



December 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 December

- The Winter Social is on Dec 2nd
- We have new camera equipment & need volunteers to record events.
- Dues are due. You can pay on VMS.
- Seed Exchange and sorting on Wednesdays in the AgriLife library!

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Letter from the Editor

Greetings!

This will be the last “Letter from the Editor” as the “Letter from the President” is scheduled to return in January. I appreciate all of you who read the newsletter and give me feedback. It means a lot of me.

I hope that everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and is enjoying the “second Spring” that we are having. My backyard is loaded with pink Rock Roses, Cape Honeysuckle, mounds of Gregg’s Blue Mist, roses, blue bonnet seedlings and strange enough, my Eastern Redbud, along with some of my friend’s, are blooming. I am also enjoying the bees, butterflies and birds that are as excited as I am with this cooler weather.

I never cease to be amazed by all of the lessons that are taught through nature. I think we should have all learned a lesson about resilience and perseverance this year. Many of my plants looked like they were on their way out due to the heat and the drought and now those same plants are covered with new growth and flowers. Even in the worst times, there is hope.

As we head toward the new year and make goals for what we would like to achieve, there will be plenty of opportunities to get volunteer hours and education hours in order to recertify. Again I remind you that this is the perfect time to make a plan to get 5 hours a month so that there is no stress toward the end of the year.

Welcome all of our new leaders and members and enjoy gardening.

Merry Christmas! Happy Hanukah! Happy Holidays!

See you at the Winter Social,

Melinda J Lucas

Newsletter Editor

Membership Corner

Total certified members: 149

Welcome to our newest members: Julie Taylor

Congratulations to our gift card winners: Door prize - (waiting) ; Volunteer drawing - (Waiting)

Members with 5+ Volunteer hours in [October](#) (board members not eligible):

Marilyn Anderson	Rodney Burton	Valerie Bartonek	Renee Sculll
Paul Carter	Ginny Fox	Kay Cover	Caye Powada
Joyce Fox	Beth Henry	Brenda Haines	Tom Richardson
Joyce Friesenhahn	Becky Geinzer	Judith Hyatt	Melva Edwards
David Koepp	Connie Meade	Janice Knobles	Leti Esquivel
Barry Jackson	Melinda Lucas	Ann Landeros	George Hurd
Kay McElveen	Suzanne Leacock	Carol Mullen	Colleen Collier
Kimberley Riggs	Ann Odvody	Dale Odvody	Claire Huebinger
Anne Ottenad	Paul Prince	Christy Rohlf	Leslie Diotte
Pat Schultze	Beth Smith	Brenda Smith	Marty Carter
Kathleen Smith	Mary Styblo	Tim Steele	Rachel Cavazos
Ernestine Sykes	Brenda Schaefer	Judy Sims	Mike Chandler
Carolyn Carhart	Regina Benfield	Diana Bravo-Gonzalez	

Members who Volunteered 25+ Hours Last Month

Dale Odvody	Ann Odvody	Paul Carter	Beth Smith
April Rippel	Tim Steele	Bill Nodine	Melinda Lucas
Denise Leverich	Pam Younger	Beth Henry	David Koepp
Mark "Bo" Bollinger	Janice Knobles	Mary Styblo	Joyce Friesenhahn
Rodney Burton	Mark Mullen		

100 hour Club for 2023

Sharon Cooper	Kay McElveen	Kimberley Riggs	Janice Knobles
Connie Meade	Kay Cover	Caroline Moody	Wendy Salazar
Diana Hard			

Membership Corner

200 Hour Club for 2023:

Ann Odvody	Brenda Smith	Beth Henry
Ernestine Sykes	Paul Prince	David Koepp
Mark Mullen	Anne Ottenad	Rodney Burton

300 Hour Club for 2023:

Melinda Lucas	Denise Leverich	Beth Smith
Mark Bollinger	Paul Carter	April Rippel

400 Hour Club for 2023:

Pam Younger		
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500 Hour Club for 2023:

Tim Steele		
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600 Hour Club for 2023:

Bill Nodine	Dale Odvody	
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Is there someone you'd like to recognize for making a difference? You can award a starfish to another person at any membership meeting!



Reminder: To renew your certification and membership, you must have 12 volunteer and 6 CE hours and pay \$25 membership dues. Pay your dues online at <https://www.gcmgtx.org/Membership/index.html> or scan the QR code below:



Membership Corner

Let's all give a huge "thank you" to the crew from the Big Red Barn. As a way to save funds and maximize the GCMG budget, the gang from the BRB raked, and loaded free pine needles resourced in the Bastrop area for the Demo Garden at the Big Red Barn. From left to right: Keith Mott, Rodney Burton, Claire Huebinger, Beth Henry, Celeste Rance, and Tim Steele. Tim says "GCMG "camaraderie" at its finest!"

This is one of the creative ways GCMGs make things happen, thank you BRB gang!



Membership Corner

Marion Veteran's Memorial Park

Veteran's Day Celebration

November 10, 2023



Membership Corner



Thank You

2023 PLANT SALE & GROW TEAMS

Thank you to all of you that participated in any way with the grow team and the plants sales and the garden decor efforts. We've had a productive year both in sales and educating the public!

As I'm sure the Grow Team members know, it's almost time to start seeds again for the new year! We need you! We will still have plants available for donations at the sales AND we will be growing plants for the gardens we support. I know the Grow Team wasn't my specialty and I only did it because no one else would. Thank you for your patience. I'm sure you guys will continue to do great things this next year under Brenda Smith as your 2024 Grow Team leader. If you already know you want to do it, please send her an email.



Contact Brenda today!

BSMITH5518@GMAIL.COM

Membership Corner



GCMG

SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to follow GCMG on social media accounts listed below:



@GCMASTERGARDENER



**GUADALUPE COUNTY
MASTER GARDENERS**

EMAIL ME

*Please email me at:
gcmgtx.social@gmail.com*



Membership Corner

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER
SINCE 1969

MASTER GARDENER CLASS

Class #39

with GUADALUPE COUNTY

Classes on Tuesdays
Jan. 23rd-May 7th 2024
9am-1pm
Cost: \$250

Contact us:

Paul Carter
830-481-0817
mepcarter11@gmail.com

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

April Rippel
830-433-2218
adrippel@gmail.com

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners are 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

Membership Corner

A blue poster for a winter social event. At the top, the letters 'GCMG' are displayed in a large, stylized font. Below this, the words 'WINTER SOCIAL' are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Underneath, the event details are listed in white text: 'Class 38 Graduation ~ Ugly Sweater/T-Shirt Contest ~ Secret Santa ~ Food/Toy Drive ~ Family ~ Food ~ Fun'. The name of the musician, 'Music by Gregory Haag', is also included. The venue, 'Faith Lutheran Church', is listed with its address: '1326 E. Cedar St. Seguin, TX 78155'. The date and time are 'December 2, 2023, ~ 5:30pm - 8:30pm'. Finally, the RSVP information is provided: 'RSVP to Beth Smith at basmith5518@gmail.com'. The background of the poster features a subtle snowflake pattern and a faint image of a person in a winter hat.

GCMG

WINTER SOCIAL

Class 38 Graduation ~ Ugly Sweater/T-Shirt
Contest ~ Secret Santa ~ Food/Toy Drive ~
Family ~ Food ~ Fun

Music by Gregory Haag

Faith Lutheran Church

1326 E. Cedar St.
Seguin, TX 78155

December 2, 2023, ~ 5:30pm - 8:30pm

RSVP to Beth Smith at basmith5518@gmail.com

Membership Corner

YULEFEST ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW



Always **FIRST SUNDAY** in **DECEMBER**
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Seguin-Guadalupe County Coliseum
Exclusively Handmade Items

call Karen (210)274-3455 for info

FREE ADMISSION

SEGUIN ART LEAGUE'S GIFT TO THE COMMUNITY
FIRST SUNDAY IN DECEMBER



YULEFEST ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Seguin Art League
P.O. Box 445
Seguin, Texas 78156

**FREE GIFT WITH SEGUIN HOTEL/MOTEL
RECEIPT SHOWN FOR SATURDAY OR
SUNDAY OF YULEFEST WEEKEND.**

Free Admission

Call (210)274-3455
for additional Information

Membership Corner

Update on Master Gardener Class #38 (Fall 2023)

By: Sarah Hillman

Master Gardener class #38 has come to its conclusion. We finished our 16th week on November 16th. Our class has obtained a great deal of knowledge and invaluable resources. We have been equipped with the tools we need to assist others in our communities. It has been a true joy to have been a part of it. I feel very blessed to have met so many amazing and passionate folks these past months. Below is what the last 5 weeks have looked like.

On October 19th, we had guest speaker Bill Nodine come to present on the topic of *Vegetables*. Bill is a library of gardening information. He spent the first third of the class showing us where to find/access the information we need. The class was provided with a USB drive linking to various calculators and resources, several visual aids, as well as grow guides. Bill gave us handouts about gardening tools and how to keep them in good condition. We were informed of the various styles of vegetable gardening and their growing mediums. He talked about soil amendments, fertilizers and the frequency of application. Along with watering, cover cropping and so much more. In the last section of the class, we separated into two groups. One group assembled a drip line and the other built a garden bed. When the two groups finished their section, we combined, forming a mock irrigated vegetable garden bed. Bill then had us put a cover over the bed using pvc pipe and different fabrics, like bug netting and shade cloth. This illustrated how to protect the garden from pests, heat and cold. The whole process was not as daunting to build as it seemed.

On October 26th, Dr. Kimberly Cochran with TAMU presented "Plant Pathology 101." Dr. Kim started the class discussion talking about plant health and some benefits of Globalization on food supply. She explained that in a global market, places experiencing loss of crops due to pathology are not impacted the same as they were at other times in history. Dr. Kim discussed in detail the differences between fungal, bacterial and viruses on plants. She explained that when a plant looks "virusey" (her word not mine 😊) it has *asymmetrical* damage. Whereas a plant with a nutritional deficiency would appear symmetrical with its damage. We learned that every insect feeding site creates an opening for more bacteria to invade. The good news for gardeners is that healthy plants and soil can protect against pathogens. Dr. Kim informed us that plants have their own kind of immune system. Plants have chemicals that defend themselves. At times a plant may even drop a leaf to protect itself from further damage. In the second part of the class we had Mr. Marvin Borth present on container gardening. Marvin brought information on the various types of container gardening and the benefits of it. We learned what a Keyhole garden is, how to clean crusty pots, how to create a Hypertufa and were provided with a recipe for container soil.

Membership Corner

On November 2nd, we had our class discussion on the popular topic; *weeds*. Kay McElveen was the presenter. We learned what defines a weed and ways to identify different types, as well as various ways to get rid of them. Kay informed the class about iNaturalist and PictureThis phone apps that can assist in identifying plants. The class learned about the process of solarization and how it prepares the ground by killing unwanted weeds and bugs. We also learned about the benefits of crop rotation. Kay explained that if we use herbicides we must fully read the label and use as directed to prevent runoff into our water supply. A warning was given to the class to not use the product WeedNFeed as the cycle does not match the growth season for our area. Also, on the agenda was Greenhouses. Kay provided many picture examples. We discussed the various materials one can use to build a greenhouse or assemble from a kit. She spoke about the positives and negatives of each. Kay provided a lot of great information about what is needed for a greenhouse, like ensuring you have water and electricity. The class learned about the importance of air circulation for managing humidity and diseases. Kay informed the class that she uses a sprayer with a 10% bleach to water ratio to clean her greenhouse, the process of cleaning and why she does. She quoted Benjamin Franklin- “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Peter Hernandez blew us away on November 9th, with the fascinating world of compost and vermicomposting. Compost is decayed organic material used as plant fertilizer. It inoculates the soil with beneficial microbes improving plant overall vitality. Compost is like black gold for our gardens! Peter went into great depth on how to properly compost. Explaining what a compost pile needs and the various ways to compost. He explained the ratio of 3:1 carbon to nitrogen (or browns and greens). Most importantly what are carbon and nitrogen sources as well as what should not be put in the compost pile. Peter discussed further resources and literature to check out for more in depth information on composting. Including, ‘The Rodale Book of Composting’ being one of his favorites. He also provided information on products that can assist in composting, like the Geobin and compost thermometers. As much fun as it was learning about compost it was even more exciting learning about vermicomposting. For this section Peter had the class assemble a Worm Bin! Several stations were set up in the class where each class member was assigned to a station. One station was shredding paper for “brown” material for the bin. Another station blending eggshells, another bagging substrate and so on. After that, class coordinator Paul Carter concluded with a 10 minute demonstration on how to assemble a rain water barrel. One class member won the drawing and took it home!

Our last speaker was a return favorite, Dennis Hale. He was our first and last presenter of the course. He taught us all about landscape design. On day one the class was tasked with creating a landscape design. We were to take measurements of our property and get an overall layout; to write down electrical and water connections/flow etc. Considering all the different aspects of our property and what we want for a future landscape plan. In this last class we reviewed those designs in small groups. Dennis addressed our top concerns and answered all of our questions. Many folk in the class had issues with deer. We learned that deer are high jumpers but they do not like distance. Creating a landscape buffer from your fence can be the key to keeping them out. In the second portion, our wonderful class coordinators April Rippel, Tim Steele and Paul Carter held an open forum. They answered any burning questions we had. We provided our course feedback, as well as considerations for the future. Overall it was a great way to end the program. I would like to give them and the presenters a round of applause.

Thank you!

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.**

We will not have a meeting in December & since the social is on the 2nd, all starfish awards nominated in December will be presented at the next membership meeting on January 18th . To nominate someone for the Starfish Award, please submit the following information by January 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– Beth Smith

2024 Vice President - Wendy Salazar (1 year term & eligible to run 2nd term)

2024 Secretary- Benna Hunter

2024 Treasurer - Claire Huebinger (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 - Maria Dykes

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

1 year TMGA term - Karen Koepp

Alternate - David Koepp

2 year TMGA term - Mark “Bo” Bollinger

Alternate - Beth Smith

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,
11. County Fair Pumpkin Decorating Contest - Pam Younger
12. 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/Tshirt.html 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 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. 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 have some old shrubs in front of my house that have seen their best days. I would like to plant new ones, perhaps natives, and I would also like a line of shrubs as a hedge down the side of my house because the yard is bordered by a busy street that comes in off of Austin Street. Any suggestions?*

A: After checking my stand-by book, Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac, I also looked over the Native Plant Society's suggestions. Welsh lists a lot of old timers which would be better replaced with natives. One old medium-sized shrub he suggests is *Elaeagnus*, a gray-green evergreen that grows to 6 feet. The Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden site does not care for *Elaeagnus* and considers it invasive in Virginia.

This is another of those plants brought in from Japan, Korea and China because importers thought it would control erosion and provide food for wildlife as well as act as an ornamental hedge and screening plant. It has been in the U.S. since the early 1900s. The plant has root nodules that allow it to fix nitrogen, although if that is why it is planted, I would rather have bluebonnets which do the same thing. The Native Plant Society Guadalupe Chapter in their handout "Invasive Plants and their Native Alternatives" suggests as replacements for privet or ligustrum the following shrubs: Barbados cherry, Cenizo, Cherry Laurel, Possumhaw, and Yaupon Holly. Of these, for street screening shrubs, I would use Cherry Laurel or Cenizo (Texas sage). The Cherry Laurel can be seen in use around the Seguin library parking lot. It grows to 10 feet with a width up to 6 feet. Dwarf Yaupon is nice as a low shrub in front of your house since it grows to 3 feet. Other shrubs suitable for hedges and screening are Burford Holly and Nellie R. Stevens Holly. To me, the red berries on both hedges make it all worthwhile. I have a Burford Holly hedge in front of my house which screens my windows (and the sharp leaves deter burglars). Every winter it is covered with red berries. I use the clippings as inside decoration. Standard Burford grows to 8 feet tall and 6 feet wide, while the dwarf form grows to 5 feet with a width of 4 feet. Nellie R. Stevens is better for street screening since it grows to 20-30 feet, with a width of 10-12 feet.

Q: *What can I buy my gardening friends for Christmas gifts?*

A: One of the favorite gardening gifts I've ever received was a decent pair of gardening shears. Buy the bypass type which makes a nice clean cut. The anvil type of shears is best for cutting dead wood. Most gardeners will need one of these also, so buy both. My second favorite gift was a pair of leather rose gloves which I used for much more than just working with roses. The leather cuff came almost to my elbow and protected my forearms from many thorny plants. A more expensive gift might be an irrigation system, or drip lines in the flower beds, or even a water catchment system. Have a Happy Holiday.



GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

We added eighteen new community members. Welcome All. They want to learn about flowers, herbs, and sustainable gardens.

Top posts were from Melanie Smith Engels, Mike Messersmith, and Tel Yonk. Thank you all.

What To Grow In December

Arugula, Asian Greens, Cabbage, Kale, Lettuce, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Calendula, Chamomile, Cilantro, Chives, Dianthus, Dill, Fennel, Pansy, Parsley, Oregano, Viola.

Care For Poinsettia

- Keep Poinsettia out of the cold. They grow best at temperatures above 65 degrees.
- Remove foil wrapper.
- Water when dry but no standing water. Poinsettias do not like 'wet feet'. Avoid cold drafts or heat vents.
- After Christmas, put Poinsettia in a spot where it receives natural light but is protected from drafts and drying heat.
- Water when dry. Mist occasionally.
- Once blooms fade, cut plant back to about 8 inches.
- In spring, repot Poinsettia in a larger pot.
- From mid September to early October put Poinsettia in darkness. Cover plant with a large box or move plant to a dark location same time each night. 14 hours later, move Poinsettia where it will receive good natural light.
- Be consistent. Missing even one or two nights of darkness can keep Poinsettia from blooming.
- Enjoy your Poinsettia.

Monthly Funny

What do Gardeners want for Christmas?
Peas On Earth and Good Dill To ALL!!!!!!!!!!

Thank you to all who post. You are all greatly appreciated. Keep posting. We all learn from each other.

Enjoy your gardens.

Take care,
Kathy Adams

The Wandering Gardener

2024

This month's newsletter features Marilyn Moltz's last submission as the Wandering Gardener. After 20 years of being a faithful and dedicated Master Gardener, she has decided to step down and retire from her Master Gardener adventures. I have enjoyed working with Marilyn and getting to know her through her travels and emails.

Starting next month there will no longer be a designated Wandering Gardener. Instead, I will be accepting articles from current members. If you have visited a garden and are interested in having your travels published please submit a brief article highlighting the points of interest along with some of your best photos. Please submit the article in Word format, and limit it to about half a page (around three paragraphs), with no more than six photos.

The submissions will be put in order by how they are received, and you will be notified what month the article will be published. The January issue will feature a trip from April Rippel.

There are many wonderful places to visit and enjoy. Happy traveling.

Melinda J Lucas
Newsletter Publisher

The Wandering Gardener

Marilyn Moltz

Organ Pipe National Monument Ajo, Arizona

Organ Pipe National Monument is located 2 1/2 hours southwest of Tucson. It covers 330,689 acres of the Sonoran Desert. This national treasure offers much to do and a variety of different walks and hiking trails. There are two main drives; one is 21 miles in length and the other is 41 miles.

There are 28 cactus species, including Saguaro, Organ, Barrel and Cholla. In addition to the cactus there are quail, elf owls, kangaroo rats, jack rabbits, coyotes and javelinas. Birds will fly all around you if you stop and are quiet for a few minutes. The Organ Pipe cactus normally bloom in May and June but I was there in September and found many flowers and barrel cactus blooming.

I was not aware of the beautiful mountain views we would see on our visit and the Arch Canyon was quite a surprise. This area was established as a protected area in 1937 and is worth the drive to it.



The Wandering Gardener



Continuing Education

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners January 2024 Lecture

January 18, 2024

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin, TX 78155

**Social time: 5:45-6:30 PM, Membership Meeting
6:30-7:00 PM, Lecture 7:00-8:00 PM**

Lecture Topic:

“Unusual Herbs & Unusual Ways to Use Them”

Presented by Master Gardener April Rippel

Please join us for an intriguing look at how herbs were historically used
and how you can use them in your everyday life.

10 January Lunch and Learn

Program: Soils

Presenter : Bill Swantner

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.

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

2024 SPRING YOUTH GARDENS EDUCATOR TRAINING

Saturday, March 23, 2024
7:50am - 12:30pm
San Antonio Botanical Garden
555 Funston Place
San Antonio, TX 78209
\$40 - General
\$20 - Title 1 Schools

This training was developed for
volunteers, educators, and
teachers in support of Youth
Gardening in the classroom.

**DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION
IS SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH**

For questions, contact
andres.villagran@ag.tamu.edu



Continuing Education



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Training for 2024 - Class 39



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 23 - May 7th, 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 (\$100 value)
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.gcmgtx.org/Class_39/index.html

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

Paul Carter: mepcarter11@gmail.com 830-481-0817

Tim Steele: tlscowboys@hotmail.com 210-385-2219

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

Leave Message if No Answer

Learn about the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc. - a 501c3 Non-Profit Organization:

www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org



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 recertification 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/2023-12/>
- 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/202312>
- 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/2023-12/>

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_LYle3_XUiPjzz

Horticulture & Gardening Webinar Series with David Rodriguez:

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

Entomology Webinar Series with Molly Keck:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S50uWVbqYzV3k2nfmxeA_9g

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
- “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
- “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
- “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
- “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/a9lbZxP8Txs>
- “Summer Insects: Pests for Hot Dry Conditions” by Wizzie Brown: https://youtu.be/QCvBu_t_CEE
- “Rose Insects” by Wizzie Brown: https://youtu.be/xvrR4X_dRzM
- “vermiculture ” by Peter Joseph Hernandez: <https://youtu.be/azWVXveYt9k>
-

Continuing Education



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Presents
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service



Beginners Basic Vegetable Gardening 5–Part Series

Presented by: Certified Master Gardeners, and Advanced Master Gardeners - William Nodine, Beth Smith, Peter Hernandez, Cynthia Lyssy, and Jamie Neilson.

Our Instructors are part of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service of the Texas A&M University System and their outreach efforts are focused on **Improving Texans' lives through** the application of science-based knowledge and practices to home gardeners. As garden educators we provide high-quality, relevant continuing education that encourages lasting and effective change. We provide programs, tools, and resources – local and statewide – that teach people how to improve gardening, agriculture, and food production.

This is a 5-class series designed for beginning gardeners to learn basic gardening skills and techniques. You will learn how to select a site, prepare the soil, build the beds, install irrigation, direct seeding and transplants, plant care and maintain vegetables properly as well as gain skills to successfully produce food and identify common insect and disease problems.

Cost: \$65

Begin Date: Saturday, Jan 3, 2024

End Date: Saturday, Feb 3, 2024

Time: 08:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Address: Hosted by GCMG & Texas A&M AgriLife Ext Office, Travis Franke CEA, 210 East Live Oak Seguin, TX 78155

RSVP/Online Registration: Yes

RSVP - required by 18 December 2023: Please call 210-607-0045 or email

william.nodine@att.net

Online Registration - required by 18 December 2023: **Link:** [2024 Beginners Gardening Series \(gcmgtx.org\)](https://www.gcmgtx.org)

Payment methods:

At the door: cash, check or money order

Online: prepay with credit card

For more information on this series, contact William H Nodine at 210-607-0045 or Cynthia Lyssy at 210-275-3670.

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.

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. 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).

Special Volunteer Opportunities



Spring Seminar 2024

"Texas GARDEN Safari – Weather or Not"



Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon
Drought, Flood, Heat, Cold: The Challenges with Texas Weather

Dr. Larry Sunn and Dr. Steven Grainger
Rainwater Harvesting

Jeff Pavlat
Impact of Weather on Cacti and Succulents

Skip Richter
Protecting Landscapes and Gardens from Frosts and Freezes

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 8am-4pm

New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center
375 S. Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX 78130

\$65

\$65

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 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 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

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 or Anne Ottenad at 210-860-3636 or email her at 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 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 or 210-544-0756, or Carol Mullen 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 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

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 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 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 or Melinda Creech at 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

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

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