

FEBRUARY 2025

GUADALUPE GARDENER

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

Where can you plug in?



- **Upcoming Plant Sales!**
- **Craft opportunities for plant sales**
- **Still in need of volunteers to film classes and meetings. (This is not a long term commitment, just when you are available)**
- **Still in need of POC for 2025 County Fair**

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February

Letter from the President

Fellow Master Gardeners

I hope that all of you, human and pets, made it through the recent “cold snap”. People who aren’t into gardening think of winter as our down time, when we have nothing to do. They couldn’t be more wrong. Winter is serious clean up and prep time. Time to clean out beds, re-mulch, prune, etc. I’m sure that each of you is busy, both at home and at whatever Master Gardener projects you are involved in, doing just that. I want to thank you for all of your the hard work.

Winter is also the time that we not only get ready for spring planting but the time we are planning our spring fund raisers. Our plant sales are the Master Gardeners major source of income to fund the various projects. Those projects are how we achieve our mission of horticultural education in our communities. In the process of doing that we also provide several thousand pounds of produce for our local food pantries. The food pantries are a life line for people during hard time.

We have a wonderful grow team, led by Pam Malone, who has started and are tending plants for the sales. We also have a great sales team led by Paul Carter and Tim Steele who will be coordinating the sales. At the present time four sales are planned this spring. Three in Seguin during March and also Earth Day in April. There is the possibility of a fifth sale in Wilson County during April at the Polley Mansion. The Sales Team will be recruiting volunteers for the sales in the near future. Please consider volunteering to work at one or more of the sales. Not only are they our major source of funds but they are a great opportunity to meet and answer questions from our communities. Not to mention recruiting for Master Gardeners.

I hope to see you there! I also hope to see you at this months meeting on February 20. Meantime, have fun during the “restful” winter season.

Kay McElveen

2025 President, Guadalupe County Master Gardeners



2025 Board of Directors

2025 GCMG Board of Directors:

President: Kay McElveen

Vice President: Pam Younger

President Elect: April Rippel

Past President: Sarah Puckett

Treasurer: Claire Huebinger

Secretary: Kathleen Smith

Education Director: William Nodine

Volunteer Director: Beth Smith

Membership Director: Bjorn Johnson

Communications Director: Ingrid Wilgen

Non-voting appointed directors:

2025 TMGA Directors-2 (one-year term):

David Koepf

Alternate: Robin Rieder

2nd year of 2024/2025 TMGA Directors-2 (two-year term):

April Rippel

Alternate: Tim Steel

GCMG Speakers Bureau: William Nodine

Membership Corner

January 2025 Membership Information

Please note that the information on this page always runs behind due to the way hours are calculated. These numbers are from December because hours can not be tabulated until the first day of the month. For example: December was tabulated on January 1st and January will be tabulated on February 1st. This gives everyone time to get their information submitted to VMS.

Recognition winner-Karen Koepp

Door Prize winner-Millie Glasgow

2024 VMS Member Reporting Summary						
Month	Reporting	+5 Member	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Total
Jan	50	32	930	91	0	1021
Feb	64	38	1011.7	93.5	136	1105.2
Mar	63	44	1216.05	178.4	299	1394.45
Apr	73	54	1301.2	88.35	298	1389.55
May	70	45	1008.9	153.9	119	1162.8
Jun	52	30	817.75	39	140	856.75
Jul	70	47	1015.65	86.7	15	1102.35
Aug	64	36	1048.5	688.35	163	1736.85
Sep	57	40	913.85	139.5	248	1053.35
Oct	86	68	1741	127.35	474	1868.35
Nov	56	36	719.2	71.8	91	791
Dec	40	25	493.25	49.25	29	542.5
2024 Total			14727.7	1612.8	1983	13481.65
2023 Total			14756.5	1709.15	1422	16465.65
2022 Total			10730.85	1377.75	2731	12108.6

Members who volunteered 5+ hours in December

Rodney Burton	Ginney Fox	Kathy Johnson	Kay Mcelveen
Kim Cameron	Joyce Fox	Janice Knobles	Kieth Mott
Paul Carter	Maraa Gil-Juarez	David Koep	William Nodine
Kay Cover	Beth Henry	Karen Koep	Dale Odvody
Bob Cox	Claire Huebinger	Melinda Lucas	Anne Ottenad
Brenda Dominguez	Janice Jadwin	Pam Malone	Tim Steele
Pam Younger			

Membership Corner

2024 100 Hour Club

Don Albrecht	Brenda Dominguez	Keith Mott
Mark Bollinger	Karen Koepf	Annette Smith
Kim Cameron	Constance Meade	Kathleen Smith
Kay Cover	Caroline Moody	Ingrid Wilgen

2024 200 Hour Club

Rodney Burton	Claire Huebinger	Sarah Puckett
Paul Carter	Janice Knobles	Wendy Salazar
Maria Dykes	Kay Mcelveen	Carol Suchan
Beth Henry	Anne Ottenad	Ernestine Sykes

2024 300 Hour Club

Benna Hunter	Denise Leverich	Ann Odvody	Paul Prince
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2024 400 Hour Club

Melinda Lucas	Pam Malone	Pam Younger
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2024 500 Hour Club

David Koepf	Tim Steele
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2024 600 Hour Club

April Rippel

2024 800 Hour Club

Dale Odvody

2024 1000 Hour Club

William Nodine

Please log all of your hours before the last day of the month in order for them to be counted properly.

Membership Corner

Volunteer Hours and Years of Service Awards



Monthly Meeting

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION



TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
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Guadalupe County

Thursday

February 20th, 2025

presented by Andy Blair, Urban Biologist

For The Love Of Flies

Praise for Forgotten Pollinators

210 East Live Oak St, Seguin Texas

5:45 PM Social Time & Food

6:15 PM Business Meeting

7:00 PM Presentation

8:00 PM Door Prizes

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the program should contact the County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program or event to request mobility, hearing, visual or other assistance



Ask the Master Gardeners.

Clara Mae Marcotte and Ernestine Sykes are the Ask A Master Gardener GCMGs with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension. If you have a Gardening question, please feel free to text or email the Master Gardeners: Text: 210-544-0756 or email: GCMGTX@gmail.com

Q: When is a good time to put in my spring garden?

A: I think you are really asking when the last freeze will be. Plantmaps.com says the last freeze for Seguin is February 21-29. Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac says around March 16. My plant diary lists last year's final freeze as February 18. Remember that green beans, peppers, squash and tomatoes are frost sensitive, so it is better to wait before planting. Or, if you have a small area, plant in gallon pots, place in a wagon, and pull them into the garage every night until all danger of frost passes. You can also buy transplants from the nursery rather than planting from seed. Enjoy all those cold tolerant herbs such as chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, and thyme. You can also still plant cool-season vegetables before it gets too late.

Cool season annuals can be planted now. It looks like my snapdragons made it through this last 26 degree night so they should be all right. Other cool season annuals are alyssum, calendulas, dianthus, Johnny-jump-ups, kale, larkspur, pansy, poppy, stock, sweet peas, and violas. You should also soon be able to buy six packs of bluebonnets.

Q: We just bought this house and want to know when to prune the rose bushes.

A: Welsh suggests pruning roses heavily each year two to three weeks before spring growth begins. February 14 is the date he and many others use as an easy date to remember. For hybrid roses prune each bush back to a height of 18 to 24 inches. Leave 4 to 6 main stems facing outward so the bush looks like a vase or inside out umbrella. Then prune to maintain health by removing old blooms, pruning off bad parts, and pulling off damaged leaves. For a complete pruning lesson go to aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/landscape/proper-pruning-techniques.

Q: Is it an old-wives'-tale to water your plants before a freeze? Somehow it seems counter-intuitive.

A: It is true. Extension horticulture specialist Lisa Whittlesey says that making sure your plants are well watered can be a great protection from light frost damage. This is particularly important if you are in a drought. She says that drought-stressed plants are more susceptible to cold damage, so watering plants a few days in advance of a cold snap is beneficial. She adds that watering just before the freeze can help by creating warmth; the water loses its heat slowly over the hours into the colder temperatures.

FYI: Continue providing water for our birds, squirrels, and other outdoor animals. Fertilize trees, shrubs, and vines this month. Resist removing the frozen back plant material until at least late February so that birds and wildlife can use it for cover.

Check us out on

facebook

GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

We added 15 new members. They want to learn about watering needs of plants, when to plant, what to plant, and care of garden tools.

Our top contributors were April Rippel, Beth Smith, and A.R. Lania.

What To Plant In February

Spinach, Turnips.

Late February - Cabbage, Carrots, Collards, Kale, Kohlrabi, Onions, and Radishes

How To Care For Garden Tools:

- **Clean Garden Tools**
 - Scrub tools with a wire brush to get dirt off.
 - Dip tools in a diluted bleach solution.
 - Use turpentine if tools are covered in sap.
 - Use vinegar to soak tools coated in rust.
 - Use linseed oil to lightly rub wooden handles.
- **Sharpen Garden Tools**

Occasionally sharpen hoes, shovels, knives, loppers, scissors, and pruners.
Wipe blades down with WD-40 or another lubricant.
File at a 20 to 45 degree angle; for most tools, follow the original bevel.
Most blades can be filed with a 10" flat mill file for tools that need a finer edge (shears or pruners) use a whetstone to finish the edge.
- **Storing Garden Tools**

Store tools in a dry ventilated place such as a shed.
Hand tools can be stored in a pot filled with sand that has been soaked in motor oil.
Use a 5 gallon bucket filled with sand that has been soaked in motor oil for larger tools.
This helps keep the metal well conditioned.

Thank you to all who contribute. Please continue to send your garden photos, garden hacks and questions. You are all appreciated.
We learn from each other.

Enjoy your gardens.
Take care,

Kathy Adams

The Wandering Gardeners

South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center Corpus Christi, TX

By: Melinda J Lucas

There are many overlooked botanical gardens in Texas. One is a small tucked away gem, located on South Staples Drive, in Corpus Christi. The South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center also known as STXBOT (<https://stxbot.org/>) is a very peaceful and beautiful garden to explore. The admission is low and if you are a SABOT (San Antonio Botanical Gardens) member, it is a reciprocal garden an entry is free of charge.

Due to the coastal area, and sandy soil, the garden is loaded with plumeria, orchids, roses and an array of other tropical flowers that struggle in the Seguin and San Antonio areas.

The nature center includes wildlife, fauna and water displays that are unique and picturesque. There is a nature walk that takes you through the wetlands to see alligators and many variety of birds and plants. There are also reptile displays, tortoises, a butterfly garden and display, play areas and recreation areas for children and those who get tired of waiting for their spouses to take endless pictures, or try to identify plants that they are not familiar with.

I urge you to visit the next time you are in Corpus Christi. You won't be disappointed.



The Wandering Gardeners



If you would like to have your wandering gardener experience published, please email your favorite 7 pictures and 3 short paragraphs to Melinda Lucas at MelLucas78218@gmail.com by the 20th of the month.

NPSOT

The Guadalupe Chapter of the Native Plant Society

will hold its monthly meeting

Tuesday February 11th at 7:00 p.m.



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



Via Zoom

**Ricky Linx from Weatherford, TX
will tell the story,**

**"In Search of a perfect Red - How the Insect
Cochineal and the Prickly Pear Cactus Forged a
Dyeing Industry that Lasted for Centuries."**

**Plant/seed exchange at 6:30 p.m.
followed by the program at 7:00 p.m.**

**For more information, directions to St. John Lutheran Church,
and membership application see our website and link to
our Facebook page at: <https://npsot.org/chapters/guadalupe/>**

Meetings are free and open to the public

Continuing Education

GCMG Lunch & Learn 2025 Monthly 2nd Wednesday 12:00 to 1:00pm

Sponsored By **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Wed 12 Feb 25 AgriLife Building - 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Program: **Composting/Admin: Jamie Nielson**
Guest Speaker: **Peter Hernandez, Advanced Master Gardener**



Join Peter in this exciting and rewarding practice to transform food scraps and yard waste into a rich, dark, soil-like material. It enriches the soil, helps retain moisture, suppresses plant diseases, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Plus, it's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint! Step-by-step instructions on choosing the right composting method for your space, whether it's a compost pile, bin, or tumbler. A small snack and water will be provided. Let's make the world greener, one compost pile at a time! Free seminar and open to the public

Wed 12 Mar 25 AgriLife Building - 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Program: **Spring Gardening/Admin: Jamie Nielson**
Guest Speaker: **William Nodine – Advance Master Gardener**



Join us for an exciting journey into the world of vegetable gardening! This class is perfect for both beginners and experienced gardeners looking to enhance their skills. We'll cover everything from selecting the best site for your garden, preparing the soil, and starting seeds, to fertilization, watering, pest control, and harvesting. You'll learn practical techniques to grow a variety of healthy, delicious vegetables right in your backyard. This class aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to create a thriving vegetable garden, from planning and planting to maintaining and harvesting. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small snack and water will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.

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Continuing Education

Wed 09 Apr 25

AgriLife Building - 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155



12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Program: Growing Herbs in Texas

Guest Speaker: April Rippel, Advance Master Gardener, Join April as she delves into the world of herb gardening. Unlock the secret to a flourishing herb garden! This class covers everything you need to cultivate a variety of herbs, from basil to rosemary. This class is perfect for both beginners and experienced gardeners looking to enhance their skills. You'll learn practical techniques to grow a variety of healthy, delicious herbs right in your backyard. By the end of this class, you'll have a thriving herb garden and the knowledge to keep it growing year-round, providing you with fresh herbs for culinary, medicinal, and aromatic uses. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small snack and water will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.



Wed 14 May 25

AgriLife Building - 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155



12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m. Program: Growing Wildflowers/Admin: Jamie Nielson

Guest Speaker: Karen Brkich, Advanced Master Gardener, Join Karen and discover the joy of cultivating wildflowers and transform your garden into a vibrant haven for pollinators and wildlife. Learn how to preserve the wildflowers and native plants that define the regions of our land-to encourage and promote their use in appropriate areas. Learn how to plant wildflowers, their varieties, site selection and preparation, planting seeds, and their maintenance and watering. Join us and be part of a growing community dedicated to preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable gardening practices. Let's grow wild for wildflowers together! Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small snack and water will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.



Wed 11 Jun 25

AgriLife Building - 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin, Tx 78155



12:00/1:00pm

Program: Visual Presentation Top 10 Veggie Pests/Admin: Jamie Nielson

Hosted by: William Nodine/Narrator: Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown Are you a gardening enthusiast or a vegetable grower looking to protect your crops? Join us for an engaging visual presentation on the Top 10 Veggie Pests! Learn from our expert entomologist about the most common pests that threaten your vegetable garden, including the Cabbage Looper, Corn Earworm, Cucumber Beetle, Hornworm, Imported Cabbageworm, and Squash Bug. Discover effective control tactics, from cultural and mechanical methods to biological and chemical controls, to keep your veggies healthy and thriving. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and tips to safeguard your garden! Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public □



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TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
MASTER OF GARDENING

Continuing Education

Seguin Public Library 2025 Monthly 2nd Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sponsored By **Guadalupe County Master Gardeners**
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Sat 08 Feb 25

12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155

Program: *Growing Herbs in Texas*/Admin: *Linda Truax*

Guest Speaker: April Rippel Join Advanced Master Gardener April Rippel as she delves into the world of herb gardening. This class is perfect for both beginners and experienced gardeners looking to enhance their skills. You'll learn practical techniques to grow a variety of healthy, delicious herbs right in your backyard. By the end of this class, you'll have a thriving herb garden and the knowledge to keep it growing year-round, providing you with fresh herbs for culinary, medicinal, and aromatic uses. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public



Registration Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1217168647189?aff=oddtcreator>

Sat 08 Mar 25

12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m.

Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155

Program: *Spring Gardening*/Admin: *Linda Truax*

Guest Speaker: Karen Brkich, Advanced Master Gardener, Join us for an exciting journey into the world of vegetable gardening! This class is perfect for both beginners and experienced gardeners looking to enhance their skills. We'll cover everything from selecting the best site for your garden, preparing the soil, and starting seeds, to fertilization, watering, pest control, and harvesting. You'll learn practical techniques to grow a variety of healthy, delicious vegetables right in your backyard. This class aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to create a thriving vegetable garden, from planning and planting to maintaining and harvesting. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.



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TEXAS A&M
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TEXAS
MASTER GARDENERS

Continuing Education

Sat 12 Apr 25

Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155

12:00 p.m. -1:30 pm

Program: Visual Presentation Top 10 Veggie Pests/Admin: Linda Trua

Hosted by: William Nodine/Narrator: Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown Are you a gardening enthusiast or a vegetable grower looking to protect your crops? Join us for an engaging visual presentation on the Top 10 Veggie Pests! Learn from our expert entomologist about the most common pests that threaten your vegetable garden, including the Cabbage Looper, Corn Earworm, Cucumber Beetle, Hornworm, Imported Cabbageworm, and Squash Bug. Discover effective control tactics, from cultural and mechanical methods to biological and chemical controls, to keep your veggies healthy and thriving. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and tips to safeguard your garden! Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.



Sat 10 May 25

Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155

11:30/ p.m. -1:00 p.m.

Program: Hydroponics/Admin: Brenda Smith

Guest Speaker: Beth Smith, Advanced Master Gardener, Welcome to Hydroponics 101! *This course is perfect for anyone new to hydroponics or those who want to explore soilless gardening. Led by experienced hydroponic gardeners, you'll learn the fundamentals of growing plants without soil, including setting up your own hydroponic system, selecting the right components, and maintaining optimal growing conditions. This class is suitable for beginners interested in starting their own hydroponic garden, as well as professionals looking to expand their knowledge and skills in hydroponic farming. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.*



Sat 14 Jun 25

Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155

12:00 p.m. —1:00 p.m.

Program: Growing Wildflowers/Admin: Linda Truax

Guest Speaker: Karen Brkich, Advanced Master Gardener, Join Karen and discover the joy of cultivating wildflowers and transform your garden into a vibrant haven for pollinators and wildlife. Learn how to preserve the wildflowers and native plants that define the regions of our land-to encourage and promote their use in appropriate areas. Learn how to plant wildflowers, their varieties, site selection and preparation, planting seeds, and their maintenance and watering. Join us and be part of a growing community dedicated to preserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable gardening practices. Let's grow wild for wildflowers together! Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small snack and water will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.



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MASTER OF GARDENERS

Continuing Education

Schertz Public Library Schedule 2025 Monthly 2nd Saturday 11:30 to 1:00pm

Sponsored By Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

Sat 08 Feb 25

Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. Program: **Spring Gardening/Admin:**

Guest Speaker: William Nodine – Advance Master Gardener *Join us for an exciting journey into the world of vegetable gardening! This class is perfect for both beginners and experienced gardeners looking to enhance their skills. We'll cover everything from selecting the best site for your garden, preparing the soil, and starting seeds, to fertilization, watering, pest control, and harvesting. You'll learn practical techniques to grow a variety of healthy, delicious vegetables right in your backyard. This class aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to create a thriving vegetable garden, from planning and planting to maintaining and harvesting. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.*



Registration Link: <https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887678&ShowLinkedPKs=Y>

Sat 08 Mar 25

Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154

11:30 p.m. = 1:00 p.m. Program: **Canning Basics/Admin:**

Guest Speaker: April Rippel, Advanced Master Gardener, *Join us for an exciting journey into the world of canning, where you'll learn the art and science of preserving fruits, vegetables, and more. Whether you're a budding food preservationist or simply looking for a fun and educational activity, our Beginners Canning Class is the perfect place to start! This class is designed for those new to the world of canning and food preservation. You'll learn the basics of water bath canning, ensuring you can safely preserve a variety of foods at home. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to master the art of home canning. Spaces are limited, so be sure to register early! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.*



Registration Link <https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887679&ShowLinkedPKs=Y>

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Continuing Education

Sat 12 Apr 25 Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154

11:30/1:00pm Program: **Composting**

Guest Speaker: Peter Hernandez, Guest Speaker: Peter Hernandez,



Join Advanced Master Gardener Peter Hernandez in this exciting and rewarding practice to transform food scraps and yard waste into a rich, dark, soil-like material. It enriches the soil, helps retain moisture, suppresses plant diseases, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Plus, it's a great way to reduce your carbon footprint! Step-by-step instructions on choosing the right composting method for your space, whether it's a compost pile, bin, or tumbler. A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Let's make the world greener, one compost pile at a time! Free seminar and open to the public

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Registration Link: [https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?](https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887680&ShowLinkedPKs=Y)

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Sat 10 May 25 Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154

11:30/1:00pm Program: **Visual Presentation Top 10 Veggie Pests**

Hosted By; William Nodine/Narrator: Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown



Are you a gardening enthusiast or a vegetable grower looking to protect your crops? Join us for an engaging visual presentation on the Top 10 Veggie Pests! Learn from our expert entomologist about the most common pests that threaten your vegetable garden, including the Cabbage Looper, Corn Earworm, Cucumber Beetle, Hornworm, Imported Cabbageworm, and Squash Bug. Discover effective control tactics, from cultural and mechanical methods to biological and chemical controls, to keep your veggies healthy and thriving. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and tips to safeguard your garden! Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public □□

Registration Link: [https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?](https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887681&ShowLinkedPKs=Y)

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Continuing Education

Sat 07 Jun 25

Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154

11:30 p.m.- 1:00 p.m. Program: Hydroponics/Admin: Brenda Smith

Guest Speaker: Beth Smith, Advanced Master Gardener, Welcome to Hydroponics 101! This course is perfect for anyone new to hydroponics or those who want to explore soilless gardening. Led by experienced hydroponic gardeners, you'll learn the fundamentals of growing plants without soil, including setting up your own hydroponic system, selecting the right components, and maintaining optimal growing conditions. This class is suitable for beginners interested in starting their own hydroponic garden, as well as professionals looking to expand their knowledge and skills in hydroponic farming. Let's get those green thumbs ready! A small brown bag lunch (fruits, nuts, snack, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public.



Registration Link: <https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887682&ShowLinkedPKs=Y>

Upcoming Advanced Training Offerings

[Junior Master Gardener® – February 18 & 19, 2025](#) Virtual

[Trees and Tree Care](#) – March 27-29, 2025 Hosted by Tarrant County (in person)

[Plant Propagation – May 8-10, 2025](#) Hosted by Tarrant County (in person)



Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the program should contact the County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program or event to request mobility, hearing, visual or other assistance.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER

Continuing Education

Sold out, however, there is a wait list



Spring Gardening Seminar 2025

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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



Diversity in the Texas Garden

All Gardeners Welcome!

Presented by Comal Master Gardeners and Texas A&M Agrilife Extension Service
Cost: \$70 includes Lunch, Snacks & Door Prizes. Vendors on site.

Presentations:

Kathleen Scott, *Creating a Wildlife Habitat Garden*

Felder Rushing, *Slow Gardening*

Jay White, *Saving the World with Homegrown Bouquets*

Skip Richter, *Container Gardening*

Registration is online on the Comal Master Gardener Websites
REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED November 11, 2024 through February 18, 2025

comalmg.org
6 CE for TX Master Gardeners

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/comalmastergardeners1/1421861>

Continuing Education

Please check out the following websites for Continuing Education opportunities:

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin TX <https://www.wildflower.org/events/2025-02/>
- Plant Party 9: Planting a Seed worth 1.5 hrs https://youtu.be/DFi7_JZUzoY
- Plant Party 12: Plant ID worth 1.5 hrs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrfxJT8mWbs>
- The Natural Gardener, 8646 Old Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX <https://tngaustin.com/classes/202502>
- 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 <https://bexarmg.org/events/2025-02/>

Extension programs educate Texans in the areas of agriculture, environmental stewardship, health and wellness, youth and adult life skills, human capital and leadership, and community economic development and offers the knowledge resources of the land-grant university system to educate Guadalupe County residents for self-improvement, individual action and community problem solving. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension is a statewide educational agency and a member of the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS), linked in a unique partnership with the nationwide Cooperative Extension System and Texas county governments. The following videos are for your viewing and completion of CE Hours.

Home Garden Series: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S5BK_6TGI_LYle3_XUiPjzz

Horticulture & Gardening Webinar Series with David Rodriguez:

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

Entomology Webinar Series with Molly Keck:

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

Special Volunteer Opportunities



Seed Exchange Update for January 2025:

Our seed inventory has been changing so frequently we have suspended trying to track the counts, but don't fret we still have a large supply of heritage and ornamental plant seeds available. We have a fair amount of organic and also some various hybrid varieties (commercially packaged seeds). We added several new varieties thanks to recent donations (although they are not currently on the published list below). Please feel free to come and browse through our inventory and take some seeds home to germinate. We would love for you to share your seed success with us both now and in the future, but that is up to you!

We welcome all seed donations, no need to wait or package them yourself. Feel free to drop them off in bulk during our normal hours or in the AgriLife office downstairs, just let them know they are for the MG Seed Exchange and be sure to give us the details on the seeds: *labeled with your name and the variety name (common name & Latin if you know it), the month & year they were harvested, if there is a specific color, and if the seed is rare or an heirloom.* We will divide them up, package & label them for distribution with all the details you provided.

Current Hours are: Wednesdays, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in the upstairs Master Gardener research library/office of the AgriLife building in Seguin*. Text us if you have questions or want to volunteer to help! Volunteers are always welcome. Want to come pick up or drop off some seeds but can't make it during the normal hours, let us know and we can work something out.

Check out our webpage: [Seed Exchange Project page](#).

Your seed exchange POCs: David & Karen Koepp – dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com , kkoepbnb@gmail.com , or call/text 210-263-3624, Ernestine Sykes – ejson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756

*Excluding holidays that fall on Wednesday's and potentially other occasions. We will post what days we will be closed on the Seed Exchange project page and/or home page in advance when possible.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. The Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating.

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Volunteer Opportunities

Please note:

There have been a few changes to projects in VMS for our Demonstration Gardens that produce food. Specifically, these gardens have been divided into two categories: one for Education and one for Food Distribution. If you work at one of these demonstration gardens, when entering hours in VMS, please select the appropriate project based on what you did at the garden. For example, if you worked at the Big Red Barn giving school tours, select "Big Red Barn - school tours." If you work at the Guadalupe Demonstration Garden and are harvesting, etc., select the project that indicates maintenance/harvesting.

Since our primary mission is horticulture education, TMGA would like to see this delineation. As a reminder, please post your hours at least weekly!! Let me know if you have any questions! You can email me at: dleverich965@gmail.com.

Denise Leverich
MS Administrator
Membership Director



Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG Approved Gardens, Parks, and Projects for 2025 (edited 01/01/25)

Outdoor Projects/Gardens/Parks:

1. Big Red Barn Garden
390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX
POC: Janice Knobles (jmknobles@yahoo.com)
Text: 210-275-4402
Volunteer Day: Fridays

2. Christian Cupboard Garden
516 N. Camp, Seguin, TX
POC: Kay McElveen (hkaymcelveen@gmail.com)

3. Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden
1101 Elbel St., Schertz, TX
POC: Ann Odvody (odvodyd@swbell.net)
Volunteer Day: Tues or Fri- 0800 to 1100

4. Gutierrez Garden Park
1231 Borgfeld Rd., Schertz, TX
POC: Caroline Moody
(carolinemoody58@gmail.com)
Volunteer Day: Thurs & Sat 0830 to 1030 a.m.

5. LaVernia Primary School Gardens
249 FM 1346 S., LaVernia TX
POC: Kay Cover (doncover6969@yahoo.com)
Colleen Collier (colleen1631@gmail.com)

6. Marion Veteran's Memorial Park
100 W. Huebinger St., Marion, TX
POC: Carol Suchan (ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com)
Text: 210-870-4880
Anne Ottenad (ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com)
Volunteer Day: Mon 8-10 a.m.

7. Mill Street Community Garden
1447 West Mill St., New Braunfels, TX 78130
POC: Benna Hunter (bennahunter@gmail.com;
Text: 270-860-2246
Kathleen Smith (kathleensmith1214@gmail.com)
Volunteer Day: 2nd Saturday of the month.

8. Park West Pollinator/Waterwise Garden
600 N. Vaughn St., Seguin, TX
POC: Liz Romero (fleurromero@gmail.com)

9. Polley Mansion Heritage Garden
11432 FM 539, La Vernia, TX
POC: Robin Muschalek (forcexxi@yahoo.com)
Keith Muschalek (keith.muschalek@gmail.com)

10. St. Andrew's Park
Corner of S. Crockett & Nolte St., Seguin, TX
POC: Ernestine Sykes (ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

11. Seguin Irma Lewis Outdoor Lrng Center
1865 East US Hwy 90
Seguin, TX 78155
POC: Wendy Salazar (fredandwendy@yahoo.com)

Other Projects:

12. Big Red Barn Kiosk
390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX
POC: Ernestine Sykes (ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

13. GCMG Video Team
POC: Paul Prince (phrogtoo@yahoo.com)
Text: 559-259-4317

14. GCMG Communications/Advertising Team
POC: Ingrid Wilgen
(essentiallyingrid@gmail.com)
Text: 210-214-0787

15. GCMG Library/Seed Exchange
210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin, TX
POC: Ernestine Sykes (ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)
David Koepp (dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) &
Karen Koepp (kkoeppnb@gmail.com)
Volunteer Day: Wed.2-4 pm

Volunteer Opportunities

Other Projects (cont):

16. GCMG Monthly Meeting-Refreshments

POC: Karen Carrell (carrell1708@msn.com)

17. GROW Team

POC: Pam Malone (ptmalone@live.com)

18. Plant Sales – GC locations, Spring & Fall

POC: Paul Carter (<mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com>) and

Tim Steele (<mailto:tlscowboys@hotmail.com>)

19. Christmas Tree Project (Nov./Dec.) 210 E. Live Oak St., Downtown

Seguin POC: Kayla Murray (830-386-9664) (misskaylamurray@gmail.com)

20. GC Fair MG Booth (2nd weekend Oct.) 950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX

Seguin Fairgrounds Coliseum POC: Vacant for 2025

21. GC Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth

(2nd weekend in Oct.) – Fairgrounds Coliseum

950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX

POC: Pam Younger (pamyounger54@gmail.com)

22. GCMG Independence Day Parade Float Seguin, TX

POC: Vacant for 2025

23. GCMG Socials Event Coordinator – Summer –

POC: April Rippel (adripping@gmail.com)

Winter – POC: Beth Smith (basmith5518@gmail.com)

24. Kingsbury Fall Festival in Kingsbury- NOV

POC: Sharon Cooper (rscooper3707@gmail.com)

25. MG Information Booth/*Ask a Master Gardener*

POC: April Rippel (adripping@gmail.com)

26. Seguin Pecan Festival - Downtown Seguin

POC: Kay McElveen (hkaymcelveen@gmail.com)

27. Yulefest (1st Sun. in Dec.)

GC Coliseum, Seguin, TX

POC: April Rippel (adripping@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.

Mondays

Marion Veterans Community Garden, located at 100 W Huebinger St., Marion. Mondays 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Contact Carol Suchan at 210-870-4880, or at ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com or Anne Ottenad at 210-860-3636 or 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.



Wednesdays

- MG Office/Library/Seed Exchange, 210 E. Live Oak, Seguin. Wednesdays 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.

- St Andrew's Community Garden, located at the corner of Nolte and Crocket Street, Seguin. 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.

Tuesdays & Fridays

Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden, 1101 Elbel Road, Schertz (located behind the County Annex Building). Time is 8:00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Check with Ann Odvody at odvodyd@swbell.net or 210-994-9664. (Always in need of help.)



Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesdays & Thursdays

Gutierrez Park 1231 Borgfeld Rd, Schertz. Times vary. Help needed with watering in the a.m. and p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays (and possibly other days). For more information or details, contact Caroline Moody at 210-710-3829 or at carolinemoody58@gmail.com.



Fridays:

Big Red Barn Gardens, 390 Cordova Road, Seguin. 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.



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 2025

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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- David & Karen Koepp, Ingrid Wilgen, Heidi Brown and Sarah Puckett

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Association Directors

Two Year Term (2024-2025) April Rippel, Alternate – Tim Steele

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Master Gardener Office/Library/Seed Exchange - Ernestine Sykes, David & Karen Koepp

Refreshment Coordinator - Karen Carrell

Kingsbury Fall Festival - Sharon Cooper

Grow Team Lead - Pam Malone

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

Yule Fest - April Rippel

Tech Team Lead - Paul Prince

2025 County Fair - **Vacant**

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Newsletter Editor - Melinda J Lucas

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Gutierrez Garden Park - Caroline Moody

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