



January 2024

Guadalupe Gardener

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

Reminders for January

- A new year, a fresh start!
- Welcome to our new officials!
- There is still a need for volunteers to record events.
- Seed Exchange Wednesdays in the AgriLife library!

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Letter from the President

Hello my gardening friends!



My name is Sarah Puckett and I am your Master Gardener President for the year of 2024. I'm so excited for this new year and can't wait to see what the year has in store for our group. First, let me tell you a little bit about me and why I garden.

I am 41 years old and live in La Vernia with my family, 7 of us (including my parents) living together, pursuing our dreams, and experiencing life together. Besides being a mom and wife, what do I do with my time? I'm an artist, a singer, a voiceover actor, a writer, and a gardener.

When and why did we start gardening? It's been about 10 years now. My boys started homeschooling and a therapist recommended we get our hands in the dirt gardening. We started small at our first house with 0.1 acres on the West side of San Antonio. I am so incredibly thankful for the choice we made to start gardening.

(This picture was one of our first gardens. Pardon the picture quality; it was in 2015 with a bad phone camera.) Looking back over the 10+ years of gardening and pictures that go with it,



I see how much we've grown. Yes, literally we have grown plants, but what surprises me are the connections we have grown...connections to the earth, connections to our community, connections to pollinators and beneficial insects, and most importantly deeper connections to each other.

As our love for family, gardening, & sustainability grew, we knew we needed more space. In June of 2020 we moved to La Vernia where we had enough space for us and a little over 4 acres, without an HOA.

The property has its own challenges. Deer have been a surprise problem. We couldn't plant the garden in the ground until we built a tall enough fence. We started in pots near the house, using companion plants to repel the deer. I started experimenting. I planted a fruit tree food forest in the front using individual fencing around the trees and companion plants. In the back we started repurposing the pool deck into the framework around what would be an area with 6'+ fencing. Once that was done, were able to start planting in the ground the garden of my

Letter from the President

dreams. I planted 3 fruit guilds along with “typical” garden beds. I have yet to have the same success as the garden in my tiny backyard in San Antonio. The main difference and hindrance? Deer, leaf cutters, and voles. I took a step back in September, because I had lost so much of the garden in less than a week due to those pests.

Are we giving up? No. In fact, it was a nice break and it’s given me a chance to reevaluate what I plant this next year. January is about new beginnings, a new year, new year’s resolutions. What were my garden resolutions for 2023?

- Continue working (maybe finish) my greenhouse and planter’s table area.
- Have people out to my garden.
- Preserve more of my medicinal plants for my apothecary.
- Preserve more of my harvests.
- Save seeds from my garden.

How did I do? This year was the best we’ve ever done! We froze tomatoes, herbs, onions,



and garlic during the main harvests. At the end of the season, I have dehydrated and canned herbs, tomatoes, citrus, and peppers. I saved seeds and even propagated a couple of the varieties that would most likely die in the winter!

The year was harder on us physically and environmentally than we expected. We did not get much more done on the greenhouse or the planter’s table. Secondly, I didn’t have people out to my garden.

As I think about my garden New Year’s resolutions for 2024, my resolutions are mostly the same, with a few exceptions.



Finish my greenhouse and planter’s table area.

- Have people out to my garden.
- Preserve more of my medicinal plants for my apothecary.
- Preserve more of my harvests.
- Save more seeds from my garden.
- Add some raised beds.
- Redo our water feature area.

As the new year starts, I encourage you to make a list. What are your 2024 Garden Resolutions?

I look forward to all that 2024 has to offer us both personally and as a group. I’m so happy that I took the plunge to take the Master Gardener class last year. I’ve enjoyed getting to know you all better and look forward to getting to know you better. If you need to reach me, the best way is by text. My number is 972-768-6558. I can’t always answer the phone. I normally have my phone with me, so I can glance at a text easiest. You can also email me at sparrowpuckett@gmail.com.

Membership Corner

January Checklist

for the zone 8b Gardener

I find it's easier to break up the year monthly with checklists. Every gardening group has one...but every garden is different. Here's what we have done in January in the past.

- ✓ Building projects
- ✓ Buying Seeds/Seed Starting
- ✓ Winter garden harvesting
- ✓ Freeze prep, if needed
- ✓ Garden layout planning
- ✓ Cleaning pots and tools
- ✓ Organizing storage and supplies
- ✓ Pruning trees and shrubs



For an official general list, here is a list from the **Gardening Guide by Garden Zone** for January:

- ✓ Start planning your garden
- ✓ Check on your garden tools (clean, repair, sharpen, oil, replace as needed)

- ✓ Buying Seeds
- ✓ Clean & organize garden supplies
- ✓ Make sure your seed starting supplies are ready for when your seeds arrive

Membership Corner

Trees, Shrubs, & Vines

- ✓ In mid to late winter, plant trees & shrubs (so they have time to root really well before the drought of summer).
- ✓ Prune (so that you catch them before they start to bud).

Lawns & Groundcovers

- ✓ Rake your leaves (so the grass below has a chance to get sunlight).

Vegetables & Herbs

- ✓ Set out transplants of cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, kohlrabi, & cauliflower, etc.) & water with fertilizer solution.
- ✓ Plant seeds of cool-season greens (lettuce, spinach, & some Asian greens).
- ✓ Plant onion transplants & asparagus crowns.
- ✓ Create low tunnels to protect plants from freezes.
- ✓ Start tomatoes, peppers, & eggplant transplants indoors.

For a more detailed official list, according to **Texas Gardener** online, here is what they suggest for January:

Perennials & Annuals

- ✓ Cut back winter-killed top growth on perennials.
- ✓ Cut Salvia Greggii by half (if it didn't already die back).
- ✓ Cut back ornamental grasses to 8"-10" high.
- ✓ Fertilize cool-season flower beds.
- ✓ Maintain 2"-3" mulch over flower beds to deter weeds.
- ✓ Plant cool-season annuals & transplants & fertilize.

Fruits & Nuts

- ✓ Plant bare root fruits & nut plants
- ✓ Prune (so that you catch them before they start to bud).

No matter what, you do what you can and want to do. Yes, gardening is for nutritional purposes, but remember that it's also for your mental health. The garden is one of my happy places and I hope it is for you too! This first couple of months is so exciting for my family because we decide what we want to do this year. Last year is finished and we look back to see what worked and what didn't while we make our plans. Good luck and have fun!

-Sarah Puckett, President

Membership Corner

Let's welcome our Elected Officials

Elected positions with term limits:

2024 President - Sarah Puckett

2024 President elect - Beth Smith

2024 Vice President - Wendy Salazar

2024 Secretary- Benna Hunter

2024 Treasurer - Claire Huebinger

2023 Past President - Mark "Bo" Bollinger

Appointed Directors (unlimited terms):

Education Director - William Nodine

Membership Director - Denise Leverich

Publicity Director - David Koepp

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 - Rodney Burton, Keith Muschalek, and Valerie Bartonek
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 Managers - Frank Rippel & David Koepp
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 Team - Beth Smith & Karen Brkich
10. Guadalupe County Fair Booth - Kathleen Smith,
11. County Fair Pumpkin Decorating Contest - Pam Younger
12. Plant Sales - Beth Smith

Membership Corner

As a new year begins and an old one is folded up and put in the drawer please take a moment and reflect on some of our older Master Gardeners who will no longer be with us in 2024.

Marilyn Moltz has been the Wandering Gardener for quite some time and has taken us all to places that we may have not ever gotten to go otherwise. Her beautiful photos and interesting articles have introduced us to places and things that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. She has been a dedicated Master Gardener for over 20 years, giving of herself where ever she was needed. She is very humble as well, not wanting anyone to “Celebrate” her. She will be missed dearly.

Randee Malmsten has also been with Guadalupe County Master Gardeners for over 20 years and has done such a wonderful job of proofreading the newsletter each month. She is always kind about making suggestions for changes and quick to lend a hand if she is asked for advice . She is very thorough in her proofreading skills and has gotten her proof-read material back to me in the blink of an eye when I am running behind. She has been very dedicated even when dealing with her own health issues, as well as those of family members.

There are others that have “retired” this year that have played a role in keeping this organization running smoothly. My apologies that I am not able to list each of them. However, if you haven’t heard from someone or seen them in some time, please take the time to reach out to them with a phone call or email and let them know that you are thinking of them.

Happy New year!

Melinda J Lucas,

Newsletter Editor

Membership Corner

Ending 2023

Welcome to all of our new graduates and those who are certified!



YuleFest



Membership Corner

Ending 2023



Thank all of you who brought food donations for the Christian Cupboard. Together we donated over 200 lbs of food from the Winter Social and a total of 1287 lbs of food in 2023. On behalf of the Board, the volunteers and especially the clients - your support makes it happen!

Membership Corner

Total certified members: 148

Welcome to our newest members: Jennifer Huff (Class 37) and Class 38 members: Karen Brkich, Kelsie Byler, Esther Israel, Mahalalel Israel, Cathy Mladenka, Linda Truax, and Celeste Rance!

Congratulations to our gift card winners!

Door prize - Mark Mullen; Volunteer drawing - Carolyn Carhart

Members with 5+ Volunteer Hours in November (board members are not eligible):

Rachel Cavazos	Rodney Burton	Welta Burris
Paul Carter	Maria Gil-Juarez	Kay Cover
Joyce Fox	Beth Henry	Claire Huebinger
Joyce Friesenhahn	Melinda Lucas	Keith Mott
David Koepp	Kay McElveen	Dale Odvody
Ann Odvody	Anne Ottenad	Paul Prince
Pat Schultze	Wendy Salazar	Tim Steele
Carol Suchan	Sandy Tremaine Black	Judy Sims

Members who Volunteered 25+ Hours Last Month:

Dale Odvody	Sarah Puckett	Paul Carter
Carol Suchan	April Rippel	Tim Steele
Bill Nodine	Melinda Lucas	Denise Leverich
Pam Younger	David Koepp	

100 Hour Club for 2023:

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

200 Hour Club for 2023:

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

Membership Corner

300 Hour Club for 2023:

Sarah Puckett
Mark Bollinger

Denise Leverich
Paul Carter

Beth Smith
April Rippel

400 Hour Club for 2023:

Pam Younger

Melinda Lucas

500 Hour Club for 2023:

Tim Steele

600 Hour Club for 2023:

Dale Odvody

700 Hour Club for 2023:

Bill Nodine



Is there someone you'd like to recognize for making a difference? You can award a starfish to another person at any membership meeting! Please email Denise at dleverich965@gmail.com the following information.

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?



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

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Membership Corner

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Fruits & Nuts

- Plant bare-root fruits and nut plants
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Lawns & Ground Covers

- Rake your leaves so the grass below has a chance to get sunlight.

Veggies & Herbs

- Set out transplants of cole crops (broccoli, cabbage, kale, collards, kohlrabi, and cauliflower) and water with fertilizer solution.
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- Cut back ornamental grasses to 8"-10" high
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No matter what, you do what you *can* and *want* to do. Yes, gardening is for nutritional purposes, but remember that it's also for your mental health. The garden is one of my happy places and I hope it is for you too! This first couple of months is so exciting for my family because we decide what we want to do *this* year. Last year is finished and we look back to see what worked and what didn't while we make our plans. Good luck and have fun!

-Sarah Puckett, President

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.socials@gmail.com*



Membership Corner



The flyer is for a Master Gardener Class #39, organized by Guadalupe County. It features a yellow background with orange and green accents. At the top left is the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension logo, and at the top right is the Texas Master Gardener logo. The main title 'MASTER GARDENER CLASS' is in large, bold, orange and white letters, with 'Class #39' in a green circle. Below the title, it says 'with GUADALUPE COUNTY' and 'Classes on Tuesdays Jan. 23rd-May 7th 2024 9am-1pm Cost: \$250'. On the left, there is a green logo of three downward-pointing triangles. On the right, there is an illustration of three people (two women and one man) holding potted plants. At the bottom left, there are three orange boxes containing contact information for Paul Carter, Tim Steele, and April Rippel.

TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

TEXAS MASTER GARDENER

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
tiscowboys@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

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 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., and is located at 210 East Live Oak Street in Seguin.

Q: I received two beautiful poinsettias this year and would like to see if I can have them rebloom this coming year. What should I be doing?

A: First of all, make sure you are treating them correctly. Your holiday poinsettias should have bright natural light for at least 6 hours a day (or twice that amount of fluorescent light). The room temperature should be 68 to 72 degrees. Water when the soil is dry 1 to 2 inches deep. Doug Welsh in his Texas Garden Almanac gives a schedule for you to use to make sure your plant will rebloom the following Christmas.

On New Year's Day start fertilizing every 3 weeks. By February 14 prune your plant to 8 inches tall. On St. Patrick's Day, place the plant outside in morning sun and afternoon shade. On Memorial Day trim 3 inches from the end of each branch and then repot into a larger container. Move into direct sun. On July 4 trim branches again and start weekly fertilizing. On Labor Day move the plant into indirect light. When cool nights are forecast, move indoors but the plant must still receive 6 hours of direct light through a window. Cut fertilizer back to once every three weeks. On September 21 give the plant 14 hours of darkness and 10 hours of bright light every day. (Welsh suggests a cardboard box placed over plant from about 5:00 p.m. to about 7:00 a.m.). Follow this until Thanksgiving. Then keep the plant in the brightest natural light you have. This sounds like a massive amount of work to me. So the year before last, I put my Christmas poinsettia on the back porch with my orchids when the weather got warm enough. Amazingly, by Thanksgiving the leaves were starting to turn red. My back porch faces east and there are no bright lights back there so the plant was able to follow the natural rhythm of nights getting longer in fall.

Q: I have some freeze damage. Can I prune now? What about other garden chores?

A: Pruning is best done in February or March. If you leave the frozen plant material alone, it provides some insulation for healthy tissue, as well as gives hiding places for birds and other animals. However, you may clean debris from your planting beds in case there are insect pests, or plant diseases.

Bare-root roses, fruit and nut plants may be planted this month. Cool season annuals may also be planted. I have ornamental kale at the library this winter. They are starting to put on a little color. Bluebonnet transplants can also be planted. Most of mine in the lawn are already an inch or two high.

Keep your birdbaths filled. And if a freeze is predicted and the ground is dry, water. Welsh reminds us that plants are more likely to suffer freeze damage under dry soil conditions and water stress. Have a Happy and Green New Year!

Check us out on

facebook

GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

We added 10 new members. They want to plant fruit trees, vegetables, flowers, herbs, and sustainable gardens.

Happy New Year!!!!!!

Snuggle in your favorite chair with a nice cup of tea or cocoa and plan your garden. I tried to have something for everyone.

<https://www.seedsavers.org>

<https://www.sandiaseed.com>

<https://www.highmowingseeds.com>

<https://www.jungseeds.com>

<https://www.neseed.com>

<https://www.parkseed.com>

<https://www.99heirlooms.com>

<https://www.burpee.com>

<https://www.harrisseeds.com>

<https://www.growitalian.com>

<https://www.stokesseeds.com>

<https://www.tottallytomato.com>

<https://tomatogrowers.com>

<https://agrilife.org>

<https://www.willhiteseed.com/>

<https://www.dixondalefarms.com>

Check us out on
facebook

www.johnnyseeds.com

www.rareseeds.com

www.tomatofest.com

Botanical Interests

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

<https://davidsgardenseeds.com/>

<https://shop.barmertseed.com>

<https://www.southernexposure.com>

<https://www.fedcoseeds.com>

<https://www.seedway.com>

<https://seedsnsuch.com>

<https://www.tradewindsfruit.com>

Please continue to post your gardens. You are all greatly appreciated. We all learn from each other.

Have a very Happy New Year and 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 stepdown 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 Gardeners

April Rippel

Buescher State Park located in the Prairies and Lakes Z one of Texas:

Just a short drive northeast of Seguin, Texas, you'll find yourself in some beautiful piney woods with several state parks to choose from. Today's article will give you a quick summary of the Buescher State Park & Wildlife Management. Not only does this park serve as a host to a variety of Texas native plants and animals, but the park rangers have gone to great lengths to provide easy walking trails, most of which are also open to mountain bikes, and lots of activities to make your stay fun and enjoyable.

If you like to camp, you'll love the spacious campsites for tenters, RVers, group camps, and even cabins for those that like to leave the hardcore camping to others. Once you're settled, whether for the day or a longer stay, you only have to look around to find nature at its best in Texas.

After the summer drought of 2023, we were not expecting much more than a relaxing get-away in the woods. Instead, we were treated to an array of fall wildflowers, mosses, bright berries, cute baby pine trees springing to life, and the Spanish moss, draped over many of the trees near the lake, gave the feeling of lazy summer days in the south.

Some of the familiar flowers blossoming along the roadside and on the hiking trails, were Turk's Cap, Azure Aster, and American Sneezeweed (a cruel name for such a pretty flower!), just to name a few. The bright berries of the Yaupon Holly and American Beautyberry made the forest colorful and bright. A huge surprise along one of the hiking trails were the clear and informative plaques installed next to the tree or plant, making identification easy. If you are a novice at plant identification, this is the place for you!

One of the shorter hikes (.1 mile) crosses a CCC project bridge built in 1930, talk about something that lasts! Even on this short trail, there was lots to see like busy bees taking advantage of the Aster and Sneezeweed flowers, and butterflies loving the Turk's Cap.

Please enjoy some of the photos, and sometime in the near future take the scenic drive to this gorgeous part of Texas.

April Rippel
Class 27



The Wandering Gardener



Continuing Education

Education Director Report – December 2023 etc.



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)

📌 2023 Education Hours Snapshot of December 13 - 159 certified Members

- 3.7% have "0" hour – 6 members: down from 10.
- 1.2% have "1" hour – 2 members: down from 4.
- 11.9% have "2.5" hour - 19 members: down from 24.
- 83% have "6" plus hours - 132 members: up from 128

📌 2023 GCMG Horticulture Education Program End of Year Summary

This year's Horticulture Education Programs was targeted towards approximately 603 homeowners and gardeners. The following results were determined by participant surveys.

Learning Results:

- 94% of respondents increased their knowledge of how Aquaponics works and the benefits of Aquaponics.
- 90.5% of respondents increased their knowledge of proper spring gardening techniques and recommended varieties.
- 85% of respondents increased their knowledge of proper lawn care and garden IPM strategies.
- 85% of respondents increased their knowledge of proper turfgrass management options.
- 84% of respondents increased their knowledge of proper rose pruning and care options.

📌 2024 Monthly Report of Planned Programs for Lunch and Learn

10 January - Lunch and Learn

Program: Soils

Presenter : Bill Swantner

Continuing Education

14 February - Lunch and Learn

Program: Herbs

Presenter : April Rippel

13 March - Lunch and Learn

Program: Spring Garden

Presenter : William Nodine

10 April - Lunch and Learn

Program: Insect Management

Presenter : Beth Smith

🌱 2024 Upcoming Advance Training Schedule

Trees and Tree Care – April 11-13, 2024, hosted by Tarrant County Link

🌱 2024 Continuing Education Opportunities

Dig It! Pruning Trees link -December 17 @ 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

024 Spring Youth Gardens Educator Training - <https://agriliferegister.tamu.edu/urbn-ev-003>



Beginners Basic Vegetable Gardening 5-Part Series

Link: [2024 Beginners Gardening Series \(gcmgtx.org\)](https://www.gcmgtx.org)

🌱 2024 Master Gardener Conference

2024 Virtual Texas Master Gardener Conference - April 22, 2024 - April 24, 2024

2025 International Master Gardener Conference - August 25, 2025 - August 28, 2025

Continuing Education

2024 - Connect – Share - Learn To Navigate to the following information , just click the link

[Vegetable Planting Calendar](#)

[How to prepare your plants for cold weather](#)

[Timely Tips on starting seedlings](#)

[Texas home gardening guides](#)

[Spring Vegetable Varieties](#)

[2023 New TMGA Officer/Director Booklet](#)

SuperStar Vegetable/Herb Plants

1. ['Ruby Crush' Tomato](#)
2. ['Tycoon' Tomato](#)
3. ['Celebrity' Tomato](#)
4. [Festival Strawberries](#)
5. ['Dwarf Cherry Surprise', 'BHN 968' Tomato](#)
6. [Barbecue Skewers Rosemary](#)
7. ['Green Magic' Broccoli](#)
8. ['Balsamic Blooms' Basil](#)

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



**Native Plant Society of Texas
Guadalupe Chapter**

How to Tame a Water Thirsty Yard

January 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Is the water bill getting out of hand and the landscape still looks terrible? Or even worse, is water being rationed? Find out how you can change this picture and have a nicer looking landscape, reduce your water use and shrink the water bill!

Deedy Wright is a life-long Texas gardener. Her particular interests are native plants, xeriscape, and invasive plants. She has been an active member of the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) since 1996 and helped organize the Guadalupe Chapter in 2007 and New Braunfels Chapter in 2019. She served as president of the Guadalupe and New Braunfels Chapters and also served on the State Board.

She has completed the Texas Invaders training on invasive plants and multiple native plant courses at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center.

First Presbyterian Church, 1121 E. Walnut Street, Seguin, Texas

Parking in rear, enter from N. Moss Street

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



For more information, or membership applications,
see our website and Facebook page at:

npsot.org/chapters/guadalupe/

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

(10% Military discount, Active Duty, retired, & spouses)

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:

Go to => www.gcmgtx.org/Class_39/index.html Or Scan this QR Code =>



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 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization:

www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

or Scan the QR Code below



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/2024-01/>
- 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/202401>
- 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/2024-01/>

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=PLjqPKX68x1S50uWVbqYzV3k2nfmxA_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_JRrQ
- “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>
- “Herbology Witching Spells Part 1” From the Master Naturalists: <https://youtu.be/-ZpGxGhPclo>
- “Herbology Witching Spells, Part 2” From the Master Naturalists: https://youtu.be/YgYfqW_VP9w

Continuing Education



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

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).

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 Demonstration 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/Seed Exchange, 210 E Live Oak, is open from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are always needed. Contact Ernestine Sykes at ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or 210-544-0756. The office number is 830-379-1972.

•**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>, or
<https://gcmgtx.org/> 830-379-1972 Ext 210

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

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

GCMG Officers & Board of Directors 2024

Sarah Puckett—President

Mark “Bo” Bollinger--Past President

Beth Smith—President Elect

Wendy Salazar—Vice President

Benna Hunter —Secretary

Clarie Huebinger—Treasurer

David Koepp — Publicity Director

Denise Leverich—Membership Director

William Nodine -Education Director

Maria Dykes —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

Proofreaders- Mary Miller, David & Karen Koepp & Denise Leverich

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Association Directors

Two Year Term (2024-2025) April Rippel, Alternate – Beth Smith

One Year Term (2024) Karen Koepp, Alternate – David Koepp

Speakers Bureau Team– Beth Smith & Karen Brkich

Guadalupe Co. Community Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

Master Gardener Office/Library - Ernestine Sykes

Refreshment Coordinator - Kathleen Smith

Plant Sales - Beth 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 Content Masters - Frank K. Rippel & David Koepp

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