



The Guadalupe Gardener



JUNE 2011

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



Words from George

I am sure that everyone is aware of the recognition Guadalupe County Master Gardeners received at the annual advanced training conference in Glen Rose the last week of April. We did not enter every category we could have, but we did enter four categories and all four placed, receiving recognition and plaques. This feat was accomplished through the efforts of many of our members. Even though the applications were submitted by a single individual for each award, there were many members involved in the process.

I mentioned to the board at the May board meeting that I feel we need to continue working to receive these awards. My proposal to accomplish this is to create (yes, another) committee to serve as encouragers and also a clearing house so we do not have different people working on a particular award.

Next year the conference will be held in San Antonio. From what I hear they are going to have a bang-up conference. Since it is a short drive for a day trip, more people should be able to participate. Is anyone up to designing a shirt for our members to wear to the awards banquet? Burnet, went all out with their members wearing a special county shirt. Our green "Ts" could work. Just thought some of our very talented members might want to come up with a unique shirt. Bexar county has not requested assistance as of this date, but I feel it would be a good neighborly thing for us to do.

(continued on page 5)

JUNE MEETING

June 16, 2011

Composting Worms in the Garden - Cassandra Truax, the worm lady, will discuss how to care for and grow composting worms to provide a high quality compost for use in the garden. Vermicastings (worm poop) are rich in organic matter.

Ramonita Cardona, Jerilyn Preston, Gail Kiehn, and Betty Hughes have agreed to provide refreshments.

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

In This Issue

- Page 2 **May Meeting Program**
- Page 3-7 **Association News** (Summer Social, TMGA Awards, New MGs, Class 23)
- Page 8-11 **Members at Work** (Ext Bldg Workday, Earth Day, May Fest, Community Garden)
- Page 12-13 **Member News**
- Page 14 **Volunteer Opportunities**
- Page 15-16 **Education-Classes-Seminars**
- Page 16 **Garden Events**
- Page 17 **June Calendar**

May Meeting Program

If you were not at the May membership meeting, you missed a very informative presentation by our President George Ammermann. It definitely generated some really lively discussion among our group. It seems there are interesting changes coming to our organization.

I think one of the most exciting changes is the new Mentor Program. A group of you came together on April 7th and generated some wonderful ideas. Jose Contreras and Romelia Escamilla took that information and some other references and have developed the Mentor Program Handbook that lays out the program's purpose and how that purpose can be accomplished.

So Master Gardeners, it is time. For those of you who felt adrift during the initial training class and afterwards as you worked to do the required hours to certify, now is your chance to change that for the next group of students.

In August, there will be thirty new people, all potential future certified Master Gardeners and we want to help them get off to a great start. What does that mean? Let me get personal here. I would like to have thirty GCMG members (and yes that includes interns) ready to be Mentors. I've been told not to expect that many volunteers for this program, but I think there are thirty of you out there who want to do this, who want to be involved in the beginning of a new tradition that will help make the GCMG better.

Yes, it will require a commitment. Yes it will require some of your time. And this first time, we will also be evaluating the various phases of the program to fine tune it for the next time.

What a great opportunity you have! Wouldn't it be wonderful to have your name on the Manual as part of the initial team that worked to put this all together? "First Mentor" has a nice ring to it and can only be used once.

But let's be clear – you do not have to answer gardening questions; that's for the instructors to do. So don't worry about whether you think you know a lot about gardening; that is not the point of the Mentor Program. You are there to help answer questions about the class, what we do as Master Gardeners and just make the new students feel comfortable and welcome.

Here's the preliminary schedule for the Mentors. A meeting June 23rd in Cibolo or Schertz to look at the Manual, discuss the guidelines, and do some fine tuning. A lunch with the new students at the August 24th orientation in Cibolo. Then a commitment to connect with your student on a regular basis, by phone, email and in person and see them through to graduation and beyond.

If you are even considering this, let me know. Come to the meeting in June. At the end of that meeting, I hope you will commit to being a First Mentor.

Come on everyone. Thirty people. I'm counting on you.

Linda Bruno, Chairman, Education Committee

Association News

summer pot luck social

You and a guest are invited to join us for an evening of food and fun.

- Thursday, July 7, 2011
 - 6:30 p.m.
- The Masterson's Party Barn, 126 Placid Heights Road, Seguin

If you would like to participate in a "gardeners" gift exchange, bring an unwrapped gardener's gift, valued at about \$10. Please consider bringing an item that you have on hand, rather than shopping for something new. We will also have a plant identification contest and will raffle off a gift basket.

If you would like to donate something for the gift basket or would like to volunteer to help with the party, please contact Treva Hicks.

We also need for you to RSVP by June 24 to Treva so that we know how much meat to order, and we ask that you bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or a dessert to the party.

You can reach Treva at 830.303.4712 or hicks1t@lycos.com

Directions to The Mastersons' Party Barn

From Seguin, go west on Court Street (90A) to TLU and turn left (south) onto SH 46. Go 2 miles to the 4-way stop (flashing red light) at FM 725. Turn right onto 725. Go ½ mile and turn onto Placid Heights Rd. We are the third house on the left with the big white fence. Park on the grass.

From Marion, go east on FM 78. Turn right on to FM 725 by the big blue warehouse. Go straight at the stop sign when you cross 90A. From there go 3 miles. Turn left onto Placid Heights Road. We are the third house on the left with the big white fence. Park on the grass.

AWARDS - AWARDS - AWARDS - AWARDS

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners earned top honors for the 2010 Awards at the Texas Master Gardener Conference held in Glen Rose, Texas April 27-29, 2011 taking home four (4) awards. First Place Mass Media Award for the KWED Lawn and Garden Radio Show; Second Place Project Award for the Springs Hill Demonstration Garden in Seguin; Third Place Newsletter Award for *The Guadalupe Gardener*; and Third Place in the Educational Program Awards for a Joint Program with Travis County for the Central Texas Gardeners Conference held in Schertz, October 9, 2010. Congratulations to Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. (photos from Peggy Jones & Betty Hughes))



FIRST

Mass Media
KWED
Lawn
and
Garden
Radio Show



SECOND

Project
Springs
Hill
Demonstration
Garden
in Seguin



THIRD

**Educational
Programs**
Joint with
Travis County
Central Texas
Gardeners
Conference
in Schertz



THIRD

Newsletter
The
Guadalupe
Gardener



Liz Romero receiving her certificate and pin for becoming an Irrigation Specialist



And shopping

Liz Romero and
Betty Hughes

**And a good
time was had
by all!**



NEWLY CERTIFIED MASTER GARDENERS

Bob Teweles congratulates Ramonita Cardona, Carol Calentine, Kathy Pape, and Nancy Cantergiani, as newly certified Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. (photo from Peggy Jones)

May meeting refreshments were provided by Gloria Saenz, Kathy Pape, Liz Romero and Betty Hughes. The raffle of \$19 was won by Treva Hicks. Linda Bruno won the gift certificate.

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact Sandy Foss, our Secretary, sandy-foss@satx.rr.com or call 210-651-9053.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

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.

Sep 15 - Skin Cancer and Sun Protection - Dr. Becky Kelso will speak about skin cancer and other issues that affect gardeners.

(WORDS - Continued from page 1)

I want to thank the members who came to the May meeting. I know the topic was not one that would draw a group of visitors as many of our horticultural topics do. For those who came, I hope I gave you a good preview of things coming down the pike, most of which we need to put into practice by December 31, 2011. The board is working on the new bylaws (total rewrite) and the creation of a policy manual which will spell out the hows. A major improvement in using a procedures manual is that an item can be changed without the timing constraints required to amend the bylaws.

Just a reminder: we will have our June meeting on June 16, the summer social on July 7, and the July meeting on July 21. Hope to see you all there.

Remember, the things we do as Master Gardeners should be fun. When the joy goes out of the project, we need to determine why, and then get it back on the fun track. George Ammermann

SPRINGS HILL IN FULL BLOOM



photos from Clara Mae Marcotte

Subscribe or Renew and Add to the GCMG Treasury

To all of you **Texas Gardener** subscribers (or those of you thinking about subscribing), **Texas Gardener** has invited the GCMG to join their Fundraising Program. For each subscription that goes through us (and yes that includes renewals), the GCMG will be able to keep 25% in its treasury. Instead of sending your renewal notice and payment to **Texas Gardener**, make your check payable to GCMG and send it with your mailing address to 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155. Give us your phone number too in case we have any questions and mark the envelope **Texas Gardener** subscription. The GCMG will send the subscription on to the **Texas Gardener** for processing. Rates are as follows: 1 year - \$24.95; 2 year - \$42.95; 3 year - \$53.95. Add an extra \$8 on the one year renewal for the Annual Calendar. You don't have to be a Master Gardener to participate, so if you have friends that subscribe, tell them about the Fundraising Program. Any questions? Email jlbruno@gvec.net

Project Coordinators

If you need volunteers for a workday or project, email jlbruno@gvec.net with details and we will get your request for volunteers out to the membership.

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. It's difficult to keep a scrapbook with no contributions or information!!!!

Class 23

Class 23 will start August 24th and run from noon to 4:30 with 2 Saturday classes at St Paul Evangelical Church Fellowship Hall, 108 S Main Street in Cibolo. All 21 speakers have been confirmed. For more information, please contact Jose Antonio Contreras at elmerojose@gmail.com

For the month of June Debbie Lowe, with the help of our other talented Master Gardeners Peggy Jones and Jose Contreras, put together an award winning display (shown below) to advertise Class 23. A lot of people contributed pictures, ran copies and bagged seeds, but it took some real vision to put all of this together. Don't you just love the gardening cart? And that looks like one of Betty Hughes' hats! This doesn't just advertise the class; this makes our entire organization look like we really know what we are doing. Debbie has asked everyone to "stop by the bank to take a peek and grab a cup of coffee". (photo from Debbie Lowe)



Speakers Bureau

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.

We have speakers on FireWise, plant propagation, Oak Wilt, rainwater harvesting, greenhouse management, composting, Citrus Greening, entomology, vegetables, wildflowers, and floral arranging.

MEMBERS AT WORK

Extension Building Workday for May

The Guadalupe County Master Gardeners worked at the Extension building Saturday morning, May 21st. Liz Romero and Betty Hughes led the planting of new plants, top dressing plants with aged chicken manure from bags, and mulching with pecan shells. (photos from Clara Mae Marcotte)



EARTH DAY IN SEGUIN - MASTER GARDENER BOOTH

On April 30th Carol Calentine and her volunteers put together an impressive display. They were having so much fun that everybody wanted to be at the GCMG booths to join in. (photos from Carol Calentine & Betty Hughes)



Sebastopol May Fest

At Sebastopol State Historic Park May Fest on Saturday, May 14, under the shade of a big oak tree, the Master Gardener volunteers helped children make old-fashioned fans and decorate sun visors. We talked to people about composting and showed them the nearby vegetable garden. Volunteers were Carol Calentine, Ramonita Cardona, Eddie and Joyce Johnston, Doug Biggs, Betty Hughes, Kathy Pape, and Jerilyn Preston. Clara Mae Marcotte demonstrated spinning inside the historic building with some ladies demonstrating bobbin lace-making. (photos from Betty Hughes)



Schertz Community Garden Update

The SCG volunteers headed by Dale and Ann Odvody have been very busy. Eighty-one (81) pounds of produce has been donated to the food bank from the SCG.

The Girl Scout troop working at the garden presented their awards for the year at the Schertz Community Garden on Sunday, May 22nd.

Standing Tuesday morning workdays, weather permitting at 101 Elbel Road, Schertz, behind the County Annex Building. If you have any questions, please contact Linda Bruno jlbruno@gvec.net or call at 210-363-8380.

On Saturday morning, May 28th at the SCG Pedro Schambon of My Father's Farm gave a talk on Hot Weather Vegetables & Organic Growing. Pedro is a certified organic vegetable producer at his farm at the old Schulz Nursery in Seguin. He fascinated his audience with his own formula for compost tea that he uses as a fertilizer at his farm, along with many tips he uses in his organic growing program. He also talked about the best vegetables for our summer heat and when to start them. Pedro is a veritable fountain of information. If you weren't there, you missed a great one!



photos provided by Linda Bruno



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

Thank you Thank you Thank you

You all outdid yourselves sending in pictures and information for this issue without reminders. Thank you so much.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor

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 - Jeri Doyle

New Member Support - Bob Teweles

Hours Reporting - Dale & Ann Odvody

Notification - Dale Odvody & Beth Zies

Refreshment Coordinator - Ryla Cottingham

WebSite Photo Album - Jerilyn Preston

Class 23 Coordinator - Jose Antonio Contreras

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Randee Malmsten

MASTER GARDNERS HELP PROMOTE AGRICULTURE AWARENESS

The Texas Agricultural Education and Heritage Center's 2nd Annual Ag Festival was held on Thursday, May 5 with a goal of promoting agricultural awareness in our community. The doors opened to the public from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. There were 193 presales and 302 door sales tickets, approximately 150 students and children under 12, 65 workers and volunteers totaling over 700 in attendance - a very good turnout for the second year. Guadalupe County Master Gardeners had a booth at this event.

MEMBER NEWS

BE CAREFUL IN YOUR GARDENS - CUIDADO EN SUS JARDINES

This gentleman was in between the cucumber bed and the eggplant bed in Linda Bruno's garden. He regurgitated the rabbit and left before Linda could kill him - and she never did find him either.

Ann Odvody said it gave her nightmares and called Linda's garden a war zone.

This is not the first time rattlers have been found in garden beds. **PLEASE be careful in your gardens.** (photos from Linda Bruno)



CURIOSITIES

I recently had a 3 year old plumeria tree produce a huge seed pod (last year) and it opened a few weeks ago. I took pictures of the pod (before I knew what it was) and after it opened, if anyone is interested. I had never seen this happen before and just wanted to share the info.

I also found a tree in Schertz that is both a hackberry and a mesquite! It's the weirdest thing to see. Birds must've dropped seeds down a hole in the "mother" tree and the other developed right up out of the center of the parent tree. If anyone is interested, it's the large tree in front of the old (former and 1st) Schertz Methodist Church on 1st Street. Pretty cool!

Submitted by Debbie Krause

Interesting Plant

Discovered on our trip to Maryland, it's the **Missouri Evening Primrose**. It blooms at dusk and the bloom lasts til morning. It is grown at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. A good xeriscape plant, although possibly invasive, and it's such fun to watch them open up. Submitted by Elaine McIntyre



photos from
Elaine McIntyre



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Chairman

Looking for a Volunteer Committee Chairman. Coordinates volunteer needs for small projects, assists coordinators on big projects. Keeps a notebook of events & pesters the coordinators to provide write ups. Does not have to personally be at each event. Most of the work is done by email and phone but must be completed in a timely manner. Chairman is a working member of the Board. If interested, email Linda Bruno, jlbruno@gvec.net

Green Team



The Green Team has been very busy this past month - first we planted and now we are "grooming". We replaced a lot of plants lost to the freeze and now are doing a lot of weeding and deadheading. This is all very time consuming; our team is small but we have some very hard workers who fortunately have great attitudes! Most of our plants are stressed because of the lack of rain but for the most part we are able to keep them alive. If anyone is interested in helping come to the City Annex Building, next to City Hall, on River Street, in Seguin, the first and third Monday of each month at 9:00 o'clock and we'll put you to work. Remember to bring your own tools.

Other Volunteer Opportunities

Master Gardener Office Monday, from 9 a.m. to noon. Except for federal holidays, the Master Gardener office is open at the Extension Building at 210 East Live Oak. Email Betty Hughes, ehughes5@satx.rr.com for more information.

KWED Lawn & Garden Show broadcast heard live every Saturday morning from 9:15 to 10. Call Bob Grafe at 830-743-3399 or Janet Grafe at 830-305-1446 to volunteer or to suggest a topic or speaker.

Mentor Program See page 2 and VOLUNTEER!

Meeting Refreshments - sign up at the next meeting

MG Scrapbook - See page 6

Speakers Bureau - See page 7

Schertz Community Garden - See page 11

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Tree Care Classes at the Garden

June 3-July 8 (Fridays) 12:30 - 4 p.m.

San Antonio Botanical Garden

This 21-hour course was designed to help prepare professional arborists to take the ISA Certified Arborist examination. Nonprofessionals are also welcome to attend the entire course or other sessions to gain a better understanding of the benefits of trees and develop their tree ID and tree care skills. For more information about registering call Steven Lewis 2101-486-0417

"Crape Myrtle and Answer Your Plant Questions" Seminar

June 4 (Saturday) 1 - 3 p.m.

at Schulz Nursery, 100 W. Huebinger Road, Marion, TX.

David Rodriguez will talk about planting and maintaining Crape Myrtles in the landscape as well as answering your gardening questions. Don't hesitate to bring samples or pictures of your plant problems. *Cost: Free.* For more information: call 210-467-6575.

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

Nick Vann of Nematode Nick's Landscape Service will talk to the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas at their meeting on Tuesday, June 14th, 2011. Nick uses organic or organically compatible products in his business aimed at increasing the health of the soil. He will share his knowledge gained through application in the real world.

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/.

Schertz Community Garden Workshops

Please mark your calendars for these scheduled workshops. We are doing these on Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. so you can invite your neighbors, listen to the speakers and then have time to work in your own gardens. Volunteers are also needed to help set up. Need more information? Email

jlbruno@gvec.net

June 25th, 10 - 11 a.m. Kathy Carroll and Sandy Foss, both Propagation Specialists, will present a **Propagation Workshop**. The class will include propagation by stems, division, rhizomes and layering.

INTERNET CLASSES

Earth-Kind Drought Preparedness. Go to: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/drought/> go through the entire section and complete and submit the On-line Evaluation to earn 2 Continuing Education Hours.

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://agrilifevents.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

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

BASIL FEST

June 4 (Saturday), 9:30 am - 1 p.m.

Pearl Brewery Complex, 200 E. Grayson St., San Antonio

This event is in conjunction with the Pearl Farmers Market.

Texas Folklife Festival

June 10 -12 (Friday - Sunday) at
Institute of Texan Cultures., San Antonio, Tx

Blanco Lavender Festival
June 10 - 12, 2011

June 2011



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



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

George Ammermann	President
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

June Meeting **Thursday, June 16, 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.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor
(elaine@tindomorgans.com)

Marilyn Moltz, The Wandering Gardener