



The Guadalupe Gardener

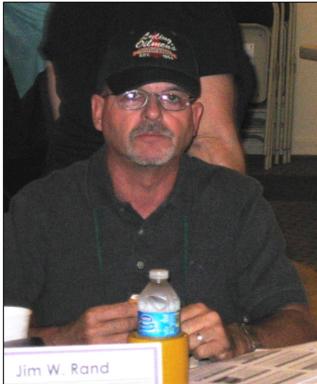


November 2015



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

President's Message



Jim



Jon



and
Stan

(Continued on Page5)

November Meeting Thursday

**November 19th- 7 PM
AgriLife Building**

Social & Refreshments 6:30 PM

Program at 7 PM

Paul Cox, Botanist at SA Botanical Gardens will be doing his presentation on Sacred Plants.

Followed by Business Meeting

In This Issue

- P2 - October Meeting Program, Future Programs
- P3 - October Meeting, New MG, Nominating Committee Report, Texas Superstars
- P4 - Propagation Workshop, Speakers Bureau, Education Report
- P6 - County Fair
- P7 - Rummage Sale, Recipe
- P8-9 - Big Red Barn
- P9 - Dues, Ag Fair Days
- P10 - Wandering Gardener
- P11 - Class 27
- P12 - Black Hills Reptile Garden
- P13 - NICE Plants
- P14 - October Volunteer Recognition
- P15 - 2000 Year Old Seed Germinates
- P16 - Christmas Tree Decorating, Master Naturalist Class
- P17 - Volunteer Opportunities
- P17-18 - Gardening Events
- P18-20 - Education-Classes-Seminars
- P21 - November Calendar

Association News

October Meeting Program Organic Gardening and Pollinators



Michelle Gorham from Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas, gave an entertaining and educational talk on Organic Gardening and Pollinators to the GCMG October Meeting. Michelle has 20 years of experience in a variety of horticultural positions and is an Alamo Area Master Naturalist with a Master's degree in Agriculture. Green Spaces is a nonprofit organization located in San Antonio that organized in 1998 to protect the land over the Edwards Aquifer. Michelle works with a program that sponsors over 40 community gardens in the city. For more information on the programs available visit greensatx.org

Michelle's program included a slide presentation on organic gardening. Organic gardening is defined as growing plants without the use of synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By doing this, she explained, the gardener reduces the harm to the environment, to beneficial insects and to humans, and it is fun and saves money.

She stressed using good gardening practices; proper watering, the proper sun requirements, planting in the correct season, replenishing the soil with compost, rotating your crops and adding mulch and organic fertilizer. She also suggested planting more than one species. Michelle encouraged a natural balance by tolerating a low level of insects, relying on natural predators and identifying your problem before you spray.

Organic fertilizers can be made (using manure, blood meal, seaweed or compost) or purchased. She uses Medina products such as Growing Green. **Compost** is available for purchase, or you can make your own. She uses **insecticidal soap** for common plant pests including aphids, mealy bugs and spider mites. There are mixtures available on line to do-it-yourself or purchase at a shop ready to go. For cabbage loopers and squash vine borers she recommends **Bt (Bacillus thuringiensis)**. Other organic methods: pick off the bugs by hand, use barriers, such as row covers and rotate your crops. For fire ants she recommended a **drench** of orange oil (6oz), molasses (1 Tb), dish soap (one squeeze) to a gallon of water. For grubs, ants and fleas she recommends **beneficial nematodes**.

Fungus treatment: Michelle recommended 1 part milk to 9 parts water and spray on tops of leaves or spray 1 teaspoon baking soda with 1 quart water. For Blossom End Rot prevention water deeply, evenly and consistently, fertilize, compost and mulch. The program was followed by a question and answer session.

Submitted by **Sandy Foss**.

Future Programs
December - Christmas Social
January - Scooter Cheatham - Useful Wild Plants

REFRESHMENTS

I want to thank all the MGs who brought refreshments for the October Meeting to share with the members. They were Dean Webb, Joyce Friesenhahan, Joanne Shanfelt, Sandy Foss, Carol Suchan, Betty Hughes, Kathy Bennett, Joyce Johnson, and Katy McLean. I hope I did not leave anyone out. The refreshments were enjoyed by everyone.

Treva Hicks

Mike Chandler won \$32 in the raffle.
Rodney Burton won the Door Prize, a \$10 gift certificate.

OCTOBER MEETING



Newly Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener

Janie Herb

Class 26, received her Certificate from Jose Contreras, GCMG President at the October 15, 2015 meeting.

Photo by **Cindy Waechter**

Nominating Committee Report

President - Marvin Borth
President Elect - Cynthia Lyssy
Vice President - Kay McElveen
Treasurer - Jim Johnson
Secretary - Janice Tucker Jadwin

Elections will be held at the November meeting. Further nominations may be made from the floor at that time with written consent of the person nominated.

Texas Superstars

The Texas Superstar website (<http://texassuperstar.com/>) is newly revised. Bookmark it, and take some time to peruse all the plants, tips on how to make selections, and growing tips!

Propagation Workshop

On October 3rd, fourteen Master Gardeners gathered at the AgriLife Extension building to hone their propagation skills. Bob Teweles, aided by Cindy Waechter, provided a 90-minute presentation and demonstration covering propagation by division, layering and stem cuttings. Bob emphasized that most gardens have "volunteer" plants that may have grown from seed or been brought in with compost which can be potted for later transplant or the plant sale. Many grasses and bulbs need to be thinned periodically and these plants are easy to propagate by division into appropriately sized pots.

Most of the participants had brought cuttings and spent the last half of the workshop sharing, preparing and potting cuttings of hibiscus, lantana, roses, mint, salvia, begonia, and countless other plants. Although October is not an ideal time to propagate most plants, the participants are hopeful that their cuttings will root, providing them with new plants and perhaps some plants for next April's Earth Day plant sale.

Article by **Bob Teweles**

Photo by **Bob Cox**



SPEAKERS BUREAU

Any MGs who do programs or presentations need to document the information on VMS including how many men and women attended. This information is for Travis Franke who sends it to Jayla Fry at Texas A&M at the end of the year.

Submitted by **Treva Hicks**

EDUCATION:

On Thursday October 1, Deedy Wright gave her presentation on "Fall Bulbs for Central Texas" at the AgriLife Extension Office.

At the AgriLife Extension Office on Saturday October 3, Propagation Specialist Bob Teweles gave a "Propagation Workshop" to a group of MGs (see above).

On Monday October 13, at the GVEC Meeting Room in Schertz Marvin A. Borth gave a presentation on "Lawn Care and Maintenance".

Submitted by **Treva Hicks**

(Jim, Jon and Stan - continued from page 1)

Earth Day 2012. I'm standing in the street in front of our MG booth coaxing folks to come in, take a few seeds, let their little ones pot a plant, grow a flower, learn a little bit. I notice a tall, bearded gentleman in a white gimme cap talking to Betty Hughes and her motioning him towards me. He comes out and asks a few questions about Master Gardeners and I notice his slow deliberate, sometimes halting speech. We talk for a while and after I describe the sessions at summer's end coming in Class 24, he mentions interest in learning about rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation. I walk him over to Randy Rye standing in his bright new leg cast, talking with Jim Johnson at their drip irrigation display. I introduce them to Jim Rand, sing their praises and let them talk and go back to working the crowd. After a few minutes I see Jim Rand still there. The next time he comes to mind is when I see his name on his application for Class 24.

There are some folks who just stand out in a group. I don't know if it's because of the confidence with which they carry themselves or the depth of the questions they ask. Jon Elia was one of those guys. He stood out for me the day I went to help Class 25 with some breakout sessions. He wasn't in the discussion group I led, so it's more telling that he made an impression on me during the class's plenary session that followed. Jon popped back into consciousness about a year ago, after I'd agreed to serve as President. An appeal had come out for help finding projects for Jon to log time hours in a way that fit his very busy schedule. It happened that I had a couple of ideas in mind which would require some fact finding research. I shared them with Jon and he agreed to go on line to find the data I needed. His unexpected health challenge cut that work short.

If you were at the 2012 Christmas Social you'll remember the gregarious graduate who interrupted planned activities to share this:

Ode to Class 24.

So much to know about how to grow—
The course went fast and now it's past—
Jose, Cindy and crew did their best,
Now it's up to us to do the rest—
The speakers were great and we learned a lot.
I hope the important things are not forgot—
Fifty volunteer hours is a lot to obtain, but well
worth it for the knowledge gained—
Using both inside and outside voices, our
instructors taught us good gardening choices—
Our thanks to those who led the way
for Class 24 to reach Graduation Day—
Stan Posey, Class 24

Like all of you Thanksgiving always reminds me of my many blessings. This year I'm giving thanks for

- the time we had - albeit too short - with these three souls
- for the Master Gardeners who taught them, talked with them, learned from them, played in the dirt with them
- for all of us, and how we make each others' world a better place to be. Jose Contreras

2015 Guadalupe County Fair

Our 2015 Guadalupe County Fair Horticulture Division booth was even better this year thanks to all of the volunteers who were involved.



We expanded our educational outreach this year. April Rippel, Class 27, created two tomato grow boxes with one planted and an empty one available for demonstration. This was a big hit and generated valuable discussions with our visitors. Information from Jim Johnson's plans for building a grow light and a recipe for tomato preserves were also available.



The worm composting exhibit was another favorite. Barbara Heuerman, Class 27, shared worms and instructions to begin worm composting.

Our butterfly gardening exhibit drew interest. Elizabeth Richardson created a beautiful poster and handouts to guide in the selection of both host and nectar plants. Cindy Martin provided heirloom zinnia seeds and had a bouquet of the flowers to show visitors what they could grow to attract butterflies.



Jerilyn Preston took the lead on the children's activities this year. She created a beautiful game with an educational focus for older children and adults. Betty Hughes, as usual, organized several craft activities including planting seeds, necklaces, coloring butterflies for a butterfly tree, pumpkin tic-tac-toe and tattoos.

Entries for the produce judging increased this year. Our judges were our own Travis Franke and Comal County Extension Agent Michael Haynes. Thanks to both of them.



Our master gardeners took home some prizes. Ribbons were given to Clara Mae Marcotte, Cindy Martin, Jim Johnson, Jennifer Wilson, Guadalupe County Community Garden, Gail Johnson, Doug Biggs, Karen Patterson, April Rippel, Mary Bowe, Ann Odvody, Denise Bonds, Carol Suchan, and Pat Schultze.

This year's raffle included a folding garden cart. This was won by Ronald Burton. Ronald is one of our Master Gardener students in class 27. We sold \$400 worth of raffle tickets to support the cost of this event. Two raised bed kits were included in the raffle. These kits were donated by Marla Miller. Thanks Marla. One bed was open only to master gardeners who entered produce for judging. Doug Biggs won this bed.



Special thanks to the set up and cleanup crews. This is hard work that was accomplished with efficiency, good will and laughter. What a great organization.

Several people also expressed interest in the 2016 class. People new to the area are looking for a way to learn and meet new people here. They could not join a better group.

The 2016 County Fair committee has formed for next year. Cindy Martin, Carol Suchan and Barbara Heuerman will co-chair and we are looking at you, April Rippel, to join us. Thanks for everyone's support for this event.

Cindy Martin, 2015 Guadalupe County Fair Chair

**GET YOUR
RID OF
STUFF**

First Annual
RUMMAGE



November 14

Donate! Volunteer! Shop!

Basic Information

Agrilife Meeting Room and Parking Lot

November 14, - 9 am to 2:30 pm

Goods donated should work, be clean, not rusty - if it needs painting, paint it
Items not sold will be donated to charity.

Bringing Items You Donate

Bring goods Thursday, November 12th, 2:30-7 PM or Friday, November 13th, 9 am to 6 pm

Large items: advise in advance and bring Saturday 7 - 8 am

We still need volunteers to help. Contact Jose Contreras.

Best Broccoli Salad - from Joanne Shanafelt

1 1/2 cups mayonnaise

1/2 cup sour cream

1/4 cup sugar

1 bunch broccoli, cut into very small florets

1/2 head cauliflower, optional, also cut into very small florets

1 small red onion, chopped

1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

1-(3oz) container real bacon bits

In a large bowl, combine mayo, sour cream, and sugar; mix well. Add remaining ingredients, mixing until well combined. Cover and chill at least 4 hours before serving. This is even better if it's made a few days in advance and allowed to marinate in the fridge. Serves 6.

Report from the Big Red Barn

Fall is here and so are the school tours! We recently participated in three weeks of school tours from Guadalupe and surrounding county schools as part of AgFest. The kids really seemed to have a good time, even though the weather was still pretty warm (that means it was really hot!) for September and October. Thank you to all of the Master Gardeners and Class 27 people who volunteered to act as garden tour guides! The students can be a lot of fun, but they are still a challenge at times.

Trying to have cool weather crops to demonstrate when it has been this warm has been a challenge. Some things are doing really well. We have some beautiful broccoli, cauliflower, brussel sprouts and cabbage. We have been less successful with spinach, beets, mustard, etc. We dug sweet potatoes recently and had some VERY big ones.

For those of you who have not had a chance to visit the Big Red Barn Garden recently we have tried a couple of new things. We took one of the plots and solarized it to kill weeds and bugs. We then separated the plot into 4 ft. wide beds with 2.5 ft. mulched walkways between. The goal was to reduce the amount of walking on the planting area and resulting compaction of the soil. These are the beds that are producing well.

In addition, we built two demonstration small area gardens – a square foot garden and a keyhole garden. Both of those are doing very well and visitors find them interesting and informative. Now that it is starting to cool off, things should do even better with our fall garden.

Article and photos by **Kay McElveen**



Thanks for Volunteers at Ag Fair Days at the Big Red Barn

Dear Volunteers & Coordinators,

On behalf of all of us at The Big Red Barn, I want to thank you for sharing your time and expertise with all of the 1869 students who attended this year as compared to 1810 last year in 2014. Several of the students and teachers commented on how much they enjoyed their visit and look forward to coming again.

Coordinators, please share this message with all of the volunteers you secured for us as I do not have their contact information. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Gratefully, Martin Mueck, Ag Fair Days Coordinator

Don't Let the Clock Run Out Pay Your Dues at the November Membership Meeting

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners will be collecting 2016 dues at the November Membership Meeting from Certified Master Gardeners who have met their recertification requirements. The 19 November meeting will be your last opportunity to pay 2016 dues at a membership meeting.

Chapter 6 of the Policies and Procedures Manual, approved by the voting membership in May 2014, requires the following to recertify and pay your dues.

- Complete 12 hours of volunteer service

- Complete 6 hours of continuing education

- Report hours in the on-line Volunteer Management System (VMS)

- Complete and sign the annual Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement

- If you were a member of Class 25 or your background check expires in 2016, complete and sign the Volunteer Consent for Criminal Background History Check

Please remember **the Membership Chair and/or Treasurer cannot accept your dues until you have reported the minimum hours required for re-certification in VMS, completed and signed your Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement, and completed and signed your Volunteer Consent for Criminal Background History Check if it expires in 2016.**

For **Class 26** students:

- If you certified in December 2014, to recertify for 2016, you must complete twelve (12) hours of volunteer service and six (6) hours of continuing education, report those hours in VMS not later than 31 Dec 2015, complete and sign the annual Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement and pay your \$20 dues.

- If you certified in 2015, you have met your 2016 volunteer and continuing hours requirement. Once you complete and sign the annual Texas Master Gardener Volunteer Agreement, you may pay your \$20 dues at the November meeting.

Submitted by **Cindy Waechter**

TEXAS GARDENER FUNDRAISER

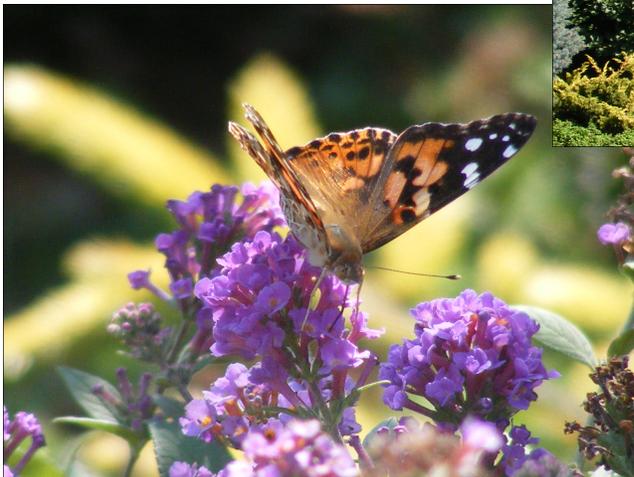
Our Treasury keeps 25% of your subscription when it is sent through GCMG

The Wandering Gardener Marilyn Moltz

Powell Gardens, Kingsville, Mo

Powell Gardens is a botanical garden located about 30 miles southeast of Kansas City, Mo. We had seen the sign for it as we were driving to Independence, Mo to spend a few days to sight see and visit with friends. We were so glad we had seen the sign! This is a 900 plus acre rolling countryside that has a little bit of everything. There are many walking trails, nature hikes, water features, water fountains, sculptures, and a host of trees, shrubs and flowers in sun and shade that attract many birds, bugs and butterflies.

We spent 2 hours there and will go back if we are in the area again as we did not get to see all they had or take all of the pictures I would have liked. As a gardener I was happy to see that many of their plants were well marked with name tags as I was familiar with many of their plantings but not all. We went during the week and it was not crowded and the workers were happy to talk to you about what they were working on and what plant you were not familiar with.



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners – Class 27

AgriLife Bldg, 210 Live Oak, Seguin

Wednesday, 10:00 – 2:30 thru December 9

Kay McElveen, Class Coordinator, kay.mcelveen@yahoo.com 830-401-4420

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Class 27 Schedule

- Nov 4 **Insects, Bugs & Integrated Pest Management- How to Tell Good Guys from Bad And Do Less Harm.** Molly Keck, Entomologist, Bexar County AgriLife Integrated Pest Management Program Specialist
- Nov 11 **How to Produce Your Own Fruits & Nuts at Home.** Larry A. Stein, Ph.D., Professor & Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M
- Nov 18 **How to Select, Plant and/or Nurture Trees in Our Guadalupe County Landscape.** Nancy Masterson, Certified Arborist, Certified Guadalupe County Master Gardener, Master Naturalist
- Dec 2 **Texas Superstars.** Larry A. Stein, Ph.D., Professor & Extension Horticulturist, Texas A&M
How To Garden to For Wildlife. Meredith O'Reilly, Travis County A&M AgriLife Youth Gardening Specialist for 4-H CAPITAL, Texas Master Naturalist, NWF Habitat Steward Host
- Dec 9 **Landscape Design Review/Small Groups.** Dennis Hale, Landscape Designer, Former Wilson County AgriLife Extension Agent.

Class 27 Student Recap

Class 27 is moving along incredibly fast and we are already more than halfway done! Both Kay McElveen and Cindy Waechter are working hard to keep us organized and busy with various volunteer opportunities.

We ended September with a much-anticipated field trip to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin. Even though the mosquitos were out in full force, spending time at the Wildflower Center was quite a highlight. Our very knowledgeable guides, Deedy Wright and Susan Jackson, led us through the gardens where we were able to spend a considerable amount of time identifying numerous plants and learning about their specific characteristics. I especially enjoyed our time at the Wildflower Center and I can't wait to dive into the world of native plants!

October began with another treat. Cindy Meredith, proprietor of The Herb Cottage in Lavaca County, discussed how to grow herbs in Texas, how to harvest and propagate various herbs, and how to prepare herbal teas and vinegars. Ms. Meredith also covered multiple types of peppers, and how to successfully grow them during different seasons. Ms. Meredith was kind enough to bring plants for purchase, which prompted me to grow several new herbs and I hope to tackle planting peppers next summer.

The following week, Greta Schuster Ph.D.-Texas A &M Kingsville, engagingly introduced us to plant pathology. We learned about the disease triangle, and how to minimize disease transmission. We also covered the distinguishing characteristics between bacteria, fungi, viruses, and nematodes. To enhance our learning, we had the benefit of microscopically viewing leaves infected with pathogens such as fungi and spider mites. Besides being super cool, viewing the pathogens under a microscope really put into perspective how diseases can affect a plant.

And recently, on October 21, we were fortunate to have 2 class speakers. First, Calvin Finch Ph.D., discussed various ways to minimize landscape watering, and home modifications to utilize gray water. Luckily, we had enough time for Dr. Finch to cover his favorite varieties of drought tolerant roses. Second, Guadalupe Co. Master Gardener president, Jose Contreras, covered factors that make a home and landscape fire resistant. We learned how to reduce fire hazards in a landscape by dividing the area around your home into manageable zones. FireWise landscaping is a topic I never previously considered, but now I understand its importance regardless of the type of property setting.

I feel fortunate to be a member of class 27, and am amazed by how much I have learned in class and through volunteer opportunities. I am eager to learn more as we move into our final stretch.

Submitted by Elizabeth Richardson, student, MG class 27

Black Hills Reptile Gardens, Rapid City, SD

On our trip to the September 25th Buffalo Roundup in Custer State Park in South Dakota, my husband and I also went to several other tourist attractions like Mount Rushmore - and the Reptile Gardens. The reptile/amphibian part of this attraction was unexpectedly enjoyable - clean, well-labeled, and stocked enough to be put in the 2014 Guinness Book of Records for number of species. But I really went to see their botanical gardens, and I wasn't disappointed. In addition to a very large tropical plant display in their climate controlled Sky Dome that included orchids, cacti, bromeliads as well as a variety of other tropical plants and birds, the beautifully designed garden beds on the grounds had over 50,000 flowers blooming in all their glory. What a surprise to find a flower wall on the side of one of their buildings, and, while strolling to the giant tortoise habitat, to discover three petunia trees.

I was told a group of college students are busy now planning next years plantings and will, in the spring, clean and replant the beds. What a project! And the staff obviously cares for the flower beds with detailed and loving attention. If you get up to that area, don't miss the Reptile Gardens



Article by **Elaine McIntyre**. Photos by **Mac McIntyre**

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 - Bob Teweles
Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz
What Is It? - Katie McLean

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.

Fall Color comes with NICE! Plants

After our long hot summers, fall color is always desirable in our gardens. It's time to plant some native plants that bring on lots of beautiful fall color!

Autumn Sage, *Salvia Greggii*, is a beautiful flowering perennial growing 2-3 feet tall. It comes in a variety of colors, from red to pink to white. It blooms periodically from spring to fall. You can count on it being very drought tolerant once established. Deer generally leave it alone and it attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees.

Chinquapin Oak, *Quercus Muhlenbergii*, is a large tree that grows 50-70 feet tall and 30-40 feet across. It needs full sun and requires additional moisture until established. The foliage is stunning with the leaves turning rust color and yellow in the fall. One plus for wildlife is that the acorns support a wide range of mammals, and it is also the larval host plant for the Grey Hairstreak butterfly.

Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus Aromatica*, is a mid-sized deciduous shrub which grows 6-12 feet tall and 4-6 feet across. The red, orange, or yellow fall foliage will delight owners. The small early spring blooms provide nectar and the berries are enjoyed by birds and small mammals.

Virginia Creeper, *Parthenocissus Quinquefolia*, is a tall growing vine that can grow to over 40 feet tall. It needs full sun for the best fall color and berry production. The scarlet fall foliage is an eye catcher. The berries are enjoyed by many birds, and it is moderately deer resistant. It clings by adhesive tipped tendrils, so it is not recommended for wooden structures.



Photo of Virginia Creeper by George H Bruso, unrestricted through Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Image Gallery

The Guadalupe and Lindheimer chapters of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) work with neighborhood nurseries that stock true Texas plants. Look for them at Canyon Lake Ace Hardware, South Texas Growers in Bulverde, Maldonado Garden Center in Seguin, Schulz Nursery in Marion, Maldonado Nursery in New Braunfels, and Green Gate in Seguin. These nurseries participate in the NPSOT chapters' NICE! program: Natives Instead of Common Exotics. Homeowner and civic groups are invited to contact the NPSOT chapters for a free presentation on the many native plants for this region. For more information, call Nancy Masterson in Guadalupe County at 830-305-9104 or Mary Moses at 210-279-5748 in Comal.

Thank You Volunteers – October Recognition

A special shout out goes to our Top Volunteers reporting 25 or more volunteer hours during September – Denise Bonds, Mary Bowe, Jose Contreras, Bob Cox, Barbara Heuerman, Peggy Jones, John Lewicki, Kay McElveen, Ann Odvody, Dale Odvody, Jerilyn Preston, Iris Seale, and Cindy Waechter. Thank you for your service!

Members Reporting 5 or More Hours in September 2015

October Volunteer Recognition Program					
	LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME		LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME
1	Anderson	Marilyn	21	Marcotte	Clara Mae
2	Augustus	Lillian	22	Martin	Cindy
3	Bennett	Kathy	23	McElveen	Kay
4	Bonds	Denise	24	McIntyre	Elaine
5	Bowe	Mary	25	Micheli	Hughlene
6	Briscoe	Joyce	26	Miller	Marla
7	Carroll	Kathy	27	Moltz	Marilyn
8	Chandler	Mike	28	Odvody	Ann
9	Cox	Robert (Bob)	29	Odvody	Dale
10	Darrough	Kim	30	Patterson	Karen
11	Dylla	Laura	31	Preston	Jerilyn
12	Foss	Sandra	32	Schultze	Pat
13	Foss	Lisa	33	Seale	Iris
14	Friesenhahn	Joyce	34	Shanafel	Joanne
15	Henry	Beth	35	Styblo	Mary
16	Jones	Peggy	36	Turner	Pam
17	Kjohlhede	KJ	37	Virost	Terri
18	Knobles	Janice	38		
19	Lewicki	John	39		
20	Magee	Janet	40		

37 Certified Master Gardeners qualified for the October Volunteer Recognition Program Drawing. Having done so, all 37 also qualify for one entry into the \$150 Annual Recognition Drawing. Congratulations to **Elaine McIntyre** our September winner. As our September Volunteer, Elaine won a \$20 gift certificate to Schulz 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 30 November 2015 to be eligible for the December Membership Drawing.

Submitted by **Cindy Waechter**

Germination, Genetics, and Growth of an Ancient Date Seed



2,000-year-old seeds were discovered in 1963 inside an ancient jar in Israel. They were planted in 2005 and a tree that had been extinct for over 1800 years sprouted.

During 1963-1965, excavations at Herod the Great's palace on Masada, Israel, revealed a cache of date palm seeds preserved in an ancient jar. They had experienced a very dry and sheltered environment for centuries. Radiocarbon dating at the University of Zurich confirmed the seeds dated from between 155 BC to 64 AD. The seeds were held in storage for 40 years at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, until in 2005, the seeds were pretreated in a fertilizer and hormone-rich solution. Three of the seeds were subsequently planted at Kibbutz Ketura in the Arabah desert in southern Israel. Eight weeks later one of the seeds had sprouted, and by June 2008, the tree had nearly a dozen fronds and was nearly 1.4 m (4 ft) tall. By the summer of 2010, the sapling stood at about 2 meters tall.

The plant was nicknamed "Methuselah," after the longest-lived person listed in the Bible. Methuselah is remarkable in being the oldest known tree seed successfully germinated, and also in being the only living representative of the Judean date palm, a tree extinct for over 1800 years, which was once a major food and export crop in ancient Judea. Methuselah flowered in March 2011 and is male. The palm may be crossbred with its closest extant relative, the Hayany date from Egypt, to generate fruit by 2022. In addition to its honoured place in Judean history, the palm may contribute useful characteristics, such as environmental tolerance and disease resistance, to modern date cultivars.

M E M B E R S I N S E R V I C E

Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors

Two Year Term - Dave Elder - Alternate - Marvin Borth

One Year Term - Peggy Jones - Bob Teweles, Alternate

Membership Outreach Committee - Virginia Biggs

Speakers Bureau - Treva Hicks

Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

Master Gardener Office/Library - Betty Hughes

Refreshment Coordinator - Treva Hicks

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden - John Lewicki & Kim Darrough

Historian - Sandy Foss

2015 County Fair - Cindy Martin

Ag Awareness Fair - Lo-Ra Dick

Class 27 Coordinator - Kay McElveen

Christmas Tree Decorating - Betty Hughes

Facebook Editor - Cynthia Leos

Newsletter Editor - Elaine McIntyre

Web Master - Bob Teweles



Preparing for the Christmas Tree Decorating Contest in the MG Office.

Photo by Clara Mae Marcotte

Guadalupe Master Naturalists Enrolling Students for 2016 Class

The Guadalupe Master Naturalist program is currently enrolling new students for its 2016 training class. The program is a natural resource-based volunteer training and development program jointly sponsored by the Texas AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. If you have a respect and appreciation for nature and a concern for the environment, the Master Naturalist program is for you! Our volunteers provide education and service benefiting natural resources and areas within the Se-quin/Guadalupe County community.

An individual gains the designation of Texas Master Naturalist™ after participating in an approved chapter training program with a minimum of 40 hours of combined field and classroom instruction, obtaining 8 hours of approved advanced training and completing 40 hours of volunteer service. Classes will be held the first and third Tuesdays from 6:00 – 9:00 PM starting January 5 through May 31, 2016. Four Saturday field trips will also be conducted during this time. Cost for the class is \$160.00 for applications received before November 15, 2015. Class fee for applications received after November 15 will be \$175.00; the deadline for applying is December 15, 2015. Applications are available on the Chapter website, <http://txmn.org/guadalupe> or at the AgriLife Extension Office located at 210 E. Live Oak, Se-quin.

As a Texas Master Naturalist you will 1] support conservation and stewardship efforts in Guadalupe County and throughout Texas, 2] join a local and statewide network of trained volunteers in natural resource education, conservation and stewardship and 3] increase Texans understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

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

Happy
Thanksgiving

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Volunteer Opportunities

Every Monday the **MG office/library** is open from 8:30am-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 for 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.

For our meetings, we could use help with setting out chairs since we usually put out 80 chairs. That way we are not putting out chairs during the program. If a few people came 30 minutes early, that would help a lot. **Treva Hicks**.

November 7th - Gutierrez Xeriscape Garden Workday. Contct John Lewicki, jamalew@att.net 210-290-9961

Leaders Needed - Contact Jose Contreras

December (date tba). Christmas Tree Decorating Seguin. Betty Hughes needs a co-chair.
December (date tba). Members Christmas Social

We need someone to step up and serve as Volunteer Chair.

GARDENING EVENTS

Future State Master Gardeners Conferences

2016 State Conference - Buds & Bark - Earth-Kind® in the Park. Learn from renowned garden experts at the May 17-19, 2016 event to be held at the beautiful Myers Park and Event Center in McKinney, Texas. For information on registration, dates, presenters, Collins County MGA speakers and workshops, local hotels, and more, email txmg2016@ccmgatx.org or call [469-859-5934](tel:469-859-5934). Find up-to-date information on Facebook: Texas Master Gardener Annual Conference, or Instagram – txmgstate-conf2016.

**27th Annual Fall Festival of Roses
Friday, November 6th
Antique Rose Emporium, Brenham**

**Anniversary of Gutierrez Xeriscape Park Dedication
April 2016
1300 BORGFELD, SCHERTZ**

See the new artwork by Steele High School
Listen to a mariachi band
Get free food and drinks

Visit:

The Guadalupe County Native Plant Society
Master Gardener Information Tables
The Butterfly Garden and Monarch Way Station.

Lindheimer's Texas

A new exhibit at the Sophienburg Archives and Museum of History at 401 W. Coll St. (Entrance on Academy Ave.) New Braunfels, TX 78130 highlights the contributions of Ferdinand Lindheimer, The Father of Texas Botany. Expertly curated by Keva Hoffmann Boardman, Lindheimer's Texas will be at the Sophienburg through May 2016.

EDUCATION - CLASSES - SEMINARS

Shades of Green Nursery, 334 W Sunset, San Antonio

November 7 - Exposing Your Trees. The Dirt Doctor, Howard Garrett, will be here to demonstrate how to expose the root flares of your trees to increase the health, vigor, and longevity of all trees. We will even have an airspade, compliments of Etter Tree Care.

November 14 - The Dangers of GMOs. Diane Baines, The Food Evangelist, will be here with the truth about the dangers of GMOs (genetically modified organisms) that are pervasive in so much of our food today.

November 21 - Planting Cool Season Containers. Donna has many incredible talents, and one she loves to share is her ability to create amazing containers of all kinds. Her container seminars are some of our most popular, so don't miss this one!

All seminars are free and begin at 9:45 am but the coffee will be on by 9:00.

MG EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES

On **Thursday November 5 12-1pm** the Lunch and Learn at the AgriLife Extension Office will be presented by MG Ray Lang, on "**Soil Biology Made Easy and the Amendments Your Garden Needs**".

On **Monday November 9, 12-1pm** the Lunch and Learn in Schertz at the GVEC Meeting Room will be presented by MG Ray Lang on "**Soil Biology Made Easy and the Soil Amendments Your Garden Needs**".

On **Monday January 11 2016** the next Lunch and Lean will be held in Schertz at the GVEC Meeting Room by Jim Johnson on "**Starting Your Spring Vegetables from Seed and How to Build Your Own Grow Light**".

On **Saturday January 16, 2016 9:00 am-12pm** GCMGs will host a Workshop at the Guadalupe County AgriLife Extension Office in Seguin, on "**Canning Your Garden Vegetables**" by Guadalupe County Agent Charla Bading and Comal County Agent Carol Sheppard. There will be cost recovery fee of \$20 per person preregistration and \$25 at the door. Members will be able to preregister at the November meeting

Fifth Annual Comal Master Gardener Association Spring Seminar Plants for all Seasons—The Marvelous Monocots, A to Z Friday, February 21, 2016, from 8:50 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The seminar will include well-known speakers, as follows: "Introduction to Monocots" by Flow Oxley, Ph.D., Austin Community College, Department of Biology. "Bulbs" by David E. Will, Texas Certified Landscape Professional and Owner of Landscape Details. "Daylilies" by Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, American Hemericallis Society, Region 6 Daylily Judge. "Ornamental Grasses" by Joanne Hall, Vice President of South Texas Growers, Inc. "Rain Gardens" by Dotty Woodson, Water Resources Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

Check-in is 8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Please register early. Seating is limited . For further information please email seminar@ComalMasterGardeners.org.

Beekeeping

Thu, Nov 19, 6-8pm

3355 Cherry Ridge Dr, San Antonio

This seminar presented by Travis Cole, a BCMG scholarship recipient, will focus on all things Bees and Beekeeping! 1.5 CEUs for MGs. Free. Meeting begins with a social time at 6pm followed by the special presentation at 6:30pm. For information, email President Jack Downey, Bcmgjack@gmail.com, or call 210-699-0663.

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

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

Bug Banquet

Fri, Nov 6, 7-9pm

24510 Clearwater Run San Antonio, TX 78255

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in Bexar County is excited to present an "educational" dinner event all about entomophagy! This event brings many of the components that Extension is so proud to bring to the community: education, nutrition, youth development, agriculture, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Delight in an expertly prepared four course meal made with locally grown food and delectable insects and paired with an appropriate cocktail, beer or wine. Prepared by expert chefs and Bexar County 4-H Food Challenge Teams. Learn how raising insects is a sustainable form of agriculture and surprisingly enjoyable culinary experience. 1 CEU. Cost: \$35 per person/\$50 per couple. For information contact Molly Keck at 210-631-0400.



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

Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 7:00 PM

St John's Lutheran Church, FM 465, Marion, TX

Judit Green, urban wildlife biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife with a degree in wildlife and fisheries science from Texas A&M, will present "Bats of South Central Texas." Judit is one of six biologists in Texas who provide the largest urban communities with professional planning guidance, management recommendations, research and public outreach associated with wildlife, habitat and natural resource management. Come and learn more about an essential Texas creature that is too easily criticized, misunderstood and ignored.

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.inpsot.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.

Fanick's Garden Center Annual Pruning Seminar

1025 Holmgren, San Antonio

January 23, 2016 at 9:00am to noon

Dr. Larry Stein from the Agri-life Extension service will show you how to properly prune your fruit and nut trees for maximum production. You will also learn about the overall care of your trees before and after harvest. This seminar is very popular so arrive early for best parking and seating.

Olive Production and Management Seminar

Mon, Nov 30, 10am-4pm

San Antonio Livestock Exposition - Dairy Barn

5 CEUs. This seminar is open to commercial olive producers, small acreage farm operators and the general public interested in growing olives. If interested, RSVP early with registration fee of \$30, payable to the Bexar County Master Gardeners, Attention: Angel Torres, 3355 Cherry Ridge, Suite 212, San Antonio, Texas 78230. For more information call 210-631-0402, or email Angel Torres: matorres@ag.tamu.edu.

November 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2 Master Gardener Office/Library\ 8:30-Noon	3 GCCG Workday	4	5 <u>LUNCH and LEARN - Sequin</u>	6 GCCG Workday 9 AM Red Barn 9 AM	7 KWED Radio 1580 AM Lawn & Garden Show 9 a.m.
8	9 Master Gardener Office/Library\ 8:30-Noon	10 GCCG Workday	11 Veterans Day 	12 <u>GCMG Board Meeting</u> ● NEW MOON	13 GCCG Workday Red Barn 9 AM	14 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show ***** <u>RUMMAGE SALE</u> *****
15	16 Master Gardener Office/Library\ <u>LUNCH and LEARN-Schertz</u>	17 GCCG Workday	18	19 <u>GCMG Membership Meeting</u>	20 GCCG Workday Red Barn	21 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show
22	23 Master Gardener Office/Library	24 GCCG Workday	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving <u>Newsletter Deadline</u> O - Full Moon	27 GCCG Workday Red Barn	28 KWED Radio Lawn & Garden Show
29	30 Master Gardener Office/Library					

GCCG - Guadalupe County Community Garden



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.
210 East Live Oak St.
Seguin, TX 78155

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners <http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org> 830-379-1972 Ext 210
Guadalupe County Texas A&M AgriLIFE Extension <http://www.guadalupe-tx.tamu.edu/> 830-379-1972
Texas Master Gardeners <http://www.txmg.org>

GCMG Officers & Board of Directors

Jose Contreras	President
Bob Teweles	Past President
Marvin Borth	President Elect
Cynthia Lyssey	Vice President
Welta Burris	Secretary
Jim Johnson	Treasurer
Treva Hicks	Education Chairman
Dave Elder	Publication Chairman
Open	Volunteer Chairman
Cindy Waechter	Membership Chair
Travis Franke	AgriLIFE Agent Master Gardener Coordinator

November Meeting

Thursday, November 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)