



# October 2023

## Guadalupe Gardener

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

### Reminders for October

- The GC Fair is upon us! It's not too late to volunteer!
- The year is almost over! There are less than 3 months to obtain your hours in order to recertify.
- We have new camera equipment & need volunteers to record events.
- Now is the time to contemplate the position that you would like to hold next year!
- Seed Exchange and sorting on Wednesdays in the AgriLife library!

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# Letter from the Editor

Greetings!

This month will go by faster than normal and so will the three afterwards. It's a fact that once we hit the "holiday season" it all becomes a blur. It's one event after the next and before we know it we are celebrating the new year.

We have a lot going on. October includes school field trips at the Big Red Barn , plant sales, the Guadalupe County Fair, decorating pumpkins, and festivals that give us the feeling of autumn. The weather gets cooler, hopefully, and it's more fun to be out attending festivals and other events than it has been in months. Anyhow, I know that is how I feel.

If you haven't signed up to volunteer there is still time, or just show up and see where you are needed. There is always something to do and help needed. Do something new, decorate a pumpkin, come out to the county fair, pick up some free seeds to sow and register to win a prize.

We are going to lose some of our longtime newsletter contributors in 2024. It has been a blessing to have long time members who have given so many of their hours to help our organization . They will be greatly missed. We also look forward to having new members come and step up to fill those roles.

In this edition, you will read the autobiography of one of our longtime members who has written for the newsletter for many years. As we are saddened by the loss, it will open the door for new opportunities. There will be more information before the end of the year as to how these roles, and others, will be filled and the opportunities that will be available.

Slow down, take a deep breath, ask yourself what is really important. Don't put off tomorrow what you can do today, but also don't pack so much into today that it becomes a chore instead of a blessing. If you aren't enjoying what you are doing, you may be doing the wrong things. Hope to see you at the fair.

Prayers for rain and happy gardening,

Melinda J Lucas

Newsletter Editor

# Membership Corner

**Total certified members: 145**

**Congratulations to our door prize winner - Guest: Harleigh Giller!**

**Congratulations to winner of the volunteer drawing: Beth Henry!**

## **Members with 5+ Volunteer Hours in August (Board members are not eligible):**

Welta Burris	Rodney Burton	Marty Carter
Paul Carter	Colleen Collier	Kay Cover
Lisa Foss	Beth Henry	Peter Hernandez
Mag Holm-Roesler	Claire Huebinger	Janice Knobles
David Koepp	Melinda Lucas	Cynthia Lyssy
Kay McElveen	Keith Mott	Carol Mullen
Robin Muschalek	Ann Odvody	Dale Odvody
Anne Ottenad	Paul Prince	Kimberley Riggs
Pat Schultze	Beth Smith	Brenda Smith
Kathleen Smith	Judy Stanley	Tim Steele
Ernestine Sykes		

## **Members who Volunteered 25+ Hours Last Month:**

Dale Odvody	Ann Odvody	Paul Carter
Beth Smith	Brenda Smith	Tim Steele
Kay Cover	Melinda Lucas	Denise Leverich
Pam Younger	Bill Nodine	Mark "Bo" Bollinger

## **100 Hour Club for 2023:**

Sharon Cooper	Rodney Burton	Kimberley Riggs
Beth Henry	Kay Cover	Kay McElveen
Mark Mullen	Wendy Salazar	Paul Prince
Ernestine Sykes	Anne Ottenad	Janice Knobles

# Membership Corner

## 200 Hour Club for 2023:

Mark Bollinger	Beth Smith	Pam Younger
Denise Leverich	Paul Carter	Ann Odvody
April Rippel	Brenda Smith	

## 300 Hour Club for 2023:

Melinda Lucas		
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## 400 Hour Club for 2023:

Dale Odvody	Tim Steele	
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## 500 Hour Club:

Bill Nodine		
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Several Starfish recipients were recognized: Paul Carter, Tim Steele, Ernestine Sykes, and Bill Nodine. Reminder: any member can recognize and award a starfish to another!



Next month, we'll recognize our Master Gardener of the Season. If you know someone who is deserving, fill out the application on VMS and send it to Denise at [dleverich965@gmail.com](mailto:dleverich965@gmail.com).

**Reminder:** Put your hours in VMS **by the end of the month** to be eligible for the monthly volunteer drawing!

**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners and now accepting applications for class 39.**

**If anyone you know may be interested in attending this class, please visit:**

**[https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/files/2023/08/2024Flyer\\_Done.jpg](https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/files/2023/08/2024Flyer_Done.jpg)**

# Membership Corner



# Membership Corner

It's almost fair time! The 2023 Guadalupe County Fair will be held from Thursday, October 12th until Sunday, October 15th. There will be a lot of activity going on in our booth in the coliseum including a plant sale, kids activities and crafts, great raffle prizes, free seed packets, horticulture entries, and a pumpkin decorating contest.

I'd like to encourage each of you to submit a horticulture item to be judged. You will get a free pass to the fair for each entry that you submit, and you just might bring home a blue ribbon or two!

The decorated pumpkins are amazing. Try your hand at that, too! Pam has added a Senior category for those 75 and older this year. Enter as many items as you'd like. All rules and regulations can be found on VMS, or by contacting me, Kathleen Smith, at 281-381-5268 or via email at [kathleensmith1214@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensmith1214@gmail.com). Horticulture entries will be accepted on Wednesday, October 11th from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Thursday, October 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m..

We will be giving away seed packets thanks to a generous donation made by **Lowe's Home Improvement of New Braunfels** and **Walmart of Seguin**. You're sure to find great garden items among our raffle prizes. **RenShirts** will be donating two rain barrels this year and **Target** has donated a gift card! Other prizes include metal planters, Diamond Paintings by **Carol Suchan**, Harley-Davidson limited edition heirloom plates and a leather Harley-Davidson jacket donated by **Anne Ottenad**, a one-year **Black Card Planet Fitness** membership, a 3-month membership to the **Guadalupe County Wellness Center**, and much more! Our plant team is busy securing some wonderful plants for our sale to get your fall garden started. These will include fall vegetables and landscape/garden plants, as well as fun garden décor.

This year our theme is Creepy Crawlies. We will have a large area set up for children's crafts. The activities will be binoculars, suncatcher spider webs, pipe cleaner spiders, a build-a-bug station, and coloring pages. The membership has been great in donating supplies and at this time I am not requesting anything else besides volunteer time.

Come out and see the beautiful plants we'll be selling, bring the kids and grandkids to our craft tables, and enjoy the fun of the Guadalupe County Fair!

Looking forward to a great fair!

Kathleen Smith

2023 County Fair Coordinator

[kathleensmith1214@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensmith1214@gmail.com)

# Membership Corner



## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Training for 2024 - Class 39



*Become a Certified Master Gardener*

Master Gardener is an education sharing horticultural program through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Master Gardener 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 23 - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

### 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 (in 2024)  
Official Master Gardener T-Shirt  
Field Trips and Hands on Training  
Professional Credited Speakers

### Tuition for one Seat: \$250

Or

**Tuition for two Seats: \$420 (Share one Handbook)**

Both applicants get a Master Gardener t-shirt!

### Applications will be accepted Until the Class is Full

Class Seats fill up quickly - Sign up **Now** to ensure your seat!

For On-Line Class 39 complete Information, Applications, & payment methods:  
[www.getingtx.org/Class\\_39/index.html](http://www.getingtx.org/Class_39/index.html)

Need more information? Contact one of our Class 39 Coordinators:

Paul Carter: [mcpcarter11@gmail.com](mailto:mcpcarter11@gmail.com) 830-481-0817

Tim Steele: [tsteeleboys@hotmail.com](mailto:tsteeleboys@hotmail.com) 210-385-2219

April D. Rippel: [adrrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrrippel@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](http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org)



## Membership Corner

**GUADALUPE COUNTY MASTER  
GARDENERS PRESENTS**  
**Herbology Witching Spells**



**Touchy Spells, Smelly Spells, Poisonous Spells,  
Medicinal Spells, and Dying Spells -  
ALL With Texas Native Plants**

**OCTOBER 19, 2023**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**210 E. LIVE OAK, SEGUIN, TX**

**Free & Open to the Public**



# Membership Corner



## Native Plant Society of Texas Guadalupe Chapter

### *Bats are Cool*

Bats are amazing creatures. They pollinate our fruit, keep our insect population in check, and provide numerous benefits to our ecosystem. Krystie Miner will present us with interesting bat facts, and amaze us with everything they do.

Krystie Miner has been the Project Coordinator for Bracken Cave Preserve since January 2023. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Ecology from Boise State University and a Master's degree in Conservation Biology from Texas State University. She has worked with a variety of wildlife including bats, birds, and fish, and is in training to become a Master Naturalist. In her current role, Krystie coordinates bat flight tours, research projects, and citizen science activities on Bracken Cave Preserve. Additionally, she conducts outreach and education to spread the word about ecological importance of bats.

**October 10, 2023 at 7.00 PM**

**St John Lutheran Church, FM 465 Marion, Texas**

***Meetings are open to the public, visitors are always welcome.***



For more information, directions to St John Lutheran Church, or membership applications see our website and Facebook page at:

<https://npsot.org/wp/guadalupe/>

# Membership Corner

## Gardening Starts With Skill

By Esther Isreal from Class 38

The Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class 38 is the place to get “real deal” skills to master gardening. From the coordinators’ generous spirits to the speakers’ plethora of knowledge and experience one cannot undermine its goodness for its students, Texas, and the Earth.

To **master** anything requires one to “execute with skill” any task. So far, I have been given information to skillfully execute many forms of gardening in exchange for willingly sharing this knowledge with others. Truly, “Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding” (Proverbs 4:7). Wisdom to get these skills is given in a hard back book on agriculture, while the understanding is obtained through written tests, professional speakers’ lessons, and hands-on examples.

The first class led by Dennis Hale inspired me to confidently take on practical or elaborate landscaping despite our drought-stricken state! He taught the importance of understanding soil quality, physically showed how to collect and send samples to TAMU laboratories, as well as how to get information back for later use, all while giving nuggets on why and when to fertilize this same soil. He further showed that planning landscape designs require consideration of things like size, light, water, climate, and terrain.

In natural order, the earth-kind class, taught by Peter Hernandez, urged landscaping or gardening with the earth in mind. Do not put out desirable plants that won’t do well in this environment until first considering what already grows here. Planting what is suitable or naturally adapted to this region is best and Texans call ‘em “Texas Superstars” (see [aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/Earthkind](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/Earthkind) for a full list). Hernandez also made us reflect on water conservation and the dangers of wasteful irrigation. We were asked to try preserving rain water in barrels or a “rain garden,” which is simply placing ideal plants in low areas that hold water. On the other hand, it was expressed that some conservation could be done by just checking sprinklers for side walk runoffs or draining holes in your drip line, which in both cases could place a drain in your wallet.

Next in line is our soil class by Dr. Tony Provin. Why? Because having a watering system doesn’t guarantee that your plants will absorb water. We were taught that good soil is vital for root water absorption, so it must be at optimal texture, alkalinity, and elemental balance. Although vastly complex, yet infinitesimally simple it was stated that our soil is constantly stripped by erosion. So, the task was clear: find out what my soil lacks and do the best to return it to its most favorable condition. I also learned that **dirt** is a dirty word symbolizing undesirable materials! Rather respect the earth by calling it **soil** which means naturally occurring materials that anchor plants, stores water, and infinite nutrients!

# Membership Corner

Furthermore, if you weren't paying attention in biology class a reminder was brought back by another instructor, Mark Gustafson. He shared that plants have advanced living cells that store food for new life. They can also harden as the plant ages. These living cells differentiate when to make a root or a shoot and when to feed plants sugars to grow. All of this while storing energy for later and transporting water from the soil, which in some plants that's hundreds of feet in the air! Now that's awesome biology, or specific to the study of plants, "botany!"

Speaking of awesome, the hands-on propagation class was exciting and fast! We were taught several methods to clone a plant or to start it from seed, but nothing compared to getting hands-on experience. The instructors were patient and kind, while gently guiding us on what to cut or divide and what not to, plus the importance of cleaning up afterwards! From the Red Barn, I took as many cuttings as my hands could carry eager to see what happens when planted. I hope for more field trips like this one!

Finally, the arborist, Christy Rohlf, was ever so kind in giving us the essence and spirit of trees and how important they are. I was fascinated to learn the errors of improperly pruning trees and am now cognizant of the beauty and health I see in those done properly. With this in mind, I am eager to practice proper tree pruning in my own yard this winter!

To close, I am no master of one thing but this class sure gives me steps on how to become a skillful gardener. With its wisdom I am able to confidently execute landscape designs, plant propagation, pruning of ornamental trees, and much more. The tools have been placed in my mind and hands to go and grow! I give sincere thanks to the Master Gardener creators and those who enthusiastically continue its purpose. I look forward to many more classes to come!

The Earth is a gift  
So to it I am kind  
Thankful even for its silt  
The very soil has a mind  
To live and give life  
So designed by the Divine  
Feeding plants simply by light  
Plants to breath, vegetables to eat  
An old tree that still delights  
Holding rain for roots to leech  
So cherish this gift of life  
As it gives all that we need

*Reference from the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, copyright 2007, Computer Software, **master** as verb means to "execute with skill."*

# Membership Corner

## Starfish Award



Congratulations to last month's Starfish Award recipients! This award recognizes Master Gardeners or Interns who have made a difference - to another member, to the organization, or to the community. At each membership meeting, the Starfish Award is your opportunity to identify these wonderful people. Any member can nominate another member or intern. **There's no form to fill out - simply email Denise at [dleverich965@gmail.com](mailto:dleverich965@gmail.com).**

**The next membership meeting is October 19th. To nominate someone for the Starfish Award, please submit the following information by October 10th:**

1. Name of person you're nominating:
2. Your name:
3. How this person has made a difference (this can be read by you or a board member):
4. Would you like to personally recognize them at the meeting or have a board member read your nomination?

Denise Leverich

# Membership Corner

Please read over and consider the following positions. Feel free to ask questions regarding the position if you are interested in holding that position in the future. We really need volunteers to take over the positions marked “vacant”.

## Elected positions with term limits:

2023 President - Mark “Bo” Bollinger

2024 President Elect - Sarah Puckett (3 year commitment as you will serve as President Elect, President, and Past President) . 2025 President elect—**Vacant**

2024 Vice President - **Vacant** (1 year term & eligible to run 2nd term)

2024 Secretary -The 2023 Secretary, Sharon Cooper, is eligible to run for 2nd term

2024 Treasurer - **Vacant** (1 year term & eligible to run 2nd term)

2023 Past President - April Rippel

## Appointed Directors (unlimited terms):

Education Director - William Nodine

Membership Director - Denise Leverich

Publicity Director - Janice Jadwin

Volunteer Director - **Vacant**

Texas Master Gardener Association (TMGA) 2024 Directors (4 positions)

1 year TMGA term - **Vacant**

Alternate - **Vacant**

2 year TMGA term - **Vacant**

Alternate - **Vacant**

## Special Committees (unlimited terms):

1. Audit Committee (consists of 3 members that meet in Dec or Jan to audit the GCMG financial records, one time annual meeting lasts approximately 2 hours), 3 positions - **Vacant**
2. Nominating Committee (recruited by Secretary to help identify & recruit candidates to serve on the BOD) Position (s) - **Vacant**
3. MG Class Coordinators - Paul Carter, Tim Steele, & April Rippel
4. Newsletter Editor - Melinda Lucas
5. Web Content Manager - Frank Rippel
6. Ask a Master Gardener - Ernestine Sykes - email questions & Clara Mae Marcotte - Newsletter article questions
7. Facebook Editor - Kathy Adams
8. Refreshments Coordinator - Kathleen Smith
9. Speakers' Bureau Coordinator - **Vacant**
10. Guadalupe County Fair Booth - Kathleen Smith, and County Fair Pumpkin Decorating Contest - Pam Younger
11. Plant Sales - Sarah Puckett

# Master Gardener T-Shirts

All sizes are now available for the GCMG T-Shirts! If you would like to order your shirt(s) on-line, to ensure getting your size, and/or to have it mailed, please go to: [www.gcmgtx.org](http://www.gcmgtx.org) to place your order. Click on the T-shirt option on the left menu of the website. Or come to the monthly membership meeting or Lunch & Learn lecture to purchase in person.

Cash prices for the Blue GCMG t-shirts are:

Small - XL = \$10.00

2XL = \$12.00

3XL = \$14.00

If you pay with a credit card or order on-line:

Small - XL = \$11.00

2XL = \$13.00

3XL = \$15.00

T-shirts are available at our regular GCMG lectures and Lunch & Learns. You can also pick them up at 4037 Stockdale Hwy., Seguin, TX on Mondays through Fridays, 8am-5pm. Call (830) 433-2218 for more info. These T-shirts are royal blue with the new Guadalupe County Master Logo in white on the front and they are 100% cotton. Wearing these shirts makes it easy for patrons to identify you as a GCMG volunteer at plant sales/parks/gardens/booths and other GCMG sanctioned events. Get yours today and proudly show that you are a Guadalupe County Master Gardener! Thank you for supporting the GCMGs!

## Fundraiser T-Shirts

The green GCMG fundraiser t-shirts have been restocked and all sizes are available. Sizes small – 3XL are all \$25 each and all profits go directly towards GCMG educational programs and projects.

These 100% cotton, green t-shirts can be worn by you or anyone you know that wants to support our non-profit organization. These make great gifts!

The fundraiser t-shirts are available at all Lunch & Learns and monthly Membership Meetings. You may also shop at 4037 Stockdale Hwy., Seguin, open most days from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Or shop on-line at: [www.GCMGTX.org](http://www.GCMGTX.org) Look down the left menu until you see: GCMG and “Proud to Support” T-Shirts Purchase Here, click on it and shop, shipping available.



# Ask the Master Gardeners.

Clara Mae Marcotte is a Texas Master Gardener with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. If you have a question to be answered, call the Master Gardeners at 830-379-1972 or leave a message to be answered. The website is [guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org). The Master Gardener research library is open Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and is located at 210 East Live Oak Street in Seguin.

**Q: I live in Seguin where there are some empty raised planter beds on several street corners. What kind of small tree could be planted there?**

**A:** I like the small variety of Crape myrtle that is planted on the west corner of Donegan and S. Austin; however, Crape myrtle is not native. [www.Wildflower.org](http://www.Wildflower.org), as well as a CPS Energy site for San Antonio trees, suggests small native trees such as cherry laurel, Mexican plum, and Texas redbud.

Mexican plum (*Prunus Mexicana*) and Texas redbud (*Cercis Canadensis* var. *texensis*) are both lovely trees and both have blooms. Mexican plum grows to 25 feet with a 25 foot spread, while Texas redbud grows to 10-20 feet with a 12-20 foot spread. I have one of each. However, both are deciduous which would leave a bare trunk in the winter.

Cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana*) is an evergreen which can grow to 40 feet with a 35 foot spread which sounds a little large. However, if you go to our library parking lot, you will note a border of small shrubs. These are cherry laurels which have been there several years and are still small. They also bloom and would probably do quite well although would have to be trimmed as a tree instead of a shrub. The only problem I can see is whether or not they would block the line of sight of a driver turning the corner although that is a problem no matter what you plant.

**Q: Are there shrubs available with berries that are suitable for our Texas landscapes?**

**A:** We have many shrubs that will do well here. One of my favorites is the American beautyberry. Of course the berries don't stay on long because they are also favorites of birds, butterflies and deer. American holly and Nellie R. Stevens holly both have red fruit (and are usually my table decorations at Christmas). Possum-haw holly is a small tree with red berries in the winter. It is very decorative when the leaves fall off, leaving the berries behind.

**Q: We've had such a dry year. Will we have any native fall bloomers?**

**A:** As I look out my back door, I see buds atop my goldenrod (*Solidago Altissima*). They have a yellow tint and will be opening soon. Many people don't care for goldenrod, but I love it. This perennial is a favorite nectar source of bees and butterflies, and can be used as a dye plant. [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) says the height of the plant is determined by the fertility and moisture content of the soil. My patch of goldenrod managed to stay alive all summer in spite of the fact that I don't water the back half of my lawn.

Another fall bloomer is frostweed (*Verbesina virginica*). As I write this, some of my frostweed is starting to set buds in spite of the lack of rain.

**FYI: Don't forget to keep your birdbaths topped up. I noticed honeybees drinking from my lily pond yesterday, and all three birdbaths were empty this morning.**



## GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

We added 28 members to our community, (welcome all!), that want to plant trees, herbs, and vegetables.

Our top posters were Marie Hayes, April Rippel, Maria Gutierrez. Thank you to all who contributed.

### **What To Plant In October:**

New trees and shrubs. Sow wildflower seeds. Plant cauliflower, soft neck garlic, thyme, oregano, lavender, parsley, dill, fennel, borage, summer savory, greens and lettuce.

### **Scary Plants From Around The World:**

Gympie-Gympie- Eastern Australia and Indonesia

Stinging hairs cover the shrub and delivers a potent neurotoxin when touched it causes an extremely painful stinging sensation that can last for days, weeks, or months. Small red spots join together to form a welt. It is said to be agonizing.

Manchineel Tree

Flowering plant native to tropical North America and Northern South America. It resembles an Apple tree and it is called Little Apple Of Death. All parts of the tree contain strong toxins, some that still have not been identified. The tree has a milky sap and standing beneath it during rain will cause blistering of skin even from slight contact. Eye contact can cause blindness.

Remember to learn about your plants and be careful.

### **Monthly Funny**

***Why was the Jack-o'-lantern afraid?***

***He had no guts.***

Thank you for all of your contributions. Please continue to post photos of your gardens, garden hacks and tips.

We all learn from each other.

Take care,

Kathy Adams



# The Wandering Gardener

Marilyn Moltz

I have been a member of Guadalupe County Master Gardeners for over 20 years and have enjoyed it very much. During my time in the club, I have been vice president, secretary, treasurer and in charge of publications. I was also a Director and attended meetings at Texas A&M. This I really enjoyed since I heard State news and was allowed to add my ideas along with other attendees on matters of the organization. Since my three sons all attended Texas A&M it also gave me an excuse to visit them at college.

I also co-chaired and chaired our field crops division at the Guadalupe County Fair and helped with the judging several years. Working with the Fair committee was quite enlightening. One does not realize how many committed people and how many hours it takes to put the Fair on each year. When we had the Garden Show Saturday mornings on KWED, I would enjoy being part of the group making the presentations and answering the call in questions.

You are probably wondering why I am writing about my years in this club. For several years now I have thought about “retiring” from the club and I believe this is the right time for me to do it. I will not renew my certification for 2024 and the December 2023 issue will contain my last article. I have been writing since 2007 and I hope you have enjoyed at least some of my articles. I believe that there is probably some other member or members who would like to share their travels, plant information, timely hints or other subjects the editor would like articles on. I have read other clubs newsletters and understand why ours has won awards over the years. It is well written, informative and entertaining and I hope it continues for many years to come. Thank you for allowing me to have been part of it for so long!



# Continuing Education

## Education Director Report – September 2023<sup>whn</sup>



William H Nodine  
2023 GCMG, Education Director



### Monthly Report of Recertification Requirements

**Reminder** – Membership Director/Treasure will not accept dues until the member has submitted the minimum hours required for Annual Recertification (**12 hours volunteer and 6 hours continuing education**)



### Education Hours Snapshot of September - 146 certified Members

- 6.8% have “0” hour - 10 Members: down from 29.
- 6.8% have “1” hour – 10 members: down from 11.
- 13% have “2.5” hour - 19 members: down from 27.
- 74% have “6” plus hours - 107 members: up from 90.



### Volunteer Hours Snapshot of September - 144 certified Members

- 83% have 12 or more hours - 120 members.
- 17% have less than 12 hours – 26 members.



### Educational Program Effectiveness/Data Analysis Report

- ✓ Landscape Design Program – Dennis Hale (13)  
Change in the Level of Understanding is an increase of 82%
  - ✓ Inaturalist in the Garden Program – Peter Hernandez (36) Pending Results
  - ✓ Earth kind Landscaping Program – Peter Hernandez (12)  
Change in the Level of Understanding is an increase of 70%
  - ✓ Soil Characteristics And Improvements Program – Dr. Tony Provin (15)  
Change in the Level of Understanding is an increase of 73%
- Plant Growth and Development Program – Dr Mark Gustafson (13) Pending Results  
Rain Bees Water Program – Dr Steven Granger (13) Pending Results

# Continuing Education

## 2023 Lunch and Learns

### 11 October Lunch and Learn

Tentative - Program: Aquaponics

Tentative – Presenter: Jeremy Peaches



PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY

Cooperative Extension Program



#### Guest Speaker Jeremy Peaches –

Jeremy J. Peaches Extension Specialist former Pro-Vision Urban Farm and Aquaponics Grower, Jeremy graduated in May 2015 from Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture/Animal Science, is a graduate of the PVAMU Ag Leadership Program. His main goal is to bridge the gap by conserving resources through sustainability methods, creating innovative learning farms, and developing small farms to commercial sales.

### 8 November Lunch and Learn12:

Program: Composting

Presenter: Peter Hernandez



### Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



#### Guest Speaker Peter Hernandez

Peter Hernandez is a Guadalupe County Master Gardener and is certified Advance Master Gardener – Compost, Advance Master Gardener – EarthKind. Member of the Audubon Society, State of Texas Alliance of Recycling Master Compost. Alamo Area Master Naturalist – VP 2021 /2022 and Native Plant Society of Texas of San Antonio Chapter Secretary 2021. Since 2016 - San Antonio River Authority - River Warrior on the San Antonio River, doing nature docent walks along the river. Since 2022, Co-Coordinator for City Nature Challenge - San Antonio Metro Area (12 Counties).

**December—No Lunch and Learn**

# Continuing Education

## Gardening with David

Presented by

David Rodriguez, Horticulturist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



David will be making the following presentations. They are all free and open to the public. Bring a pen, paper and your questions!

Date	Location	Topic
10/7/2023	Milberger's at 10:00	Turfgrass Basics
10/14/2023	The Garden Center at 10:30	Turfgrass Basics
10/21/2023	Milberger's at 10:00	Fall is for Planting Shade Trees & more
10/28/2023	The Garden Center at 10:30	Fall is for Planting Shade Trees & more
11/4/2023	Fanick's at 10:30	Fall is for Planting Shade Trees & more

# Continuing Education



PRAIRIE VIEW  
A&M UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Cooperative Extension Program



Agriculture and Natural  
Resources

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

## New Landowner Series

**Please RSVP to  
830-303-3889**

### **Program -**

**3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Registration - 2:30 pm**

### **Location -**

**Guadalupe County  
Extension Office  
210 E Live Oak  
Seguin, TX 78155**

### **Cost -**

**\$25 for series or  
\$10 per session**

### **October 4**

Backyard Poultry - Bryan Davis, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension  
Beekeeping - Molly Keck, IPM Program Specialist

### **October 11**

Livestock for Small Acreage - Dr. Karl Harborth, Extension  
Livestock Specialist

### **October 18**

Brush Management & Pesticide Safety -  
Travis Franke, Extension Agent

### **October 25**

Fruit & Nut Production - Dr. Larry Stein,  
Extension Horticulturist

The Cooperative Extension Program does not discriminate against anyone regardless of their race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity. Persons who require communication in a language other than English or with a disability who require alternative means of communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) or should contact Mrs. Asha Williams at [awilliams@pramu.edu](mailto:awilliams@pramu.edu) in advance.

# Continuing Education

## Save-the-Dates!

### Texas Master Gardener Conferences 2024 and 2025!



Mark your calendars for these exciting virtual conferences that are set to deliver enriching experiences right to your screen, in your own space.

#### **2024 State Master Gardener Conference**

April 22-24, 2024

*"Blooming Together"*

Join us for two days of engaging presentations from horticulture leaders, experts, seasoned professionals and garden enthusiasts.

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#### **2025 International Master Gardener Conference**

August 25-28, 2025

*"There is No Planet B"*

Texas was chosen to host the next international conference. Be part of this global experience!

# Continuing Education

- Explore gardening in The Great Beyond
- Discover horticulture traditions from around the world
- Explore sustainable and innovative techniques
- Navigate the future of gardening in a changing world
- Be inspired by virtual tours of renowned gardens
- Learn how small efforts are transforming local environments

\* There will not be a state conference this year. We're extending the invite to the international Extension Master Gardener community around the world.

**The mission of the Extension Master Gardener Program is to provide quality and relevant horticulture education to the people of Texas.**

## WHY VIRTUAL?

We understand that people love to get together, fellowship and share their own perspectives and experiences. However, our focus is providing educational content to the greatest number of people possible.

- Accessibility - ability to reach a significantly broader audience and procure higher priced speakers.
- Cost-effective - the event is accessible to a wider range of participants. Many Master Gardeners find the >\$1500 cost to attend an in-person international conference to be cost prohibitive. Less than 0.28% of Texas Master Gardeners attended the recent conference in Kansas.
- Flexible and convenient; watch when you want to watch.
- Reduced environmental impact.
- Expanded reach and extended lifespan.
- Faster dissemination of information.
- Ability to enjoy all sessions and speakers for four months post-conference.
- Overcomes physical limitations and time constraints.



The Texas Master Gardener Program

2024/2025

# Continuing Education

## Earth-Kind On-Line Master Gardener Training

If you need hours, or want to learn more about growing plants, please check out the Earth-Kind® On-Line Master Gardener Training, by clicking [.https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/](https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/) and then choosing the topics that you are interested in.

This program is designed to provide information on a variety of environmentally friendly (Earth-Kind®) practices for use in the home landscape and garden. As your interest and knowledge in this area grows you will have an increased awareness of the many programs, practices and activities that are Earth-Kind®.

Texas Master Gardeners can select from any of these on-line modules to obtain up to 3 hours of recertification education credits in a calendar year. Each module is worth 1 hour of credit. Master Gardeners are not encouraged to seek re-certification credit for training modules they have completed in previous years.

Progress through the training program is tracked “on-line” and the results for each completed module are automatically forwarded to your county Master Gardener Coordinator.

Participation in the Earth-Kind® On-Line Master Gardener Training will assist Texas AgriLife Extension Service to promote principles and practices that help conserve and protect our state’s valuable natural resources. Working together we can create a healthy and sustainable environment.



# Continuing Education

Please check out the following websites for Continuing Education opportunities:

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin TX <https://www.wildflower.org/events/2023-10/>
- Plant Party 9: Planting a Seed worth 1.5 hrs [https://youtu.be/DFi7\\_JZUzoY](https://youtu.be/DFi7_JZUzoY)
- The Natural Gardener, 8646 Old Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX <https://tngaustin.com/classes/202310>
- 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 has quite a few upcoming continuing education opportunities. Please check out the list below and sign up at: <https://bexarmg.org/events/2023-10/>



# Continuing Education

There are many wonderful and informative Youtube videos by Wizzie Brown and others that are available. Each count as one hour of Continuing Education. Check out some of the following:

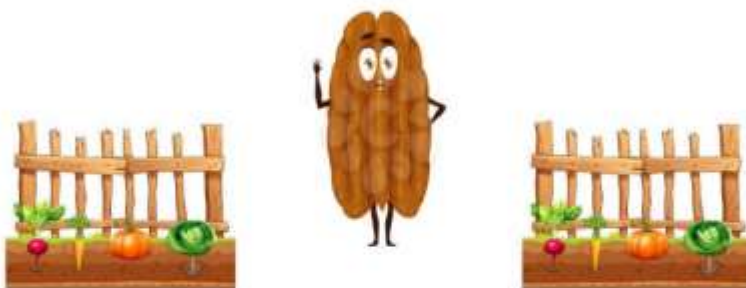
- “Entomophagy” by Wizzie Brown <https://youtu.be/Nd9lZnAYKdk>
- “Kissing Bugs” by Wizzie Brown [https://youtu.be/u1vW\\_BgoxZY](https://youtu.be/u1vW_BgoxZY)
- “Managing Mosquitos” by Wizzie Brown <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95H0aMKQTOU>
- “Controlling Drain Flies, house flies and Fungus Gnats” by Wizzie Brown [https://youtu.be/6fKN9\\_JRXrQ](https://youtu.be/6fKN9_JRXrQ)
- “Trees and Tree Care” by Mary Beth Parsons <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2UJWi5Cr84>
- “Getting your Roses Ready for Spring” by Peggy Jones : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdHVg-1848M>
- “Red Imported Fire Ant Management” by Wizzie Brown: [https://youtu.be/aN\\_Rzm4m7KU](https://youtu.be/aN_Rzm4m7KU)
- “Fleas” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/Cpy6AGbC9sY>
- “Turf Entomology” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/gKTeoz7EnGw>
- “Bed Bugs” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/l8Apq7AllNk>
- “Spider ID” by Wizzie Brown: [https://youtu.be/5\\_xmBOgoMF4](https://youtu.be/5_xmBOgoMF4)
- “Arachnids other than Spiders” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/Via1jYHGCI>
- “Insects to watch for” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/G31-9N9RoZw>
- “Insect Damage” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/9oeGiE6BpRM>
- “Pesticide Safety” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/fUY2zqpNNcl>
- “Stinging Anthropoids of Summer” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/a9IbZxP8Txs>
- “Summer Insects: Pests for Hot Dry Conditions” by Wizzie Brown: [https://youtu.be/QCvBu\\_t\\_CEE](https://youtu.be/QCvBu_t_CEE)
- “Rose Insects” by Wizzie Brown: [https://youtu.be/xvrR4X\\_dRzM](https://youtu.be/xvrR4X_dRzM)

# Special Volunteer Opportunity

## Volunteer Opportunity:

# PECAN FEST

**Saturday, October 28, 2023**



As part of the event at the Big Red Barn, the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners has docents in the garden to talk to visitors about gardening and handout gardening information. Everything will be set up and ready for our volunteers.

## Docents needed:

**10:00-noon**

**noon-2:00**

**2:00-4:00**

We need two docents for each shift.

**Contact:** Kay McElveen

[hkaymcelveen@gmail.com](mailto:hkaymcelveen@gmail.com)

479-790-2933

# Special Volunteer Opportunity



Plant Sales  
2023



## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We have 3 more plants sales and we will still need your help to end the year strong!  
-Sarah Puckett

### Upcoming Sales:

**Guadalupe County Fair**  
10/11-10/15

**Fall Trades Day/Pecan Fest** 10/28

**Yules Fest** 12/3

### We Still Need Your Help:

- Help by donating your time at the plant booths.
- Help by picking up plants from wholesalers
- Help by donating craft supplies
- Help by crafting the garden decor to sell

If you are interested in helping in any of these ways, please contact me. I will get back with you as soon as possible about how you can help. Every little bit counts, big or small.

**CONTACT ME**

[sparrowpuckett@gmail.com](mailto:sparrowpuckett@gmail.com)



**Guadalupe County  
Master Gardeners**

# Special Volunteer Opportunities

## Team Leader in Charge of Recruiting

The GCMG Class Coordinator is looking for a volunteer to be the Team Leader in charge of recruiting. Responsibilities include passing out class flyers and applications to the public, posting flyers throughout Seguin, working with the Publicity Director to get advertisements put in local papers, and helping the other Team Leaders recruit volunteers.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Paul Carter at 830-481-0817 or [mepcarter11@gmail.com](mailto:mepcarter11@gmail.com). If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

## Filming Volunteer

Wanted: volunteers who are interested in recording Continuing Education presentations and membership meetings.

If you have photography or any camcorder experience, please contact Denise Leverich at (210) 241-7893 or email ([dleverich965@gmail.com](mailto:dleverich965@gmail.com)).

# 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,

## **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. (Always needs work)
  
- 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.
  
- Seguin** — Park West Pollinator Garden, 600 Block of North Vaughn Ave. Maintenance of the pollinator garden and care of new plants. Bring gardening tools, water, hat, sunscreen, insect spray and wear appropriate gardening shoes. Fall hours are Mondays from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Contact Liz Romero, [fleurromero@gmail.com](mailto:fleurromero@gmail.com)

# Volunteer Opportunities

## **Scheduled Workday on Monday:**

•**Marion** - Marion Veterans Community Garden. Contact Carol Suchan at 210-870-4880, or email her at [ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com](mailto:ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com) or Anne Ottenad at 210-860-3636 or email her at [Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com](mailto:Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com). 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. The park is located at 100 W Huebinger St. in Marion.

## **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. Contact Ernestine Sykes at [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** - St Andrew's Community Garden, located at the corner of Nolte and Crocket Street. Every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. to weed, plant and edge. Please contact Ernestine Sykes at [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com) or 210-544-0756.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## 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 210-275-4402 or e-mail [jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto:jmknobles@yahoo.com)

## Special Help Needed Tuesdays and Thursdays

- **Schertz**—Gutierrez Park 1231 Borgfeld Rd, Schertz, TX. Times vary. Help needed with watering in the a.m. and p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information or details, contact Judy Stanley at [jstanley20F@satx.rr.com](mailto:jstanley20F@satx.rr.com) or call her at (830) 765-4613.

## Saturday Opportunity

- **Cibolo**— Schlather Pollinator Park, 174 Weidner Road. If you are interested in weeding, the park is open and you are able to weed and clean up anytime that you are available. Kathy will be back at the park at 9:00 a.m., on the fourth Saturday of every month starting in September. Please bring gloves and your weeder of choice. Please contact Kathy Carroll at [kathleen\\_carroll@icloud.com](mailto:kathleen_carroll@icloud.com) or 210-793-1616 if you have any questions.

## Monday thru Friday Opportunities

- **Floresville**—Creech Prairie Farm, 1467 County Road 401. Please email for an appointment: Robert Creech at [Robert@Creechprairiesrestoration.org](mailto:Robert@Creechprairiesrestoration.org) or Melinda Creech at [Melinda@Creechprairiesrestoration.org](mailto:Melinda@Creechprairiesrestoration.org)





**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.**

**210 East Live Oak St.**

**Seguin, TX 78155**

**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners <http://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org> 830-379-1972 Ext 210**

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

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

### **GCMG Officers & Board of Directors 2023**

Mark "Bo" Bollinger--President

April Rippel-Past President

Sarah Puckett -President Elect

Pam Younger -Vice President

Sharon Cooper-Secretary

Robert M. Mullen -Treasurer

Janice Jadwin -Publicity Director

Denise Leverich-Membership Director

William Nodine -Education Director

Diana Hard-Volunteer Director

Travis Franke -AgriLIFE Agent MG Coordinator

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

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.

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

**Newsletter Staff**

**Editor - Melinda J Lucas**

**Photographer - Marvin "T" Taylor**

**Proofreaders- Randee Malmsten, and Mary Miller**

**Wandering Gardener - Marilyn Moltz**

**Members in Service**

**Texas Master Gardener Association Directors**

**Two Year Term (2022-2023)** Mark Mullen, Alternate – Rachel Cavazos

**One Year Term (2024)** Barry Jackson, Alternate – Valerie Bartonek

Speakers Bureau - Carol Mullen

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 Garden Park - Doris Greenstreet & Judy Stanley

2023 County Fair - Kathleen Smith

Facebook Administrator - Kathy Adams

Christmas Tree Decorating - Ernestine Sykes

Newsletter Editor - Melinda J Lucas

Web Master - Frank K. Rippel

GCMG Class Coordinator – Paul Carter, Tim Steele & April Rippel