



The Guadalupe Gardener

October 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



What's the saying? "Time flies when you are having fun!" Well, time is flying by; it is October and we are just three months away from the end of the year. And I have had so much fun this year as your President. It's been busy and interesting and I've certainly learned a lot. I hope that I have represented all of you as well as I can and that maybe once or twice something I've said or written has motivated you as a Master Gardener. If not, there are still those last three months left and I'll just keep on trying.

We have a good slate of candidates for our board positions coming up. Some have already been announced and some are still considering what they want to do. If you are on the fence, please come to the next Board Meeting on October 14th and see just what your Board does. We also need co-chairs for our various committees if you prefer to test the water before you jump in completely.

Hours - Dale needs your hours. Start turning them in now so we don't overwhelm him in November. Which reminds me, I need to update my hours. I promise to do it, I do, but then I always think there is something more important. Okay, it's back at the top of my list. Just to see if anyone really reads this, I'm going to count how many people ask me at the next meeting if I've turned in those hours.

Please mark the date for the Christmas Social on your calendar now. There is more information in the newsletter as to when. Thanks to the two ladies who have agreed to coordinate this for us this year, Kathy Pape and Debbie Lowe, both students from Class 22!

As always, if you have any questions or comments about what we do, I'd love to hear them. Email me – jlbruno@gvec.net

October Meeting

October 21, 2010

Flo Oxley, Director of Plant Conservation and Education for the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the Univ. of Texas at Austin, will present "**Seeds of Success**", a global seed banking program which provides a hedge against the possible extinction of plants in their natural habitat.

Sandy Tremaine, Betty Hughes, Rita Trevino and Nancy Virden have graciously agreed to provide refreshments.

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

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Association News

Septemer Meeting Program



JoNelle Zager, a practicing chiropractor in Floresville, talked about growing bearded irises at the September membership meeting. She owns JD2 Ranch, Inc., which is a nursery specializing in day lilies and bearded irises. She is a member of the San Antonio Daylily Society.

Bearded irises like well-drained soil in full sun to part shade (at least four hours of morning sun is desirable). The bare root rhizomes should be planted from August through December at about 12-24 inches apart. Dig a shallow hole and place the rhizome in it so that the top of the rhizome is at or just above the soil level. Mix some bone meal into the soil, cover the roots with the soil, and water. Watering bearded irises should be performed about once a week after initially watering well for several days. Bearded irises are prone to soft rot if kept too soggy. Water well in the fall and spring.

Bearded iris rhizomes can stay out of the ground for 3 or 4 months. They can be stored in a cool place preferably in a refrigerator. If after storage mold is present, cut the mold away and soak the rhizome for 10-20 minutes in a 10% chlorox mixture in water.

Fertilize with bone meal three times a year: September/October; February; and then after they have bloomed. Additional feedings can be performed in the fall and spring using a slow release granular fertilizer such as Osmocote Pro 19-5-9 with micronutrients. In the spring water soluble foliar feedings can be applied.

Bearded irises should be divided every 4-7 years. Dig them up in late July or August, shake the dirt off, and then snap off the new tubers. The new rhizomes (called toes) will be radiating from the original rhizome. Let them air dry in the sun for 2-3 days to allow the cuts to heal. The leaves should be trimmed back to 3-6 inches using angle cuts. Bearded irises can survive cold weather without much of a problem. However, putting compost around them will help.

Bearded irises are categorized by the height of their scapes (bloom stalks) as follows: Tall - taller than 27 1/2 inches; Intermediate - 16-27 1/2 inches; Dwarf - 8-10 inches; and Miniature Dwarf - less than 8 inches. They come in a range and combination of colors.

JoNelle's e-mail address is JoNelle@zagerchiro.com

HOE! HOE! HOE!

Save the date!

FRIDAY, December 10th

Christmas Social ~ more details to follow.....

NOMINATIONS

We need some members to nominate themselves for Board positions. The President -Elect, George Ammermann, will become the President. The other positions are open for election. Bob Davis is running for President-Elect, Doug Biggs for Vice President, Bob Teweles for Treasurer, and Sandy Foss for Secretary. In the non-elected Standing Committee positions we have Linda Bruno for the Education Committee, Peggy Jones for the Publication Committee, and **no one for the Volunteer Committee**. Clara Mae Marcotte will run the Speakers Bureau. Ann and Dale Odvody are the Hours Committee and Notification Committee (as is Beth Zies for the non-email members). All positions are open for any certified member to run or volunteer for. Just because they volunteered to run for the position does not mean they are a shoo-in. If another certified member wants to put their name on the ballot for the elected positions, they are more than welcome to run for a position. Or they can volunteer for the committee positions. For the elected positions, we would like them to commit by October 17, because we would like to give 30 days notice of the ballot. However, they could wait until the November 18, 2010 meeting to place their name on the ballot.

This is your organization! To volunteer please contact Dale Odvody (odvodyd@swbell.net or call 830-914-3593) or Beth Zies (cactusmargarita@sbcglobal.net or call 830-379-7062).

Comments on the GCMG Membership Meeting, Sep. 16th

Total attendance – 60. That's 40 certified members, one intern and five guests. **And 14 students!** Wow! We think that is a record for student attendance. Keep it up guys. We would love to see you all at our next meeting. And if you break the record again, maybe we'll give Bob Teweles a medal for best inspirational Class Coordinator. (No pressure Bob, not at all.) One of our visitors was Joyce Soepje, student from Gonzales County Master Gardeners Class #1, which is being put together by our Guadalupe County MGs, Gail & Jim Johnson.

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Deedy Wright – Two Year Term
Kay Wolverton – One Year Term
Pat Schultze - Alternate, Two Year Term
Sandy Foss - Alternate, One Year Term

September meeting refreshments were provided by Suzanne Brown, Gillian Siemens, Peggy Jones, Betty Hughes and Ryla Cottingham. Lucky Jerilyn Preston, one of our Class 22 students, won the \$21 raffle and the \$10 Schulz Nursery gift certificate. Beth Zies won the Iris donated by our speaker, Jonelle Zager.

Tip of the Month

Perpetual Basil: Before the first freeze, cut a stem of your basil plant to bring in the house. Placed in a glass of water on your kitchen window sill, the basil will root and will supply you with fresh basil leaves throughout the winter. Then, when spring arrives, just replant in your garden.

Submitted by Clara Mae Marcotte

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Nov 18 - Bonsai Trees - Tom and Nancy Krause - SA Bonsai Society
Dec 10 - Christmas Party
Jan 20 - Growing Avocado Trees - Bill Schneider - Avocado tree producer
Feb 17 - Benefits of Eating Fruits & Vegetables - Patty Glenn Leander - Nutritionist and writer for Texas Gardener

CLASS 22 - CLASS 22 - CLASS 22

The students of Class 22 are very engaged in their classes, volunteer activities and our monthly meetings. Two of our students are chairing the Christmas Social and 14 students attended the September meeting. Very impressive! One or more students are present at almost every volunteer opportunity and will fill a great number of positions at October's Guadalupe Fests and Fairs. If you have an opportunity to work with a student at the Fair, please help them enjoy the experience!

The Texas Master Gardener Handbook states "Master Gardener Associations meet regularly for education, fellowship, and service." Your efforts towards including our students and Interns in Master Gardener social activities and sharing your enthusiasm for our programs are greatly appreciated.

Class Schedule

Oct 2 - Saturday Field Trip – 8 AM to Noon, Visit "My Father's Farm", a Certified Organic Farm, presentation by Pedro Schambon Jr.; and **Green Gate Nursery** in Seguin with tour by Joe Tocquigney, owner. Meet at My Father's Farm at 8 a.m.

Oct 6 - Landscape Horticulture and Design – **Mike Pecen**, Landscape Architect and Instructor, Palo Alto College.

Oct 13 Entomology 101 and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – **Molly Keck**, IPM Program Specialist, Agri-Life Extension, Bexar County. BS – Biology; MS – Entomology.

Oct 20 - Native and Adapted Plants/Xeriscaping – **Deedy Wright**, GCMG & President, Guadalupe Co. Native Plant Society of Texas.

Oct 23 Saturday Class 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Rainwater Harvesting - **Liz Romero** and **George Ammermann**, GCMGs, Certified Rainwater Harvesting Specialists

Oct 27 Herbs - **Mary Dunford**, Owner of Natures Herb Farm

Nov 3 - Diagnosing & Managing Plant Problems - **Dr. Mark Black**, Professor & Extension Plant Pathologist, Texas A&M.

Nov 10 - Tree Care - **Nancy Masterson**, Certified Arborist, GCMG

Nov 17 - Organic Gardening - **John Dromgoole**, "The Natural Gardener", has oldest continuous organic gardening radio show on KLBJ, owner of The Natural Gardener Inc., manufacturer of Lady Bug products.

Texas Master Gardener Association and the Texas AgriLife Extension Service

The importance of being a part of the Texas Master Gardener Association is directly linked to our support of "Texas AgriLife Extension". Remember, we support the AgriLife Extension Service, they do not work for us. The master gardener program originated in Washington State to help in the educational endeavors of, at that time, Agricultural Extension Service. Upon hearing of the success of the program Dr. Sam Cotner and Tom LeRoy decided to host classes to see if it was advantageous for Texas to follow the experiment. I think we all know the results of this program in Texas. Each year the master gardeners donate many hours of volunteer time to help the AgriLife Extension personnel reach more people.

The official name for the extension service is "Texas AgriLife Extension Service." Don't use the name "County Extension Service." Refer to the **Texas AgriLife Extension service, Guadalupe County Office**. Don't answer county office phones with "County Extension Service," or "County Agent's Office." Say, "Texas AgriLife Extension Service, Guadalupe County Office."

The mission statement for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service is "Improving the lives of people, businesses, and communities across Texas and beyond through high quality, relevant education."

Change is inevitable—except from a vending machine.

(Robert C. Gallagher)

Our website has a new look and a new feel thanks to the AgriLife Communications WebTeam at Texas A&M. Along with other county Master Gardener Associations which have a web presence, we've been afforded use of software that can provide more functionality and some of the features you've requested. Most of the organizational structure, topics, and information on the "old" website transferred to the "new" website. There are "navigational" changes, so take a few minutes to orient yourself and find your favorite places. One witty Master Gardener who toured the new website likened the experience to shopping rearranged aisles at H-E-B: you search and search, and then realize what you are looking for is "right there". What's different?

- The vertical green menu bar that was positioned on the left of each web page is now positioned horizontally at the top of the page.
- Rather than list all the subtopics on the new horizontal navigation menu, just roll your mouse over the major topics and you'll get a drop-down pick list from which to choose.
- You can search the site using a keyword or phrase – very handy.
- The calendar is a chronological listing rather than a monthly view. This is likely changeable in the near future.
- The old "Calendar of Events" which highlighted upcoming conferences and training is missing—but not for long.
- There is a "Members Only" section of the website that is not yet implemented—stay tuned.

Making full use of the opportunities available with the new software is a work in progress. You'll notice there is a video on our "new" Home page – a preview of things to come!

We'll give you a "heads up" on new website features and restructuring as they develop, via the *Guadalupe Gardener* newsletter and on the website Home page. Suggestions for website improvement or inclusion are welcome—send via the "Contact Us" button on the Home Page.

Randee Malmsten, Web Master

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

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

4th Central Texas Master Gardeners Conference 2010 October 9th - 8 AM to 4:15 PM

We have extended the registration deadline to Sep 30th for the conference. We have 164 registered and some are "in the mail". It should be a very interesting conference. Contact George Ammermann ammermann38@yahoo.com for futher information.

Update on the Schertz Community Garden



We have adopted out our first bed! A big welcome to the young ladies of Girl Scout Troop 3316 who, with the help of their parents, have already planted the bed with fall vegetables and flowers. A scarecrow will shortly be taking up residence in their bed to guard it from the rabbits that make it through the fence.

We have also received a donation of concrete blocks to complete the next two beds. Trenching is almost complete to fit the blocks in place and boy are those things heavy. I think someone is in trouble for accepting them, but I won't say who that might be. We do have enough blocks to make some nice solid benches.

Thanks to the new students who are helping out on the Tuesday workday. That's Treva Hicks with her Mantis tiller working on the trenching. We are always happy to see new faces.

RESERVE THE DATE SATURDAY, NOV. 6TH starting at 9:00 a.m.

WHAT: Mark Fanick is doing a fruit tree planting seminar.

WHERE: Schertz Community Garden on 1101 Elbel behind the County Annex Building in Schertz (next to the new Schertz Post Office)

Mark will have a limited number of fruit trees for sale with a percentage of sales going back to the Schertz Community Garden.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Rain water harvesting barrels will be for sale with GCMGs on hand to answer questions about set up and use.

GUADALUPE COUNTY FAIR update

Linda Bruno & Peggy Love, Co-Chairs

We start accepting field and garden crops on Wednesday afternoon, October 6th from 2:00 until 8:00 p.m. and again on Thursday morning until 9:00 a.m., right before the judges arrive. Remember, everything from your fields, garden or orchard and home products are eligible. Check out page 26 of the Fair Catalog at <http://www.guadalupecountyfairandrodeo.com/>

You can also enter in the Ornamental Horticulture Dept. (page 20) which includes potted plants and also cut specimens. If you have kids or grandkids, get them involved in the pumpkin decorating contest. Come on Master Gardeners, let's break the record for entries this year!

If you signed up to work as a volunteer, you should have received a confirmation e-mail. If you haven't, please contact me jlbruno@gvec.net. If you have a schedule change, let us know as soon as possible so we can fill your spot.

See you all at the Fair!

RECIPE SHARING

Ryla's Pear Bread

3 eggs	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 c. cooking oil (I used Canola oil)	2 c. flour
2 c. peeled and grated fresh pears	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 1/2 c. sugar	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon grated lemon zest	2/3 c. chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 325 degrees. Grease & flour two small loaf pans. Beat eggs, then beat in oil. Add grated pears, sugar, zest & vanilla to the eggs & oil. Add flour, baking powder, cinnamon and walnuts to the mixture, stirring until all ingredients are moistened. Divide batter evenly between 2 pans. Bake about 1 hour. Makes 16 servings.

Ryla Cottingham

Brown Sugar Cake

1 pkg. (2-layer size) yellow cake mix	
1 pkg. (3.4 oz.) JELL-O Vanilla Flavor Instant Pudding (Sugar Free works)	
4 Eggs	1 cup packed brown sugar
2/3 cup Sour Cream	1 cup chopped Pecans
2/3 cup Water	2 T. Sugar
1/2 cup Oil	1/4 t. cinnamon

HEAT oven to 350°F. **BEAT** first 6 ingredients with mixer 3 min. or until well blended. Add brown sugar and nuts; mix well. **SPRAY** pan (either 12 cup fluted tube pan or a 10 inch tube pan) with cooking spray. Then sprinkle combined 2 Tbsp. granulated sugar and 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon *after spraying with cooking spray*. Then fill with batter and bake as directed. **BAKE** 1 hour or until toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool cake in pan 15 min. Loosen cake from sides of pan; invert onto wire rack. Remove pan; cool cake completely.

Peggy Jones

An “ah, ha” Moment in Gardening by Kathy Carroll

I bought a cactus from a local nursery three years ago because I loved the way it looked. I misplaced the name of the plant but having some experience with succulents, I felt positive I could care for this plant. I planted it in a special large pot and placed it in an elevated planter and gave it a prime spot in our front yard garden. Each week I would water it and admire the way it looked in its perfect pot in just the perfect place. I waited for it to grow and look the way the mother plant did in the nursery. One week I found it on the ground. It had fallen off its elevated planter and come out of its beautiful pot. I replaced it, gave it extra special soil and returned it to its elevated position. This happened again and again. So I took it out of its elevated planter and placed the pot on the ground, still in my prime position. It did nothing for a year. I was disappointed but thought perhaps it needed a different place where I could watch it more closely. I moved it to my back yard and gave it a very special place there with what I thought was just the right amount of shade and sun, again giving it an extra dose of special soil. Another year went by and again it did nothing. Spring came around and an opossum came through our yard and toppled my cactus, again spilling it out of its special pot, this time breaking the pot. I replanted it in an old pot I had, but still used the special soil and put it off to the side. A month later the opossum came back and toppled it out again, this time breaking the plant. I took the pieces; put them in an extra pot I had and threw some dirt from the ground on it. I took the mother plant and replanted it with dirt from the ground I was standing on and placed it in the back of the yard next to the air conditioning unit – I was done with this plant, but could not quite bring myself to throw it out – after all it was still green! I pretty much forgot about the plants. I threw some water on them each week during the dry months but no more special pots, soil or fertilizer. Three months later both plants have grown and now have beautiful blooms!



This is a night blooming cereus. Family: cactaceae Genus: epiphyllum Species: oxypetalum. It prefers to be root bound, likes indirect sun and well draining soil. Each time it fell from its “prime position” it was probably put in shock. The dirt I threw on it last had a lot of organic material, twigs and some rocks, providing excellent drainage, much better than the “special” soil I had been using. Just a reminder that the prime position, pot, & soil should be determined by the needs of the plant, not the desires of the gardener.

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Master Gardener Specialist Training Update

Irrigation Efficiency Training - October 27-29 in Dallas County

Vegetable Specialist Training – Nov 3-4, in Weslaco.

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

Tree Care Classes at the Botanical Garden

Fridays, October 1 – November 5 from 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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. Three years of experience is required to take the ISA Certified Arborist exam. For more information on the exam, please visit www.isa-arbor.com. Students receive continuing education credits. Approved for TNLA and Master Gardener CEUs (3 per date), and Master Naturalist Advanced Training (3 hours per date). Certified Arborist Test Preparation Course Fee: \$96, not including books. Advanced Tree Care Session (Oct. 1, Oct. 8, and Oct. 22) Fee: \$48, not including books. Advanced Tree Worker Skills Workshop (Oct. 29 only) Fee: \$24, not including books. To register, go to www.accd.edu/sac/ce. For more information about registering, call Steven Lewis at 210-486-0417. For questions about the course, please contact Sasha Kodet at 210-207-3270. ISA Study Guides may be purchased online at www.isa-arbor.com or at the L&M Bookstore.

Free Family Program: Wonderful World of Insects Saturday 10/2/10 - 9 to 11 a.m. - Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Get immersed in the world of insects with this Entomology lesson for kids of all ages. Learn what makes an insect an insect, where they live, which ones are good, and other interesting facts about them. Live and preserved insects will be available as well! Stick around after the lesson to do an activity on insects.

A website for those of you interested in **Texas Bees:**

<http://www.beewatchers.com/>

Antique Rose Emporium

October 21 from 1 to 3 p.m. David Will speaks on "Reliable Bulbs for the San Antonio Area". A free program about using these little gems in your garden. There will be a terrific selection of bulbs to purchase.

October 6th (Wednesday) 12-4 p.m. Bexar County Master Gardener Classes - "Gardening with Roses" and "Beautiful Bulbs". There will be extra chairs if you want to attend. Free.

October 23rd and 24th - Fall Garden Festival of Roses

Saturday: Mike Shoup, owner of Antique Rose Emporium: "Produce Your Own Roses - Propagation and Breeding"

Mary Dunford, owner of Nature's Herbs. "Fresh & Flavorful: Growing and How to Use Your Edible Herbs"

Sunday: Margaret Wolfshohl, Dreamy Creams and Soothing Salves. "Crafting Your Own Natural Body Care Products"

Gardening In the Shade with Texas Natives with Judit Green

Saturday 10/16/10: 10 a.m. to noon - Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Having a shady yard can frustrate even the most experienced gardener. If you have an area where you can't get grass to grow, then learning about some of our Texas native plants that do well in shady conditions might be the trick to turning your yard into a botanical delight! These plants are not only beautiful but, because they grow naturally in the San Antonio area, they are also drought tolerant and disease resistant. This program will introduce you to shade loving plants and their wildlife value.

Program fee: \$5 for non-members; Free for MLAC members

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

For a very different perspective the Guadalupe County (Schertz/Seguin) Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hear David Lemke, PhD, talk about the Non-native Flora of Texas at their meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 2010. Dr Lemke is a Professor of Biology and Curator of the Texas State Herbarium.

The Society meets on the second Tuesday at their new location, 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 7p.m. We welcome all visitors.

For more information or an application to join NPSOT contact: www.npsot.org/GuadalupeCounty/

Garden Work(ing)shop: Composting

Be sure to sign-up for the next Green Spaces garden workshop on composting. The workshop will take place at the AAMEN Community Garden, 1122 S. WW White, on **Saturday, October 2.**

Please RSVP to Angela at: 210-222-8430 or Angela@greensatx.org

You never know where you'll find a great gardening article. This one was sent in by Bob Grafe and is taken from Church News of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In order to save space, I have edited this article and used initials for the very long difficult names, noting that Mongolians usually use only one name.

Mongolians are Becoming Master Gardeners

by Sister Carol J. Lasson, Humanitarian Missionary, published: Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2010
ULAANBAATAR, MONGOLIA

Because of Mongolia's traditional nomadic lifestyle and harsh climate, including frigid sub-zero temperatures during the winter and a short growing season, one might think gardening in Mongolia would be impossible. However, for the past two years, Deseret International Charities has partnered with all of the wards and branches in Mongolia to provide seeds, tools, gardening manuals and training to members of the Church in their local units. More than 400 LDS families throughout Mongolia are participating in the garden project.

Before the garden project, Brother G. and his wife, Sister O., had just a small garden and some fruit bushes. Now they have a huge garden that covers almost all of the ground in their large yard. From a shallow well they pump water to a variety of fruits and vegetables. Sister O. believes that next year she could teach other people how to garden. She said because of their garden, they were healthier this year and not sick as much during the winter

This summer was A.'s second year of gardening. She is a widow who lives in Sukhbaatar village and has three daughters. A.'s only income comes from her 30 goats, her chickens and her meager garden. She has only 30 goats because half of her herd died last winter in extreme weather conditions during Mongolia's Dzud disaster. Every morning, A. takes her 30 goats to the river so they can get a drink of water and then takes them to the mountain to graze. She was grateful for the seeds, tools and gardening manual she received from the garden project. She worked hard to prepare her land and to plant her seeds, but watering her garden proves to be a difficult ordeal. When her garden needs watering, she buys water from a neighborhood well and hauls it on a handcart up a long, steep hill.



An amazing garden in Shaamar belongs to Sister J. She has been a widow for two years. Sister J. and her husband, who died of a heart attack in 2008, were pioneers of the Selenge branch. As well as being Selenge Branch Relief Society president, Sister J. cares for a grandson and her younger brother's daughter who has health problems. Gardening isn't new to Sister J. Her whole property of about an acre is planted as a garden. She appreciated the seed potatoes, tools and gardening manual she received from the Church/DIC's Garden Project. She bought cucumber seeds, but the rest of the seeds she planted were from seeds she harvested from her own garden last year. She said that digging her garden is very difficult, so she pays someone to plow it for her at a great sacrifice of 35,000 tugrik (about \$25). In order to water her garden, she pumps water from her shallow well. She said, "I work in my garden almost every day, but I don't work in my garden on Sunday. I rest on that day." Sister J.'s garden is her only source of income. She said, "Planting is easy, but selling is hard." She rents a truck to transport her produce to the big city of Ulaanbaatar so she can sell produce there. In order to store her remaining produce, she dug a large hole in the ground on her property. Last winter, she placed the produce and hold-over seeds in the hole and erected a ger (yurt) over it. This served as a root cellar and kept her produce and seeds from freezing. In addition to a garden of vegetables, J. planted beautiful flowers to adorn her home. Her dedication to her garden sets a great example for her friends of the benefits of home gardening.

(Continued on following page)

Brother S. and his wife Sister T. have an immaculate yard with wood for the winter stacked perfectly and their garden cleanly weeded. They are second-year gardeners. They erected a picket fence around their plot, but plan to extend it next year in order to enlarge it.



Brother D.'s garden

Sister Ny. is 71 years old. She doesn't haul water for her garden; she just waits for it to rain. She said, "When we remember to work on our gardens, it's very good. When we forget about them, it's not good."

Brother D., a master gardener, is one of the branch gardening coordinators. He has perfected the art of saving run-off water and rain water to use on his lush garden. Members of his branch in Erdenet frequently stop by to see his garden and to ask him questions about his successful practices. When complimented on his garden, Brother D. gratefully replied, "Heavenly Father gave me all of this."



Brother D.s Greenhouse.



A missionary and a neighbor look over the garden of B., president of Murun Branch, who put up a wooden fence to keep the cows out of his garden.

All of the gardens are unique. Some of the garden project participants are new gardeners who have never planted gardens before. Several built fences around their gardens to keep cows and other animals out. Some gardeners requested plastic to cover greenhouse frames they had erected, and some plan to expand their gardens next year. Through their experiences, they are all learning how to be better gardeners in Mongolia's harsh climate, and all are also hopeful of a bounteous harvest.



Sister Ne. in her garden.
She is age 84.

All photos are by Sister Carol J. Lasson



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Green Team



The Seguin Green Team Needs You

We met on Monday, September 13 at the City Hall annex on North River St. Four of us showed up. We first did a "walk through" of all the areas that we will be working on - the beds at Central Park and cutting the suckers off the crape myrtles on River Street along with cleaning the corner extensions on River Street. We began weeding and grooming the new beds - that means we pulled tons of weeds. We tackled the neediest bed first and probably got half of them done. We mostly pulled sticker burrs and Bermuda grass. We decided we would work on the **second and fourth Mondays of each month beginning at 9:00 a.m.** The Image application (to hopefully kill the nutsedge) on one of the small sections of the new grass seems to be working, so it was applied to the other grassy areas. It will take some time before we know if it's doing the job or not. Wish us luck! Our contacts at City Hall are Mary Jo Filips and Cristie Hopper. Once we get the beds clean it will not take much time to maintain them. **Come join us** and don't forget to bring your own tools and a good pair of gloves.

Hughlene Micheli clifmic@axs4u.net

Pecan Fest Heritage Days at the Big Red Barn, Oct. 23 & 24

Still need volunteers to staff the GCMG vegetable garden at the Texas Agriculture Education & Heritage Center, aka The Big Red Barn (Hwy 123 & Cordova Rd) during Pecan Fest Heritage Days. Volunteers are responsible for guiding event visitors around the vegetable garden and answering general questions. Two hour shifts begin at noon on Sat., Oct. 23, and Sun., Oct. 24. Also need drivers for golf carts to ferry people from parking to event and drivers for hayride tractors. If you can help, contact Randee Malmsten at 830.379.8147 or rmalmsten@yahoo.com

More Volunteer Opportunities

Monday, from 9 to noon, except for federal holidays, the **Master Gardener office** is open at the Extension Building on 210 East Live Oak. Remember that Betty needs you to package seeds for the Fair and for our other activities. Email Betty Hughes, ehughes5@satx.rr.com for more information.

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

Speakers Bureau: If you speak to a group, please let Clara Mae know who you spoke to, when you spoke, what you spoke about, and how many people attended. Travis needs this sort of thing for his reports. Also, if you hear of a group that needs a speaker, contact rcm.marcotte@gmail.com

Volunteer is needed for New Member Support (for Class 22). Contact Linda Bruno 210-363-8380 or e-mail jbruno@gvec.net.

We need a Christmas tree decoration committee chairman and volunteers. This year's theme is a tribute to farmers and ranchers. Contact Betty Hughes, ehughes5@satx.rr.com

If anyone would like to be on the Christmas Social committee, contact Debbie Lowe debbie.Lowe@abtexasna.com or Kathy Pape wpape@satx.rr.com

Canadian Rockies

In mid September, a local group including Randee Malmsten, Clara Mae Marcotte (and Ron) toured the Canadian Rockies along with people from other states. It was cold! The high was about 59 and the low near freezing. We even had a light dusting of snow one day.



In spite of this, there were flowers blooming everywhere in the province of Alberta. Hanging baskets were all over downtown Calgary, Banff, and Jasper. In the wild, there were still flowers blooming as well as bushes and trees bearing fruit. The gardens at Lake Louise were a riot of color. Downtown Calgary had five or six theme gardens including one with pink gophers poking their heads out of holes in the wall. There was even a community vegetable garden along a main street in downtown Calgary surrounded by office buildings. I have no idea who planted it or harvests it. Perhaps there are lofts upstairs in the buildings.

Some plants were a surprise. I did not expect to see blooming geraniums, or to see rhubarb growing in flower beds. When we walked around the residential part of each town, we could see vegetable gardens. Since it was elk rutting season, each fenced yard was augmented with another foot or two of wire.

Front page news in the Edmonton Journal (evidently Alberta's main paper) was "Blight wiping out Alberta's tomatoes." This airborne disease, late blight of potato, is rare but this season is causing hundreds of thousands of

(continued on following page)

dollars in damages. The article theorizes that some contaminated seedlings were sold in big-box stores. Once they were planted, thunderstorms spread the spores further. Readers are warned to pull up the plants, put them in a plastic bag, tie it shut, and “find a place that will take diseased vegetation.” According to their expert, the fungus will die off over winter since it only survives on stored potatoes, evidently on bruises and lesions. Rather than storing these potatoes, he suggests eating them.

Obviously this is tomato season, as well as potatoes, pumpkins, summer and winter squash, pears and Asian pears, apples, cantaloupes, broccoli, cucumbers, green peas, sweet corn and greens. Wheat, Alberta’s primary crop, was being harvested in the fields. Alberta is also known for its Saskatoon berries and strawberries. In that Calgary community garden, there was a half-grown squash of some type, and black



bears outside of Banff were stripping berries off the bushes by the roadside. In Jasper, a tree was covered with tiny apples (a crabapple tree?). Ron took a photo of the prairie at Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump with seed grasses growing that are probably the same from the time of the First Nations people.



I think that a Master Gardener could have a lot of fun with gardening in Alberta (and then could rest all winter reading seed catalogs). Of course, you have to do a lot of work before winter because many of your plants have to be prepared for the minimum temperature of minus 35 degrees F.

submitted by Clara Mae Marcotte
photos by Ron Marcotte

GARDENING EVENTS

Celebrate Art in the Garden
September 25th (Saturday) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Antique Rose Emporium

Vendors with handcrafted garden inspired art (for indoors and out) will be on the lawn of the Hacienda. Free. This year we will have many new vendors as well as your favorites from previous celebrations. Now is the time to shop for bottle trees, hand-forged metal art, fanciful birdhouses, garden aprons, watercolor note cards, and other spectacular artwork. Each piece is handmade and unique.

Come out and see the goodies for your home and garden.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center
Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival

Members sale is Oct. 8th; Public Sale is Oct. 9th & 10th. Get there early to get decent parking & take your wagon to haul away your booty. More detail at <http://www.wildflower.org/>

19th Annual San Antonio Herb Market
Saturday, Oct 16th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Pearl Brewery Complex, 312 Pearl Parkway, San Antonio
Celebrating DILL, Herb of the Year for 2010

6th Annual Fall Wildlife Festival & Plant Sale
Mitchell Lake Audubon Center - Saturday, October 23rd - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Please contact us to RSVP or for more information: mlac@audubon.org or (210) 628-1639

Green Spaces Alliance Fall Gala - A Bountiful Harvest
Celebrating San Antonio's Community Gardens
October 14, 2010

For sponsorship, ticket and gala information www.greensatx.org

Wildseed Farms Monarch Celebration
Oct. 16 – 17, Fredericksburg

Did you know that you can "tag" a butterfly? Then get a card with the gender & tag number which allows you to check online to see if the butterfly was recovered? Tagging starts at 9:30 a.m. each day. More information is at <http://www.wildseedfarms.com/monarchbutterfly.html>

Rose Show & Seminar

If it is October – it is time for the Annual Fall Rose Show. The San Antonio Rose Society invites everyone to see the most beautiful roses in all of Texas at their Annual Fall Show, **Saturday, October 30, 2010** at the Lions Field Adult & Senior Center, 2809 Broadway.

Show hours are 1 – 4:30 p.m., following the show judging that morning. Admission is FREE and there will be an educational seminar, starting at 2:00. 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.

Fall Avocado Festival in Devine
Saturday, Nov. 6, 2010

Bill Schneider, who will be giving our program at our January meeting invites us to the Fall Avocado Festival in Devine. There will be avocado trees for sale as well as an avocado cook-off and seed spitting contest.

October 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-NOON	5	6	7 ● New Moon	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 6:30 p.m.	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 p.m.	11	23 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m. ● Full Moon
24 	25 Master Gardener Office/Library Open 8:30-NOON	26	27	28	29	30 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9:05 a.m.
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Guadalupe County Extension Office <http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/> **830-379-1972**

Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

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Randee Malmsten	Web Master
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent
	Master Gardener Coordinator

October Meeting **Thursday, October 21, 2010**

Time – 7 PM

AgriLife Extension Building
210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx

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