



The Guadalupe Gardener



February 2015

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
Extension Service

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

President's Corner First Plant

I faced three eroded concrete rings that had been there for as long as I could remember. I'd seen old black and white-faded-to-sepia photos that chronicled a one time presence of tall Italian Pines with juniper trailing at their feet. Once remarkable landscaping between the sidewalk and street that fronted our home had by 1957 succumbed to bermuda, clover, sand stickers and dandelions.

Eleven year old fingers grasped a square-headed spade, Dad's universal gardening tool, and the handle of our trusted, rusted, old red wagon. In it were three one-gallon containers with bright green Gardenias waiting to be planted. My ears resonated with the words of Mom's request. She had asked me - not told me - to plant her new bushes as a favor to her.

I'd never planted a bush before and was not sure what I should do. I began by chopping at the unwanted vegetation with the business end of the spade, cutting weeds and grass off at ground level. Then some genetic intuition awakened within leading me to find a garden fork to turn the soil deep inside the four-foot rings. On hands and knees I pulled at and worked out as many roots as I could find, breaking up clods of brown-to-black soil until soft and moist, it crumbled through my fingers. Hours later, the soil in all three rings was weed free and as far as I knew - and I knew nothing, really - plant ready.

I carefully created craters in which to put the plants then set in the Gardenias, mounding up toward - but not over - the base of the plant.

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February Meeting

Thursday, February 19th - 7 PM AgriLIFE Extension Building

February 19 – Pat Mokry, Travis County MG, Identifying Plant Diseases, and Keeping Plants Healthy

Social & Refreshments 6:30 PM

Program at 7 PM followed by Business Meeting

Don't forget your name tag
- and plants for the plant exchange

HELP!

The Newsletter has lost its proof reader. If you would be willing to take up this volunteer position at the end of each month, please contact me at 210-391-4531 or tindo@gvec.net. **Elaine McIntyre**

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Association News

January Program Roundtables Planning and Planting for Spring

Six small group sessions were available to the GCMG attendees for the January educational program. Each session was 20 minutes and participants could select the areas that most interested them. Each moderator provided a handout on their topic and conducted an open forum for questions and shared information.

Gail Johnson presented “Getting your Trees Ready for Spring”. Gail discussed pruning, emphasizing the need to protect the oak from oak wilt by painting the wounds as you trim. She had a table for calculating the amount of nitrogen you need when fertilizing your trees. She stressed the need for watering adequately, especially fruit trees and the need for weed management.

Bob Teweles presented “Plant Propagation: Seeds or Starts?” Bob distributed a planting date guide for the area as well as several available internet links with information. He said for most vegetables, if you are planning to use seeds, the time is now. Bob likes to plant his seeds in 4 inch pots to avoid the stress of repotting, and recommends using a heat pad to maintain a 70-80 degree temperature during germination. He also shared the use of lights and fans. There was discussion on using seeds versus transplants.

Ray Lang presented “Coming Spring, and Spring: Planning & Planting Your Vegetable Garden”. Ray talked about the 8 gardening seasons instead of 4, (winter, coming spring, spring, coming summer, summer, coming fall, fall, coming winter). The “coming” is the time to prepare for planting. He uses the first day of April (April Fools’ Day) as the last day of frost and Halloween as the first day of frost. He introduced the idea of adding charcoal to the soil to aid in long term fertility. He provided a handout using the phases of the moon for your gardening chores.

Randy Rye moderated “International Year of Soils: How to Grow Yours”. Randy’s key points regarded the exploding population and how food production will need to rise by 70% to provide for adequate nutrition. He discussed the loss of millions of acres of farmland due to development. He talked about the loss of healthy soil due to wind and water and how to decrease the loss through conservative practices to maintain healthy soil from his handout, “Healthy soil reduces the need for nutrient loading and sediment runoff, increases efficiencies and sustains wildlife habitat.”

Peggy Jones’ session was “Pruning and Care of Roses for the Spring Bloom”. Peggy discussed preparing for pruning, i.e., what equipment you will need; identifying the rose to be pruned, and how that impacts your pruning practices. She shared thoughts on spraying, feeding, mulching and deadheading. Peggy, a member of the San Antonio Rose Society, provided a handout for fellow rose growers. She reported February is time for rose pruning.

Liz Romero presented “Dark & Dry: Shade Gardening in South Central Texas”. Liz discussed favorite evergreen or semi-evergreen plants for under shade trees. Her favorites were Turks cap, rouge plant, Hinckley Columbine, Tropical sage and Blue Shade Ruellia. For ground cover she recommended inland sea oats, holly fern and the spider plant. She also recommended a few bulbs, (oxalis, oxblood lilies, paper white, Spanish bluebell) if they would get “some” sun.

Submitted by **Sandy Foss**

January Meeting



Photos by
Marvin "T"
Taylor



Refreshments

The refreshments for the January 15 meeting were provided by Katy Pape, Judith M. Johnson, Kathy Bennett, Betty Hughes, Beth Zies, and Katie McLean. Thank you very much. They were greatly appreciated by all.
Submitted by Treva Hicks, Refreshment Volunteer Coordinator

Raffle winner, Betty Hughes, won \$22:. Debbie Lowe won the gift certificate Door Prize

DOWN THE GARDEN PATH BY THE TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

While not crazy about the cold dreary weather we have had for what seems like an eternity, I do appreciate the moisture. The sound and fury of a thunderstorm in the wee hours of Sunday morning had the Bell in full panic mode - little sleep for us and almost 3 inches of rain. Blessings from heaven!

As an escape from the dreary cold weather, I slip into the greenhouse. It is a delight to bask in the warm humid atmosphere and the fragrant blooms of the orchids. Many of the orchids in the greenhouse have descended from plants in South America and our winter is their summer bloom season.

The dreary weather has trapped me in house reading and re-reading gardening magazines and books. An article on trees was of particular interest, reminding me most people start thinking about their trees this time of the year. Whether planting, pruning or dealing with ball moss, this is the time we get busy with our trees.

Home owners, commercial businesses, schools and governments need to protect their trees by providing proper care and water. The loss of trees will result in higher heating and cooling bills for years to come. And then there is the water - more will be needed to maintain landscapes. The loss of trees in the landscape can impact property values. It is impossible to quantify the esthetic value of lost trees.

While fall is best, there is still time to add a tree to your landscape. But the tree should be planted now in order to give it a chance to establish a good root system before the heat of summer.

It is important to consider the four 'rights' of tree planting. Plant the right tree, in the right place, in the right way, at the right time of the year.

While we love our live oak trees, don't just plant oaks - diversity makes for a healthier urban forest. Diversity provides some protection to our landscape from disease and insects - oak wilt will eventually arrive here.

When selecting a tree for the landscape it is important to consider many different characteristics. Among the many characteristics to consider is the tree's potential for disease or insect problems. It is also important to know if the tree has fruit or nuts, flowers, or excessive leaf drop. Be sure to consider the mature height and spread.

When planting a tree be aware of its location to power lines, buildings, and other trees. Consider the mature size of a tree when planting near a house - fifteen feet from the side or ten feet from a corner. Planting trees too close together stops them from reaching their natural shape and size. Unless it's your burning desire is to continuously deal with pruning, be careful locating the tree.

Don't plant a \$100 tree in a \$10 hole! The hole is critical for establishing good root growth.

Dig the hole two to three times larger in diameter than the current root ball - make sure it isn't perfectly round - keeps the roots from circling. If you have clay soil and only dig a hole a little bigger than the root ball you will doom the tree to a slow death. It has the same effect as planting the tree in a giant cement pot - the roots will circle and eventually strangle the tree. Plant the tree at the same depth as the root ball or an inch or two above to allow for settling.

Keep the soil you remove and break it up. Use it to backfill around the new tree with the native soil, without amendments. **Research has shown that trees grow better is you only use the native soil that has been broken up instead of adding soil amendments.** Be sure to pack soil in good around the roots to eliminate air pockets.

(Continued on following page)

(Down the Garden Path - Continued from previous page)

Make a temporary soil wall around the edge of your hole to allow water to remain near the root ball. Remove this well after a year to encourage root growth beyond the original hole.

Apply 3 to 4 inches of native hardwood mulch to help regulate the soil moisture and temperature. Mulch will keep the soil warmer in winter and cooler in summer. Mulch will help keep grass and weeds away that compete for water.

Some excellent small ornamental trees to consider adding to your landscape include Texas redbud, Texas mountain laurel, wild olive, 'Little Gem' magnolia, crape myrtle, desert willow, yaupon holly, and vitex. Two ornamental plums grace our garden. While colorful foliage of red, gold and yellow is one of the benefits of our plums, other ornamentals may have colorful berries or blooms.

If you must have an oak, consider Bur, Chinkapin, Shumard, and improved varieties of live oak.

Some other trees to consider include Dura Heat River Birch, Bosque elm, and Lacebark elm, and cedar elm.

Pruning and ball moss will be covered in the next column. Until then.....Happy Gardening

Gwen DeWitt - 358-9473 or 813-9936

Native Plant Society Chapters Partner with Nursery Retailers for 2015

Two chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) have announced the twelve native Texas plants they recommend for 2015 for Guadalupe and Comal counties. In the NICE program (Natives Instead of Common Exotics), the non-profit group works with local retail nurseries to educate the public about native plants and recommend ones that are beautiful, useful and easy to grow.

The 2015 NICE plants are: Anacacho Orchid (*Bauhinia lunarioides*), Autumn Sage (*Salvia greggii*), Black Dalea (*Dalea frutescens*), Blackfoot Daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*), Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Lindheimer's Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*), Texas White Honeysuckle (*Lonicera albiflora*), Texas Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia texana*), Mexican Feather Grass (*Nassella tenuissima*), Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*) and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

Six nurseries currently participate; The Green Gate in Seguin, Maldonado Nursery in Seguin, Schulz Nursery in Marion, South Texas Growers in Bulverde, Canyon Lake Ace Hardware and Thyme & Treasure in St. Hedwig. The NPSOT chapters - Guadalupe County and Lindheimer in Comal County - provide free color posters, plant care handouts and signage to their partner nurseries. NICE volunteers give presentations to gardening, homeowner and civic groups to encourage the use and sales of these native plants.

The Native Plant Society of Texas is a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to promoting native plant research, preservation and use through local chapters around the state. For more information on the Guadalupe-Lindheimer NICE program, contact committee members Nancy Masterson, 830-305-9104 or Mary Moses, 830-226-5552.

Big Red Barn

Kay McElveen and Patricia Tyler-White have been holding down the fort since Janice Knobles has been out of commission this month with a broken right wrist. Mike Chandler and Bob Cox procured some mushroom compost for the Red Barn, and the workers are preparing to get the compost tilled in and are also planning for spring planting.

**Does your Club
Need Great Speakers?**

The Guadalupe County Master Gardeners' Speakers Bureau has speakers available on the following subjects:

Attracting Butterflies and Song	Herbs for South Texas	Shade Gardening
Birds to your Yard	Lawn Care	Trees That Do Well in South Texas
Compost and its Benefits	Low Water Landcaping	Urban Forestry
Composting with Worms	Native Plants in Your Landscape	Vegetable Gardening
Container Gardening	Orchids	Wildflowers (gathering and planting seeds)
Drip Irrigation	Plant Propagation	Xeriscape Landscaping
Firewise Landscaping	Rainwater Harvesting	
Growing Plants from Seed	Roses A-Z	

Contact: **Treva Hicks** at 830-303-4712 or hickslt@lycos.com; Attention: Speakers Bureau to set up a speaker for your club or organization.

When Will I Receive My 2015 Master Gardener Membership Card

2015 Master Gardener Membership Cards were available for members to pick up at the January membership meeting. If you weren't at the January meeting or you didn't pick up your card, you can obtain it in one of three ways.

You can pick up your membership card at any monthly Membership Meeting.

You can drop by the AgriLife Extension office at 210 E. Live Oak Street in Seguin and pick up your membership card from Carol Calentine (you might want to call first, 830-379-2153, to be sure Carol is in the office)

You can send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, 210 E. Live Oak Street, Seguin, TX 78155 requesting that your Membership Card be mailed to you.

Submitted by **Cindy Waechter**

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 - OPEN
 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.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

March 19 -Deedy Wright will give a talk on "Natives Instead of Common Exotics" aka NICE
 April 16 - Dennis Hale will present Spring Activities in Your Lawn

Project Sites Approved for Maintenance

Our Policies and Practices say that we may take volunteer credit for work that consists only of maintenance of a garden when the garden is an approved GCMG project. The intent of that Policy is to focus our volunteers' work -that is, that for which we may receive volunteer hours credit - on efforts that further our educational Mission.

The policies also require that each November the board determine which projects are approved for the following year. The Board is pleased to inform you that in October and November we reviewed all projects reported by members as having been worked on in 2014 to determine, as required, which will continue "approved" in 2015. In doing so we felt it important:

- to adopt the criteria by which we would make those decisions,
- to let you know what those criteria are
- to let you know which gardens/projects are approved for 2015
- to remain open to suggested changes in the criteria, now and in the future, and
- to spell out a simple process by which any member may request the Board to approve an additional location/project.

Expanding on the language in our policies, but only slightly so, the Board adopted the following **criteria to judge acceptability of projects**: Beginning in 2015 the garden or project must:

- be a location **accessible to the public**, and
- be a location **owned by a public or non-profit entity**, and
- **help educate the public** in that it serves GCMG as a location for intentional and proactively organized educational programs on aspects horticulture and related subjects, and
- has by its plants, labels indicating their names, care requirements and other information that helps the public care for plants and have that signage periodically maintained
- and **include signage** showing the garden or project to be a GCMG approved and supported project. (Signs will be provided by GCMG.)

Given these criteria the Board approved the following gardens and projects as acceptable venues for which members may take credit for what is otherwise only maintenance work in 2015:

- The Guadalupe County Community Garden
- The Texas Agricultural and Heritage Center (Big Red Barn)
- Guadalupe County AgriLife Building
- Gutierrez Xeriscape Park

These changes will not appear in VMS (the Volunteer Management System software) 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. To this end we approved a one-page application any member may use to request the addition of a project/location. It is available in the documents section of VMS.. This list applies only to hours reported for ongoing maintenance of approved gardens. Master Gardeners may continue to report hours for all the other activities included in our Policies Manual.

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG

(President - continued from page 1)

At the same time I made a trough all around the mound to hold water. Fingers pushed and prodded soil into place, packing and squeezing out air, but not too hard. Toward sunset, and every few days for weeks, I watered Mom's Gardenias. Two of the three plants made it, blossoming fragrant for my efforts.

Every year, once the flowers bloomed, Mom would thank me by floating a fresh gardenia in a brandy snifter and placing it on the window sill so I'd awaken to a scent never forgotten. The last day she did this was August 3, 1968, the day I moved out.

This is my first-plant story. I remember it every time I work a garden fork.

Each of us has a first-plant story. I hope you remember and treasure yours as I do mine - and that when you do, it enriches your gardening experience.



Jose

January Volunteer Recognition Program

19 Certified Master Gardeners qualified for the January Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing. Having done so, all 19 also qualify for one entry into the \$150 Annual Recognition Drawing.

Members Reporting 5 or More Hours in December 2014

1	Bowe	Mary	11	Odvodny	Ann
2	Calentine	Carol	12	Pinter	Esther
3	Friesenhahn	Joyce	13	Preston	Jerilyn
4	Hughes	Betty	14	Romero	Liz
5	Knobles	Janice	15	Seale	Iris
6	Lewicki	John	16	Smith	Clifford
7	McIntyre	Elaine	17	Styblo	Mary
8	Micheli	Hughlene	18	Turner	Pam
9	Moltz	Marilyn	19	Tyler-White	Patricia
10	Odvodny	Dale			

Congratulations to Carol Calentine our January winner. As our January Volunteer, Carol won a \$20 gift certificate to Maldonado Nursery.

To qualify for the Monthly Volunteer Recognition Program drawing, Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardeners must report a minimum of 5 volunteer and continuing education hours earned during the month in VMS by the last calendar day of the month. Hours earned for attendance at the monthly GCMG Membership Meeting are not included in the minimum 5 hours, except those earned for meeting setup. Board members do not participate in the Volunteer Recognition Program. Don't forget to earn and report your hours by 28 February 2015 to be eligible for the March Membership Drawing.

Submitted by **Cindy Waechter**

Community Garden - Updates from Ann Odvody

12/29 -BRRRR! No gardening tomorrow. In the 30's is just too cold and we would not be harvesting until Friday anyway, as the food banks are closed until next Monday. Hope to see you in the New Year!

12/30 - I shut off the water today, disconnected the timers and put them in the greenhouse so they would not freeze. Speaking of which, whoever removed the 240 volt heater from the greenhouse, please return it. It was one I took out of my work shed and loaned to the greenhouse. Friday looks to be a pretty rotten day and with the little rain we got this morning the ground was still muddy. I went to Lowe's this morning and bought a smaller heater and hooked it up so it would force warm air over the wheelbarrow with the timers in it. I also shut off the field drain, but left all the faucets open to try to prevent the valves freezing with captured water. So, before we turn the water back on, we need to turn off all the faucets. vr, Dale

1/2/2015 - The weather is once again just plain nasty! We will not work in the garden tomorrow. We would like to get the harvesting done Saturday at 1 p.m. The weather should be quite a bit warmer. We should have a lot to pick, so we could end up making a trip to both food banks. If you can help, it would be appreciated. Happy New Year!

1/3 - We had a beautiful afternoon for being in the garden. We spent all of our time harvesting, because the weather for this upcoming week looks as bad as last week was. There was lettuce, celery, beets, lots of mustard greens, big cabbages, and huge cauliflower. Our total harvest today was 41 pounds 13 ounces. Not a bad start for 2015! Thanks to Kathy, Joyce, Terri and Bob, we made quick work of getting everything picked, bagged and weighed. Delivery was made to both RACAP and Marion food banks. If temperatures are in the 30's Tuesday, we will not be in the garden. Dale did move the orange tree into the nursery. Stay warm!

1/6 - Since we had such a good harvest Saturday and it is going to be real cold Tuesday, we recommend we all stay home and warm. We cannot hook up the water until after the next cold snap this week. If we need water before then, please let me know and I think I can rig a hose with the drain line. vr, Dale

1/9 - Guys and Gals, it is once again too cold to work the garden tomorrow. That sentence could have been written better. We cannot not work in the too cold garden again because we did not work in the garden tomorrow because it was too cold in the first place. So, plainly speaking, we are not working in the garden because it is supposed to be too dang cold. The cold weather helps to keep the crop production down. There is a small 120V heater in the greenhouse and the sun shines bright many days in South Texas and the vent fan is turned on to try to cool it off and a whole house fan is in front of the ground level in vent to force cold air in if needed. We do what we can with what we have. So to clarify everything, we cannot work outside because even if the sun shines, it is going to be too cold and the greenhouse team cannot work in the greenhouse if the sun shines because it may be too hot. Of course, I'm being as obnoxious and obtuse as possible, but I did my best to make you smile. vr, Dale

1/12 - The way things are going, we should have a good peach crop this Spring assuming we do not get a late freeze. However we are not asking GCMG folks to come out tomorrow. I will be at the GCCG around noon talking to an electrician about converting our 240V line into 120V lines and spreading the wiring around the greenhouse. If any of the greenhouse team wants to offer an opinion they are more than welcome to attend. After talking with the electrician, I will check and see if any of the vegetables are getting leggy and need to be harvested. Or dry and need to be watered. Cost of labor is taken care of. If the electrician needs assistance, I'll have a work crew from the adult probation office in Seguin available Saturday when the electrician plans to work. Tomorrow noon is simply a walk-through time so the

(Continued on following page)

([Updates](#) - Continued from previous page)

electrician can plan his work and identify parts he may need for Saturday. Anybody who wants to help supervise probationers who are going to pull weeds and spread mulch; you are more than welcome to attend. I'll be at the garden at around 8:00a.m. Commissioner Wolverton will be there opening the building shortly thereafter so we do not have to go to the corner gas station.

1/16 - It was so good to get back in the garden this morning. Sunshine and warmer temperatures are wonderful things! We harvested cabbage, leafy greens, broccoli, and cauliflower. Three of the cauliflower were a bright orange - pretty. We harvested 39 pounds 6 ounces, giving us a total of 81 pounds 3 ounces after two harvests this year. The greenhouse folks are busy and there are baby cabbage plants basking in the sunshine. We caged the blackberries before we had a bramble patch. We have much still to learn about growing blackberries - any tips would be appreciated! We also got some ugly frozen plants and weeds out of two beds. The girls were taking a vine off the fence and found a bird's nest with eggs, so they ceased operations. We will get back to that project later. Dale also turned the water back on. We are looking forward to good weather again next Tuesday. Hope you can join us then.

1/20 - We definitely have an entertaining variety of weather here in Texas, especially in the winter. Today was beautiful and by noon jackets were off and we were comfortable working in the sunshine. We harvested heavily since we may have cold wet weather on Friday. The harvest totaled 36 pounds 12 ounces. The annual total is 117 pounds 15 ounces. We continued weeding and clearing beds for the next round of planting. This will be potatoes, more cabbage and broccoli. Many of our gardeners are already fantasizing about big red juicy tomatoes.

1/27 -Ladies Day in the garden on a beautiful morning. We got a lot done. Joyce, Mary, Lorena and her daughters did the harvesting first thing. We had 27 pounds 2 ounces of produce. We have 145 pounds 2 ounces so far for 2015. After harvesting and weighing, we cleared and weeded two beds and the mulched areas. Denise and Kathy worked on trimming two of the peach trees. Cynthia delivered 2 keyhole garden kits which we will set up when we get the guys back from rodeo duty. Thanks all!

Why Do My 2014 Hours Show in VMS?

When I view my hours in VMS, my 2014 hours are included in the totals. Is this correct? Yes, it is. As currently designed, VMS contains a cumulative total of all hours reported in VMS regardless of the year earned. When you report 2015 hours in VMS, the totals will include your 2014 hours.

How can I see how many hours I've reported in 2015? Go to Your Information, Viewing Your Hours. At the top of the page under Volunteer Hour History for (Your Name), you will see a Start Date Box and an End Date Box. Input the dates for which you want your hours reported and select the SUBMIT KEY. For example, if you want to know how many hours you earned in January the Start Date would be 1/1/2015 and the End Date would be 1/31/2015. Scroll to the bottom of the page to see your hour totals for the dates input. If you want a written report of your hours, select the CREATE EXCEL key and VMS will place an Excel Spreadsheet of your hours in your Downloads Files.

Date	Activity	Project Name	Miles Driven	CE Hours	Vol. Hours
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Submitted by **Cindy Waechter**

Speakers Bureau

On Monday January 12, 2015 Liz Romero gave a presentation on "Rain Barrels for Gardeners" to the Lazy Daisy Garden Club at the home of Nell Marin.

To the members that do programs for the MG Speakers Bureau: I know you are all reporting your time etc on VMS. I would like you to please send me a brief note about the programs you do. I am always trying to improve our Speakers Bureau and I use this information to do it. If you have any suggestions on how to improve it, please let me know!!!

I have updated flyers with the Topics our Speakers do presentations on so, if you are member of another organization or know someone who needs a Speaker, give it to them or call me at 830-303-4712 or refer them to our Website: guadalupecountymastergardeners.org.

Submitted by **Treva Hicks**, Speakers Bureau Volunteer Coordinator

Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class 27

Plans are underway for Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class 27. The dates will be August 12 through December 9, 2015. We are going to have the class in the new AgriLife meeting room, which will be great. It is a spacious, flexible space that should accommodate any needs our speakers have.

Speaking of speakers, Kay McElveen and Mike Murley, the Class Assistants, are in the process of lining them up. We have already had affirmative responses from several of them. Once we get the "outside" speakers committed, we will probably be asking some of you who have certain specialties to consider presenting to the class. That will probably be within the next couple of weeks. Please say yes if asked!

It is early in the year, but not too early to start recruiting for the class. If you have friends, family or perfect strangers who say something about being interested in gardening, please encourage them to consider the class. Once the curriculum is set, we will put together some printed material to give to people – I've already had one person ask me for something. If you have any suggestions or questions about the class, feel free to contact either Kay (kay.mcelveen@yahoo.com or 479-790-2933) or Mike (murleym1@yahoo.com or 830-491-8501).

(Submitted by **Kay McElveen**)

Master Gardener Officer/Library

Thanks to lots of help, the Master Gardener office is looking professional. We survived the move, and I and volunteers Esther Pinter, Jerilyn Preston, Treva Hicks and Ramonita Cardona have been organizing and storing stuff in an attractive, large room with no cabinets or closets. Almost everything is in plastic bins on shelves, and today we moved boxes and canopies into the storage shed. Thanks to Jose Contreras, Bob Cox, and Mike Chandler, we have deep, strong shelves in the shed, and Mike even patched the hole in the roof. Most of the accumulated junk that was in the shed, including the roaches, has been disposed of, so now we have lots of storage space. Carol Calentine has waved her magic wand and is getting us a rebuilt computer, and Cindy Martin may have a printer for us. Jerilyn and her husband are working on a library system that will allow us to check out books to members.

Thanks to everyone who pitched in to help make YOUR office so nice. Come to see it on Mondays between 8:30 and noon.

Submitted by **Betty Hughes**

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.

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 **Big Red Barn**. Check with Janice Knobles, 830-379-6193 or e-mail jmknobles@yahoo.com or details.

KWED Master Gardener Lawn and Garden Show 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 hicks1t@lycos.com

Need a Geek

Buenos Dias, y'all! We really need a computer savvy person who's willing to volunteer to:

- analyze our needs in the Master Gardener office: current and whatever it takes to move us into the 21st Century
- advise us on the acquisition of a new computer and printer that will accomplish this feat within our limited funds
- set up the new system in the office, including transferring whatever software and data files might need to be to be kept
- do enough training to get us started

Our current system is slower than slow and the printer does not function so you need not waste time diagnosing it, unless of course you just like to be frustrated. If you are our prayed-for, rent-free Geek please see me - email me - call me at 830-401-0800.

Many thanks, Jose

San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo

Construction on the Master Gardener display at the San Antonio Stock and Rodeo began Monday, 26 January. Dale Odvody is point of contact for this volunteer opportunity. You can contact Dale at odvodyd@swbell.net for more details.

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Lunch and Learn Gardening Program

Presented by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Thursday, February 5 - 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. Presented by **Jim Johnson**, Vegetable Specialist.

Thursday, March 5 - How to Use Companion Plantings in the Landscape

Topics presented by **Peggy Jones**, Master Gardener, include Companion Plants for Pest Control, Diversity is the Key, and Roses Love Garlic.



Programs are from **Noon- 1PM** 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.

The Romance of Wrought Iron

Wednesday, February 4, at 10 a.m.

3310 N. New Braunfels @ Funston

San Antonio Garden Center Club will present a Valentine's program at their meeting featuring San Antonio metalwork artist Christopher Voss, owner of Christopher Voss 4th Generation Craftsman, Inc. He will talk about garden art and the blending of passion with practicality. Join us for coffee at 9:30; meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, call (210) 824-9981 or go to www.sanantoniogardencentre.org.

Roses - Pruning and Bugs

Thursday, Feb 19, 1-3pm

3355 Cherry Ridge Dr, Suite 208, San Antonio

Bexar County MG Educational Seminars presents Ed Bradley, Master Gardener and Rosarian, who will speak on the correct way to prune your roses and which bugs to watch for on your roses. 2 CEUs. For more information contact Barbara Lutz: President@bexarmg.org.

All About Growing Onions!!

Check out the Dixondale Farms website <http://www.dixondalefarms.com/> which offers online & downloadable guides, and newsletters. Dixonville Farms in Carrizo Springs, TX will turn 102 years old in 2015.

WE VEGETABLES!

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

Looking Ahead to 2015! 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 [830-620-3440](tel:830-620-3440) 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.

Carnivorous Plants - BCMG Meeting **Thursday, March 19, 2015, 6-8:30pm** **3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 208, San Antonio**

1.5 CEUs for MGs. Free. Bexar County Master Gardeners Meeting begins with a social time at 6pm followed by the special presentation at 6:30pm at the Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Office. For more information, email [Barbara Lutz](mailto:Barbara.Lutz@bcmg.org), BCMG President, or call: 467-6575. You don't have to be a kid to be fascinated by plants that eat bugs! Learn all kinds of interesting information about Carnivorous Plants. Speaker is Dr Dotty Woodson, Water Resource Program Specialist, Texas AgriLife Research & Extension Center, Dallas

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](tel:972.952.9671), karen.sanders@tamu.edu, <http://dallas.tamu.edu>



**Native Plant Society of Texas
Guadalupe County (Schertz-Seguin) Chapter
Tuesday February 10, 2014, 7:00 PM
St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX**

See Texas, See the World

Did you ever wonder why the annual NPSOT Fall Symposium is held in such different – and sometimes distant – parts of Texas each year? The reason is to explore the wonderfully diverse native plant communities in the many ecological regions throughout our great state. John Siemssen, past president of the Lindheimer chapter, will review the preceding decade of symposia, and highlight all the fascinating details of the various vegetative zones.

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/>

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.

**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.

**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 Stewards of the Land. 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/>

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

GARDENING EVENTS



or

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.

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Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Alternate - Marvin Borth
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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

AgriLife Building Workdays - Liz Romero

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

Volunteer Chair Assistant - Don Hilbert

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden - John Lewicki & Kim Darrough

Historian - Sandy Foss

Class 27 Coordinators - Kay McElveen & Mike Murley

Facebook Editor - Cynthia Leos

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Bob Teweles

February 2015



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

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Welta Burris	Secretary
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Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Laurie Brunell	Volunteer Chairman
Cindy Waechter & Dave Elder	MG Training Co-Chairmen
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent Master Gardener Coordinator

February Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2015 - 7 PM

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

Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination by the Master Gardeners is implied, and no endorsement by the Master Gardeners is implied. Educational programs conducted by the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners and 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.

Elaine McIntyre, Editor
(tindo@gvec.net)