



# MARCH 2024

## GUADALUPE GARDENER

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

### Reminders for March

- The plant sales are scheduled!
- We are in search of a Publicity Director.
- Mentors are needed for the new class!
- 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 2024! It's crazy to me that it's already March! This month is a busy month as we work more on our gardens, start our plant sales for Master Gardeners, embrace our luck on Saint Patrick's Day on the 17<sup>th</sup>, enjoy the first blooms of Bluebonnets across Texas, and this March we also get Easter at the end! We can't normally help ourselves and end up visiting several garden centers during the month of March.

\*\*\*

What's my family up to? I had gallbladder surgery and then my daughter had the flu and now I am currently recovering from strep/pneumonia/ear infection! As a result, I'm a little behind on my gardening to-do lists. We've been going through our seeds as a family for the past few days deciding what we want to have in our gardens this year.

Personally, we're downscaling our garden expectations and plans a little bit this year, but we're still starting plenty of seeds. We figure we'll share extras or bring them to the plant sales if they all germinate. It's so fun to look back through and decide what plants we want to grow this year. Every year we add a few more medicinal plants, embrace the flowers more for pollinators, and discover new favorite vegetables and fruits. On the right is our set up at our current house. Last year we bought sturdy adjustable shelves from Costco, adjustable grow lights from Amazon, and heat mats from Amazon too. I'll share with you this year's when it's all up.



# Letter from the President

Don't forget the start of plant sales!



Plant sales were a huge success last year and we're hoping for some of that March luck again! If you have some extra plants you've started from seed or propagated that you'd like to donate, give Beth Smith a heads up of what you're bringing. Don't forget to volunteer at the sales too! It was so much fun last year, and it's a great way to connect with the community!

## MARCH PLANT SALES

**March 16<sup>th</sup> @Silver Center 9am-2pm**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> @Big Red Barn 10am-4pm**

**March 30<sup>th</sup> @Silver Center 9am-2pm**



I hope March is a lucky month for you and everything goes your way! Enjoy taking Easter pictures with the bluebonnets as they begin to bloom towards the end of the month! (*\*on the left are red ones we planted on our property last year*) Don't forget to have fun and share the love of gardening this month with your communities! Make sure to check out our calendars to see what events we have going on this month to help you do just that! **If you need to reach me, the best way is by text. My number is 972-768-6558. You can also email me at [sparrowpuckett@gmail.com](mailto:sparrowpuckett@gmail.com).**

-Sarah Puckett, 2024 GCMG President

# Monthly Meeting

March 21, 2024



Welcoming

Jay White:

Publisher

Texas Gardener Magazine



5:45 Social Time

6:15 Business Meeting

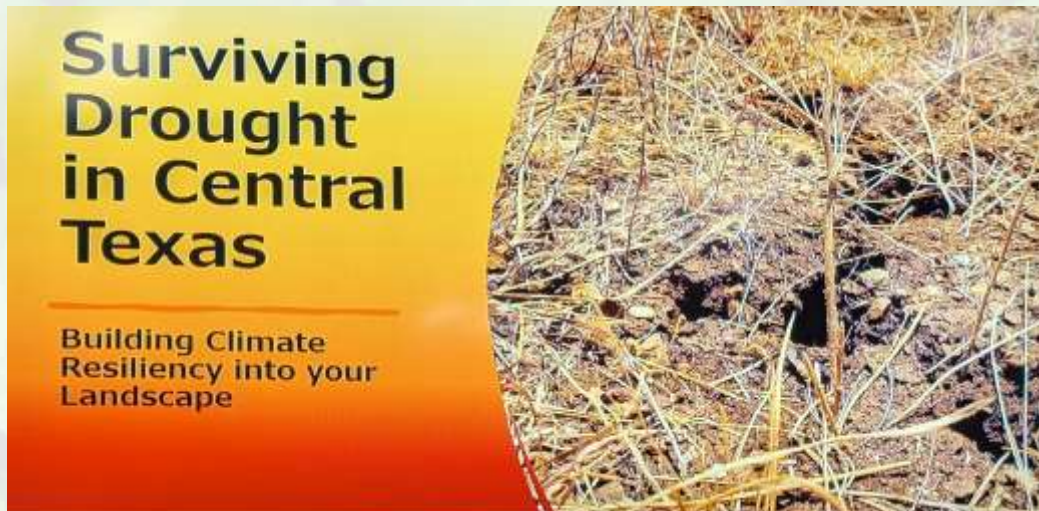
7:00 Presentation

**Guests Welcome**

**210 Live Oak Street-Seguin, TX**

# Membership Corner

February Meeting. Thanks to Sharon Cooper for the pictures



**Andy Blair**



**Ernestine Sykes**

# 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](mailto:gcmgtx.social@gmail.com)*



# Membership Corner

Total certified members: 138

*Congratulations to our gift card winners!*

*Door prize - Karen Carrell; Volunteer drawing - Ginny Fox*

## **Members with 5+ Volunteers in January (board members are not eligible):**

Brenda Smith	Tracy Roysdon	Ginny Fox
Paul Carter	Joyce Fox	Kay Cover
Pam Younger	Beth Henry	April Rippel
Judy Sims	Melinda Lucas	Colleen Collier
Rodney Burton	Kay McElveen	Dale Odvody
Ann Odvody	Keith Mott	Paul Prince
Carol Suchan	Janice Knobles	Tim Steele
Sandy Tremaine Black	Jamie Nielson	Ernestine Sykes
David Koepp	Celeste Rance	

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

Dale Odvody	<b>Sarah Puckett</b>	Paul Carter
Benna Hunter	April Rippel	Tim Steele
Bill Nodine	Melinda Lucas	Denise Leverich
Ernestine Sykes		

## **100 Hour Club for 2024:**

Bill Nodine

*VMS Tip: Effective January 2025, the Volunteer and CE hours required for recertification will increase. Instead of 12 and 6, you'll need a minimum of 20 Volunteer hours and 10 CE hours.*



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

## Ask the Master Gardeners.

Clara Mae Marcotte and Ernestine Sykes are the Ask A Master Gardener GCMGs with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. Questions will be answered by these Master Gardeners at 830-379-1972 or the website [guadalupecountymastergardeners.org](http://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org). Ernestine Sykes can also be reached at the Master Gardener research library, that is open Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (or contact her by text at 210-544 0756 ), located at 210 East Live Oak Street in Seguin.

**Q: I see that you trimmed the plants in front of the Seguin Art League. Is it time to cut back our frozen plants? I know that you usually tell us to not cut them back because it provides cover for the birds and other wildlife as well as protects the plant from more freezes.**

**A:** Well, I guess I'm optimistic and really don't think we'll be getting any more hard freezes. Roses and other root hardy plants can be pruned now. My bluebonnets are blooming and the Mexican Plums at the library have blooms (as does mine). My neighbor's Mountain Laurel has started to bloom and is covered in insects. Other early bloomers according to Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist, are pyracantha, spirea, calleryana pear, Eastern redbud, Texas redbud, and Mexican redbud, and Mexican buckeye. It must be Spring, although my redbuds and buckeye aren't blooming yet.

**Q: Do I prune my citrus now also? How do I know whether my citrus has been injured by our freezes?**

**A:** Aggie-Horticulture, in a section on citrus freeze injury and care, suggests that you wait for spring growth before pruning, and the article also suggests waiting until the fruit has set in May. Then you can prune the dead limbs and twigs back to live tissue. The article mentions that your plant might still grow normally and flower for several weeks. Then, when the high summer temperatures hit, it could show stress or die.

**Q: When do I fertilize my lawn? My neighbor is out there today fertilizing.**

**A:** As I mention every year, apply lawn fertilizer after you have mowed the lawn grass twice. (Lawn grass being defined as your St. Augustine, Bermuda, or Zoysia, not that winter grass.) Welsh says that waiting confirms that the lawn grass is actively growing and is ready to use the fertilizer applied. He also suggests applying one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn.

**Q: I wish I had a garden but I live in an apartment (or have a tiny yard). What can I do?**

**A:** You can garden in pots (or window boxes, or on the patio). One of my friends has an upstairs apartment. Her pots are on the landing, and when there is a freeze, she brings them inside. Another friend living in a garden home has several large pots on her patio. One pot has a lemon tree and another pot has a tomato plant. This winter my pots held kale plants, so I had fresh kale salad all winter. For the last two months, I have had fresh cherry tomatoes every day from a potted Siam tomato that I moved in and out of the house when we went below 40. The main thing you need when growing in pots is good well-drained soil, full sun at least 6 hours a day, and water. I check every day to make sure the soil is moist.



Check us out on  
**facebook**

## GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

Please welcome 32 new members to our community.

They want to learn about growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers in a sustainable garden. Top posts were from April Rippel, Kelly Saito, Joshua Strang, and Benna Hunter. Thank you to all who contributed.

### **What To Plant In March**

**Early March**- Beets, Celery, Kale, Lettuce, Spinach, Cauliflower, and Parsnips

**Late March**- Watermelon, Peas, Beans, Okra, Sweet Corn, Swiss Chard, Squash, Borage, Calendula, Daisies, Echinacea, Feverfew, Lavender, Marigolds, Nasturtium, Pansies, Petunias, Snapdragons, Viola, Bluebonnets, Iris, Larkspur, Periwinkles, Zinnias, Sunflowers.

**Perennials** - Lantana, Marshmallow, Hibiscus, Yarrow, Turks Cap

**Shrubs** - Firebush, Texas Mountain Laurel, Viburnum, Pomegranate

**Ground Cover**- Thyme, Rosemary, Oregano

**Ornamental Grasses**- Maidenhair Grass, Gulf Muhly

**Herbs** - Chives, Cilantro, Coriander, Dill, Echinacea, Fennel, Oregano, Parsley, Rosemary, Thyme, Sage, Sorrel

### **Planning Your Garden**

#### **1. PLAN**

- Make a list of plants under categories  
Vegetables, Herbs, Pollinators, Flowers (Aromatic or Workhorse, such as Milkweed for butterflies.
- Draw out garden plot and plan.

#### **2. PREPARE AND MAINTAIN**

- Soil test
- Amend as needed

#### **3. CLEAN AND ASSESS**

- List garden supports (trellis, tomato cage, etc.) that will stabilize plants as they grow.
- Set out hummingbird feeders, birdhouses, and include a bat house to help with those pesky mosquitos.

Check us out on

**facebook**

#### 4. SHARPEN AND OIL YOUR GARDEN TOOLS

- Use sandpaper or steel wool on lingering dirt on your garden tools.
- Wipe with damp cloth to remove particles
- Scrub away rust with coarse sandpaper
- Wipe metal surfaces with a rag that mineral or vegetable oil was added to it
- Rub away splinters from wood handles with smooth sandpaper
- Wipe wooden handles with linseed oil or mineral oil

#### 5. MULCH YOUR SOIL



Happy Gardening!!!!!!!

Monthly Funny

*What do you get when you cross a four leaf clover with poison ivy?  
A rash of good luck.*

Thank you again for your posts and contributions. You are greatly appreciated. Please continue to post your gardens, garden hacks, and questions.

We all learn from each other.

Enjoy your gardens.

Take care,

**Kathy Adams**

# The Wandering Gardeners

## Butchart Gardens

### Victoria, BC, Canada

Melinda J Lucas

One of the most wonderful gardens I have ever visited is Butchart Gardens. It is a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington, and well worth the trip. Though I would say, I would recommend a full day to see the massive garden that sprawls out over 55 acres of land that used to be a limestone quarry where Robert Butchart, the owner of a cement company, and his wife Jennie made a living and resided.

Jennie hated the site of the limestone pit that was left behind after the miners stripped the land of its limestone deposit, so in 1912 she decided to repair the land by creating a beautiful sunken garden that is now one of the most renowned gardens in the world. The garden is filled with a huge variety of plants and flowers, ponds with fish, sculptures, trees, greenhouses and pavilions for music and other events.

The garden would attract people from all over in the early 1900s and Jeannie would serve tea and visit with those who showed up. It got to the point where there was a reported 18,000 people in one year and that is when they decided to open the garden to the public with an admission to help offset the cost of development and upkeep.

One of the most fascinating facts that I heard while there was the story of the Butchart family taking a trip to Europe in 1912 to scope out more plants and flowers for their gardens. While on their trip they received a telegram telling them that two of their birds had been killed in an animal attack. Robert Butchart decided to extend their visit in Europe so that he could obtain two more birds from Germany to replace the two that he had lost. Jennie was not at all happy about this extra jaunt because they were scheduled to catch a brand new amazing ship on its maiden voyage from Southampton England. When they returned to England they had indeed missed their ship, the RMS Titanic. It is rumored that any time after that, if Jeannie complained about them running late or missing something, Robert would say to her, "Now dear, remember the Titanic."



# The Wandering Gardeners



## **It's your turn to be a wandering gardener!**

Have you visited a garden that wowed you and you would like to share it with others? Please submit your short article of three or four short paragraphs, in Word format, and up to 8 of your favorite photos that you took during your visit, to Melinda Lucas at [MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com](mailto:MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com). Please only submit photos that you personally took in order to avoid copyright issues.

The submissions will be put in order by how they are received, and you will be notified what month the article will be published. .

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

Melinda J Lucas  
Newsletter Publisher

# NPSOT - GUADALUPE CHAPTER MEETING



*Sophora secundiflora* (Ortega), "Texas Mountain Laurel" Photography by Nugent, Louis R.

## "Spring Native Plant Propagation" by Craig Bruska

This talk will focus on spring native plant propagation methods and discuss methods to improve growing seed and other propagation methods.

Craig is a Texas Master Naturalist and has completed the NPSOT Native Landscaping Certification Program. He is wild scaping his ½ acre Blackland Prairie home. He also collects and propagates native plants to share and provide at native plant sales.

**March 12, 2024**

First Presbyterian Church  
1121 E Walnut St  
Seguin, TX 78155

**Social 6:30 PM**

**Program 7:00 PM**

**Meeting 8:00 PM**



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF TEXAS – GUADALUPE CHAPTER

<https://www.npsot.org/chapters/guadalupe/>

Facebook: Guadalupe Chapter, Native Plant Society of Texas



# Continuing Education



GCMG Speakers



Bureau

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

## Presents: Preparing a Garden For Spring

Brown bag lunch will be provided, and learn from one of our Guadalupe County Master Gardeners at this free seminar and open to the Public.

Learn how a new year brings a fresh start to vegetable gardening! In South Texas, gardeners are getting ready to do spring planting. The first step to planning a vegetable garden is deciding what to plant, when to plant, and how long it takes to mature.

Saturday March 2, 2024, from 11:30 – 12:30 pm  
Sequin Public Library, 313 West Nolte Street  
Sequin, Texas, 78155

**Registration Required:** [Link Lunch & Learn Series with Master Gardeners | Seguin, TX \(sequintexas.gov\)](#)



### Guest Speaker: Karen Brkich



*Karen has loved gardening, getting her hands dirty and flowers for many years and was gifted the "love" from her grandmother. She has/is refining her skills in gardening with the Master Gardeners of Guadalupe County since Fall 2023. She is currently the Garden Center specialist in the corporate world and had decided to increase her knowledge to help with her customers and used her unique skill of training to share her knowledge in an effort to help her customers be successful with the plants when they invest their time and money. She comes from a thorough list of experiences but by far, but the peace of gardening, building relationships and helping others beautify their community and their environment, is by far her favorite.*

*The Texas AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education, and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veterans' status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.*

# Continuing Education

The 2024 MG Classes are currently underway, and are being held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. every Tuesday for the next 3 months.

As always, certified master gardeners and interns are welcome to sit in on any of the classes to refresh their knowledge and earn continuing education hours. The only class you cannot attend is the propagation class on **March 26th**. The **propagation class is for current students only - Class 39**.

If you would like to sit in to review a class, all we ask is that you notify one of the class-coordinators, ahead of time, in order for us to make seating arrangements and to provide you with any handouts that the speaker is using. The class coordinators typically make copies of the handouts a week ahead of time, if you would like to attend, please contact April, Paul or Tim at the email or phone number listed below and let them know at least one week in advance, more is ideal.

April Rippel  
GCMG Class Co-coordinator  
[adrappel@gmail.com](mailto:adrappel@gmail.com)  
(830) 433-2218

Paul Carter  
GCMG Class Co-coordinator  
[mepcarter11@gmail.com](mailto:mepcarter11@gmail.com)  
(830) 481-0817

Tim Steele  
GCMG Class Co-coordinator  
[tlscowboys@hotmail.com](mailto:tlscowboys@hotmail.com)  
(210) 385-2219



# Continuing Education

## Save-the-Dates!

### Texas Master Gardener Conferences 2024 and 2025!



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

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

April 22-24, 2024

*"Blooming Together"*

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

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

August 25-28, 2025

*"There is No Planet B"*

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



# Continuing Education

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

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

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

## WHY VIRTUAL?

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

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



The Texas Master Gardener Program

2024/2025

# Continuing Education

## 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](mailto:andres.villagran@ag.tamu.edu)



# 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/> 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/2024-03/>
- Plant Party 9: Planting a Seed worth 1.5 hrs [https://youtu.be/DFi7\\_JZUzoY](https://youtu.be/DFi7_JZUzoY)
- The Natural Gardener, 8646 Old Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX <https://tngaustin.com/classes/202403>
- 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/2024-03/>

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](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](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](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](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](https://youtu.be/aN_Rzm4m7KU)
- “Fleas” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/Cpy6AGbC9sY>
- “Turf Entomology” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/gKTeoz7EnGw>
- “Bed Bugs” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/l8Apq7AllNk>
- “Spider ID” by Wizzie Brown: [https://youtu.be/5\\_xmBOgoMF4](https://youtu.be/5_xmBOgoMF4)
- “Arachnids other than Spiders” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/Via1jYHGCI>
- “Insects to watch for” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/G31-9N9RoZw>
- “Insect Damage” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/9oeGiE6BpRM>
- “Pesticide Safety” by Wizzie Brown: <https://youtu.be/fUY2zqpNNcl>
- “Stinging Arthropods 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](https://youtu.be/QCvBu_t_CEE)
- “Rose Insects” by Wizzie Brown: [https://youtu.be/xvrR4X\\_dRzM](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](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 Hours

## Growing Futures Gardens

Hello Fellow Master Gardener!

We have added additional workdays at Growing Futures Garden! Growing Futures Garden is an educational garden located at Connections (1447 West Mill Street, New Braunfels), a residential foster care center that houses our Guadalupe County children. We currently have 30 raised garden beds, swings, benches, & picnic tables.

The upcoming scheduled workdays are as follows (weather permitting):

Saturday, March 9  
Sunday, March 17  
Sunday, March 24  
Sunday, March 31  
Saturday, April 13  
Saturday, April 20  
Sunday, April 28  
Saturday, May 4  
Saturday, May 11



Work starts at 9am. We will be:

Putting down cardboard  
Spreading mulch  
Filling beds with soil, compost & mulch  
Building beds- easy assembly  
Building arbors- easy assembly  
Planting  
Fertilizing  
Weeding  
Placing bird feeders, bird houses, and birdbath  
Information center sign install  
Building a shed

***Please RSVP to Benna via text (270-860-2246) or email.***

Hope to see you soon!  
Benna Hunter

# Special Volunteer Hours

Hello Gardeners,

Thank you so much for your volunteer efforts in Yr 2023! Can you believe that the total number of volunteer hours added up to 14,415 hrs and with 5,534 pounds of produce for food pantries across Guadalupe County and surrounding areas. This is a result of dedicated Master Gardeners who volunteer their time, hard work and dedication to this organization!

On the following two pages you will find the most updated GCMG Approved Projects, Gardens, and Parks for Year 2024. This document gets updated periodically with new projects/gardens/parks. It will always be uploaded in VMS under **General Information>Docs/Newsletter>Document Type>Other.** The Volunteer report is uploaded as well. You will also find the BINGO challenge (with rules/instructions). Please take some time to review the rules and get ready to win prizes!

Thank you again for your commitment to this organization!

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at [mariaq75@gmail.com](mailto:mariaq75@gmail.com).

Maria Dykes

GCMG Volunteer Director

*"And into the Garden I go, to lose my mind and find my soul!"*



# Special Volunteer Hours

## GCMG Approved Projects, Gardens, & Parks for 2024 (edited 02/13/24)

1. Big Red Barn Garden  
390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX  
POC: Janice Knobles, [jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto:jmknobles@yahoo.com)
2. Big Red Barn Kiosk  
390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX  
POC: Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)
3. Christian Cupboard Garden  
516 N. Camp, Seguin, TX  
POC: Kay McElveen [hkaymcelveen@gmail.com](mailto:hkaymcelveen@gmail.com)
4. Christmas Tree Project (Nov./Dec.)-SEASONAL  
210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin, TX  
Seguin Downtown Square  
POC: **VACANT**
5. Creech Prairie Farm/Garden  
1467 County Rd. 401, Floresville, TX  
POC: Melinda Creech, Executive Director  
[Melinda@CreechPrairieRestoration.org](mailto:Melinda@CreechPrairieRestoration.org)  
Robert Creech, Director [rrcreech@mac.com](mailto:rrcreech@mac.com)
6. Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden  
1101 Elbel St., Schertz, TX  
POC: Ann Odvody [advodyd@swbell.net](mailto:advodyd@swbell.net)  
Volunteer days -Tues or Fri- 0800 to 1100
7. GC Fair MG Booth (2<sup>nd</sup> weekend Oct.)  
950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX - Fairgrounds Coliseum  
POC: Kathleen Smith [kathleensmith1214@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensmith1214@gmail.com)  
**SEASONAL**
8. GC Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth-SEASONAL  
(2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in Oct.) - Fairgrounds Coliseum  
950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX  
POC: Pam Younger [pamyounger54@gmail.com](mailto:pamyounger54@gmail.com)
9. GCMG Library/Seed Exchange  
210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin, TX  
POC: Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)  
David Koepf [dtkoepf.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:dtkoepf.gcmg@gmail.com) & Karen Koepf  
[kkoepf@gmail.com](mailto:kkoepf@gmail.com) Volunteer day: Wed.2-4 pm
10. GCMG Parade Float-SEASONAL  
Independence Day Parade, Seguin, TX  
POC: Beth Smith [bsmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:bsmith5518@gmail.com)
11. GROW Team  
POC: Brenda Smith [bsmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:bsmith5518@gmail.com)
12. Growing Futures Garden  
1447 West Mill St., New Braunfels, TX 78130  
POC: Benna Hunter [bennahunter@gmail.com](mailto:bennahunter@gmail.com)
13. Gutierrez Garden Park  
1231 Borgfeld Rd., Schertz, TX  
POC: Judy Stanley [jstanley20@sabx.rr.com](mailto:jstanley20@sabx.rr.com)  
Caroline Moody [carolinemoody58@gmail.com](mailto:carolinemoody58@gmail.com)
14. Kingsbury Fall Harvest Festival-SEASONAL  
MG Information Booth (Nov.)  
Kingsbury, TX - POC: **VACANT**
15. LaVernia Primary School Gardens  
249 FM 1346 S., LaVernia TX  
POC: Kay Cover [doncover6969@yahoo.com](mailto:doncover6969@yahoo.com)  
Colleen Collier [colleen1631@gmail.com](mailto:colleen1631@gmail.com)
16. Marion Veteran's Memorial Park  
100 W. Huebinger St., Marion, TX  
POC: Carol Suchan [ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com](mailto:ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com)  
Anne Ottenad [ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com](mailto:ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com)
17. Park West Pollinator/Waterwise Garden  
600 N. Vaughn St., Seguin, TX  
POC: Liz Romero [lcurromero@gmail.com](mailto:lcurromero@gmail.com)
18. Plant Sales - GC locations, Spring & Fall-SEASONAL  
POC: Brenda Smith [bsmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:bsmith5518@gmail.com)
19. Polley Mansion Heritage Garden  
11432 FM 539, La Vernia, TX  
POC: Robin Muschalek [forcessi@yahoo.com](mailto:forcessi@yahoo.com)  
Keith Muschalek [keith.muschalek@gmail.com](mailto:keith.muschalek@gmail.com)
20. Socials - Summer & Winter - SEASONAL  
POC: Beth Smith [bsmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:bsmith5518@gmail.com)
21. St. Andrew's Park  
Corner of S. Crockett & Nolte St., Seguin, TX  
POC: Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)
22. Wilson County Pub Library Outdoor Learning Space  
1103 4<sup>th</sup> St., Floresville, TX  
POC: Steffinie Blankenship [steffinierb@gmail.com](mailto:steffinierb@gmail.com)
23. Yulefest (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. in Dec.) - SEASONAL  
GC Coliseum, Seguin, TX  
POC: April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com)

The editor apologizes for the above links that are not accessible by just clicking on them.

# Special Volunteer Hours

## 2024 GCMG VOLUNTEER

### B I N G O

Big Red Barn Garden Workday  (Seguin)	Master Gardener Library  (Seguin)	Schlather Park Pollinator Garden (Cibolo)	Plant Sale Booth  (Fall)	Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden (Schertz) (Tues. & Fri.)
Independence Day Parade float  (Seguin)	St. Andrew's Park  (Seguin) (Wed.)	Yule Fest Booth  (Seguin) (Sun. – Dec.)	Gutierrez Garden Park  (Schertz)	Plant Sale Booth  (Spring)
LaVernia Primary School Gardens (LaVernia)	Garden Grow Team (date & location varies)	Player's Choice (choose any GCMG approved project, garden, or park)	Polley Mansion Heritage Garden (LaVernia)	Creech Prairie Farm Workday  (Floresville)
GC Fair Pumpkin Decorating Booth (Seguin – Oct.)	Growing Futures Garden (New Braunfels)	Guadalupe County Fair MG Booth (Seguin – Oct.)	Christmas Tree Decorating Project (Seguin)	Christian Cupboard Garden  (Seguin)
Marion Veteran's Community Park (Marion)	Big Red Barn School Tours  (Seguin)	Kingsbury Fall Festival Booth  (Kingsbury) (Nov.)	Give a Lunch & Learn Presentation  (Seguin)	MG Social Planning Committee  (Summer or Winter)

Prizes: Five in a Row = GCMG T-shirt or gift card or surprise gift

Fill in the whole card = \$50 gift card

# Special Volunteer Hours

## GCMG Volunteer Bingo 2024 Rules

1. Bingo space must be initialed and dated (by you) and your volunteer hour(s) must be recorded on the VMS website to be counted. A minimum of one volunteer hour at a time, per project is required.
2. Complete five in a row for a BINGO (diagonal, horizontal, vertical). You may turn in your completed and signed BINGO card to receive a prize. Volunteer hours will be verified by the Membership Director.
3. Once a completed BINGO card is turned in, you may start another BINGO card. All eligible cards must be turned in by the end of the calendar year.
4. BONUS GAME: If you wish to hold onto your BINGO card to try for a "blackout" BINGO, in addition to a one row prize, a larger prize will be awarded. A blackout BINGO is where every space is filled. You will also be granted full bragging rights.

NOTE: One of the BINGO spaces is to give a Lunch & Learn Presentation. There are a limited number of months eligible for presentations in 2024. Please contact Bill Nodine, Education Director, if you wish to give a Lunch & Learn Presentation this year. Bill must approve your topic and assign the month for your presentation. Backup presenters are needed in case the scheduled presenter cancels, please contact Bill for availability.

5. If you wish to work on more than one BINGO, but not a BONUS GAME, please use more than one BINGO card.

\*See the Volunteer Director or VMS for additional BINGO cards.

Everyone can be a winner!

# Special Volunteer Hours

## Plant Sales

Hello Gardeners,

We are getting ready for the plant sales next month and we are looking for volunteers. Here is your chance to get those volunteer hours early in the year. Wendy Salazar (VP) and I will be the points of contact as we are helping the Plant Sales coordinator, Beth Smith. There are 2-3 hour time slots available for each day or you can do the entire day if you like. Below are the sign-ups for the plant sales (click on link to open):

March 16 - Spring Plant Sale @ Silver Center in Seguin; time: 8:00am-2:30 pm  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E44AEA829A0F49-48138523-gcspring>

March 23 - Tractor Pull Farmers Market @ Big Red Barn in Seguin; time: 9:00am-4:30 pm  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E44AEA829A0F49-48138819-tractor>

March 30 - Spring Plant Sale @ Silver Center in Seguin; time 8:00am-2:30pm  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E44AEA829A0F49-48138882-gcspring>

Below is a look at the plant sales in April:

April 6 @ Silver Center - Seguin  
April 13 @ Silver Center - Seguin  
April 18 @ Silver Center - Seguin  
April 25 @ Silver Center - Seguin  
April 27th @ Trade Days Town Center – Seguin

Thank you for all you do! Please let me know if you have any questions. Enjoy the Sunshine!

Maria Dykes  
GCMG Volunteer Director

# Special Volunteer Opportunities

## Mentoring Program

Some of you may remember when the GCMG's used to have a mentoring program in place for students during their 4-month course. The Class Co-coordinators would like to re-implement this program for Class 39.

If a student chooses, they would be matched up with certified master gardeners that would take them under their wing, so to speak. As a mentor you would be required to form a cordial relationship with your student, introduce them to other members at meetings and events, you would answer questions about our organization, help your student meet their gardening goals, and generally make them feel welcome and secure in our unique gardening environments.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please read the form on the following page and contact one of the class coordinators as soon as possible. You can contact Paul Carter, Tim Steele, or April Rippel if you have any questions.

This is a great way to get volunteer hours, get to know our new students, and stay involved with our wonderful organization.

April Rippel  
GCMG Class Co-coordinator  
[adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com)  
(830) 433-2218

Paul Carter  
GCMG Class Co-coordinator  
[mepcarter11@gmail.com](mailto:mepcarter11@gmail.com)  
(830) 481-0817

Tim Steele  
GCMG Class Co-coordinator  
[tlscowboys@hotmail.com](mailto:tlscowboys@hotmail.com)  
(210) 385-2219



# Special Volunteer Opportunities

## GCMG Master Gardener Student Mentoring Program

The Mentoring Program for Master Gardener Students is meant to help students feel welcome and help them maneuver through learning about the Guadalupe County Master Gardener, Inc. non-profit organization. As a student, it can be difficult for some to integrate themselves into new settings, meet new people, and adjust to volunteering in approved GCMG projects, parks, and gardens. As a mentor, you will also help the student to learn about the AgriLife Extension and the many opportunities afforded to them through the Texas Master Gardeners Association.

Guadalupe County Master Gardener Mentors agree to:

1. Get to know the student and form a cordial relationship.
2. Remind students of upcoming GCMG meetings, lectures, and events.
3. Be available at meetings and events to introduce the student to other GCMG members, and make the student feel welcome and comfortable.
4. Find out the student's goals.
  - a. Do they want to get involved with the GCMG's organization by volunteering?
  - b. Do they only want to learn about gardening for their personal/home purposes?
  - c. Other (i.e. To teach gardening at a school?)
5. Inform students about the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners organizational structure.
  - a. Ways that the student can get involved with the organization:
    - i. Volunteering at parks, gardens, and for projects
    - ii. Serving on Committees
    - iii. Serving on the Board of Directors
    - iv. Speaking at events/schools/other organizations
6. Refer students to POCs/Coordinators with projects/parks/gardens that match the student's interest(s) and goals.
7. Have open communication with the student and be available to answer questions.
8. Provide resource information to the student when relevant.
9. Keep MG Class Coordinators informed of the student's goals, progress, and/or issues if applicable.

Certified Master Gardener/Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Student to be mentored: \_\_\_\_\_ Class # \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Special Volunteer Opportunities

## Publicity Director

Publicity Director-Vacant. If interested, please contact Sarah Puckett at [sparrowpuckett@gmail.com](mailto:sparrowpuckett@gmail.com). More details to come.

## Speaker's Bureau

We improve the lives of Texans through education by delivering innovative science-based solutions that teach people how to improve horticultural practices and food production, to protect the environment, to strengthen our communities, and enrich our youth. I am looking for individuals who are interested in becoming a part of the Speakers Bureau. If you are Interested and willing to disseminate research-based horticulture information to the public, **please contact William "Bill" Nodine @ [william.nodine@att.net](mailto:william.nodine@att.net)**.

## Team Leader in Charge of Recruiting

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

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

## Filming Volunteer

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

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

# Volunteer Opportunities

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

## **At Your Convenience:**

•**Schertz** – Gutierrez Garden Park, 1231 Borgfeld Rd. Contact Judy Stanley at 830-765-4613 or [jstanley20@satx.rr.com](mailto:jstanley20@satx.rr.com) for further information. (Always needs work)

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





# Volunteer Opportunities

## Scheduled Workday on Monday:

•**Marion** - Marion Veterans Community Garden. Contact Carol Suchan at 210-870-4880, or email her at [ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com](mailto:ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com) or Anne Ottenad at 210-860-3636 or email her at [Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com](mailto:Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com). This is an open park and always needs weeds pulled. Once you know what needs to be done, you would be able to work any time or day that is convenient for your schedule. The park is located at 100 W Huebinger St. in Marion.

## Scheduled Workdays on Tuesdays & Fridays:

•**Schertz** - Guadalupe County 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](mailto: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 [ejson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejson.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 [ejson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejson.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 email [jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto:jmknobles@yahoo.com)

## **Special Help Needed Tuesdays and Thursdays**

- **Schertz**—Gutierrez Park 1231 Borgfeld Rd, Schertz, TX. Times vary. Help needed with watering in the a.m. and p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information or details, contact Judy Stanley at [jstanley20@satx.rr.com](mailto:jstanley20@satx.rr.com) or call her at (830) 765-4613.

## **Monday thru Friday Opportunities**

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



**Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc.**

**210 East Live Oak St.**

**Seguin, TX 78155**

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

**Vacant**-Publicity Director

Denise Leverich-Membership Director

William "Bill" 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](mailto:MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com)

**REMINDER**

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

**Newsletter Staff**

*Editor - Melinda J Lucas*

*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– William “Bill” Nodine (P.O.C.), 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