

NOVEMBER 2025

GUADALUPE GARDENER

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

What's the Buzzzz?



- **Please contact Paul Carter or Sharon Cooper if you are interested in helping with Kingsbury Fall Festival on November 8th, from 12-6 pm, or any part of that time.**
- **Please attend the November meeting, this is when nominations and voting will occur. Nominations are being accepted for open positions for 2026. If you are interested in filling a position please reach out to one of our leaders and let them know.**
- **There are plenty of seats available for the next Master Gardening Class. Please spread the word and help fill the seats.**
- **There is still an Immediate need for a Lead or Video Lead Technologist to take over filming Lunch and Learns and meetings. This is a pretty easy way to earn volunteer hours and training will be provided. No experience needed. More than one person can take this position and rotate every other month.**
- **Seed Exchange! Come and check it out and leave with volunteer hours and or seeds!**

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Letter from the President

Fellow Master Gardeners:

I'm not quite sure how to address you for this President's Letter. I thought about Fellow Gardening Activities Veterans or possibly, Hi Really Tired Gardeners, but decided to be more sedate so – Hi There!

I know that you know, but September and October were REALLY busy! We started off with the Fall school tours at the Big Red Barn where our Master Gardeners helped, hopefully, educate 2,076 fourth-grade rug rats, I mean darling students. My observation was that they had a lot of fun, and some of them probably learned something. This was due to the efforts of our volunteers who worked with them.

Next was the Guadalupe County Fair where many of you put in a lot of hours on various activities. We had, of course, the Pumpkin Decorating Contest coordinated by our own Pam Younger. The creativity displayed in the entries was astonishing. I'm sure the judges had a hard time deciding winners. The free seeds in the horticulture booth were really popular as were the children's activities. And let's not forget the fund raising – both the plant sale and the raffle were huge successes! When you add this to the Silver Center plant sale in September, our Fall fund raising has broken records. This will be a big help to our various educational efforts and projects!

A Big Thank You to all of you who volunteered for these various projects. Special thanks to Kathleen Smith and April Rippel who made the County Fair booth happen at very short notice. Let's not forget Paul Carter and Tim Steele who handled the plant sales and Pam Malone who managed the Grow Team (and worked her tail off at the children's activities). I started with the Big Red Barn School Tours and I don't want to forget Beth Heny and Janice Knobles who were the main drivers for that.

Upcoming we have the Kingsbury Harvest Festival. Christmas Tree Decorating Contest and Yule Fest. You still have plenty of time to work!! I'm tired just writing about all this. I'm also just astonished at how much our Master Gardeners have accomplished! I want to thank all of you for making these and the other activities we are involved in possible. It's a great pleasure to work with just a wonderful group of people!

I hope to see you at our November 20 membership meeting. Our speaker will be Nancy Masterson, many of you know Nancy. She will be speaking on Theme Gardens with Native Plants. We will also be electing officers for 2026. Your vote matters!!

Frank Rippel, our Treasurer, would consider me remiss if I don't mention that it's time to collect dues for next year. If you have completed all of your Volunteer and Continuing Education hours, please come prepared to pay.

I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Kay McElveen

President, GCMG

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report Month Ending September 30, 2025 Prepared by David Koepp, Membership Director

Executive Summary:

- Congratulations to Juan Moncada on reaching his certification requirement on 9/24/2025.
- As of 10/26/2025 of the 157 Certified Members:
 - **86 have met or exceeded ALL Recertification Requirements for 2025**
 - **18 have met or exceeded their Volunteer Hours requirement**, and have some but NOT all their CE hours
 - **7 have met or exceeded their Volunteer Hours, but have ZERO CE hours**
 - 6 have some Volunteer Hours, **but have ZERO CE hours**
 - 3 have some Volunteer Hours, **but have met or exceeded CE hours**
 - **16 have NO Volunteer Hours & NO CE Hours**
 - **2 have NO Volunteer Hours**, but some CE Hours
 - 19 have some Volunteer & some CE but not enough of either
 - We have 9 Interns who hopefully will all certify by mid-year 2026
 - We have 11 folks signed up so far that will be part of upcoming class 41 starting in January 2026.
 - We are trying to get at least 40 people signed up. We are just over 25% of the way there with a little over 2 months to go before the next class starts and could use everyone's help in recruiting (see more on Recruiting below).
 - Please note that some of the numbers above will not match with the charts below as the charts below were put together on 10/3/2025 vs this document on 10/26/2025. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.
- Aside from the many project gardens, there are also many indoor opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of online education available.
 - **Earn Volunteer hours:**
 - Seed Exchange every Wednesday 2-4 PM
 - Video recording our Lunch & Learns & Membership Meetings – Paul is looking for volunteers to train to take over this need.
 - Writing an article for our Newsletter or submitting a write up about a Garden you have visited with pictures for the Wandering Gardener section of our newsletter.
 - Recruit for the next Master Gardener Class – Pick up a recruiting packet from the Master Gardener Office upstairs on the table to the left as you walk into the office. Each packet has everything you need to post flyers and/or applications. There is a roll of tape as well as 10 push pins, so you are prepared to post the flyer whether the business has a bulletin board or just wall or glass for posting on. I recommend keeping the recruiting packet contents in your glove box and as you are going around the county and/or surrounding areas doing your normal routine and you're somewhere that has a bulletin board or allows you to post notices or flyers you can grab one from your glove box and put it up. For example, I'm planning to head from New Braunfels to La Vernia to tackle several errands and my stops include NB Feed, and possibly Tractor Supply, and/or Producers Co-op to get the various things I need. I also need to stop at my vet. I'm stopping at my church to drop off some things. Grabbing lunch at my favorite restaurant in Marion, etc. Every single one of those stops is likely a place where you could post one of our Class 41 flyers. I was going to all these locations already so you're not going out of your way, but by posting the flyers at these or most of these I can now count my travel time as volunteer time in VMS. Also, you can log the mileage driven for this task. If you run out of flyers or applications, come grab another packet or stop by the Seed Exchange and ask me for more flyers or applications or whatever supplies you may need. Also, in the event there are no packets up on the table, there is a box labeled recruiting packets that is under that same table.

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

- Keep in mind for 2026, another opportunity to gain volunteer hours is to be a mentor to one or more new interns for class 41 and/or reach out to our existing interns to see if they need anything to help them get their certification.
- **Earn Continuing Education hours:**
 - Watching our [YouTube channel](#) which has our Membership Meetings and presentations, as well as our Lunch & Learns, and much more. If you watch the Membership meeting portion, you can count that portion as Volunteer time. The presentation portion counts as continuing education.
 - Many video links listed in our monthly newsletter.
 - See our [website](#) and [web calendar](#) for more details.
- There are still many of you that have hours worked, but for whatever reason have not entered them in VMS. Please get it done or reach out to me for help in getting them input! While many may be past time to help the organization financially, they still apply towards your certification or recertification requirements. I have emailed several of you individually about this as well as sent the monthly reminder.
- If you need your password reset, or if you need help getting the hours entered, please reach out to me. I'm willing to help however I can. My contact info is below.
- You may not be aware, but the timely input of your volunteer (and CE hours) is actually critical to our organization's funding; thus, we can't stress enough the importance of your timely input of your hours.
 - Reporting in VMS is imperative to the continuance of the EMG program which relies upon State and Federal funding.
 - Reporting shows the community and our stakeholders the impact of our volunteer services provided.
 - This State & Federal funding gives us the facilities and office space for our training classes, meetings and presentations, the audio & video equipment we utilize, the network and internet access, our website, it pays for the electricity to keep the lights on, the phones, computers, and many other things.
 - You might be thinking well I'm just donating those hours and I'm not going to bother reporting them, and while that is nice sentiment, it is actually hurting the organization financially. So please, input the hours worked or spent on CE in a given month (by the last day of the given month at the very latest).

It is also that time of year to pay your dues for 2026. \$25 per person. You can pay online here: <https://www.gcmgtx.org/Membership/index.html> or at the November Membership meeting where you can pay by cash, check, or credit/debit card.

I am looking at offering some **EVS group sessions** within the next 90 days (and probably quarterly during 2026 and beyond if necessary). I will start with the 21 folks that have background checks expiring in the next 90-120 days. More details to come on that, but essentially the plan is to have at least one Saturday or Sunday where you can bring in your laptop (or we will have some available to use) where you can come in and we will help you go through the entire EVS certification process and background check submission. EVS takes between 2.5 to 3 hours to complete. This is Continuing Education time that counts towards your recertification. And your travel time to & from the office also counts as volunteer time. I will also offer this every Wednesday during the normal Seed Exchange time frame (2-4PM) but I will stay until you're done so 5 PM or whenever you are finished. We will need to coordinate in advance so we will know if we have enough laptops or computers available (unless you're bringing your own in which case it must have Wi-Fi connectivity capability).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, with VMS or EVS, please contact David Koepp dhkoepp.GCMG@gmail.com or GV: 210-263-3624 voice/text friendly

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

2025 Recertification Requirements are **20** hours Volunteer & **10** hours Continuing Education.

Did you know you could access VMS from your smartphone? Yes, the screen is smaller than a computer screen, it presents on the phone a bit differently, but you can enter your time via VMS in a web browser the same way as from a computer.

We recommend entering your hours into VMS if not the same day as the task performed, then at least weekly!

But worst case: Please, log all of your hours by or before the last day of the month in order for them to be counted properly.

Monthly Report Summary Year-To-Date Breakdown:

Roster Totals for June	Intern (20)	Certified (163)	Leave of Absence (5)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (1)		
Roster Totals for July	Intern (21)	Certified (162)	Leave of Absence (5)	Inactive (0)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (3)		
Roster Totals for August	Intern (18)	Certified (157)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (9)	Retired (2)	
Roster Totals for September	Intern (17)	Certified (156)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (13)	Retired (2)	Realigning (1)
Month	# Members Reporting	Mbrs w/ 5+ Hours	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Pounds Produce	Mileage		
January	88	38	1083.00	135.75	178	223	4529.7		
February	106	62	1484.85	169.00	107	261	5513.5		
March	114	74	1870.38	264.50	210	108	8641.1		
April	110	84	2072.35	144.25	622	220	8771.0		
May	96	59	1152.80	582.50	101	1525	4509.4		
June	62	45	941.25	47.75	41	1969	3926.1		
July	81	39	1168.14	101.10	46	740	3923.1		
August	80	42	1219.50	123.00	191	515	5077.9		
September	82	47	1604.60	207.90	193	1099	6208.1		
2025 (So Far)	138	n/a	12,596.87	1,775.75	1,689	6,660	51100.0		
2024	158	n/a	14959.25	1712.00	2539	9362	60378.5		
2023	165	n/a	14790.50	1738.15	1644	5593	55688.7		
2022	146	n/a	11786.80	1646.25	3261	0	44919.6		

Monthly Report September Summary Breakdown:

	# Submitted	# Not Submitted
Number of Certified Members that reported any amount of hours for September by reporting deadline	82	74
Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) September 2025	Vol	CE
Members with 0 hours reported	74	98
Members with >0 & <5 hours	28	49
Members with => 5 & <25 hours	36	9
Members with => 25 & <100 hours	17	0
Members with => 100 & <200 hours	1	0
Members with => 200 & <300 hours	0	0
Members with => 300 & <400 hours	0	0
Members with => 400 & <500 hours	0	0
Members with => 500 hours	0	0
	Vol	CE
Number of Volunteers Reporting this year (so far) January-September 2025	138	129
Volunteer Hours Year-To-Date	Vol	CE
Number of Members with 0 hours	19	28
Number of Members with >0 & <5 hours	9	16
Number of Members with => 5 & <25 hours	40	103
Number of Members with => 25 & <100 hours	53	9
Number of Members with => 100 & <200 hours	16	0
Number of Members with => 200 & <300 hours	11	0
Number of Members with => 300 & <400 hours	1	0
Number of Members with => 400 & <500 hours	3	0
Number of Members with => 500 hours	4	0

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

September 2025 Volunteer Recognition Drawing of Certified* Master Gardeners 5+ Volunteer Hours for 1 - 30 September 2025 (*Board Members Not Included/Eligible)

Certified Members in September with 5+ hours (Voting Board Members not eligible)		
1. ADAMS, KATHY	17. EDWARDS, MELVA	33. MEADE, CONSTANCE
2. ALBRECHT, DON	18. FISHER, DAVID	34. MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE
3. ALTHAUSER, MARCEL	19. FOSS, LISA	35. MOTT, KEITH
4. ANCELET, LISA	20. FOX, JOYCE	36. MULLINS, MAC
5. ANDERSON, MARILYN	21. GEINZER, REBECCA	37. ODVODY, ANN
6. BRAVO-GONZALEZ, DIANA	22. GLASGOW, MILLIE	38. ODVODY, DALE
7. BRKICH, KAREN	23. GRIFFIS, JUDY	39. OTTENAD, ANNE
8. BURRIS, WELTA	24. HENRY, BETH	40. PADGETT, ANNETTE
9. BURTON, RODNEY	25. HERNANDEZ, PETER	41. PHELPS, CLAYTON
10. CARRELL, KAREN	26. JONES, PEGGY	42. PRINCE, PAUL
11. CARROLL, KATHY	27. KNOBLES, JANICE	43. REAL, DEBBIE
12. CARTER, MARTY	28. KOEPP, KAREN	44. SCHULTZE, PAT
13. CASSELL, EDIE	29. LEACOCK, SUZANNE	45. SKORUPA, SYLVIA
14. COOPER, SHARON	30. LUCAS, MELINDA	46. STEELE, TIM
15. COVER, KAY	31. MALONE, PAM	47. SYKES, ERNESTINE
16. DYKES, MARIA	32. MATTKE, SAMANTHA	

Recognition Drawings:

September- **Annette Padgett** October MM Door prize-**Ginny Fox & Shirley Cooper**

Milestone Club:

Certified Members Milestone Achievements Volunteer Hours YTD		
100 Hour Club	200 Hour Club	400 Hour Club
ALTHAUSER, MARCEL	CARTER, PAUL	LUCAS, MELINDA
BRKICH, KAREN	DYKES, MARIA	STEELE, TIM
BURTON, RODNEY	HENRY, BETH	YOUNGER, PAM
CHASON, ANGELA	MCELVEEN, KAY	
COVER, KAY	MEADE, CONSTANCE	500 Hour Club
FISHER, DAVID	ODVODY, ANN	MALONE, PAM
GRIFFIS, JUDY	PRINCE, PAUL	ODVODY, DALE
HARMON, DOMINIQUE	RIPPEL, FRANK	
JOHNSON, BJORN	SMITH, BRENDA	600 Hour Club
KNEUPPER, RUTHIE	SYKES, ERNESTINE	KOEPP, DAVID
KNOBLES, JANICE	TAYLOR, DENESE	RIPPEL, APRIL
KOEPP, KAREN		
MULLINS, MAC	300 Hour Club	
OTTENAD, ANNE	SMITH, BETH	
PHELPS, CLAYTON		
SMITH, KATHLEEN		

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

All Gardens & Parks now have 2 entries (Education & Maintenance/Harvesting), and City is last (where applicable) so that everything now is presented in Alphanumerical order.

Please note: Some VMS project category names may not exactly match the one's shown below in **blue** text due to character limitations on the project name field; for example, the Continuing Education one – VMS doesn't show the Shadow Program Trainee, and the Public Education/Outreach doesn't show all the GC Fair activities, but this document DOES).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact David Koepp dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com

Advanced Master Gardener Training Classes/Courses

Christian Cupboard Community Garden - Education - Seguin

Christian Cupboard Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin

Continuing Education (Lunch & Learns, Shadow Program trainee, Webinars, and other education events that do not fall under another project)

Fundraisers (Calendar & Garden Guide, Craft Opportunities, Farmers Markets, GC Fair Raffle, Grow Team, Plant Sales, etc.)

- Essentially the rule is if it's for or at a "fundraising" activity that you are performing it goes here under Fundraisers (Plant Sales, Craft Sales, Raffle Sales, or any other kind of sales including Set up and/or Tear down for the event). If it's at a fundraising event, **but your role is NOT part of the fundraising activity**, such as the Ask A Master Gardener Booth (AAMG), it goes under Public Education/Outreach.
- Calendar and Gardening Guide – Now goes under Fundraisers
- Grow Team – Now goes under Fundraisers again as it used to be.
- Guadalupe County Fair - Seguin - This is really "Public Education/Outreach" **and/or** "Fundraising" which you use depends on the role you played/worked at the event.
- Not that they were all listed as separate projects before, but to be clear this is also where **Earth Day, Pecan Fest (downtown portion), Yulefest, Online Sales, and Kingsbury Fall Fest** entries go (Most all were already putting it here already anyway, **UNLESS you are doing the AAMG booth part then that goes under Public Education/Outreach**).

Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden - Education - Schertz

Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Schertz

Gutierrez Garden Park - Education - Schertz

Gutierrez Garden Park - Maintenance - Schertz

Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center - Education - Seguin ISD

Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin ISD

LULAC Community Garden - Education - Seguin

LULAC Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin

LVISD Primary School - Education - La Vernia

LVISD Primary School - Maintenance/Harvesting - La Vernia

Master Gardener Training Class

Membership Meeting & Educational Presentation (incl MM Refreshments, Setup & Cleanup)

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

MG Organizational Support (BoD, Committee, MG Office, Newsletter, Research Library, Seed Exchange, Technology Team, Website Work)

- Board of Directors work, including TMGA Directors (unless specific to TMGA work) - This 'project' didn't exist until earlier this year. It was created to have an email list in VMS for the BoD but started being used to record hours which really should be under Organizational support as it was prior.
- Committee work (Audit team, Nominating Committee, etc.)
- MG Office/Research Library/Seed Exchange – Now goes under Organizational Support.
- Newsletter work
- Recruiting work: Building advertising plans, making flyers, distributing flyers, should go under MG Org Support.
- Social media – maintenance work such as removing inappropriate posts or advertisements, etc.
- Technology Team – Now goes under Organizational Support
- Website work

Mill Street Community Garden - Education - New Braunfels

Mill Street Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - New Braunfels

Other Gardens - Education - (Used for reciprocal cooperation between Counties)

Other Gardens - Maintenance/Harvesting (Used for reciprocal cooperation between Counties)

Public Education/Outreach (Ask A Master Gardener (AAMG) Info Booth, BRB Kiosk, Christmas Tree, GC Fair Non-Fundraising activities such as AAMG/Info Booth, Children's Activities, Horticulture entries, Helping with Judging, or the Pumpkin Contest, Lectures or Presentations Given)

- Christmas Tree Project - Seguin – Now goes under Public Education/Outreach
- Guadalupe County Fair - Seguin - This is really "Public Education/Outreach" **and/or** "Fundraising" which you use depends on the role you played/worked at the event.
- Pumpkin Decorating Contest – Now goes under Public Education/Outreach
- Independence Day Parade Float
- Ask A Master Gardener Booth (AAMG) – Now goes under Public Education/Outreach
- Red Barn -Kiosk - Education - Seguin - Now goes under Public Education/Outreach
- Social media posts of our upcoming education opportunities

Red Barn-Garden - Education/School Tours - Seguin

Red Barn-Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin

Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Education - Cibolo

Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Cibolo

St. Andrews Community Garden - Education - Seguin

St. Andrews Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin

Texas State Master Gardeners Association (TMGA Quarterly Calls, IMGC Events, Other related work)

Transfer from another county (Admin Use Only to record hours worked in prior County at transfer time)

Veteran's Memorial Park - Education - Marion

Veteran's Memorial Park - Maintenance - Marion

Whitehall Polley Mansion - Education - La Vernia

Whitehall Polley Mansion - Maintenance/Harvesting - La Vernia

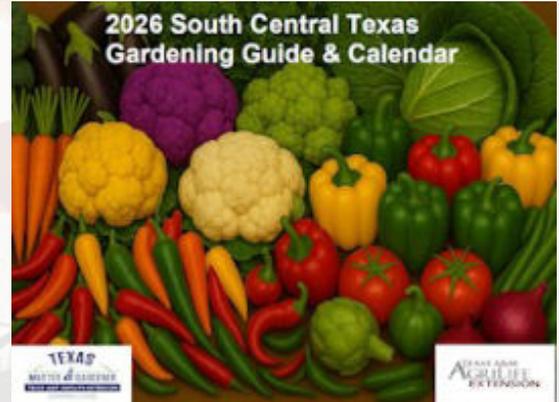
Youth Education Gardening - Junior Master Gardener

Membership Corner

2026 Master Gardener Calendar

Great news! The GCMG 2026 Gardening Guide & Calendars are in!

This full color, beautiful, informative guide will give you invaluable information about vegetables and when to plant them. This is a fundraiser for our non-profit organization.



Order now, or come to 4037 Stockdale Hwy., Seguin, TX 78155 Wed-Sat. 9am - 5pm, to buy in person. Link for ordering: <https://gcmgtx.org/2026calendar/index.html> The calendars will also be available at upcoming Lunch and Learns, meetings, and plant sales.

Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted.

Every year our calendars will feature a different horticulture topic, 2026 is vegetables. There is a rumor that 2027 will be trees, stay tuned! Don't delay, get yours soon, supplies are limited! These will make great Christmas gifts!

April Rippel
 2025 GCMG President Elect
 Texas Master Gardener Assoc. Director - Guadalupe County
 Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class Co-Coordinator
adrippel@gmail.com (830) 433-2218 (Text Friendly)
 Guadalupe County Master Gardener Training [Class](#)
[41 Information:](#)
[Info and Application Click Here](#)



Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Fair

A big thank you to all who helped make 2025 another successful year at the county fair.



Photos provided
by: Melinda Lucas

Membership Corner



Congratulations to Juan Marcus Moncada. Juan is now a certified Texas Master Gardener! Juan is also the POC for the LULAC Community Garden, 1502 Eighth Street, Seguin, TX 78155. The LULAC Garden is an approved garden to volunteer at and earn your GCMG Volunteer Hours.

The Seguin LULAC Foundation community garden is a 24/7, year-round space open to the public, offering fresh produce and a peaceful place to connect with nature. With a “pick what you need” system, it ensures equal access to fresh fruit and vegetables for all. Whether you

need nutritious food, or just a relaxing outdoor escape, the 8th Street garden provides a welcoming environment for people of all ages and backgrounds to grow, harvest, and enjoy, free of charge and available at any time.

Work day is every Saturday from 8:00 – 10:30 am. If you would like to volunteer and work the garden at other times, please contact Juan at 512-701-1696 or email: jmarcus78702@gmail.com

Pecan Fest

Thanks to everyone who helped make Pecan Fest a great success this year!

Congratulations to the winners of the raffle.

They took home a beautiful Plumeria tree!



Picture provided by
April Rippel

Membership Corner

By Kat Medeiros-Oropeza

Members of Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Scholarship Committee toured Palo Alto College on October 27th.

Did you know our organization offers a scholarship in collaboration with Alamo Colleges Foundation Scholarships? Well, we do and it is darn exciting! Potential candidates must be residents of Guadalupe County and their field of study horticulture or agriculture oriented. For more information, you may contact Alamo Colleges Foundation Scholarships at: www.alamo.edu/foundation or reach out to GCMG Scholarship Committee Members.

The tour included Palo Alto's Greenhouse, future hops garden site, vineyard, student garden, and community garden.

Two scholars have been awarded for the Fall semester!

Please enjoy some photos from our visit to Palo Alto!

Additional updates and tours of other Alamo College campuses are coming soon!



Membership Corner

Hello Master Gardeners! This is the monthly updates for Gutierrez Garden Park. Check out the new sensory garden at the park-see attachment.

We have been preparing the park for the Fall by planting a few fall flowers like fall aster and some marigolds. We recently started volunteer days with the Clemens H.S. Honor Society. The next volunteer day will be on Oct 25th and Nov 22nd. We are looking for at least 4 volunteers for each day.



The tasks will include:

Watering the whole park

Planting more plants throughout park

Weeding

Clearing out area to even walkway

Sowing seeds

Rock Art/crafts

Mulch the whole park to prepare for Winter



Please send me a text if you can volunteer (210-792-1603). The park looks amazing! Please come visit us soon!

Maria Dykes

GCMG Gutierrez Park Coordinator

“Your Mind is a Garden, Your Thoughts are the Seeds, you can Grow Flowers, or you can Grow Weeds!”



Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Fair

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Another Fabulous Year in the Pumpkin Booth



Membership Corner

Rod Pedde Park Update

By Rachel Eiland

Our Co-Lab workday with the city was extremely fruitful. Ha-ha! But seriously, strong work was done to get the garden ready for use; gravel was leveled, raised beds were inspected, repaired and replaced. We have water, soil and sun, now for the plants & flowers!

We have created dedicated space in the garden layout to incorporate educational opportunities. These areas are integral in the vision and mission for Master Gardeners. I am in search of motivated and enthusiastic people to take on an individual “piece” of the Ron Pedde Garden. If you have an idea or vision and you want to put it into action or you are just looking to learn and grow; this may be your SIGN.

Available pet projects (pick your pet now)

- Sensory garden & mud kitchen
- Compost Classroom
- Water Catchment
- Herb Garden

Calling all native plant enthusiasts. Our pollinator/ native beds have been prepared, and we will begin installing plants. Looking specifically for native and adaptive plants, such as Flame Acanthus, Fall Asters, Lantana, Gregg’s Blue Mist, Shrubby Boneset, Mint, Marigold, and Turks Cap. If you have plants that you would like to donate, please bring them to the garden starting Oct 22nd.

Looking forward to planting seeds or and transplants for fall, scheduling an educator event to promote garden learning and engagement and enhancing the nature trail for community enjoyment and education.

This is a wonderful opportunity to earn volunteer hours, learn something new or simply enjoy the company of fellow gardeners. Please dress appropriately for garden work; bring gloves and water.

Location: 1017 Town Creek Rd, Cibolo, TX, 78108. Monday & Wednesday 8-10am
Thank you for all your time and support! This garden is ready to grow! Come GROW with US!

Rachel Eiland
Master Gardener (Guadalupe)
Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden Coordinator

“A Garden is not a place; it’s a journey!”

Membership Corner

AgriLife Agricultural Trip

Kentucky

By: Claire Huebinger



I recently attended an AgriLife group agricultural trip to Kentucky, where I visited several farms and orchards. It was all things agriculture and it was very interesting.

Some of the places visited were the TC Highlands Farm, where they breed and raise registered Highland cattle; Evans Orchard, which evolved from tobacco to vegetable and orchard farming; Grandview Farms, which specializes in honey & flowers; Roundstone Native Seeds; Heartland Chia, and Chaney's Dairy Barn.

Grandview Farms has a 3+ acre pollinator garden from which they sell cut native flowers, manage beehives and grow American elderberries.

Roundstone Native Seed was SO Interesting! They buy and process various crops from surrounding farms (including Grandview Farm) and use their old and customized equipment for seed separation. They sell the seed straight run, mixed run (wildflower mix) or custom packed.

Heartland Chia grows and processes Chia for human consumption. Chia is in the mint and salvia family and has few predators or diseases, making it a perfect crop and health food.

Chaney's Dairy Barn was SO Interesting and the ice cream was delicious also! They have a robotic system for milking their cows and the cows choose their milking frequency. Some cows get milked 5 times a day! Lots of medical and health data collected for each cow and a great cow lounge setup.

This was a wonderful trip and I witnessed people making a living in agriculture, old and young alike.



Membership Corner

Private Master Gardeners Party

A vertical graphic for a Christmas dinner invitation. The background is dark with festive Christmas decorations including pine branches, red and white striped candy canes, gold and red ornaments, and gold stars. The text is centered and reads: "YOU ARE INVITED TO A Christmas DINNER 11TH DEC 5:00-9:00PM BIG RED BARN - 250 CORDOVA ROAD SEGUIN TX BRING UNWRAPPED, NEW TOYS FOR THE GUADALUPE CO. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER. BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD LIVE DJ - FOOD BY BILL MILLER BEST DRESSED CONTEST PHOTO BOOTH - BINGO".

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
Christmas
DINNER
11TH DEC 5:00-9:00PM
BIG RED BARN - 250 CORDOVA ROAD
SEGUIN TX
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CENTER. BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE
CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD
LIVE DJ - FOOD BY BILL MILLER
BEST DRESSED CONTEST
PHOTO BOOTH - BINGO

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the program should contact the County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program or event to request mobility, hearing, visual or other assistance.

Membership Corner

Bug Juice (An Entomology Tidbit)

Karen Koepp

I've always loved the ladybugs (ladybird beetles). For me a true sign of spring. However, they aren't just pretty, they are also of great benefit in the garden as pest control. They love aphids, whiteflies, scale insects, mealy bugs and small caterpillars. But did you know that the larvae, scary looking as they are, are even more voracious predators of the soft bodied pests?



A single larva can consume dozens to hundreds of aphids during its development, adults continue feeding and can eat several dozen aphids per day.

To bring ladybird beetles to your yard provide habitat by planting nectar- and pollen- producing flowers (like dill, fennel, yarrow and daisies), ground cover and overwintering shelters (like leaf litter and brush piles). Encourage diversity by supporting other predators (lacewings, parasitic wasps) for complementary control of different pests. Avoid using broad spectrum insecticides.



CMG Fall Plant Sales

The GCMG on-line plant sale is up and running with some beautiful plants. These plants have been hardened off and are ready to put in the ground NOW. Shop on-line to reserve yours today: <https://gcmgtx.org/plantsale/index.html> Or shop in person at 4037 Stockdale Hwy., Seguin, TX 78155. Hours are Wed-Sat, 9am - 5pm.



Nov 8th
Kingsbury Festival
Downtown
Kingsbury

Dec 7th
Yulefest
Guadalupe County Fair-
ground Coliseum

Class 41 Registration



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Training Spring 2026 - Class 41



Become a Certified Master Gardener

Master Gardeners is an education sharing horticultural program through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Master Gardeners Association, and the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Our mission is to improve our community through volunteering and providing educational outreach programs.

Schedule

Every Tuesday
January 20 - May 5th, 2026

Time

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location

AgriLife Building
210 E. Live Oak Street
Seguin, TX 78155

What you get

64 Educational Class Hours
The Texas Master Gardener Handbook (\$100 value)
Official Master Gardener T-Shirt
Hands on Training & Field Trips
Professional Credited Speakers
Graduation Certificate upon Class completion &
Master Gardener Certification upon meeting all requirements

Cost: Early Bird Special until Oct 31, 2025 - \$250.00

Regular Tuition (Nov. 1st until class is full) one Seat: **\$275**

Discount for two applicants sharing 1 Handbook

10% Discount for Military, Educators, 1st Responders & Law Officers

See Class Application at website below for complete discount information

Applications will be accepted Until the Class is Full

Class Seats fill up quickly - Sign up Now to ensure your seat & to avoid late fee!

NOTE: A background check is required on ALL applicants participating in any Extension Volunteer Program, fee is included in your tuition.

For On-Line Class 41 complete Information, Applications, & payment methods:

https://www.gcmgtx.org/Class_41/index.html

Need more information? Contact one of our Class 41 Coordinators:

Paul Carter: greenthumbcarter@gmail.com 830-481-0817

April D. Rippel: adrappel@gmail.com 830-433-2218

Leave Message if No Answer



Learn about the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc. - a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization:

www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

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Monthly Meeting

Master Gardener Monthly Meeting

*5 Theme Gardens With Native Plants:
a Native Plant Society of Texas Program*

*With Nancy Masterson-
Certified arborist, Master Gardener, Master Naturalist, and
member of the Native Plant Society of Texas*

Thursday, November 20, 2025

210 East Live Oak-Seguin, TX

5:45 pm Social w/food

7:00 pm Presentation

Free and Open to the Public

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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION
Gardner County

Ask the Master Gardeners

Clara Mae Marcotte and Ernestine Sykes are the Ask A Master Gardener GCMGs with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. If you have a Gardening question, please feel free to text or email the Master Gardeners: Text: 210-544-0756 or email: GCMGTX@gmail.com

Q: The large live oak tree in front of the library has different acorns and leaves than mine at home. What is it?

A: This is a question I received from a patron of the library recently. Off the top of my head, I said that it was maybe an Escarpment live oak. He went up on the Internet and did find a difference. An Escarpment live oak is *Quercus fusiformis* while the live oak in front of my house and maybe his is *Quercus virginiana*. Wildflower.org says that the Escarpment oak is much hardier than the virginiana and the leaves are generally smaller with the acorns long, spindle shaped and narrowed at the base.

Eugene Gehring of the Cross Timbers Forestry Council in Arlington feels that we are seeing more fusiformis around since the 70's and 80's when many nurseries started carrying them. He also explains why live oak trees are so susceptible to Oak Wilt. Live oaks are prolific at sprouting from their roots, he says. That allows oak trees in a given stand to share their roots. This helps make them drought hardy, but also makes them susceptible to Oak Wilt.

Q: What makes some leaves change color in the fall?

A: In the fall, because of shorter days, explains Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist, chlorophyll production slows. In the absence of the green pigment, other pigments show through. This is the time of year when you should drive around and check on which color is best for your yard. Although, as I write this the end of October, there is no fall color on the cedar elm, the Chinese Pistache, or the red oak in my back yard. Other Texas trees that show color are the bald cypress, chinquapin oak, Fan Tex ash, flameleaf sumac, lacey oak, sycamore, and Texas ash.

Q: My houseplants have been outside for the summer. When do I bring them in and should I take any precautions?

A: Remember that the humidity inside your house is much drier than outside. Check your soil moisture frequently. Make sure that no pests came inside with your plants. Wash the plants or spray with something that will be fine for indoor plants. I use a soap solution sold for the purpose. Ask your local nursery for help.

Q: Please root me a cutting of your fig tree.

A: Now is probably a good time to do this if you have the room to store the cutting over the winter. Doug Welsh suggests taking cuttings from the end of stems that are pencil length and pencil diameter. Angle cut the bottom end at 45 degrees and remove the leaves from the bottom half of the cutting. Dip in rooting hormone and plant in good soil. (First make a hole with a pencil so that the hormone does not fall off). Water lightly and place in bright light.

Check us out on

facebook

GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

By Kat Adams

We added twenty new members. They would like to learn how to grow vegetables in Texas and how to maintain watering and moisture needs for plants.

Our top posters were Dominique Rosini Harmon, Rachel Eiland, and Frank Rippel. Thank you to ALL who contributed.

What To Plant and Grow In November

Fava Beans, Beets, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Corn, Garlic, Greens (Cool Season), Lettuce, Mustard, Green Onions, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Turnip

12 Easy Tips To Help Pollinators Survive Winter

1. Plant native perennials to provide winter habitat.
2. Create pollinator shelters in your garden.
 - Leave leaf litter and plant debris.
 - Build brush piles.
 - Install bee hotels and nesting boxes.
3. Provide water sources for birds and insects.
4. Plant winter blooming flowers.
5. Add evergreens for year round shelter.
6. Reduce and eliminate pesticide use.
7. Leave some bare soil for ground nesters.
8. Build a pollinator friendly log pile.
9. Feed the birds. Set up feeders and provide high energy food.
10. Prepare for Spring by planning a pollinator friendly garden.
11. Avoid excessive garden clean up in the Fall.
12. Support pollinator conservation efforts.

Thank you again for your contributions and posts. Please continue to post photos of your gardens, your garden hacks or questions.

We all learn from each other.
Enjoy Your Gardens.

The Wandering Gardeners

**Frederick Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park
Grand Rapids, MI**

<https://www.meijergardens.org/>

By: Melinda J Lucas

In September I was in Michigan visiting some relatives and needed to pass through Grand Rapids as I traveled from Lansing to Holland. As always, I had a list of “must see gardens” that I had put together while I planning this trip. The Frederick Meijer (pronounced Meyer) Gardens were on the top of the list. I was not at all disappointed.

This is one of the largest gardens that I have ever visited, and it has everything. There is a huge art display, a restaurant, a gift shop, a large children’s area and acres of gorgeous gardens and greenscapes, not to mention the sculptures that line the garden paths. I am not exaggerating when I say that I was there for 5 hours and left without seeing everything. You probably could speed through the park, but you won’t be able to enjoy it.



It is difficult to say what my most favorite area was, but I loved the indoor greenhouses that were filled with succulents and cacti, as well as the beautiful Japanese garden that was almost as big as some other entire botanical gardens that I have visited. I love to take photos, but it was almost impossible to capture the beauty and magnitude of this garden.

If you are in Grand Rapids, MI and have a day to spend, please visit this garden. It is definitely first place, in my book, for gardens that I have been to in the United States. They are also on the reciprocal list for the San Antonio Botanical

Garden and the Horticultural Society if you have memberships to either.



The Wandering Gardeners



If you would like to have your wandering gardener experience published, please email your favorite 7 pictures and 3 short paragraphs to Melinda Lucas at MelLucas78218@Gmail.com

NPSOT

Native Plant Society of Texas Guadalupe Chapter Meeting

Rooted in Nature: Composting and Native Flora of Texas

Presented By: Pete Hernandez



Healthy soil is the foundation of a thriving Texas landscape. Join us to explore how composting transforms everyday kitchen and yard waste into a powerful resource for your garden.

We'll highlight native plants that flourish in compost-amended soils—from prairie blooms to pollinator favorites—and share practical tips for using compost wisely without overwhelming drought-tough species.



Tuesday November 11, 2025
Social 6:30 PM • Program 7 PM

Chapter Meeting After Program

First Presbyterian Church of Seguin

1121 E. Walnut Street, Seguin

Parking on N. Moss St. behind the church

Continuing Education

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Serving Texas' Needs



Karen Koepf
2025 GCMG, Education Director

Education Director Report
October 2, 2025



Education Hours Snapshot of January – September 2025 (156 Certified Members)

18% have "0" hours - 28 Members
7% have "0.25-2.25" hours - 11 Members
7% have "2.5-5.75" hours - 11 Members
15% have "6-9.75" hours - 23 Members
54% have "10+" hours - 84 Members

Upcoming Continuing Education Opportunities

GCMG Lunch & Learn 2025

Monthly 2nd Wednesday 12:00 to 1:00pm

Sponsored By **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Wed Nov 12, 2025
12:00/1:00pm



AgriLife Building - 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155

Program: **Gardening Hacks & Things your Grandma Never Taught You** Admin: **Jamie Nielson**

Guest Speaker: April Ripple, Advanced Master Gardener – *Have you ever wondered about garden hacks your parents or grandparents talked about? How about things you've read on the internet or folklore? At this Lunch and Learn, you'll learn what really works and what is a waste of your time and money. You'll also receive ideas for inexpensive ways to protect your garden, how to recycle everyday items found in your home for use in your garden, and practical tips on how to get the most out of your cultivated space. Whether you want to grow flowers or veggies, Texas natives or herbs, come join us for a fun filled hour of frivolity and facts about your gardens.*

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Continuing Education

Seguin Public Library 2025

Monthly 2nd Saturday 12:00 to 1:30pm

Sponsored by **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Sat Nov. 8, 2025
12:00/1:30pm



Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155

Program: **Vermicomposting**

Admin: **Linda Truax**

Guest Speaker: Peter Hernandez, Advanced Master Gardener – *Come join Peter for a very informative presentation on Vermicomposting. Vermicomposting is the process of using worms—typically red wigglers—to break down organic waste into nutrient-rich compost. The worms consume food scraps, paper, and other biodegradable materials, producing castings that enhance soil fertility. This method accelerates decomposition, reduces landfill waste, and creates an eco-friendly way to recycle kitchen leftovers. It's a natural, efficient way to improve soil health while minimizing waste.*

Registration Link: **Not yet provided by Seguin Public Library**

Schertz Public Library Schedule 2025

Monthly 2nd Saturday 11:30am to 1:00pm

Sponsored by **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Sat Nov. 8, 2025
11:30/1:00pm



Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154

Program: **Indoor/House Plants 101**

Guest Speaker: Karen Brkich, Advanced Master Gardener - *Whether you're a complete novice or someone looking to expand your plant collection, this class offers everything you need to become a successful houseplant parent. Discover the secrets to thriving indoor plants, from selecting the right species to mastering essential care techniques. Register today and discover the joy of nurturing houseplants. Let's make your home greener together!! Spaces are limited, so don't miss out on this opportunity to cultivate your green thumb and bring nature indoors. A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snacks, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.*

Registration Link:

<https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887687&ShowLinkedPKs=Y>

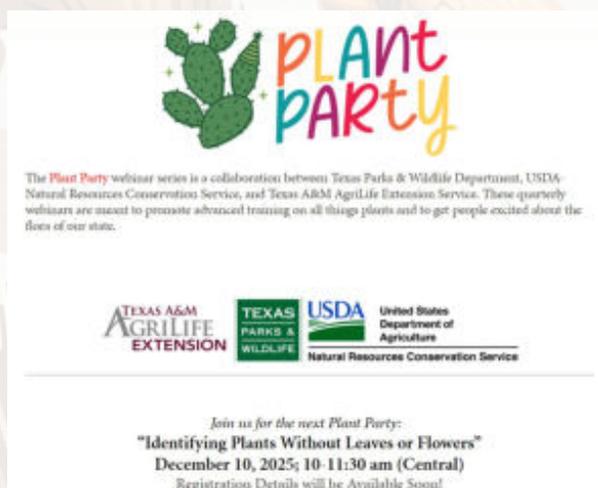
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Continuing Education

Please check out the following websites for Continuing Education opportunities:

- Garden Style San Antonio, TX <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/events-calendar/>
- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin TX <https://www.wildflower.org/events/>
- Plant Party 9: Planting a Seed worth 1.5 hrs https://youtu.be/DFi7_JZUzoY
- The Natural Gardener, 8646 Old Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX <https://tngaustin.com/classes/>
- San Antonio Botanical Gardens, San Antonio, TX <https://www.sabot.org/calendar/>
- Rainbow Gardens, San Antonio, TX <https://www.rainbowgardens.biz/events/>
- Green Jays Garden Center, 100 Elm Grove Rd, Seguin, TX <https://www.greenjaygardens.com/basic-01> (please check website for classes and details).
- Bexar County Master Gardeners, San Antonio, TX <https://bexarmg.org/events/>



Find ALL Plant Party recordings and future events posted at:

<https://southtexasrangelands.tamu.edu/plant-party/>

Extension programs educate Texans in the areas of agriculture, environmental stewardship, health and wellness, youth and adult life skills, human capital and leadership, and community economic development and offers the knowledge resources of the land-grant university system to educate Guadalupe County residents for self-improvement, individual action and community problem solving. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is a statewide educational agency and a member of the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), linked in a unique partnership with the nationwide Cooperative Extension System and Texas county governments. The following videos are for your viewing and completion of CE Hours.

Home Garden Series: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S5BK_6TGI_LYIe3_XUiPjzz

Horticulture & Gardening Webinar Series with David Rodriguez:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S4J6Urb7-JiyXOCT7Mhtats>

Entomology Webinar Series with Molly Keck:

Special Volunteer Opportunities



Seed Exchange update for November 2025

Now that we are all getting ready to put our gardens to bed for the winter, this is a great time to think about what the spring will look like and to prepare our seeds for planting.

As you probably know, our winter here is like a rollercoaster ride. There will be many warm days mixed in with a few cool or cold days, but don't let that get you excited too fast. It is hard to hold back that excitement until the cold is over, and February is notoriously our coldest month.

If you are eager to get your garden started before the weather is safe, there are many options for starting seeds indoors during the next few months. If this is something that you are considering, please read up on the seeds and see how long it takes for them to grow and how fast they will grow. If you don't, you may end up with some mighty large vines growing in your house before you are able to get them into the ground in March. You may also need to purchase some indoor grow lights and maybe a heat mat.

If you are bored while waiting to play in the dirt, please come up and help sort and package seeds. We would be glad to have you join us.

The following page has a list of seeds that are available and more are coming in all the time, so please head up to the seed exchange in the Master Gardeners Office and take advantage of the free seeds that are available on Wednesdays from 2-4 PM. If those hours don't work for you due to work or other commitments please reach out to one of the POC's. They will be glad to help if you have questions or need access at other days and times.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

POCs: David & Karen Koepp – dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com,
kkoeppnb@gmail.com , or call/text 210-263-3624,

Ernestine Sykes – ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756

Special Volunteer Opportunities

Vegetables

Asparagus
Beets - Many varieties
Bok Choy
Broccoli
Broccoli Raab
Brussel Sprouts
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Carrot - Many Varieties
Celery
Collard
Cucumber - Many Varieties
Eggplant - White, Green, Purple, & Black
Green Beans - Many varieties Bush & Pole
Hot Pepper - Many varieties
Hot Pepper - Ghost
Hot Pepper - Habanero
Hot Pepper - Lemon
Mild Pepper - Many varieties
Mild Pepper - Yellow Banana
Mild & Hot versions Jalapeno
Kale
Lettuce - Many Varieties
Lima Bean
Mesclun Salad Mix
Mustard Greens
Okra
Onion - Yellow Bulb
Onion - Bunching
Parsnip
Peas - Many Varieties
Pumpkin - Many Varieties
Radish - Many Varieties
Spinach - Many Varieties
Squash - Many Varieties Summer & Winter
Squash - Butternut
Squash - Gold Winter
Squash - Scallop
Squash - Yellow Summer - Many varieties
Squash - Zucchini - Many varieties
Sweet Corn - Many varieties
Sweet Pepper - Many varieties
Tomato - Many varieties small & large / color
Tomato - Golden
Tomato - Roma
Turnip
Veggie Packs - Large Starter Kit

Fruit

Cantaloupe
Watermelon - Many Varieties

Herbs

Basil - Many varieties
Chamomile
Chives
Cilantro
Dill
Lavender
Lemon Balm
Oregano
Parsley
Peppermint
Rosemary
Sage
Spearmint
Thyme

Flowers

African Daisy
Agave
Alyssum
American Elm
Bachelor Button
Bee Balm
Blackeyed Susan
Blanket Flower
Blue Aethea
Bluebonnet
Butterfly Flower
Butterfly Weed
Calendula
Canterbury Bells
Cape Coral Vine
Candlestick Bush
Carnation
Chinese Forget-Me-Not
Chrysanthemum
Columbine
Cosmos
Dahlia
Delphinium
Desert Rose
Esperanza
Foxglove
Gaillardia
Gazania
Hibiscus
Holly Hock
Johnny Jumpups
Larkspur
Lupine
Marigold - Several varieties
Monarch Sanctuary Wildflower Mix
Moonflower
Morning Glory - Several varieties
Nasturtium - Several varieties
Painted Daisy
Pansy
Petunia
Poppy
Shasta Daisy
Snow in Summer
Strawflower
Sunflower - Several varieties
Sweet Pea
Sweet William
Thunbergia
White Heath Aster
Wildflower Mix - Several varieties
Yucca - Red & White
Zinnia - Several varieties

Please note we have many varieties of seeds available that are not listed above, so please come see us on Wednesday's from 2-4 PM or feel free to contact one of us via text/email if you have any questions.

Seed Exchange POCs: David & Karen Koepp – dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com , kkoepnb@gmail.com , or call/text 210-263-3624, Ernestine Sykes – ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756
<https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/>

Also for some seeds we have large bulk 1/2lb pack quantities available as well (Corn, Green Beans, Okra, & Peas)

We still would like your seed donations if you have a surplus of something you have grown successfully!

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Gardens and Parks

1. Big Red Barn Garden

[250 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Janice Knobles, jmknobles@yahoo.com

Text: 210-275-4402

Volunteer Day: Fridays 7:30 a.m. Summer 8:15 a.m. Winter

2. Christian Cupboard Garden

[516 N. Camp, Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Kay McElveen hkaymcelveen@gmail.com

Phone: (479)790-2933

Volunteers work on their own schedule.

3. Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden

[1101 Elbel St., Schertz, TX](#)

POC: Ann Odvody odvodyd@swbell.net

Phone (210) 665-3866

Volunteer Day: Tues / Fri 8 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

4. Gutierrez Garden Park

[1231 Borgfeld Rd., Schertz, TX](#)

POC: Maria Dykes mariaq75@gmail.com

Phone: (210) 792-1603

Volunteer days: Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

5. Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center Seguin ISD

[1865 East Hwy 90, Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Wendy Salazar fredandwendy@yahoo.com

Phone: (210) 483-3717

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

6. La Vernia Primary School Gardens

[249 FM 1346 S., La Vernia TX](#)

POCs: Kay Cover doncover6969@yahoo.com

Phone: (830) 779-2149

Colleen Collier colleen1631@gmail.com

Phone: (210) 413-4818

Volunteer Days: Contact the POCs

7. LULAC Community Garden

[1502 Eighth St., Seguin, TX 78155](#)

POC: Juan Moncada jmarcus78702@gmail.com

Text: (512) 701-1696

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

8. Marion Veteran's Memorial Park

[100 W. Huebinger St., Marion, TX](#)

POCs: Carol Suchan ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com

Text: 210-870-4880

Anne Ottenad ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com

Volunteer Day: Mondays 8-10 a.m.

9. Mill Street Community Garden

[1447 West Mill St., New Braunfels, TX](#)

POCs: Benna Hunter bennahunter@gmail.com

Text: 270-860-2246

Kathleen Smith kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

Volunteer Day: 2nd Saturday of the month.

10. Polley Mansion Heritage Garden

[11432 FM 539, La Vernia, TX](#)

POC: Robin Muschalek forcexxi@yahoo.com

Keith Muschalek keith.muschalek@gmail.com

Phone: (571) 606-4234

Volunteer Days: Contact POCs

11. Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden

[1017 Town Creek Rd., Cibolo, TX 78108](#)

POC: Rachel Eiland

rachel.eiland@outlook.com

Phone: (757) 513-2842

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

12. St. Andrew's Community Garden

[Corner of S. Crockett & Nolte St., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Wednesday's 9-11 a.m.

13. Other Gardens used as reciprocal cooperation between Counties or organizations

Must have board permission to work and claim time in these projects.

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Fundraisers & Related Projects

1. Calendar & Gardening Guide

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POC: **VACANT – Need new POC.**

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

2. Craft Opportunities for Plant Sales

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POC: **VACANT – Need new POC.**

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

3. Earth Day (Typically Last Saturday in April)

Plant Sale Downtown Seguin on the Square

Plant Sales POCs: Paul Carter (830) 481-0817

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

Tim Steele (210) 385-2219 tlscowboys@hotmail.com

4. GC Fair Plant Sales & Raffle (2nd week/weekend Oct.)

[950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX](#) (Fairgrounds Coliseum)

POC: Kathleen Smith kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

4. GCMG Grow Team

Location details will be provided by the POC.

POC: Pam Malone ptmalone@live.com

Text (830) 534-2111

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

5. Kingsbury Fall Festival (Plant & Craft Sales)

[644 Railway St., Kingsbury, TX 78638](#)

POC: Paul Carter & Sharon Cooper

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

Text: (830) 481-0817

Rscooper3707@gmail.com

Text: (281) 684-4632

Volunteer Day: Contact POC – Event is typically on 1st or 2nd Saturday in November

6. Online Sales & Storefront-Spring/Fall

[4037 Stockdale Hwy, Seguin TX 78155](#) Regular hours

are Wednesday-Saturday* 8am – 5pm.

POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

7. Pecan Festival (Typically Last Saturday in October)

Garden Tour & more at the Big Red Barn

Plant Sale Downtown Seguin on the Square

Big Red Barn POC: Kay McElveen

hkaymcelveen@gmail.com Phone: (479)790-2933

Plant Sales POCs: Paul Carter (830) 481-0817

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

Tim Steele (210) 385-2219 tlscowboys@hotmail.com

8. Plant Sales Team

Sales will be at various GC locations in Spring & Fall

POCs: Paul Carter (830) 481-0817

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

Tim Steele (210) 385-2219 tlscowboys@hotmail.com

Volunteer Days: Will be posted on website and/or emailed.

9. Yulefest (1st Sunday in December)

[950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Organizational Support

1. GCMG 2025 Board of Directors

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

President – Kay McElveen hkaymcelveen@gmail.com

Past President – Sarah Puckett – Resigned

President Elect – April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Vice-President – Pam Younger pamyounger54@gmail.com

Treasurer – Frank Rippel riptron@gmail.com

Secretary – Kathleen Smith

kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

Education Director – Karen Koepp

kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

Membership Director – David Koepp

dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com

Volunteer Director – Pam Malone ptmalone@live.com

Communication Director – Ingrid Wilgen

essentiallyingrid@gmail.com

Publicity Director – Janice Jadwin jmjadwin@yahoo.com

Master Gardener Class Director – Paul Carter

GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com

AgriLife Extension Agent, MG Coordinator – Travis Franke

Travis.Franke@ag.tamu.edu

Class Coordinators

(Lead) Paul Carter GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com,

April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

TMGA Director 2yr 2024/25

Primary: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Alternate: Tim Steele tlscowboys@hotmail.com

TMGA Director 1yr 2025

Primary: David Koepp dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com

Alternate: Robin Rieder gatewood2005@yahoo.com

Regular Board of Directors Meeting at AgriLife Extension

Office 2nd Floor is 2nd Thursday at 4 PM each month

(except in October which is 1st Thursday at 4PM) all

members encouraged to attend.

2. GCMG Communications Team

POC: Communications Director: Ingrid Wilgen

essentiallyingrid@gmail.com Text: 210-214-0787

3. GCMG Education & Speakers Bureau Team

POC: Karen Koepp kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

4. GCMG MG Office, Research Library, & Seed Exchange

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POCs: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

David Koepp dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com & Karen Koepp

kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

Text: (210) 263-3624

Volunteer Days: Wed.2-4 p.m.

5. GCMG Monthly Meeting-Refreshments, Setup, & Cleanup

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POC: Karen Carrell carrell1708@msn.com

Volunteer Days: 3rd Thursday each month except June &

December – Sign up during monthly meeting or contact POC for current needs.

6. GCMG Newsletter

POC: Melinda Lucas meljlucas78218@gmail.com

Volunteer Days: Contact POC for needs.

7. GCMG Social Events

Summer POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Winter POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

8. GCMG Technology Team

POC: Paul Prince phrogtoo@yahoo.com

Text: 559-259-4317

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

9. TMGA (Quarterly Meetings, IMGC Conference, other TMGA related work)

TMGA Director 2yr 2024/25 Primary: April Rippel

adrippel@gmail.com

TMGA Director 2yr 2024/2025 Alternate: Tim Steele

tlscowboys@hotmail.com

TMGA Director 1yr 2025 Primary: David Koepp

dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com

TMGA Director 1 yr 2025 Alternate: Robin Rieder

gatewood2005@yahoo.com

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Public Education / Outreach

1. Ask A Master Gardener Information Booth (AAMG)

Location details will be provided by POC.

POC: Mac Mullins macadac242@gmail.com

Text (210) 722-3881

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

2. Big Red Barn Kiosk

[390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX](https://www.google.com/maps/place/390+Cordova+Rd,+Seguin,+TX)

POC: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

3. Christmas Tree Project (Nov./Dec.)

[210 E. Live Oak St.](https://www.google.com/maps/place/210+E.+Live+Oak+St.,+Seguin,+TX), (Tree will be on Downtown Square)

POCs: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756 & Kayla Murray

misskaylamurray@gmail.com

Text: (830) 386-9664

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

4. GC Fair AAMG Booth, Crafts, Horticulture Exhibits

(2nd week/weekend Oct.)

[950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX](https://www.google.com/maps/place/950+S.+Austin+St.,+Seguin,+TX) (Fairgrounds Coliseum)

POC: Kathleen Smith kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

5. GCMG Independence Day Parade Float

POC: Angela Chason angelachason@hotmail.com

Text: (210) 803-6736

Setup Location / Volunteer Days: Contact POC

6. GCMG Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth

(2nd weekend in Oct.) – Fairgrounds Coliseum

[950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX](https://www.google.com/maps/place/950+S.+Austin+St.,+Seguin,+TX)

POC: Pam Younger pamyounger54@gmail.com

Text: (512) 656-2322

7. Youth Education – Junior Master Gardeners

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](https://www.google.com/maps/place/210+E.+Live+Oak+St.,+Seguin,+TX)

POC: **VACANT – Need new POC.**

Volunteer Opportunities

New Garden Opportunity

Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden

Hello Garden Friends. Hope y'all are well. I am excited to introduce a new volunteer opportunity in the Schertz/Cibolo area.

The Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden was dedicated in 2018; as council member his goal was to connect the community to nature and preserve wild-life. The garden has been mostly unattended since the coordinator left in 2021. The garden is a bit unruly and needs a little TLC and back breaking labor. The garden is set in a natural area of Schlather Park in Cibolo; 1017 Town Creek Rd, Cibolo, TX, 78108. Volunteer hours are set for Monday / Wednesday 8am-10am.

Here are some upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Upcoming tasks for the garden include leveling gravel walkway (damaged in June floods)-current, plant fall crop / cover crop, fertilize / condition beds, planting seeds that need to overwinter, mulch beds.

Need volunteers to help create a large orchard bed and several flower beds for pollinators; more details to come.

Keep your ears perked for future learning opportunities, workshops, and planting events.

Let's dig in and grow together.

If you want to volunteer for any of the above-mentioned activities, please contact me at 757-513-2842 (text is best) or email: rachel.eiland@outlook.com.

Thank you for all your support!

Rachel Eiland

Master Gardener (Guadalupe)

Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden Coordinator

"A Garden is not a place; it's a journey!"



Volunteer Opportunities

Please check with the listed point of contact before showing up. Times and days may change at any time due to a number of reasons.

Mondays

Marion Veterans Community Garden

100 W Huebinger St. in Marion

8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

This is an open park and always needs weeds pulled. Once you know what needs to be done, you would be able to work any time or day that is convenient for your schedule

Contact Carol Suchan
210-870-4880 or email

ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com

or Anne Ottenad

210-860-3636 or email

Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com.

Mondays & Wednesdays

Ron Pedde Community Garden

1017 Town Creek Road, Cibolo

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Contact Rachel Eiland

Text 757-513-2842 or email

rachel.eiland@outlook.com

Wednesdays

MG Office/Library/Seed Exchange

210 E. Live Oak, AgriLife Bldg, Seguin

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed

Contact Ernestine Sykes

210-544-0756 or email

ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

The office number is 830-379-1972.



Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesdays & Thursdays & possibly other days

Gutierrez Park 1231 Borgfeld Rd,
Schertz

Contact Maria Dykes

210-792-1603 or email
[Mariaq75@gmail.com](mailto:Marიაq75@gmail.com).

Wednesday

St Andrew's Community Garden

The corner of Nolte & Crocket St.

9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Weeding, planting and edging and
whatever else needs to be done

Contact Ernestine Sykes

210-544-0756 or email

ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or

Tuesdays & Fridays

Guadalupe County
Demonstration Garden

1101 Elbel Road, Schertz
(behind the County Annex Building)

8:00 a.m.-11.00. a.m.

Contact Ann Odvody

210-994-9664 or Email

odvodyd@swbell.net

(Always in need of help.)

Fridays

Big Red Barn Gardens

390 Cordova Road, Seguin

7:30 a.m. for the summer hours

8:15 a.m. for the winter hours.

Contact Janice Knobles

210-275-4402 or email

jmknobles@yahoo.com



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.

210 East Live Oak St.

Seguin, TX 78155

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners <http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org> , or <https://gcmgtx.org/> 830-379-1972 Ext 210

Guadalupe County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension <http://guadalupe.agrilife.org/> 830-379-1972

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

GCMG Officers & Board of Directors 2025

Kay McElveen-President

April Rippel-President Elect

Pam Younger-Vice President

Kathleen Smith-Secretary

Frank Rippel-Treasurer

Ingrid Wilgen-Communications Director

Janice Jadwin-Publicity Director

David Koepp-Membership Director

Karen Koepp-Education Director

Paul Carter - Training Class Director

Pam Malone-Volunteer Director

Travis Franke -AgriLife Agent MG Coordinator

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Melinda J Lucas, Editor
MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or a loss of a family member, send an email to: GCMGTX@gmail.com.

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Melinda J Lucas

Proofreaders- David Koeppe, Heidi Brown, & Kat Medeiros-Oropeza

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Association Directors

Two Year Term (2024-2025) April Rippel, Alternate – Tim Steele

One Year Term (2025) David Koeppe, Alternate – Robin Rieder

Speakers Bureau Team– Karen Koeppe (P.O.C.), Karen Brkich

Plant Sales - Paul Carter and Tim Steele

Ask A Master Gardener Booth - Mac Mullins

Guadalupe Co. Demonstration Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

Master Gardener Office/Library/Seed Exchange - Ernestine Sykes, David & Karen Koeppe

Refreshment Coordinator - Karen Carrell

Kingsbury Fall Festival - Sharon Cooper

Grow Team Lead - Pam Malone

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

4th of July Parade - Angela Chason

Yule Fest - April Rippel

Tech Team Lead - Paul Prince

2025 County Fair - Kathleen Smith & April Rippel

Facebook Administrator - Kathy Adams

Christmas Tree Decorating - Kayla Murray & Ernestine Sykes

Newsletter Editor - Melinda J Lucas

Web Content Masters - Frank K. Rippel & David Koeppe

Gutierrez Garden Park - Caroline Moody

GCMG Class Coordinator – Paul Carter and April Rippel

(For a complete list please visit: <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/about/officers-members-in-service/>)