DOWN THE GARDEN PATH BY THE TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

It was beautiful weather for my journey to Abilene for the Fall Texas Garden Club Convention last week. The countryside was cloaked with the soft purple blooms of Blazing Star (*Liatris mucronata*), an attractive fall blooming wildflower.

As Vice President for Scholarship, it was my privilege to award \$8000 to some extremely bright young students. TGC encourages students in the study of horticulture and its many disciplines. The scholarship program was developed to insure the future by providing scholarships to deserving young people.



While our convention is primarily for business, we had many events that made it a pleasure. A stop in Buffalo Gap for a meal at Perini's Steakhouse, home to a giant armadillo, gave everyone a chance to renew friendships and enjoy a good meal at a renowned restaurant and working ranch.

We ventured to CISCO College for a tour of "Earthkind" Rose and Perennial Gardens. Dr. Steve George, Environmental Landscape Specialist with the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, presented an informative program on how they trial plants for the Earth-Kind Environmental Landscape Management System. Dr. George is considered the father of the Earthkind system. The goal of the system is for gardeners, whether novice or expert, to enjoy beautiful, productive landscapes with minimal maintenance while providing maximum protection for the environment. The system combines the best of organic gardening, traditional gardening and landscaping techniques to create a new system for the 21st Century. It is a research-proven system that is environmentally responsible and founded on real-world effectiveness. Dr. George stated that the system allows the gardener to make decisions based on a deep, abiding respect for the environment using the latest scientifically-sound, research-based information derived from the garden trials. The trials use Earth-Kind techniques in plant selection and culture.

The dwarf rose trials at CISCO College consist of three large beds. Three to six inches of fully-finished plant-derived compost was worked into each bed. Then each bed was planted with the same 28 roses in different orders to expose them to different conditions of light and moisture. The beds were then covered with three inches of native tree mulch which was maintained year-round. Plants were watered the first year with a drip system. After the first year the plants were left to the vagaries of Mother Nature. Other than adding to the mulch and fluffing it, no fertilizer is applied to the roses. Pesticides are not used unless absolutely necessary and then only an environmentally responsible product.

As a group, the Drift roses are scoring high in the trials. Sweet Drift, Peach Drift and Red Drift have scored higher than all the other roses planted in the test beds. Apricot, Pink and White Drift scored a little lower in the trials but all were in bloom with lush leaf growth when we visited the gardens. Roses of all sizes on the Earth-Kind list include Belinda's Dream, The Fairy, Mutabilis, La Marne, the Knock Out series, Cecile Brunner, Caldwell Pink, the Carefree series, and Duchesse de Brabant. You may view pictures and read detailed information about these roses and others on the Earth-Kind list at earthkindroses.tamu.edu

Working the techniques of the Earth-Kind system into your everyday gardening will reduce expenses, protect the environment and provide for beautiful roses. Roses grown with these techniques have little need for fertilizer, pesticides, and less water - the best of all worlds.

Happy Gardening

Gwen DeWitt - 358-9473 or 813-9936

Community Garden - Updates from Ann Odvody

12/1 - It does not look like any of us would enjoy the garden tomorrow.-.temps in the low 40's with a 15 mph wind. Lets cancel and meet up again on Friday when it is supposed to be about 10 to 15 degrees warmer. I will hopefully have some transplants and onions to get in the ground by then. Keep warm! **12/9** - A brisk start to the day, but it warmed up nicely as the morning went along. The beds the rabbit (s) has been feasting on have been netted thanks to the guys. Weeding and cleaning up the beds around the pavilion has been done. Broadcast marigold seeds in hopes of volunteer seedlings in the spring. Harvesting today was light in pounds. We had several bags of lettuce, Chinese cabbage, and a few cherry tomatoes. There will be some large cabbages to harvest Friday along with beets and lots of mustard greens. As of today our harvest total for the year is 4,601 pounds 2 ounces. Enjoy the beautiful weather and hope to see you Friday in the garden.

12/18 - Well, the rains have come. The radar is showing at least two waves of heavy rain heading for Schertz. So folks, we are calling off Friday in the garden. We cannot harvest in the mud. Hope to see some of you Tuesday morning.

12/23 - Windy! The temperature wasn't too bad, but the wind was a nuisance. We planted more onions and set out 12 more broccoli plants. We did some harvesting of mustard greens, lettuces, broccoli, cabbage and 2 HUGE cauliflower. Our food banks are closed 24 Dec 2014-2 Jan 2015, so there will be no harvesting until 2 Jan 2015. Friday, 26 Dec 2014 and Tuesday, 30 Dec 2014 will be weeding days if you want to help. All hands will be appreciated. If the weather is cold and windy or you just need a break, we will see you next year. After the harvesting today, our total for 2014 is 4,734 pounds 7 ounces. It has been a great year and we fed a lot of folks. Thank you all for all you have done to make this happen. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

GCMG Speakers at Steele High School

Dale Odvody and Bob Teweles spoke to six of Adriana Loya-Ferguson's nutrition classes at Steele High School. Adriana, who was recently married, is one of our MG Class 25 interns.

Dale and Bob spoke about the history and operations of the GCCG. Bob also spoke on RACAP (Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program) and how they distribute food to those in need.







PLEASE REPORT YOUR HOURS USING THE NEW VMS

LA VERNIA PRIMARY SCHOOL AWARDED WILDFLOWER GRANT

Master Gardeners Iris Seale (left) and John Lewicki (right) present Principal Sheri Boos (center) a check from the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center for \$100 worth of wildflower seeds. The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, in partnership with Native American Seed, awards grants of seed to Texas schools (K - 12) that support the Wildflower Center's mission to increase the sustainable use and conservation of native wildflowers, plants, and landscapes. Seed Grants can be used to establish wildflower demonstration areas, to enhance existing wildflower sites or in other educationally directed projects.

Pictured at right is the site of the wildflower demonstration area. The site is over 5000 square feet and includes an offspring of the famous Deaf Smith Live Oak tree that was used to spy on Mexican troops along Cibolo Creek in the first battle of the Texas Revolution.

Master Gardeners, Texas Native Plant Society members and school volunteers worked with La Vernia Primary School Maintenance Supervisor Mark Engelke to prepare the site for sowing with over 3 pounds of wildflower seeds. A special thank you to Iris Seale, teacher Kay Cover, Cynthia Lyssey, Marvin Borth and principal Sheri Boos who all worked on preparing the site. On December 12th, five different primary school classes of school children participated in sowing the wildflower seeds mixed with sand. After sowing the seeds, the children all velled "Can we do it again?" Sow they did!





(Article by John Lewicki, photos by Bob Cox)









Approved Gardens for Volunteer Maintenance Work

Given these criteria, the GCMG Board approved the following gardens and projects as acceptable venues at which members may earn volunteer hours for what is otherwise solely ongoing maintenance work in 2015:

The Guadalupe County Community Garden

The Texas Agricultural and Heritage Center (Big Red Barn) Garden

Guadalupe County AgriLife Building Demonstration Garden

Gutierrez Xeriscape Park

These changes will not appear in VMS (the Volunteer Management System website) until January. The Board recognizes that GCMG's effort to become more mission driven is still in transition and hopes to minimize inconvenience to members who reported volunteer hours for maintenance work at other locations. All volunteer hours previously reported in 2014 will be "grandfathered" and count towards recertification in 2015. Also to this end we approved a one-page application any member may use to request the future addition of a project/location. A copy of this form is available in the documents section of VMS. Master Gardeners may continue to report hours for all the other activities included in our Policies and Procedures Manual and listed under "Projects" in VMS.

Many thanks and good gardening, Your GCMG Board

GCMG Christmas Tree Decorating in the Square







REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or loss of a family member, contact: Welta Burris Secretary 210-273-5025, or e-mail hwburris@ctxu.net.

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Elaine McIntyre
Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor
Distribution - Doug Biggs
Proof Reader - Patti Zgabay
Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz

GCMG Outreach

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

M E M B E R S	Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Alternate—OPEN One Year Term - Peggy Jones - Bob Teweles, Alternate Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody JMG Program Coordinator - Lo-Ra Dick Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes					
I N	AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks Volunteer Chair Assistant - Don Hilbert					
S E R V I C E	Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden - John Lewicki & Kim Darrough Historian - Sandy Foss Class 27 Coordinators - Kay McElveen & Mike Murley Facebook Editor - Linda Bruno Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre Web Master - Bob Teweles					

DOWN THE GARDEN PATH BY THE TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

Excerpted from December 2014 Submission

The Christmas cactus, an easy plant to grow, likes moist, well-drained soil. It doesn't like wet feet and will rot if kept too wet. Plants needs bright indirect light, and enjoy being taken outside in a lightly shaded spot during the warm months. The arching branches make the plant a wonderful specimen for hanging baskets.

Christmas cactus starts to set buds in the fall when the days begin to shorten and the temperatures abate. Your cactus needs to be watched carefully during this time so that you can bring it in if it gets too cold. When inside the cactus likes to be in a place without drafts and has bright indirect light. My Christmas cactus is being stubborn and will be blooming after the holidays like my amaryllis.

While I to claim to be a lazy gardener, in truth, organization and doing it right the first time saves on time and labor. Each of us has only so much time to devote to the garden. With that in mind, be sure that your garden isn't too large. After all, gardening should be a joy, not a chore.

Keep your tools in good repair and nearby. You never know when you might get the gardening bug and your equipment should be easily accessible.

Take time to stroll through your garden every day. Use this time to reflect and enjoy the changing beauty. Time spent in the garden on a daily basis will help you notice problems while they are small enough to deal with. Mulching your garden is a sure way to cut down on weeding and watering. It also helps prevent disease.

It is smart to plant low maintenance perennials and shrubs instead of annuals to conserve water, fertilizer, and time. Use annuals as small pockets of color in the garden or in containers. Forget fussy plants.

Don't try to do everything at one time - instead do a little every day.

Fall is the perfect time for a general clean-up, removing weeds and diseased plants. A good clean-up in the fall ensures less work in the spring.

The husband and I had to do a little clean-up after wild weather a few weeks ago left the lawn covered in ball moss and small limbs. I raked and the husband loaded the wheelbarrow and hauled ten loads. You would think with all the moss on the ground there wouldn't be any left in the trees!

Happy Gardening,

Gwen DeWitt - 358-9473 or 813-9936 (cell)

Report from the Big Red Barn

The fall growing season is basically over. The volunteers at the Big Red Barn recently harvested much of the crops. We got bumper crops of broccoli, cauliflower, cabbages of various kinds, turnips, etc. Some of the produce was taken home by the workers, but much of it was donated to the Christian Cupboard. We still have broccoli, lettuce, spinach and a few other crops, including some tomatoes, that will continue to produce.

Planning has started for the spring planting. As part of that the first of several pallet planters has been built and planted. There are plans for several more planters. In addition the volunteers, led by Janice Knobles, have started planning what to plant in the various plots so that seed can be ordered and started shortly after the first of the year. We will keep you posted as the plans progress.













Article & photos submitted by **Kay McElveen**

Subscribe or Renew and Add to the GCMG Treasury

To all of you <u>Texas Gardener</u> subscribers (or those of you thinking about subscribing), <u>Texas Gardener</u> 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 <u>Texas Gardener</u>, 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 <u>Texas Gardener</u> subscription. The GCMG will send the subscription on to the <u>Texas Gardener</u> for processing. Rates are as follows: 1 year - \$24.95; 2 year - \$42.95; <u>3 year - \$56.95</u>. Add an extra <u>\$10 on the one year renewal for the Annual Calendar</u>. You don't have to be a Master Gardener to participate, so if you have friends that subscribe, tell them about the Fundraising Program.

Class 26 Steps Up

The recent graduates of Class 26 have already started taking leadership roles in Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. The following is a partial list of the activities they have committed to be involved in during 2015:

Class 27 Class Assistants: Kay McElveen and Mike Murley Earth Day organization: Karen Patterson and Laura Dylla

La Vernia School Square Foot Gardening: Carol Suchan, Kathy Bennett and Laura Dylla

Publicity and grant writing: Bob Cox County Fair organization: Melissa Murley

Bexar County Stockshow/Rodeo: Kathy Bennett, Carol Suchan, Donna Wise, Kay McElveen

Red Barn: Kay McElveen, Mike Chandler, Mike Murley

Their will be many more activities as we get started in the new year, but this is a really good start.

Submitted by Kay McElveen

GARDENING EVENTS



Texas Master Gardener Conference for 2015

The Blooms on the Old Chisholm Trail
April 16 -18.
Bell County Expo Center in Belton, TX

Please check http://txmg.org/2015tmgaconference/for all the details.

Nature Connects: Art with LEGO[®] Bricks September 6, 2014 – January 4, 2015 San Antonio Botanical Garden

Join us as the Garden presents 27 sculptures that make up 14 displays created from nearly 500,000 LEGO® bricks! Placed throughout the Garden, the displays range in size from 6 inches to nearly 8 feet. The largest sculpture is a mother bison, made from 45,143 bricks!

Each sculpture has an internal structure built with steel rods and plates, which provide support and balance for the large works. Surrounding the support structure, each sculpture is constructed entirely from LEGO® bricks, glued together using only the connections of the bricks, one at a time placed by artist Sean Kenney – www.seankenney.com.

Nature Connects is open during regular Garden operating hours Regular admission rates apply.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the <u>MG office/library</u> is open from 9am-noon except for holidays. Volunteers are always needed. Betty Hughes will need extra help setting up the GCMG office at the AgriLife Extension office on Mondays starting at 9:00 a.m. Sometime in January 2015, there will be a workday to clean out the outside shed at the AgriLife Extension office. Contact Betty Hughes. 830-401-4066 or e-mail <u>ehugh-es5@satx.rr.com</u>.

Every Tuesday and Friday are work days at the **Guadalupe County Community Garden**. Check with Ann Odvody (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 <u>Big Red Barn</u>. Check with Janice Knobles, 830-379-6193 or e-mail <u>imknobles@yahoo.com</u> or details.

<u>KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show</u> is always looking for volunteers. Contact Janet Grafe at 830-639-4199 or e-mail to janetgrafe@hotmail.com.

Volunteers are needed to set up the chairs before each monthly meeting. Contact Treva Hicks at hickslt@lycos.com

There is a TMGA Alternate Director Position representing GCMG open. Now is the time for YOU to step up to the plate as the Alternate.

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

The construction phase of the SASS&R begins Jan. 20, 2015 and runs through Feb. 11th. The SASS&R runs from Feb. 12th to Mar. 1st. Tear down will be the following two or three days. All participants must sign the Release and Indemnification form and have it witnessed and notarized by a Notary Public. Any Notary Public can notarize the form. Credit Unions, banks, etc. normally provide this service free. Kim Luensmann in the Guadalupe County Agrilife Extension Office is also a Notary Public. I also plan on having two Notary Publics at the Jan. 2015 GCMG meeting. Participants can mail their forms to me at 4715 FM 2538, Marion TX 78124, drop them off at the new and improved AgriLife Extension Office on East Live Oak street, or take the form with them and turn the form in on their first work shift.

The Bexar County SASS&R planning committee is still working on the construction plan. The San Antonio Livestock Exposition Show (SALES) has moved the MG and HEB Buckaroo Farms display areas from the 21,000 sq. ft. building to a 7,500 sq. ft. tent. We will not have the two dairy trailers and displays in the tent which took up about 1/4 of the building. You do not have to sign up for construction work. Just show up around 8:00. We usually quit by 3:00 so people can get out before traffic builds up. Directions are the same: 110 West to exit 579, Houston Commerce, veer right just after the exit ramp to the bottom of the hill, turn right at the light and straight through the next green light, go past the ATT Center and Freeman Coliseum. Just before the railroad tracks is a driveway on the right for the A parking lot. Go through the gate and if the guard stops you, tell them you are working with the Bexar County Master Gardeners in the HEB tent. From there, if you look 30 to 45 degrees to your right, you should see a big white tent. At least it was white in 2014. There should be some vehicles there along with my silver Ford Explorer and black 5' X 10' utility trailer.

BCMG is working on the schedule for the MG booth and Buckaroo Buddy displays. I'll pass that scheduling information on when I get it. Our next and final SASS&R planning meeting is Jan 4th. So, expect to see something shortly after that.

Submitted by **Dale Odvody**



Lunch and Learn Gardening Program Grow your own Vegetables from Seeds for Spring Planting

Starting your vegetables from seeds indoors saves money. You can grow vegetables that are hard to find in the nurseries, and it is very rewarding.

Thursday, February 5, 2015 Noon- 1PM

Presented by Jim Johnson, Vegetable Specialist, and the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners at the newly remodeled Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office, 210 East Live Oak St., Seguin. NO COST: Free! Just bring your own lunch (optional). For more information call Treva Hicks, 830-303-4712

Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

Build a Disappearing Water Feature Sat, Jan 3, Noon-1pm Water Garden Gems, 3230 Bolton Rd, Marion

Learn how to build your own unique disappearing water fountain, waterfall, urn and more with Shane Stefek, President, Water Garden Gems, at 3230 Bolton Rd Marion, TX. 1 CEU for MGs Free. For details, call 210-659-584, or visit http://www.watergardengems.com/index/

Be Ready for the Rain Rain Barrel Workshop (Backyard Gardening Series) Thu, Jan 8, 9am-Noon

Texas A&M AgriLife Ext Svc, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio

In Central Texas we know how important rain is to our plants and gardens. Come learn how to collect and store rainwater to use when you need it most. Conserve water and benefit your plants and garden!! Make-and-take your own rain barrel in just a few hours. 3 CEUs for MGs. RSVP with payment to Angel Torres by Jan 5, 2015, 210-467-6575 or matorres@ag.tamu.edu. Limit 30 - \$50 per person. Make check payable to: Texas A&M AgriLife and mail to: 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, TX.

Fruit Tree Seminar Sat, Jan 10, 10:30am to Noon Milberger's Landscape Nursery, 3920 N Loop 1604 E, San Antonio, TX

For the Novice Gardener or Experienced Orchard Manager. Learn how to properly select, plant, prune and maintain fruit and nut trees for maximum production and about overall care of your trees before and after harvest. David Rodriguez, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Horticulturist will present this wonderful seminar. Free and 1.5 CEUs



Saturday, February 21, 2015 from 8:50 am - 4:30 pm 801 West San Antonio Street, New Braunfels

Looking Ahead to <u>2015!</u> The Comal Master Gardeners invite you to their Spring Seminar, We Love Vegetables, featuring Tomatoes, Keyhole Gardening, and Nutrition at McKenna Events Center. \$49 fee includes lunch, snacks, seminar booklet, and vegetable gardening handbook. 6 CEUs. Speakers include William D. Adams, author of Texas Tomato Lover's Handbook along with coauthor Thomas LeRoy, The Southern Kitchen Garden, Commonsense Vegetable Gardening for the South, and Growing Fruits and Nuts in the South, and Dr Deb Tolman will speak on Keyhole gardens. Proceeds benefit the Comal Master Gardener Association Scholarship fund. Seating is limited (200 seats & 80 registrations to date). Contact <u>830-620-3440</u> with questions or find registration forms at http://txmg.org/comal/event/seminar/.

Proceeds from the seminar will go to the Comal Master Gardener Association Scholarship fund. This fund provides four \$1,000 scholarships to provide financial support to an undergraduate or graduate student at a Texas college or university who is pursuing a degree in Horticultural Sciences, Landscape Design, Turfgrass Management or a related agriculture degree. Seating is limited so register early to save your place.

The Basics of Home Brewing 101 Wednesday, January 14th from 6:30-8:30pm

Blue Star Brewing, The Blue Star Arts Complex, 1414 S. Alamo St, San Antonio On January 14th David Rodriguez, County Extension Agent-Horticulturist, will present Joey Villarreal, Proprietor and Brewer of Blue Star Brewing Company, Todd Huntress, Operator of San Antonio Homebrew Supply & Home Brewer, along with Bexar County Master Gardener and Home Brewer, Lou Kellogg in the first Backyard Gardening Series presentation for 2015. 2 CEUs for Master Gardeners. Fee: \$20. RSVP to Angel Torres 210 467-6575 or email matorres@ag.tamu.edu. Must be 21 years of age or older.

2015 Master Naturalist Class

Classes will be held first and third Tuesdays from 6-9 pm starting January 6 through June 2, 2015. There will also be 4 Saturday field trips during that period. Cost for the class is \$160 before Nov. 1, \$175 after Nov. 1, 2014. Class Application forms are available on the chapter website, http://txmn.org/guadalupe or at the AgriLife office [210 E. Live Oak, Seguin]. Applications will be accepted until November 30, 2014.

For more information on the Texas Master Naturalist program, visit the Texas Master Naturalist webpage http://txmn.org.

Beauty in Simplicity Wednesday, January 7, 2015, at 10 a.m 3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston

San Antonio Garden Center Club meeting will feature Don Olsen, Ichiyo Master and teacher, who will talk about "Beauty in Simplicity" and demonstrate Ikebana design basics. Join us for coffee at 9:30; meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, go to www.sanantoniogardencenter.org or call (210) 824-9981.

Consulting Rosarian School January 23 – 24, 2015, at the Holiday Inn Express (Airport), 91 NE Loop 410 hosted by The San Antonio Rose Society

This education opportunity is open to anyone interested in expanding their rose growing knowledge. It is an accredited school for Consulting Rosarians but anyone interested may attend this school. We have an exciting agenda planned, with notable speakers that we know you will enjoy.

The full Agenda is included at http://www.sarosesociety.org/forms/REG_FORM_CR_SCHOOL.pdf. Back by popular demand is Dr. David Reed from Texas A&M who will give his always entertaining discussions on soils and soil amendments, and water and fertilizer. Carol Shockley will give her ever-popular views on new and promising rose introductions. And, if we have missed anything, a stellar panel of rose growers (Don Adlong, Eddie Garcia, James Laperouse), will cover it.

Please note that the <u>Registration deadline is January 5</u> – so that we can finalize our plans and requirements for any Handout materials as well as needed food and beverages. <u>Cost is \$15.00</u>.

We will have door prizes, including some roses. This will be a fun-weekend and Winter Workshop for non-CRs, where we will dispense good rose-growing information, friendship and camaraderie. Plan to come!! For more information go to www.sarosesociety.org. Questions/Comments may be directed to: Murray Warner, General Chairman at 210-313-3371 dmwarner@satx.rr.com



Native Plant Society of Texas Guadalupe County (Schertz-Seguin) Chapter Go Native, Grow Natives

Want to dive into using drought-loving, low-maintenance, bird-and bug-friendly, beautiful native plants but worry that you don't know enough to guarantee success? NICE* can help. In a program that has been lauded by hundreds of our friends and neighbors in Guadalupe and Comal Counties, our own Nancy Masterson will show how to go native with confidence and pride, and will introduce the 12 native plants that NICE and its partner nurseries will promote during 2015.

*NICE (Natives Instead of Common Exotics) is a public education and nursery partnership between the Guadalupe County and Lindheimer NPSOT chapters that encourages the use and availability of native plants.

Tuesday January 13, 2014, 7:00 PM St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX

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

Spring Floral Design Classes Tuesday, February 17, 24, and March 3, 2015 from 12n - 3pm San Antonio Garden Center, 3310 N. New Braunfels

Learn how to design your own floral arrangements in these hands-on classes with Instructor Melissa White. Fresh flowers, greenery, container, and instruction for a take-home finished project each week with emphasis on flowers and colors of spring. Tuition is \$75 for the 3 classes. Further information at www.sanantoniogardencenter.org or call (210) 824-9981. Registration deadline is February 13, 2015. Make check payable to San Antonio Garden Center. Tuition for missed classes cannot be refunded.

Fruit Tree Seminar Sat, Jan 17, 9am to Noon

Fanick's Garden Center Inc., 1025 Holmgreen Rd, San Antonio, TX

Dr. Larry Stein from the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will show you how to properly select, plant, prune and maintain fruit and nut trees for maximum production. Also learn about the overall care of your trees before and after harvest. 3 CEUs. Free. For more information, visit http://fanicknursery.com/

Landscape Design School Series XXIV, Course II February 23-24, 2015

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, College Station, TX

The latest in the series which is offered in four separate schools, approximately six months apart, each with 10 hours of instruction, in the Bryan-College Station area. Participants may take the four courses in any sequence. These courses offer an opportunity to learn from professional landscape architects and horticulturists about how successful landscapes are designed. After the first day's program participants are invited to a complimentary wine and cheese reception hosted by Stewart Thompson of Martha's Bloomers Garden Center, Navasota. There will be an optional dinner opportunity after the reception. Master Gardeners who complete a course and pass the test may apply to their MG Chapter to receive 12 hours of credit toward their requirements for continuing education.

Registration for the course will be \$145.00 by February 1, 2015 (two lunches are included). Make check payable to Landscape Design. Registration will be \$165 after February 1, 2015. The optional reference book, good for all four courses, is <u>Stewards of the Land</u>. It may be purchased for an additional \$40.00 by February 1, 2015. The book will be reserved for participants to pick up the first morning of the course. The text is a reference for all four courses, although not required for graduation. The lectures will not be taken directly from the text.

For registration materials and questions contact Michele Wehrheim, Registrar, 1218 Haines Drive College Station, TX 77840 or call (313) 649-1067. Registration form and tentative schedule may be obtained from https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/southerngarden/

Master Gardener Specialist - Irrigation Efficiency Training Monday, March 23 - Wednesday, March 25, 2015 San Antonio Botanical Garden 555 Funston Place, San Antonio, TX

This hands-on training will include practices for determining irrigation efficiency, setting controllers, soak and cycle method, minor irrigation repairs, system trouble shooting, catch can test, converting spray head irrigation to new water conserving head, converting spray irrigation to drip irrigation and many other water conservation practices.

Master Gardener Irrigation Efficiency Specialists will volunteer for 12 hours above their current volunteer obligation, train Master Gardeners in their county, present the information to at least 3 other groups and do a catch can demonstration for Master Gardeners, a garden club, neighborhood association or civic organization.

Cost: \$200.00 (includes manual, power points, two lunches, snacks and drinks). Registration and more information available at http://dallas.tamu.edu/courses/ or contact Karen Sanders, Program Assistant, Texas A&M AgriLife Research, 17360 Coit Rd | Building D,| Dallas, TX 75252, Phone: 972.952.9671, karen.sanders@tamu.edu, http://dallas.tamu.edu

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER SPECIALIST TRAINING Plant Propagation

12:30 pm May 7 - 12:00 Noon May 9, 2015 Tarrant County Master Gardeners – Ft. Worth, Texas

All Master Gardeners with an up-to-date Master Gardener Certification are eligible to participate in this high quality training combined with hands-on experience. Registration is \$200. For additional information http://txmg.org/event/plant-propagation-specialist-tarrant-county/ or contact Billie Hammack, P. O. Box 1540, Fort Worth, TX 76101-1540.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS APRIL 1, 2015

It's always helpful to see what's new on the Aggie Horticulture Website

http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/

The Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz San Diego Zoo, San Diego, CA

The San Diego Zoo covers more than 1,900 acres. It is home for more than 4,000 animals from all over the world. There are more than one million plants on the grounds. The zoo offers single and multiple day passes and a variety of tours. Throughout the park there are quiet spots one can sit and enjoy the plant life and animals. The zoo specialists have created naturalistic habitats for the animals.

The zoo raises a lot of their own plants for the landscape. They also have full time employees who grow, propagate and harvest "browse" food for different zoo animals. During the year they will harvest 15 tons of bamboo, 36 tons of 12 fig species, 20 tons of acacia and 200,750 pieces of 34 eucalyptus species.

The zoo has a Millennium Seed Bank Project which is helping house many of the San Diego area native plants. The zoo has about 1,500 of the 6,000 native plants in the area. During the year, they collect seed from as many of the varieties as they can. They have to collect 10,000 to 20,000 seeds from 100 plants of a variety to represent the full range of diversity. The zoo is a beautiful, diverse, very interesting place to go if you are in the area.







January 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	GCCG - Guadalupe County Community Garden			HAPPY % YEAR	2 GCCG Workday 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	7	8 GCMG Board Meeting	9 GCCG Workday Red Barn 9 AM	10 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show
11	12 Master Gardener Office/Library	13 GCCG Workday	14	GCMG Meeting	16 GCCG Workday Red Barn	17 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show .
18	Master Gardener Office/Library	20 GCCG Workday ● NEW MOON	21	22	23 GCCG Workday Red Barn	24 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show
25	26 Master Gardener Office/Library Newsletter Deadline	27 GCCG Workday	28	29	30 GCCG Workday Red Barn	31 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show



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

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MG Training Co-Chairmen

Travis Franke *Agri*LIFE Agent

Master Gardener Coordinator

January Meeting Thursday, January 15, 2015 - 7 PM

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

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Elaine McIntyre, Editor (tindo@gvec.net)