

# EARTH DAY 2014 in Seguin - MG Booth



Photos by  
Marvin  
"T"  
Taylor





**Artichokes  
in the garden  
at the Big Red Barn**

**Pretty Spectacular!**

BIG RED BARN contact is Gretchen Ricker,  
[griker@satx.rr.com](mailto:griker@satx.rr.com) 830-379-3744

Photo by Sandy Foss

**TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER**

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Virginia Biggs is GCMG's Outreach Chairman. If anyone knows of a GCMG who needs a meal, please let her know 830-560-1976.

**REMINDER**

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact

Pat Schultze Secretary

830-556-6751

or e-mail [clydepat6@aol.com](mailto:clydepat6@aol.com).

**Newsletter Staff**

Editor - Elaine McIntyre

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## Community Garden - Updates from Ann & Dale Odvody

**3/28** - Those of you who failed to show up to the Garden today missed an opportunity to excel. We had the press there with cameraman and everything. I'm fairly sure we won't be brought up on any charges for any crimes; but some of us got pictures taken we might not want future generations to see. Yes, they caught us working. Drat, our secret is out and now we will have public expectations. I've never understood how the news media are never around when we are lolling around in the shade relishing the cool breeze. They have to show up when we have dirt under our finger nails, sweat on our brows, dirt on knees, et. al. Oh!! that's gardening isn't it? If you have access to the NE Herald, you may find the article this next Wednesday. Who would ever think you just need to garden to get your picture in the paper. Why shoot someone, just plant a tomato or a radish?

**3/30** - Yep! That's what I said, Sunday, not Saturday, not Monday, Sunday for sure. The Schertz United Methodist Church allowed some of their congregation to play hooky today and play in the garden with their pastor's blessing. I couldn't tell you how many children we had in the garden; they wouldn't stay still long enough for me to count. But I think they might have had a contest going, because I heard one little female say she had pulled a bucket full of weeds. Of course we probably have at least five different sized buckets in the garden; but then, one young lady was walking around with a bucket and a weed digger that was more than half as long as she was tall. And she had a serious look on her face. I learned long ago that women with a serious look on their face and a weapon in their hand are nothing to mess with. A boy on the other hand would probably be looking for a frog to stab or a trash can lid so he would have a sword and shield and instantly become Sir Lancelot and blow off work altogether. Anyway the church group, which included our own Terri Virost and her husband Roger, spread a whole lot of cardboard and mulch. In fact, they spread more than we had delivered by Guadalupe County Roads and Bridges last week. They also repaired the shape of the watermelon and cantaloupe rows and mulched between the rows. THANK YOU ALL! While we were letting the church group have fun in the mulch, us other gardeners planted 20 tomato plants mostly fresh from our own green house. Yes!!! Speaking of last week, Friday we harvested 60 pounds of lettuce, broccoli, onions, bok choy, and cabbage; for a total for the year of 415 pounds, 2 ounces.

**4/2** - It was an overcast morning, which made it perfect for moving plants from the greenhouse out into the garden beds. We transplanted 25 watermelons, 20 tomatoes, 10 cantaloupe, and 13 pumpkins. Starting plants in the greenhouse has made it possible to try a wider variety of plants this year, so it will be interesting to see how they produce. Friday will be the day to get the beans sowed. The harvest today was 11 pounds 11 ounces. We are still getting some broccoli from plants we put in in the fall, but they are about finished producing. Lettuce and green onions are plentiful. Total so far this year is 426 pounds 13 ounces. Hope we get more rain soon as it sure perks up the plants.

**4/6** - We had a productive, if not a cool windy morning. Ann and Kim D. harvested 24 pounds 5 ounces of onion, cabbage, broccoli, lettuce, snow peas, and a beet. Kim also planted three varieties of green snap beans. Bob T., John L., and I shoveled another two yards of rose soil to fill three eight foot beds we salvaged from Knox Elementary School. We also top dressed three other beds. Bob and John patched up a tarp I had been using to haul soil to the garden and covered the bags of organic potting mix Home Depot gave us in March so the ultraviolet light would not deteriorate the bags before we could use them. Little is more fun than bracing yourself to lift a 32 quart bag of soil and have it disintegrate in your hands and throw your back out. John and I went to Helen Griffith's house in Schertz and moved a six foot Satsuma orange tree from a pot in front of her porch to a pot in the community garden. At least we hope it was her house we were at. She and her husband are moving to Colorado in May. The GCCG was in the news again. Check the Northeastern Herald for April 4. (Continued on following page)

(Updates—from preceding page)

**4/8** - A little chilly and breezy to start the morning. The garden got about a quarter inch of rain yesterday and the plants really appreciated it. Kim, Mary and I harvested and our variety is improving as the weather warms. We had beets and carrots today - first for this season. Dale, John and Bob T unloaded another 49 bags of potting soil donated by Home Depot in Seguin. We sure do thank them! Then the guys went on to working on the rain collection system they are putting up on the pavilion. Add in some weeding, and that about took care of the morning. We are fighting a cucumber beetle infestation in the pumpkins and squash and finally had to spray to control them. We also found whiteflies in the greenhouse and had to treat for them - bugs sure love Spring, too. Harvest for the day was 30 pounds 14 ounces, bringing us up to 482 pounds for the year.

**4/11** - Beautiful morning in the garden, but definitely windy enough to make you hold on to your hat. Joyce, Katie and I got the harvesting done. We have thinned out most of the onion beds leaving room for those left to begin to form larger bulbs. We have a lot of cabbage maturing and they sure do look good. The tomatoes we set out first because they were so unhappy in the greenhouse have taken hold and are looking much better. Today's picking yielded 31 pounds 13 ounces, which pushed us up to 513 pounds 13 ounces this year. The men (Bob T., John and Dale) got the gutter up on one side of the pavilion and should have the water harvesting system in place soon. We also have volunteer marigolds coming up from the seeds we left when we cleaned out the beds in the fall - free is good!!

**4/15** - The weatherman is calling for 38 degrees in the morning with 15-20 mph winds. With the rains this morning, it is also going to be muddy. Stay home and keep warm and I am praying the weatherman misses the mark and we do not get below 45 - even at that our tomatoes are not going to be happy!

**4/22** - Nice weather in the garden this morning, but the mornings are getting warmer. There was a lot of harvesting to do today (58 pounds 6 ounces) and it kept Mary, Lillian, Joyce and I busy most of the morning. Mary planted the cantaloupe seeds, Lillian the Armenian cucumbers, and Joyce the pink-hulled summer peas. Friday we will finish setting out the peppers started in the greenhouse as well as eggplant and okra. Ralph, Dale, John, and Jerry (a local volunteer) installed drip irrigation to the potato bed by the green house and should finish the three beds by the orchard on Friday. As always we have weeding we need to catch up on. Total production for the year is 622 pounds 15 ounces.

**Beginning Friday, 25 April 2014, we will go back to the summer schedule and begin working at 8 a.m.**



Bluebonnet photo taken by Marvin "T" Taylor in Seguin.

For more Bluebonnets go to  
[http://  
www.bluebonnetlove.com/  
sightings/](http://www.bluebonnetlove.com/sightings/)

## Orchids - Part III

by Dave Elder

### After the flowers are gone

Now the flowers are gone and you have cut off the spike they have grown on (cut it off down to the base of the spike – or stem with scissors dipped in alcohol). Your plant has not died, as long as the leaves are green. But it is time to repot your orchid.



Take the orchid out of the pot and examine the root system. Remove any black or brown roots. Remember that healthy roots are white with green tips. It is also a good time to replace your mix. Orchids grew on trees, not in soil, so repotting them in soil is a no, no. If you do that, just go ahead and take them to your compost pile because you will be killing it. Look for an orchid mix that contains bark and bark particles. You may even mix in some sphagnum moss if you like, but make sure that you have more bark material than anything else. I have even used Styrofoam peanuts at the bottom of the container to help with the flow of water.

After you have repotted the orchid, press down on the mix to help hold the plant in place. Take the plant to the sink and give it a good drink of water. All of this will help your orchid recover from having the flowers and start new roots.

A quick word on blooming. Each type of orchid will re-bloom at different speeds. Most will take 6 to 9 months. I have some orchids that only bloom after a year and a few that take 18 to 20 months. So be patient and wait. They will come back. I get more orchids donated to me because the person was tired of waiting and gave up watering and feeding them.

### Dividing your orchids

After a couple of years, you will notice that your orchid had multiplied inside the pot. Now would be a good time to divide it. You will use the same process as you would if you were dividing a plant. A good sharp knife and cut it in half. Repot like you would after the blooms are gone.

Once in a while and depending on the specific orchid, roots will develop along the top of the stem. When this does happen, you have the chance of having a copy of the plant that grew the roots. Simple cut off the plant with the roots about 2 inches below the root. Be sure to use alcohol on your scissors before you make the cut. This keeps down any infection or disease from getting on the orchid. Put in a pot using the potting process I have talked about earlier.



Enjoy your orchids. They don't take much work or effort and when they bloom it makes the whole experience of taking care of them. Especially when you will tell your friends, "I grew that!"

Bexar County MGs will be selling Moth Phalaenopsis Orchid, a Texas Superstar plant, for pickup on May 9th and May 10th. These orchids are grown locally in San Antonio by an orchid grower from Taiwan. The orchids are quart size and will be in a clear pot inside a clay orchid pot. Cost is \$20 (retail value of these orchids is \$30). Orders must be paid at the time order is submitted. Deadline for ordering is May 5th. All proceeds benefit Master Gardener Outreach to the Community. For information contact Lisa Nixon <[lisa.nixon@bexarcounnymastergardeners.org](mailto:lisa.nixon@bexarcounnymastergardeners.org)>

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the MG office/library is open from 9am-noon except for holidays. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Betty Hughes. 830-401-4066 or e-mail [ehughes5@satx.rr.com](mailto:ehughes5@satx.rr.com).

Every Tuesday, Friday and 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday are work days at the **Guadalupe County Community Garden**. Check with Ann Odvody ([odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net) 830-914-3593) for start hour and access at other times.

Every Friday 9 am is a workday in the gardens at the **Big Red Barn**. Check with Gretchen Ricker ([gricker@satxrr.com](mailto:gricker@satxrr.com) 830-379-3744) for details.

**KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show** always looking for volunteers - see page 7.

Volunteers are needed to set up the chairs before each monthly meeting. Contact Treva Hicks at [hicks1t@lycos.com](mailto:hicks1t@lycos.com)

GCMG Facebook Page – Volunteer needed to update the GCMG Facebook page. Contact President Bob Teweles, [rteweles@att.net](mailto:rteweles@att.net).

## Volunteers for Class 26

Volunteers are needed to help with Rotating Coordinators, Evaluations, Text Grading, Class Room Assistant for the day, set up, take down, buying supplies, water and whatever else is needed. Contact Cindy Waechter [[cindy.waechter@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.waechter@gmail.com)]

## PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS

### Positions Available

Two positions remain open on your 2014 GCMG Board.

President Elect – No way around it, this is a serious commitment – but rewarding! This commitment starts with a year on the Board to “learn the ropes” of how we operate and current issues. During the “Presidential Year” the President is the “Face of the Board”, representing the Board to the membership and GCMG to the Texas MG community. The third year the President-Elect is the “elder statesman”, helping to provide continuity to our programs. The main point here is that the President needs the entire first year to prepare for the second year!

Volunteer Committee Chairperson - The Chairperson reports on GCMG projects to both the Board and the membership. The Committee helps select projects, project chairpersons and provides support. This important job is a coordinating position which has lots of support from the members. Two people could share this position or possibly the Chairperson could serve for just six months?

Please speak to any member of the Board if you will consider either or both of these positions!

## **Ag Festival at Big Red Barn - May 1 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m**

Everything is setup and I have plenty for Volunteers. I want to thank everyone who signed up to help. There were more people that signed up than I had slots to fill. That is not always the case. Again thank you.

Treva Hicks, Volunteer Coordinator for Ag Festival MG Booth.

# **GARDENING EVENTS**

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

Arts and Crafts in the Garden – Mary Bowe had come up with the idea of having an Arts and Crafts function at the Community Garden in Schertz on October 18. Anyone can sign up to have a booth for \$20 and will have to supply their own table. Also, there will be cooking demonstrations, a raffle, etc.

## **Mitchell Lake Audubon Center**

WORDS for BIRDS - May 4, - 1pm. To celebrate National Poetry Month and our feathered friends, join us for some great readings from local poets! We'll have poetry readings, both originals from local poets and classics by famous writers, followed by a lovely bird walk. Attendees are welcome to bring their own poetry to share. FREE!

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY! - May 10, 10am - 2pm. As part of a city-wide party celebrating the return of migratory birds, we are having a FREE family-fun event! There will be a live bird banding demonstration in the morning, photo opportunities, bird walks, games, crafts, and more! Hope to see you there.

And that is NOT all. We'll have many more great events coming in May, including Starry Starry night on May 17, Intro to Birding on May 24, and a TX Invasives workshop on May 31. Get involved and come and see us soon. For more information phone: 210-628-1639.

## **SAWS Garden Jazz Party and Plant Sale**

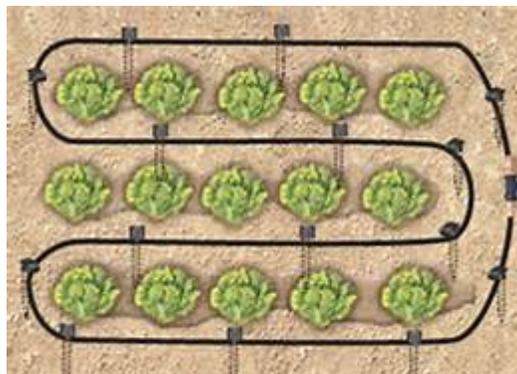
**May 4 (Sun) 10am-2:45pm: 555 Funston Place, San Antonio**

Free admission. Information stations will cover topics such as garden planning and design, mulch, plant selection, turf, soil, wildscape, irrigation, hardscape, landscape maintenance and much more. Learn water-saving tips and shop for great plants at the Botanical Society's Plant Sale. And, of course, enjoy smooth, live jazz. For information, call [210-207-3255](tel:210-207-3255) or visit [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org).

# EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS



## Rainbarrels And Drips Smart Ways To Water Your Garden



**May 17th 2014 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Guadalupe County Tax Office, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz, Texas**

**Information: 830-303-3889**



**Presentations by Dave Elder, Jim Johnson and Liz Romero**

**Rainbarrels: How to build and use them**

**Drip Irrigation: Parts, assembly and use in the landscape**



***Ready-to-use rainbarrels will be available for sale!***

## **Lunch and Learn Program - FREE!**

New GCMG Education Program! July 24, Noon to 1. Firewise by Jose Contreras. At the Seguin Library.

## **Propagation - September 13 - SAVE THE DATE**

Educational class by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners is planned at the Community Garden in Schertz on **September 13**. Kathy Carroll will teach a class on **Propagation** including stem propagation, bulb division and wildflower seeds. Cost \$10.

## Compost Specialist Training

June 18 & 19, 8 am - 5 pm, June 20, 9 am - 12 Noon

San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston Place

Registration Fee \$225. Deadline for registration June 3rd. For more information, contact David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulturist at (210) 467-6575 or dhrodriguez@ag.tamu.edu.

## San Antonio Rose Society Spring Rose Show

Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> - Lions Field Adult & Senior Center 2809 Broadway @ Mulberry

Free and open to the public from 1-4 pm. See over 400 entries of roses and artistic floral designs. At 2 pm there will be a seminar on "Growing Roses". For more information go to [www.sarosesociety.org](http://www.sarosesociety.org)

## Rainbow Gardens Seminars

Thousand Oaks Location | Call Us (210) 494-6131. Bandera Location | Call Us (210) 680-2394

May 3rd - Bandera - 10 AM - Miniature and Fairy Gardening

May 3rd - Thousand Oaks - 2 PM - The Perennial Potter

May 10th - Bandera - All Day - Celebrate Herbs with speakers and vendors

May 10th - Bandera - 11AM - Mothers Day Hanging Basket Kids Class

May 10th - Thousand Oaks - 1 PM - Mothers Day Hanging Basket Kids Class

May 17th - Bandera - 10 AM - Organic & Natural Gardening Techniques

May 17th - Thousand Oaks - 1 PM - Organic & natural Gardening Techniques

May 24th - Thousand Oaks - 1 PM - Butterfly Gardening

May 31st - Bandera - 10 AM - Bugs Every Gardener Should Know

May 31st - Thousand Oaks - 1 PM - Seasonal Watersaver Gardening



## Native Plant Society of Texas

Guadalupe County (Schertz-Seguin) Chapter

Tuesday, May 13th, 7:00 PM, St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion

Guadalupe County Chapter Presents "Cultivate Your Backyard Birds and Butterflies". Jane Tillman, Master Naturalist, National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward Host, and Travis Audubon Society member, will teach us to attract, keep, and support the beautiful flyers that we love. Her presentation will focus on how to make outdoor spaces come alive by providing natural foods, water, and shelter – while still reducing garden chores – to benefit wildlife.

There is a plant/seed exchange and greeting at 6:30 PM followed by the program at 7:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public. Visitors are welcome. For more information, directions or membership applications see our website at: <http://www.npsot.org/wp/guadalupe/>

The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Texas is to promote research, conservation and use of native plants and habitats through education, outreach and example.

## Webinar Series

These webinars are designed to be no longer than 30 minutes and give you a quick insight look at some of the progress, issues, and problems that we are facing today in the green industry.

**Update on Rose Rosette.** Wed, Jun 4, 2014 10:30 AM – 11:00 AM CDT. Reserve your Webinar seat now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/319845016>

## Antique Roses - Empress of the Garden May 7, 10 am - 3310 N New Braunfels @ Funston

San Antonio Garden Center Club will meet Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Robbi Will, who most recently managed the award winning Antique Rose Emporium in San Antonio, will present a program on antique roses, Empress of the Garden. Rose varieties have various personalities that can influence their garden usage. These qualities are a creative tool for the gardener intent on providing the right rose for the right garden setting. Plant exchange and social at 9:30. Meetings are free and open to the public. For more information call 210 824-9981 or go to [www.sanantoniogardencentre.org](http://www.sanantoniogardencentre.org).

## Fanick's Garden Center Seminars

Sales Rep Seminars: Carl Pool May 10 - 9 am - 3 pm; Medina - May 3 - 10 am - 2 pm

## San Antonio Botanical Garden Spring Garden & Nature Classes and Workshops

**San Antonio Botanical Garden** at 555 Funston is offering a number classes and workshops. For further information contact [programregistrar@sabot.org](mailto:programregistrar@sabot.org) or Sasha Kodet at [210.207.3270](tel:210.207.3270) or [sha.kodet@sanantoniogov](mailto:sha.kodet@sanantoniogov). To view the class information online, go to: <http://www.sabot.org/?nd=Classes>. To register online, go to: <http://www.sabot.org/?nd=registration>.

## BCMG Backyard Basics - Home Composting

May 20 (Tue) 6:30-8:30pm

3355 Cherry Ridge Suite 208., San Antonio

Why do Home Composting? Save money on fertilizer, water, and garden supplies. Keep useful materials out of the landfill. Keep pollutants out of our environment. Improve lawn and garden. Save the community money. All you need to get started: greens, browns, soil, and water. Cost is \$10. RSVP to Angel Torres, at [210-467-6575](tel:210-467-6575) or [matorres@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:matorres@ag.tamu.edu).

## Foraging for Native (and other wild) Edible Plants

May 27 (Tue) 6:30-8:30pm

Wendy Snyder, owner of Star Fire Adventure Camp for Grownups, Boerne, TX, will speak at the Native Plant Society of Texas-San Antonio (NPSOT) meeting. Free and open to the public and held at Lion's Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway. Native plant and seed exchange at 6:30 pm, followed by speaker at 7:00 pm. For more information go to: [www.npsot.org/sanantonio](http://www.npsot.org/sanantonio).

# ALAMO AREA HORTICULTURE SHOW

The 2014 Alamo Area Horticulture Show and Contest will take place during the *Festival of Flowers* on May 24, 2014 at the Alzafar Shrine, 901 N. Loop 1604 (between Blanco Rd. and Stone Oak Pkwy)  
The *Festival of Flowers* is presented by Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension, Bexar County Master Gardeners, and the San Antonio Water System.



The show is open to amateur home gardeners *of all ages* from Bexar County and surrounding areas. Junior exhibitors (aged 17 and younger), are encouraged to enter the show, and are judged separately from the adult exhibitors.



**The Show Schedule, Rules, and Tips for Entering**  
**use contacts given below**  
The show includes classes for potted plants, cut specimens, terrariums, bonsai or other trained plants, as well as homegrown fruits and vegetables.  
*Come and Show-Off Your Prized Plants and Flowers!*



**For more information or questions about the show contact:**  
Meg Parker, Bexar County Master Gardener, (210) 287-7699,  
Susan Toensing, Bexar County Master Gardener, (210) 842-1867,  
or David Rodriguez, Horticulturist, Bexar County TX A&M Extension Service  
at (210) 467-6575

\*Two important rules to note:

1. All plant material must be fresh and have been in the care of the exhibitor for at least 2 months prior to the show, and
2. All plants should be free of disease and pests.

## Milberger's Nursery

**May 10 (Sat) 10:30-Noon:** "**Growing Backyard Citrus**" is a free Earth-Kind Seminar. David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Horticulturist, will help you select and successfully grow citrus in your landscape and patio. 1.5 CEU's will be awarded to Master Gardeners who attend.

**June 7 (Sat)** - Milberger's **Top Tomato & Salad Bowl Contest**

# May 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 GCCG Workday 8 PM  Red Barn 9 am	3 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
4	5 Master Gardener Office/Library 8:30—Noon	6 GCCG Workday 8 AM	7	8  Board Meeting 6 PM	9 GCCG Workday  Red Barn	10 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m
11	12 Master Gardener Office/Library	13  GCCG Workday	14	15  GCMG Meeting  ○ - FULL MOON	16 GCCG Workday  Red Barn	17 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.  <b><u>BARRELS &amp; DRIPS</u></b>
18	19 Master Gardener Office/Library	20  GCCG Workday	21	22	23  GCCG Workday  Red Barn	24 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.
25	26 Master Gardener Office/ Library  <b><u>Newsletter Deadline</u></b>	27  GCCG Workday	28  <b>● NEW MOON</b>	29	30 GCCG Workday  Red Barn	31 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show 9:a.m.

GCCG - Guadalupe County  
Community Garden



**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 Texas A&M 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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Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Open	Volunteer Chairman
Cindy Waechter & Dave Elder	MG Training Co-Chairmen
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent Master Gardener Coordinator

### **May Meeting**

**Thursday, May 15th, 2014 - 7 PM**

Guadalupe County Justice Center  
211 W. Court St, Seguin

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Elaine McIntyre, Editor  
([elaine@tindomorgans.com](mailto:elaine@tindomorgans.com))