacation. "Oh boy", she thought, "Three hours of escape every week". However, that *ole gardening bug* bit her and she has taken off and never looked back.

Linda and her husband, Joe, (also a Master Gardener) live outside of Marion on 23 acres. They have one daughter, Jamie and two grandsons, Daniel (age 12) and Tristin (age 9). Linda and Joe are proud that Daniel is already showing an interest in gardening.

Between keeping her home running smoothly, spending many hours on Master Gardener business, Linda is a Commercial Property Manager and a Licensed Realtor.

Linda loves to propagate and experiment with plants. After dabbling around in several areas of gardening Linda finally settled on herbs. She not only grows an extensive herb garden, she has also become expert in the culinary use of herbs. Linda understands native plants and is a member and acting Treasurer of the Native Plant Society. She has also taken the Master Naturalist training but due to her involvement with Master Gardeners has not kept her certification current.

For one year Linda chaired the Education Committee, making all the arrangements for the MG Training Classes and educational classes for the public. The great success of the Grow Local Festival held last January in Schertz was due in large measure to Linda's excellent managerial skills. She has served as 2nd VP, then 1st VP, President Elect and now President for our Master Gardeners Association. So our new *prez* comes to us with loads of experience.

Linda is a visionary, and while she is working hard arranging speakers, classes or events, her fertile mind is busily planning ahead to the next event. She thinks big and dreams big. Linda becomes absolutely animated when she talks about the MGs latest project, the Schertz Community Garden. She believes this is a grand experiment which has the capability for great good in the community. She envisions a yearly plant sale with proceeds going back into the Community Garden. She believes it could eventually evolve into a monthly presentation of horticultural subjects, open and free to the public. After all, being a Master Gardener is about sharing all that we know.

So come on everyone, lets all give Linda Bruno all the encouragement and support we can, because 2010 is going to be one of the best years ever for the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners!!

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Class 21

We have finished Master Gardener Training Class # 21. The first training class for Master Gardeners was held in Schertz in 1993. We have continued training new Master Gardeners annually since that time. Our classes are offered in the fall so that the students complete and are certified or re-certified on a calendar year. Our membership year coincides with the "Charter" guidelines established by AgriLife Extension, part of Texas A&M system.

Class 21 started with an orientation on August 12th and the final training class was on December 9th. We had 23 students enrolled. One student dropped after the second class, due to work schedule conflicts. Of the remaining 22 students, 20 were able to complete the required training. One student who did not complete the required number of classes had a work schedule problem and the other had family illness. They both plan to return in the fall of 2010 to make up the missed classes. The class included 5 couples, a little higher percentage of married couples than usual enrolled in the training class. This was a very good class, they were very attentive and participated eagerly asking quality questions to clarify comments made by the instructors. The instructor makeup included ; 3 A&M professors, 6 Master Gardener Specialists, 2 staff members with Texas Forest Service, 1 local native plant specialist, 2 local college instructors, 1 AgriLife Extension Horticulturist, 1 certified arborist, 1 entomologist, and 1 local wholesale plant grower

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

On Tuesday, January 12th, 2010, the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will listen to horticulturist David Will, the first landscaper to receive certification from the Texas Association of Landscape Contractors, discuss the use of native bulbs.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Library, 798 Schertz Parkway, Schertz. There is a plant exchange and "getting to know you" at 6.30pm followed by a program at 7pm. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact:

www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo Construction Volunteer Opportunities

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo Construction set up starts Jan 18th. Rodeo opens Feb 4th. If you want to help with construction, email Dale at odvodyd@swbell.net

Watch your email for info on the volunteer schedule during the Rodeo. Questions about what you will be doing? Check out the article in the December Master Gardener newsletter.

The Master Gardener Association
is a **volunteer organization**
We need **YOU**
to help with our projects.

Seeds Needed

We still need seeds for our events. Just drop them by the Extension Office, labeled with the name (common name & Latin if you know it) & the year they were harvested. If there is a specific color, mention that too. No Mountain Laurel, please. If it is rare or an heirloom, add that to the description.

CHAIRMAN FOR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEEDED FOR 2010

What does the Chairman do? Plans and coordinates educational opportunities for both members and the public on established gardening topics and also on current issues related to organics and the environment. Put another way, if you have ideas about classes and workshops that you would like to see us doing for both the public and our membership and you are interested in putting those ideas into action, we want to talk with you. Being organized and able to meet schedules is an important part of this, but there is a whole team of people already in place who are ready to work with you. Want to know more? Call Linda Bruno at 210-363-8380

GARDENING EVENTS

An Event in the Odvody Garden
Ask Dale Odvody about his gray fox.



January 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M.
3	4 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOO1	5	6	7	8	9 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M GCMG Board Mtg/Workshop
10	11 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	12	13 ● New Moon	14	15	16 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M.
17	18 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	19	20	21 GCMG Meeting 7 PM	22	23 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 A.M.
24	25 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	26 Newsletter Deadline	27	28 ● Full Moon	29	30 KWED Radio 31 KWED Radio



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GCMG Officers & Board of Directors

Linda Bruno	President
Open	President Elect
Doug Biggs	Vice President
George Ammermann	Secretary
Betty Hughes	Treasurer
Open	Education Chairman
Peggy Jones	Publication Chairman
Clara Mae Marcotte	Volunteer Chairman
Sandy Foss	New Member Support
Bob Teweles	Class 22 Coordinator
Randee Malmsten	Web Master
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

January Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2010
Meeting Time – 7 PM
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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