

# GUADALUPE GARDENER NOVEMBER 2021

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

## President's Message

And just like that it's November! Hello Master Gardeners.

What an exciting October we had with excellent member participation and fundraising at the Guadalupe County Fair. And we still have a few more events to enjoy as the year draws to a close: Fall Harvest Festival and Yule Fest provide the opportunity to share our passion for gardening with others. It is great to see our group actively extending our knowledge throughout the community as we ride what we hope is the end of the COVID wave.

*...I cannot endure to waste anything so precious as autumnal sunshine by staying in the house. So I have spent almost all the daylight hours in the open air. ~Nathaniel Hawthorne*

Those of you at the October general membership meeting learned of the various opportunities we have to share gardening with others as the year draws to a close. There are plenty of opportunities throughout our organization to get outdoors and enjoy the late afternoon sunshine without the sweltering heat of our typical southcentral Texas summer days.

Your Board of Directors is anticipating as many members as possible to attend the November membership meeting on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be recognizing the graduates of our current Master Gardener class that will have completed their education/training early in the month. AND your vote will count as we hold elections for our 2022 officers. Nominations continue to be accepted for all of our positions – please review the recent membership meeting minutes found in VMS for positions and openings.

Also, please review the October meeting minutes and offer corrections to the Secretary (Valerie Bartonek) as needed. It was a busy/productive meeting and we want to have our information correct.

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And finally, keep an eye out for information as we move towards the final plans for our Christmas Social. COVID is still influencing the number of individuals we can have at a gathering and it has been a challenge to find a location that can cater a group of our size. When you get an e-mail inquiry, please respond to it as quickly as possible.

On behalf of the Board of Directors – enjoy this month’s newsletter and happy gardening,

Barry A. Jackson  
2021 GCMG President



# Membership News

Please make sure you have allotted time to complete your annual hours: twelve (12) Volunteer Hours and six (6) Continuing Education hours. Dues and required forms for 2022 will be collected at membership meetings from those who have met the hours requirements. Prior to meetings I will send emails to the individuals who are eligible to renew their membership. Please do not wait until December 31 to complete and post your hours and pay dues.

If you did not receive an email in October check your VMS profile and make sure your email address is accurate.

## Volunteer Recognition Drawing

October 2021 Volunteer Recognition Drawing			
Hours Reported 1-30 September 2021			
1	Bollinger, Mark "Bo"	14	Muschalek, Robin D
2	Burris, Welta	15	Odvody, Ann
3	Burton, Rodney	16	Odvody, Dale
4	Chandler, Mike	17	Richardson, Thomas J
5	Cover, Kay	18	Rohlf, Christy
6	Friesenhahn, Joyce K	19	Sims, Judy A
7	Henry, Beth	20	Smith, Kathleen
8	Hernandez, Peter	21	Stanley, Judy a
9	Knobles, Janice	22	Suchan, Carol A
10	Lucas, Melinda J	23	Ulrich, Karen
11	Miller, Mary C	24	Wallace, Crystal
12	Mullen, Carol	25	Younger, Pam
13	Muschalek, Keith E		



# Membership News

## **October 2021 Top Volunteers 25+ Hours Reported 1-30 September 2021**

Bollinger, Mark "Bo"  
Burton, Rodney  
Darrough, Kim  
Henry, Beth  
Knobles, Janice  
McElveen, Kay  
Odvody, Ann  
Odvody, Dale  
Rippel, April D  
Smith, Kathleen  
Younger, Pam

### **100 Hour Club**

Bartonek, Valerie  
Bollinger, Mark "Bo"  
Bowe, Mary  
Burton, Rodney  
Cover, Kay  
Darrough, Kim  
Friesenhahn, Joyce K  
Henry, Beth  
Knobles, Janice  
McElveen, Kay  
Muschalek, Keith E  
Nodine, William H  
Odvody, Ann  
Odvody, Dale  
Rippel, April D

# Membership News

## VMS Login assistance

Username for individuals transferred from the old VMS system is the first portion of your email address before the '@'. The temp password is: Garden4Life\$

You should be prompted to change your password when you login.

Usernames and passwords are case-sensitive and must be submitted exactly as above without any added spaces or characters. Make sure the caps lock is off. Copy and paste them into the login form if necessary to ensure they are being submitted exactly. And go here to login:

<https://vms.texasmg.org/>

If anyone has any trouble accessing their accounts, they should watch the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?=fYIFzkPySU>

Posting hours is the same as the old system. At the menu select 'Your Information'

Then 'add new hours'

At 'Get help' there is a tab with a tutorial video too.

If you need further assistance, contact me at email: [darrroughkim@gmail.com](mailto:darrroughkim@gmail.com)





## **The Importance of Water and Gardening**

Guadalupe County Master

Gardner Class #34

By Ellena E. Rodriguez, student

It's impossible to overestimate the importance of water for your garden—after all, water makes up 85 to 95 percent of the weight of living plants. In fact, plants use more water than any other living creature. Water carries nutrients from the soil to the plant cells, so plants that are kept at their desired hydration level will be stronger and healthier.

It's important to state that there is no way to teach anyone exactly how to water every garden, every plant, in every climate or region. Instead, we can talk about rules of thumb and suggest tools that will help Texans understand what to look for when determining water needs.

There's a fine balance between too much and too little water. Too much water can result in soggy roots and plants may become oxygen deprived or starved. Clearly, for bog or aquatic plants, this isn't an issue. However for our perennial and shrub borders, this can be deadly. Too little water and plants can just stop growing, wilt, and eventually die. For plants that have developed to live in more hot/dry/arid conditions, there is obviously a higher tolerance for dry conditions. Knowing Texas climate zones and Texas specific growing conditions—including soil type—must always be the starting point in making watering decisions.

A good rule of thumb is that ornamental gardens require about one inch of water per week. This assumes a healthy soil structure that can hold that water for the plants to be able to absorb it. Gardens located in hot, dry climates lose moisture at a more rapid rate and may require up to two inches of water per week, while gardens in cooler climates may require no watering at all or minimal watering.

For most healthy garden soils, one good soaking is better than several shallow watering. This helps to encourage roots to grow nice and deep rather than staying close to the surface awaiting their next quick sip of water. Water that goes deep can endure longer than the water on the surface which dries up under the hot sun and atmospheric heat.



# Water is the lifeblood of all plants and the key to three critical functions:

- **Photosynthesis** - this is the process that enables plants to manufacture their own food. Plants use water to manufacture carbohydrates, which are essential for supplying energy to the plant. Not enough water and plants may not be able to produce enough food to sustain healthy growth.
- **Transpiration** - this is the plant version of sweating. Plants lose water into the atmosphere through their leaves via transpiration, much the way humans lose water through their skin by sweating. Water is usually lost through tiny holes in the leaves called stomata. Water evaporates into the atmosphere through the stomata, causing a cooling effect around the plant to help keep the plant's temperature in balance. If the plant's temperature is too high, its cells may start dying.
- **Nutrient distribution** – just like all living things, plants require a variety of nutrients to grow and develop their structure - stems, leaves, flowers, seeds. Like blood in animals and humans, water helps transport nutrients up from the soil and into the plant's cell structure.

Now that we know *why* water is so important to our plants, it's important to know *how* to help them get the right amount of water throughout the growing season - including the fall, when most plants are actively growing their root systems long after they've stopped putting energy into their flowers, branches, and buds.

Here are some basic tips for general outdoor watering, courtesy of the Texas A&M University (TAMU) AgriLife Extension's Lawn Water Management:

- Set five to six open-top cans randomly on the lawn (cans with short sides such as tuna or cat food cans work best).
- Turn the sprinkler head or system on for 30 minutes.
- Measure and record the depth of water caught in each individual can.
- Calculate the average depth of water from all of the cans. For example, you have used five cans in your yard. The amount of water found in the cans was as follows: 0.5 inch, 0.4 inch, 0.6 inch, 0.4 inch, and 0.6 inch. Add the depths together and then divide by the number of cans you used (five in this case)
  - ⇒  $0.5\text{inch} + 0.4\text{ inch} + 0.6\text{ inch} + 0.4\text{ inch} + 0.6\text{ inch} = 2.5\text{ inches}$ , 5 cans = 0.5 inch of water in 30 minutes
- Use a garden spade or a soil probe to determine how deeply the soil was wet during the 30-minute time period. The probe will easily push through wet soil but less easily into dry areas.
- From the amount of water that was applied in the 30-minute cycle and the depth that it wet the soil, Texans can then determine how long the sprinkler must run to wet the soil to a depth of 6 inches.

In this example, the system put out .5 inch of water in 30 minutes, wetting the soil 3 inches deep. Therefore, 1 inch of water will need to be applied to wet the soil to a depth of 6 inch-es, giving a total watering time of one hour.

In our ongoing discussion in GCMGT class #34, it's vital that the role of water be understood and reinforced by informed action. Water is absolutely essential to the fine balance of elements in our managed landscapes. Too much or too little of anything, including water, can upset that balance and jeopardize the health and beauty of the landscape and the growing things in it.



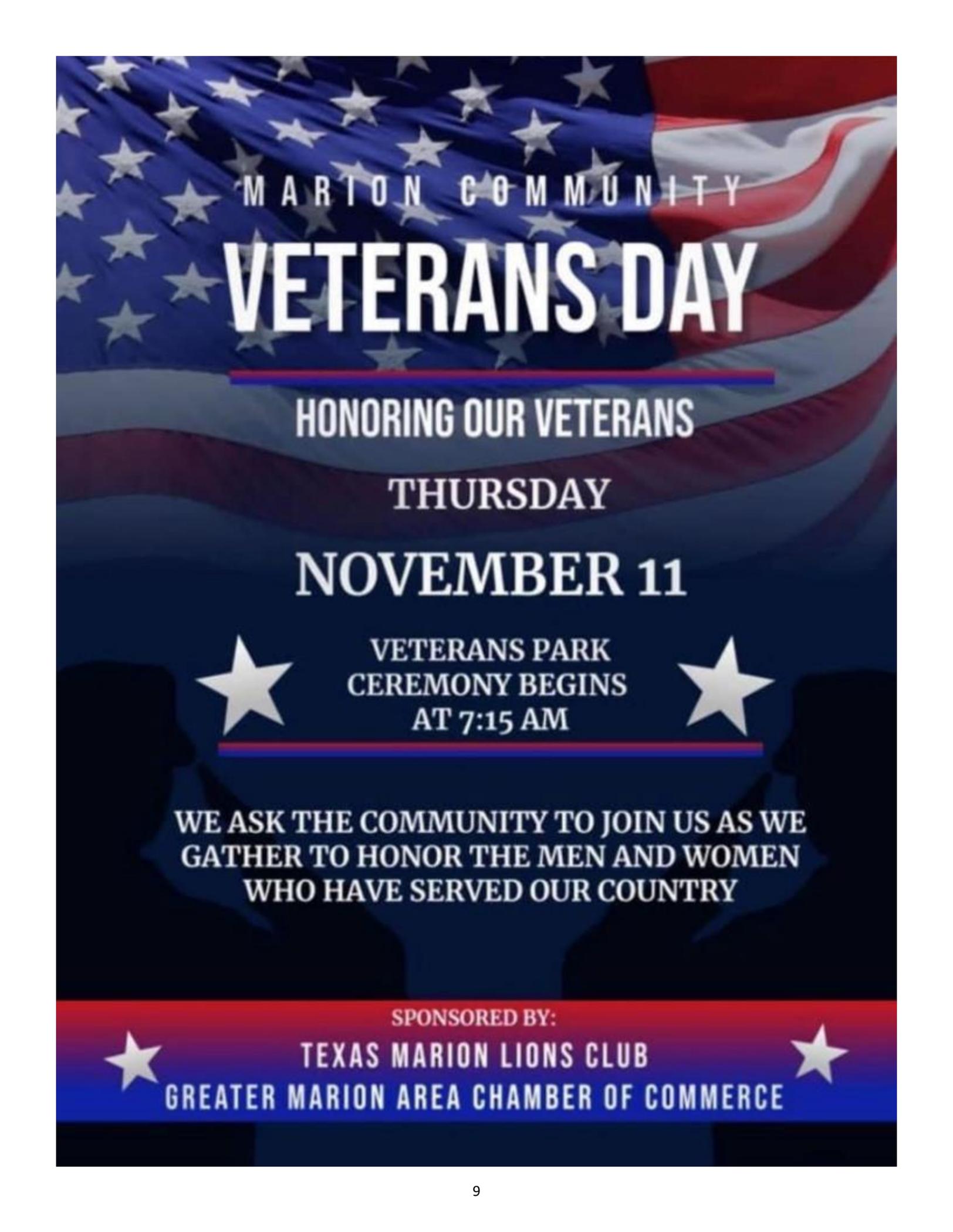
Yellowing leaves and wilt can be a sign of both too little and of too much water, so look deeper. Is there a crispy dry look to the plant, or a soggy, rotting aspect? Touch the soil on top and then dig in a little. If the top is crusty, dusty or cracked, we are likely in a low water condition. If it's smooth, damp or slick, we could be in an over watering condition. The time one takes to inspect the plant and soil is essential in determining what the plant needs.

The best way to know one's landscape needs is to visit our plants routinely. Walk around and see how things look. The walk and time in nature are good for Texans, the attention is good for our plants. In time, our plants will become familiar to us and we'll know what they need and when they need it. May sound silly to some...but it's true.

Water is central to all life, so make sure that good watering practices are top of our mind and list to do in our Texas Master Gardener strategy. With just a little knowledge, discipline, and awareness, we can create custom watering strategies to precisely fit our landscape needs, ensure a happy and healthy growing environment all season long while protecting and conserving this finite resource on our planet.

Learn more about Texas gardening by participating in [Guadalupe County Master Gardeners](#), TAMU AgriLife Extension Service today.





MARION COMMUNITY  
**VETERANS DAY**

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HONORING OUR VETERANS

THURSDAY

**NOVEMBER 11**

★ VETERANS PARK  
CEREMONY BEGINS  
AT 7:15 AM ★

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WE ASK THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN US AS WE  
GATHER TO HONOR THE MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

SPONSORED BY:  
TEXAS MARION LIONS CLUB  
GREATER MARION AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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# **Note!**

**The following volunteer opportunities may be available on an individual basis. Please contact the coordinator of the activity to volunteer.**



## **Ongoing Volunteer Opportunities**

### **At Your Convenience:**

•**Schertz** – Gutierrez Garden Park, 1231 Borgfeld Rd. Contact Judy Stanley at 830-765-4613 or [jstanley20@satx.rr.com](mailto:jstanley20@satx.rr.com) for further information. (Need lots of help right now.)

•**Seguin** – Rain Garden at the Irma Lewis Seguin Outdoor Learning Center, 1865 E US Highway 90 (just past the Geronimo Creek bridge east of town on HW 90). Contact Mag Holm-Roesler at [mrhr816@gmail.com](mailto:mrhr816@gmail.com) or 512-656-2360 to discuss what needs to be done.

### **Scheduled Workday on Tuesday:**

•**Marion** — Marion Veterans Community Garden. Contact Joyce Friesenhahn at 210-452-2404 or email her at [omaannie2@gmail.com](mailto:omaannie2@gmail.com) . The park is located next to the old Schulz Nursery parking lot, 100 W Huebinger St.

### **Scheduled Workdays on Tuesdays & Fridays:**

•**Schertz** — Guadalupe County Community Garden, 1101 Elbel Road, behind the County Annex Building. Start time is 8:00 a.m. Check with Ann Odvody at [odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net) or 210-994-9664. (Need lots of help right now.)

## **Scheduled Workdays on Wednesdays:**

• **Seguin** — MG Office/Library, 210 E Live Oak, is open from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are always needed. Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com) or 210-544-0756, or Carol Mullen [Camullen66@gmail.com](mailto:Camullen66@gmail.com) or 512-825-4218. The office number is 830-379-2153.

• **Seguin** — (Only 1st and 3rd Wednesdays) Park West Pollinator Garden, 600 Block of North Vaughn Ave., 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Maintenance of the pollinator garden and care of new plants. Bring gardening tools, water, hat, sunscreen, insect spray and wear appropriate gardening shoes. Contact Clara Mae Marcotte, [rcm.marcotte@gmail.com](mailto:rcm.marcotte@gmail.com) or Liz Romero, [fleurromero@gmail.com](mailto:fleurromero@gmail.com)

## **Scheduled Workdays on Fridays:**

• **Seguin** — Big Red Barn Gardens, 390 Cordova Road. Start time is 7:30 a.m. for the summer hours and 8:15 a.m. for the winter hours. Check with Janice Knobles at 830-379-6193 or e-mail [jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto:jmknobles@yahoo.com)

# Guadalupe County Fair

A sincere thank you to each of the 46 volunteers that made the 2021 Guadalupe County Fair a huge success! We had 55 Youth Horticulture entries and 111 Adult entries. We sold more raffle tickets than ever before thanks to some wonderful raffle prizes that were donated. Our corporate sponsors for the raffle prizes this year were Planet Fitness-Seguin, Ren-Shirts, Texas Sky Realty, Advantage Plumbing, and Tractor Supply Co-Seguin. I encourage you to support these businesses. There were also numerous master gardeners who donated items. Thank you!

We sold over 300 plants and gave away hundreds and hundreds of seed packets. We hope to have many new gardeners this coming year in Guadalupe County!

It was amazing to see how many kids came in with home grown entries for our field, garden, and orchard crop divisions. And many happy moms and dads as their children made crafts and ate “dirt cups with worms.” Most of them were surprised that we offered this free of charge. Just one of the many ways that we impact the community.

Kathleen Smith

2021 Guadalupe County Fair Coordinator







# The Big Red Barn Tours

The G.C.M. Gardeners' garden tours at the Big Red Barn in October 2021 will go down in the records as a "success!" The garden docents visited with 1,500 third and fourth grade students.

These children participated in short scavenger hunts to learn some gardening facts and a bit of gardening history. Also, 300 adult leaders and chaperones toured the various garden plots along with their children. A great, big "thank you" to all who organized and volunteered during the Ag-Awareness Days.

**-Janice Knobles**



Check us out on

facebook

Master Gardeners Facebook Community  
Happy Fall Ya'll

We welcome 44 new members to our Facebook Community. They are wanting to learn to grow vegetables, learn about landscaping and trees.

Our top contributors were: Mary Colleen Hoch Miller, and Peggy Jones with beautiful photos. April Ripple with all of her great information and photos of the Guadalupe County Fair Master Gardeners Booths and Activities. Congratulations to the entry winners and a huge thank you to all of the volunteers! Thank you to all who contributed to our Facebook page. You are all greatly appreciated.

We also had numerous questions from new MGF members about soil preparation for winter. The time is now through mid November to plant fall cover crops. Cover crops help to stabilize nitrogen in the soil and instead of being harvested for food, cover crops are tilled back into the soil at the end of their growing cycle; nutrients are released as the plants decompose.

Planting dense cover crops in the fall prevents weeds from getting established, which means less weeding in the spring. Yay!!! Cover crops that do well in central Texas are Buckwheat, Peas, and Crimson Clover.

Monthly Giggle:

My husband keeps adding more soil to our garden. The plot thickens.....

Please keep posting photos of your gardens, questions, garden tips and hacks.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

Kathy Adams



# *Wandering Gardener*

*Marilyn Moltz*

## *Cutler Botanic Garden Binghamton, New York*

In September we made a quick trip to New York to visit family members we had not seen for several years and visited Cutler Botanic Garden. This 4.5 acre garden is part of the Cornell Cooperative Extension and was developed about 40 years ago. This is a teaching garden partly operated by the Master Gardeners there. They have buildings for community programs and teaching sessions in addition to the gardens.

The grounds are set up in separate gardens, all separated by wide paved walkways. They have a composting demonstration area and raised bed garden area in addition to all the regular (roses, ornamental, grasses, rock, native, butterfly, vegetable, etc.) sections one sees at a garden. I enjoyed the large trees and gently rolling walkways. In the center there is a gazebo you can sit in and see a different garden area in every direction. If you sit quietly, you can hear the birds sing which is sometimes hard to find in a busy city.

After visiting the garden, I can understand why it is one of 360 gardens in the United States designated as a display garden of All American Selections. It is free and open to the public. I noticed some “walkers” in the garden and yes, I can imagine taking daily walks there!







## **Continuing Education Events November 2021**

***Please be aware that due to current COVID-19 situation some training from other organizations being offered is online. Notices from Bexar and Travis counties will be sent out to members as they are received, including reminders and updates.***

**Tuesday, November 2: “Trees”** The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., Austin. Free & in person, online signup begins 10/26 at 6:00 p.m. [tngaustin.com/events/](http://tngaustin.com/events/)

**Friday, November 5: “The Nature of Oaks”** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 6:00 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Cost \$10 without book, \$50 with book. Online. Register at [www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/](http://www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/)

**Saturday, November 6: “Tree Pruning”** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 9:30 a.m - 11:30 a.m. Cost \$30 Online. Register at [www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/](http://www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/)

**Saturday, November 6: “The Morphology of Texas Oaks & Trees”** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Cost \$25. Online. Register at [www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/](http://www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/)

**Tuesday, November 9: “What’s Happening in the Gardens”** Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, 12:00 p.m.– 1:30 p.m. Cost \$15 Online. Register at [www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/](http://www.wildflower.org/events/2021-11/)

**Tuesday, November 9: “Organic Veggie Gardening 101”** The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., Austin. Free & in person, online signup begins 11/4 at 6:00 p.m. [tngaustin.com/events/](http://tngaustin.com/events/)

**Tuesday, November 16: “Bringing Plants in for the Winter”** The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., Austin. Free & in person, online signup begins 11/11 at 6:00 p.m. [tngaustin.com/events/](http://tngaustin.com/events/)

**Tuesday, November 23: “Organic Insect Control”** The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., Austin. Free & in person, online signup begins 11/18 at 6:00 p.m. [tngaustin.com/events/](http://tngaustin.com/events/)

**Tuesday, November 30: “Pruning”** The Natural Gardener, 8648 Old Bee Caves Rd., Austin. Free & in person, online signup begins 11/25 at 6:00 p.m. [tngaustin.com/events/](http://tngaustin.com/events/)

(At present all training is scheduled “in person”, should that change notice will be sent to Master Gardeners)

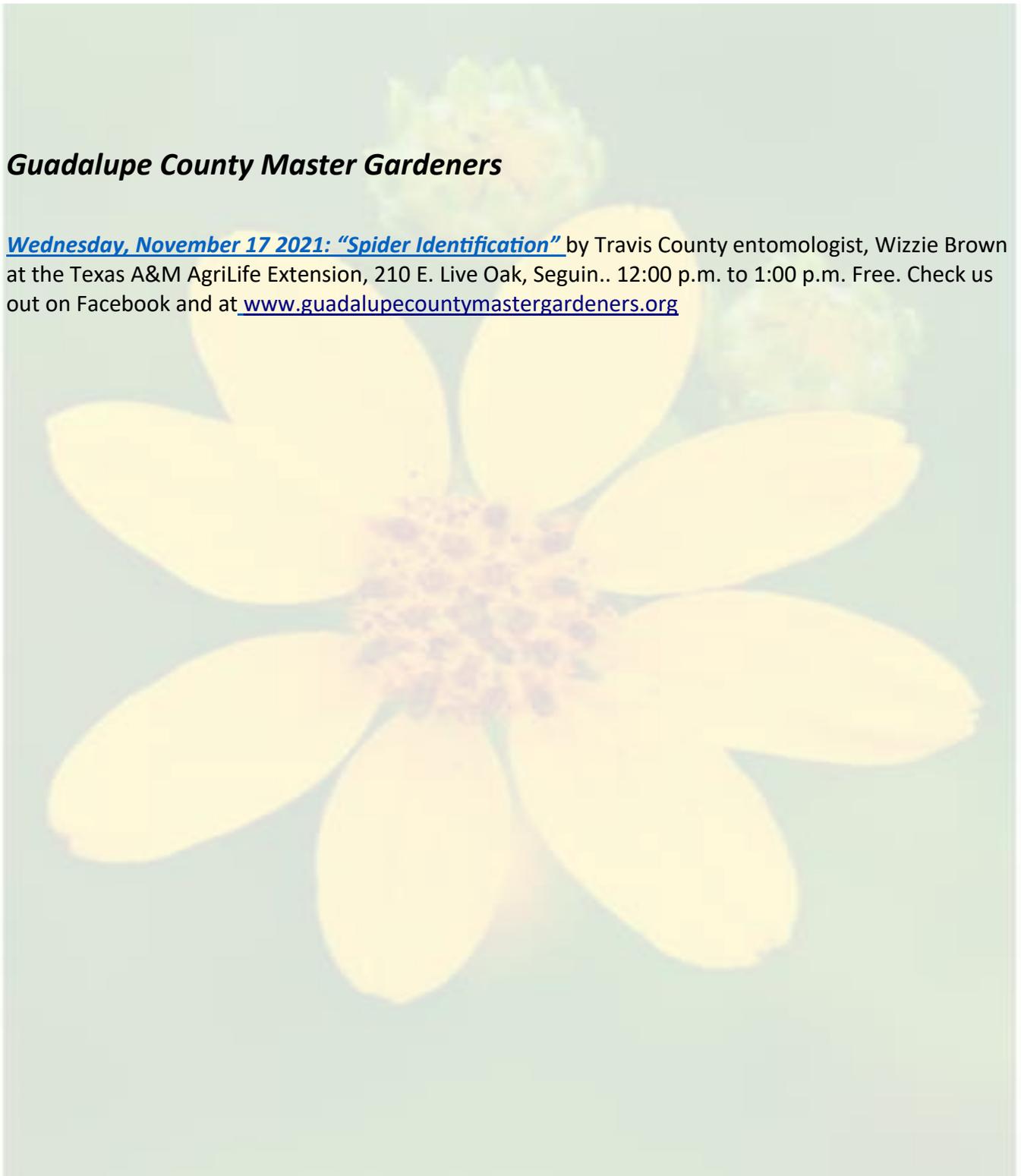
Texas Creeping-Oxeye

Photo by Bruce Leander

Courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

## ***Guadalupe County Master Gardeners***

**Wednesday, November 17 2021: “Spider Identification”** by Travis County entomologist, Wizzie Brown at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin.. 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Free. Check us out on Facebook and at [www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org)



**(At present all training is scheduled “in person”, should that change notice will be sent to Master Gardeners)**

**Texas Creeping-Oxeye**

**Photo by Bruce Leander**

**Courtesy of Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center**

**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](mailto:GCMGTX@gmail.com).*

**Newsletter Staff**

*Editor - Melinda J Lucas*

*Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor*

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*Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz*

**Members in Service**

**Texas Master Gardener Board of Directors**

**Two Year Term (2020/2021)** Mark Mullen, Alternate – Rachel Cavazos

**One Year Term (2021)** Jerry McNulty, Alternate – Vacant

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Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

Master Gardener Office/Library - Carol Mullen & Ernestine Sykes

Refreshment Coordinator - Kathleen Smith

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Gutierrez Xeriscape Park - Judy Stanley

2021 County Fair - Kathleen Smith

Facebook Administrator - Kathy Adams

Christmas Tree Decorating - Ernestine Sykes

Newsletter Editor - Melinda J Lucas

Web Master - Marvin Taylor

Fall 2021/Seguin Class Coordinator – Kay McElveen



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**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners <http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.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**

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- April Rippel -President Elect
- Gregory Haag -Vice President
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- Rachel Cavazos -Treasurer
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- Kim Darrough -Membership Director
- Kay McElveen -Education Director
- Carol Calentine-Volunteer Director
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Coordinator

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**Melinda J Lucas, Editor [MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com](mailto:MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com)**