

# MAY 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?



- **One month away from the Summer Social. Make sure that it is on your calendar!**
- **You can be a Wandering Gardener! If you have visited any beautiful garden areas and have a few photos, we'd love to hear about your adventure. You get volunteer hours and we get to learn about somewhere new. See the Wandering Gardener page for more information.**
- **Seed Exchange! Come and check it out and leave with volunteer hours, and/or seeds! If you are currently buying seeds for your garden, you could be getting them for free.**
- **Still in need volunteers to film classes and meetings. (This is not a long term commitment, just when you are available)**

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# Letter from the President

**Fellow Master Gardeners**

**I know we've all had a very busy spring! I hope you've been having as much fun as I have. The plant sales and project garden preparation have kept us all hopping (it is the Easter season ☐). So far, the plant sales have done fantastically well. Right now the gross intake is \$13,828 with an estimated net of \$12,000. By the time you read this letter we will have had our last spring plant sale, Earth Day at Seguin Central Park. The Earth Day sale has done very well in the past. Weather permitting, we should increase those numbers significantly. If we continue to do as well for the remainder of the year, it will be a record year in fundraising. This is really important because the funds are what make it possible for us to support the wide variety of projects that help us achieve our mission. This outstanding success is due entirely to your efforts. THANK YOU!!**

**We have a couple of really important upcoming events. The first is the school tours at the Big Red Barn, which we will be in the middle of when this newsletter comes out. This is a major project in our efforts at horticulture education. Besides, the kids are a hoot. Some are already extremely knowledgeable about gardening, and they ask the most interesting questions. Thanks to everyone who helps with this. I look forward to hearing some good stories.**

**The second is a little further off, time wise, it's the 4<sup>th</sup> of July float. As you know, Seguin has the BIGGEST 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade, with a LOT of floats. The GCMGs have entered a float for the last several years and won 1st place at least once. This year we were afraid we wouldn't be able to participate BUT the trainees in Class 40 have volunteered to take on the project. I'm sure they will do great and that any of you interested will offer to help. I see another 1<sup>st</sup> place prize coming up. Look forward to seeing you all there.**

**Keep up the good work and continue to "dig in the dirt"!**

**Kay McElveen**

**President, GCMG**

# Membership Corner

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report Month Ending 31 MARCH 2025

### Executive Summary

March saw a 7% increase in the number of members reporting volunteer hours. This is, however, only 64% of our membership that participated in volunteer efforts for the month. Total volunteer hours YTD are 26% of last years annual total showing an possible increase when evaluated by quarters for the 2025 year. The Membership department has been able to remain at a zero sum budgeting realization due to the acquisition of donations to support Membership Department functions and requirements.

One motion expected to be presented, if needed, regarding the name fields in VMS. Details in the Issues section below.

### Roster Totals

Certified	Intern	Honorary	LOA	Emeritus(a)
138	44	0	3	3

### **2024 VMS Member Reporting Summary**

Month	Reporting	+5 Member	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Total Hours
Jan	61	50	1038.6	125.75	275	1164.35
Feb	83	52	1188.15	159	99	1347.15
Mar	89	60	1605.88	252.25	110	1858.13
2025 Total			3832.63	537	484	4369.63
2024 Total			14727.7	1612.8	1983	13481.65
2023 Total			14756.5	1709.15	1422	16465.65

### Membership Director Budgeting

ID	Item	Vendor	Qty	Cost
1	January Gift Certificates	Maldonado's Nursery	2	\$30.00
2	Membership Card Printing	GPS	500	\$60.00
3	February Gift Certificates	Maldonado's Nursery	2	\$30.00
4	March Gift Certificates	Maldonado's Nursery	2	\$30.00
5	Various Yearly Pins	Amazon	2	\$27.25
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$177.25</b>
<b>Donations (Rcv'd)</b>				<b>(\$177.25)</b>

### Members Requiring Background Checks \*within 30 Days

Debra Alexander	Mark Bollinger	Marvin Borth
Welta Burris	Rodney Burton	Richard Cooper
Sharon Cooper	Melva Edwards	Nicole Ellis
Richard Flores	Lisa Foss	Ginny Fox
Magda Holm-Roesler	Samantha Mattke	Anne Ottenad
Carol Rios		

*\*members have been sent email notification and instructions*

# Membership Corner

## 100 Hour Club

JOHNSON, BJORN  
ODVODY, DALE  
YOUNGER, PAM  
MALONE, PAM

LUCAS, MELINDA  
PUCKETT, SARAH  
CARTER, PAUL  
MCELVEEN, KAY

NODINE, WILLIAM  
STEELE, TIM  
KOEPP, DAVID  
PRINCE, PAUL

SMITH, BRENDA

## 200 Hour Club

STEELE, TIM

## 300 Hour Club

RIPPEL, APRIL

## March 5+ Hours

ADAMS, KATHY  
BURTON, RODNEY  
CARTER, PAUL  
CHASON, ANGELA  
COLLIER, COLLEEN  
DE JESUS, SANDRA  
DYKES, MARIA  
FOWLER, LARRY  
FOX, JOYCE  
GONZALEZ, PENNY  
GUTIERREZ, CELINA  
HARD, DIANA  
HENRY, BETH  
HUEBINGER, CLAIRE  
JOHNSON, BJORN  
OXFORD, PAULA  
PRINCE, PAUL  
RIPPEL, FRANK  
SMITH, ANNETTE  
STEELE, TIM

BRAVO-GONZALEZ, DIANA  
CARRELL, KAREN  
CASSELL, EDIE  
COCKERELL, ALAN  
COVER, KAY  
DIOTTE, LESLIE  
FISHER, DAVID  
FOX, GINNY  
FRIESENHAHN, JOYCE  
GRIFFIS, JUDY  
HAAG, GREGORY  
HARMON, DOMINIQUE  
HILLMAN, SARAH  
JADWIN, JANICE  
KNEUPPER, RUTHIE  
PADGETT, ANNETTE  
PUCKETT, SARAH  
SAULS, CASEY  
SMITH, BRENDA  
SYKES, ERNESTINE

KNOBLES, JANICE  
KOEPP, DAVID  
KOEPP, KAREN  
LANDEROS, ANN  
LUCAS, MELINDA  
MAGEE, JANET  
MALONE, PAM  
MARTINEZ, DIANA  
MCCORQUODALE, LISA  
MCELVEEN, KAY  
MUSCHALEK, KEITH  
MUSCHALEK, ROBIN  
ODVODY, ANN  
ODVODY, DALE  
OTTENAD, ANNE  
PHELPS, CLAYTON  
RIPPEL, APRIL  
SIMS, JUDY  
SMITH, KATHLEEN  
YOUNGER, PAM

## Task Update

1. I created the VMS 2025 BOD project but you will have to join it yourself as VMS does not allow me to assign anyone. This will give us the ability to bulk email BOD from VMS if you want.
2. Liz Romero is officially transferred over to Emeritus status! Coley White is moved into the Certified database in VMS.
3. Post and updates to the VMS home page with this months meeting and the Summer social flyer, removed past events.
4. I am now finally able to get into the EVS program for background checks. What an issue that was.
5. I downloaded a full .csv of the EVS data and updated everyone's background check expiration in the correct box in VMS. I used the expiration date in this field so that it is easier to sort, search and identify those coming due. In order to see this field in the Roster output of VMS, you have to add the column in the options page. I have also sent an email to all members that are in need of a new BG check.
6. I went through all the 2024 interns and updated their BG check and then sent them all an email letting them know their time is almost up.
7. This is the first report generated by AI. I built a machine learning program to take all the data from the VMS and EVS websites and correlate it into this report.


# Membership Corner

## Todo Update

1. Full audit of the Extension Volunteer Agreement and disseminate the new version for those who need to re-sign. The new agreement has the required volunteer and educational hours changed to the required 20/10. The past method of tracking this was not very useful to easily determine who was coming due for a re-sign. I will be updating the record keeping organization of this to a better system. VMS does not have a field to track this so at a bare minimum this might become a spread sheet or a filing system by month in the binder to see who will have to update each month at the Membership Meeting.
2. Continue building out Membership Director reporting program to optimize the monthly report, calculate out statistics, concatenate EVS and VMS data, build the data set for annual reporting requirements, and track expenditures and donations to create the Membership Budget each year
3. Edit Membership Director Report for submission to the Newsletter
4. Submit the RSVP report for concerned members
5. Order membership nametags, make certificates and membership cards once a clear expectation of which interns will be certifying in June. Deadline for all hours and requirements will be 01JUN2025 so that there is time to get all orders received and items created.
6. Continue auditing and cleaning VMS fields and entries, i.e. the administrative notes field.

## Issues

1. VMS and EVS names do not match as EVS requires legal names and we have allowed members to put nicknames and such into VMS
2. This causes a lot of trouble when trying to compare background check status against the VMS roster, both manually and automatically. It has required me to have to double verify through address and such that the EVS is actually corresponding to the VMS listed member, which slowed the background check audit down greatly. It also not keeping with good data entry requirements and accountability standards of the State of Texas. Though I have not been able to find the requirement in the TXMG literature, as the Membership Director I will always resort to industry best practices.
3. My solution is to require members to update their VMS information with their 'legal name' as was used in EVS. Nicknames/preferred names can be put into the first name block after the legal first name and in quotes. In example:

Hours	User Id	Last Name	First Name	City
	 13920	Bollinger	Mark "Bo"	Schertz

4. The PPM assigns administration of VMS to the Membership Director without any details on how this is to be done, but if this requires a motion I so move, if not, then I will send out an email to all members and interns to make the corrections.



# Membership Corner

Diana Martinez, Ruthie Kneupper and Casey Saul from class 40 helped Ginny Fox and Anne Ottenad spread donated mulch at Marion Veterans Park.



Photos provided by  
Diana Martinez



# Membership Corner

## April Meeting



Photos provided  
by Ingrid Wilkins

# Membership Corner

## Plant Sale at Polley Mansion

A big thanks to everyone who made all of the plant sales a great success.



Photos taken by  
Melinda Lucas

# Membership Corner

## Spring has Sprung!! Update from Guadalupe Master Gardener Class #40 Covering Lectures from March 25, April 1, 8, 15, & 20

By Lisa Ancelet

Spring as a Guadalupe County Master Gardener Intern has been a fun-filled time of learning about everything from growing Texas Natives to Hydroponics. The first lecture of the March 25th class was all about how to grow herbs from our own April Rippel. She shared her knowledge of growing herbs including a short history of herbs, those that grow best in our area, and she covered various uses both medicinally and in our favorite recipes. MG Dr. Bjorn Johnson introduced the class to production gardening which is a detailed planning guide/strategy in order to maximize output and gave us information about how to transfer this to our own gardens. MG Marvin Borth shared his expertise in container gardening and how to have success using this method, especially if you have limited growing space.

April 1st brought sessions covering [Texas Superstars](#), Texas Natives and Pollinators and this class was no April Fools! It was one of the best classes because it was timely in my own journey of developing a Wildlife Management Plan for our property. I was able to include the native varieties of plants we learned about in class to the plan I was writing in order to provide a good habitat for Neotropical songbirds and to attract pollinators. I had no idea that Yucca provides habitat for the Yucca Moth and a cactus is home to the Cactus Wren; just a couple of the things we learned about in this session. Texas Superstars are plants that are “attractive, useful to the gardening public, unique; offer desirable and ornamental characteristics, and consistently perform well for most Texas consumers regardless of gardening expertise and growing locations.”

The April 8th class covered growing fruit and ornamental trees. Our guest speaker was Mark Fanick. His knowledge of trees was impressive. He covered the selection and care of fruit trees that do well in Guadalupe County and Zone 9. He gave us a history of his family nursery, Fanicks, and how his grandfather started the business and how he selected only the fruit tree varieties that met his high standards. Also, from this session I was able to identify a list of ornamental tree options for attracting pollinators and birds such as the Anaqua,, Mexican Buckeye, Desert Willow, Guajillo and the Cherry Laurel among others.

Last but not least, the last two classes covered include water harvesting, rainwater collection systems (April 15) and growing using hydroponic methods (April 20.) Using drip irrigation systems and rainwater collection can save money in the long run. Our speakers were very knowledgeable about methods of rainwater harvesting, gave us a hands on lesson of building a rainwater collection system and two types of wicking systems. Three of our classmates were lucky enough to go home with the systems we built in class! The guest speakers who are rain harvesting consultants (aka the [RainBees.com](#))

# Membership Corner

will also provide a site analysis at no cost if you are interested in an adding rainwater collection system to your home. MG Dr. Beth Smith gave us a great introduction to Hydroponics which prepared us for the field trip to a working hydroponic farm. What an awesome experience! Hydroponics is the “process of growing plants in sand, gravel or liquid, with added nutrients, but without soil. Dr. Beth gave us a history of growing using Hydroponics, covered the advantages and disadvantages of using this method along with her best recommendations for using the hydroponic method of growing based on her experiences learning by doing. The field trip to Trinity Ranch was so much fun and educational. Trinity Ranch was founded in 2018 by Dawn and Brady Stanley and Dawn’s father Bill Hayes as a DIY project. The Stanley’s shared their story and knowledge with our class in addition to some of their produce. They mostly grow lettuce and herbs for four school districts, local restaurants, food co-ops and can also be found at the [Pearl Farmers Market](#) every Saturday.

The month of April also gave MG Interns a chance to volunteer at the plant sale at the Polley Mansion aka Whitehall on April 5th. This was such an awesome day that included a tour of the mansion and the story of how the current owners Robin and Keith Muschalek have built a community around the restoration of this historical monument.

Overall this has been a spring filled with learning, gardening and community. To all of the guest speakers, Master Gardeners, and hosts, Thank you!! Class #40 is grateful for all of the coordination done in order to make our class experience valuable and fun!



## Membership Corner



# SUMMER SOCIAL

STUDENT GRADUATION

SATURDAY, JUNE 21st 5-7 PM

SEGUIN BREWING COMPANY  
111 WEST GONZALES STREET  
SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155

KITCHEN & FULL BAR OPEN JUST FOR US.  
ORDER YOUR DINNER & DRINKS FROM THEIR  
MENU WHEN YOU ARRIVE.

*BAND STARTS AT 7:00*

*STAY FOR FUN*

# Monthly Meeting

MASTER GARDENER  
MONTHLY MEETING

## *Growing Summer Color*

**With Mark Fanick**

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**THURSDAY, MAY 15**

**210 E LIVEOAK IN SEGUIN**

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**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**5:45 - SOCIAL W/ FOOD**

**6:15 - BUSINESS MEETING**

**7:00 - PRESENTATION**



Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity employer and program provider. The Texas A&M University system, US Dept. of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court Cooperating. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the program should contact the Co 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](mailto:GCMGTX@gmail.com)

**Q: As I drive around town, I notice other people's potted plumaria are blooming. None of mine are. Why?**

**A:** The first thing you need to check is whether your plants are in full sun. Blooming plants must have full sunlight at least six hours a day, according to extension horticulturist Doug Welsh. Container plants can easily be moved into the sun. Plants in the ground must be transplanted otherwise you will only have foliage. Once your plant is in a good spot, then you can fertilize it every two or three weeks. A friend of mine swears that her plumaria fertilizer is the best with its formulation of 5-30-5 (nitrogen, phosphate, potash). And it must work since hers are in full sun and are blooming!

**Q: I understand that coffee will become more expensive since it is imported. Does our local area have a coffee substitute that we can grow?**

**A:** We have our own native *Ilex vomitoria* or Yaupon Holly. Wildflower.org lists the plant as native from southern Virginia, south to Florida, and west to southeast Oklahoma and central Texas. This small tree usually grows about 12 to 25 feet high although it can grow to 45. It has red berries and small dark evergreen leaves and can grow in a variety of conditions.

Leaves and twigs of Yaupon contain caffeine although 30 percent less than coffee according to Ashley Stonecipher, a Horticulture Agent who got her degrees from the University of Florida. The leaves also provide a dose of theophylline and theobromine which she says provides an energy that will not cause jitteriness and caffeine crash. Leaves and stems should be lightly washed, then dehydrated by air or sun drying. This produces a tea similar to green tea. If, however, these leaves are lightly roasted over a hot pan or in the oven, then a different earthier beverage will result. (She equates earthier with malt and toasted coffee.) I actually had a cup of a yaupon beverage at a Native Plant event several years ago. It was certainly not like my favorite coffee, but would do if I were really craving caffeine.

I will mention that *Ilex vomitoria* got its name because American indigenous groups drank this tea ceremonially in great quantities and then vomited it back up. Wildflower.org notes that the vomiting was self-induced or because of other ingredients added. The tea does not actually cause vomiting. Another holly drink, from yerba mate (*Ilex paraguariensis*), which also has caffeine, prompted a warning by the Mayo Clinic. If you drink one to two liters a day, there could be a higher risk of cancer of the mouth, throat and lungs.

**FYI:** A reminder to deadhead your perennial flowers to keep them blooming. Also, when your cool season plants start looking bad, change them out with marigolds, penta, periwink-

Check us out on

**facebook**

## **GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY**

by Kat Adams

**We added 23 new members. They are interested in learning about edible gardens, herbs and fruit trees.**

**Welcome all.**

**Our top posters were April Rippel, Wendy Wakefield Salazar, and Robin Broughton Muschalek.**

**Thank you to ALL who posted. You are ALL appreciated.**

### **What To Plant And Grow In May**

**Bush Beans, Eggplant, Okra, Sweet Potatoes, Malabar Spinach, Southern Peas, Cucumber, Peppers, Pumpkin, Watermelon, Honeydew, Cantaloupe, Sweet Corn, Green Beans, Onion**

### **Kitchen Garden:**

**A Potager Garden is French Kitchen Garden. A Kitchen Garden gives you the ability to walk outside your door and select foods for your meals.**

**Instead of straight rows, you intermingle vegetables, fruits, herbs and edible flowers. It is an informal approach that works well with nature. You use no chemicals since companion planting repels unwanted predators and encourage pollinators. Crops are rotated by season.**

**Fruit trees are used as an exterior living border. Blueberry or blackberry bushes are used for the hedge.**

**Keep annual and perennial vegetables separate to make it easier to amend your annual beds.**

**Create small triangles or pockets of planting annuals such as lettuce or radishes so you can sow more seed and have succession plantings to keep beds full.**

**Plant herbs to complete your kitchen garden.**

**Please continue to post your garden photos, garden hacks and questions. We all learn from each other.**

**Enjoy your gardens.**

# The Wandering Gardeners

## Syracuse University Gardens

### Syracuse, NY

By: Melinda J Lucas



The University of Syracuse is located in Syracuse, New York on 725 acres of beautifully landscaped lawns and gardens. There are no real boundaries to let you know that you are entering the university, but you will know when you see the historic buildings and perfectly tailored flower beds. It is truly unlike any other college campus that I have ever walked through.

The University dates back to 1890 and the architecture is breathtaking. Nestled in between each castle-like building are fountains, flowers, trees, statues and pieces of art.

How did I get to Syracuse University? I was staying near by and when I looked up things to see in Syracuse, there is a listing for a famous tree that is planted on campus. It is a fruit tree that grows 40 different fruits all on the same tree. The tree was grafted or “created” by a sculptor and art professor named Sam Van Aken in 2008.

The best times to see the tree is in late winter when it is blossomed with 40 different size flowers in shades of whites, pinks and yellow. Then again in Summer it can be seen with 40 different stone fruits, such as peaches, a variety of plums, plumcots, apricots, nectarines, cherries and almonds. The picture seen here does not do it justice because this was taken in late summer when most of the fruit was gone.



# 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](mailto:MelLucas78218@gmail.com) by the 20th of the month.

# **NPSOT**

**The Guadalupe Chapter of the Native Plant Society  
monthly meeting:**

**May 13, 2025**

**at First Presbyterian Church  
1121 E. Walnut Street, Seguin, Texas  
Parking is in the rear  
Enter from N. Moss Street**

**Angel Schatz of the Central Texas Mycology Society  
will present  
"Mycology 101 Gardeners and Growers"**

**Plant/Seed Exchange & Social time at 6:30 p.m.  
program at 7:00 p.m.  
Short business meeting to follow.**

**For more information, and membership application see our  
website and link to our Facebook page at: [https://npsot.org/  
chapters/guadalupe/](https://npsot.org/chapters/guadalupe/)**

**Meetings are free and open to the public.**

# Continuing Education

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service - Serving Texas' Needs



Brenda Smith  
2025 GCMG, Education Director

## Education Director Report April 7, 2025

### 📌 Education Hours Snapshot of April 7th - 138 certified Members

- 40% have "0" hours – 56 Members – ↓
- 12% have "1-2" hours – 17 Members – ↓
- 15% have "2.5-5.5" hours – 21 Members – ↓
- 20% have "6-9.5" hours – 28 Members – ↑
- 11% have "10+" hours – 16 Members – ↑

### 📌 Speaker Bureau Shadow Program



The shadow program is a form of on-the-job training where an intern learns by closely observing a more experienced Speaker Bureau member. This program will allow an intern to follow and observe a speaker as they go about the presentation tasks, this includes the Administrator duties and the setup of the registration booth. Participants gain practical, firsthand experience with the routines, tasks, and collaboration of these positions. Observers can acquire new skills and knowledge during shadowing. They can see how tasks are performed efficiently and gain practical experience problem solving techniques and best practices. Shadowing Builds Confidence in the observer as they witness successful execution of educational programs and then become more comfortable with their own abilities. If you are interested in the Shadow Program, please contact Brenda Smith by email or phone: [bsmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:bsmith5518@gmail.com) or (512) 905-3983.

# Continuing Education

## 2025 Continuing Education Opportunities Seguin Public Library

**Sat 10 May 25** Seguin Public Library - 313 West Nolte Street, Seguin Texas 78155  
11:30/1:00pm 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.* □

## 2025 Continuing Education Opportunities Schertz Public Library

**Sat 10 May 25** Schertz Public Library - 798 Schertz Parkway Schertz, Texas 78154  
11:30/1:00pm Program: **Visual Presentation Top 10 Veggie Pests/Admin:**



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, snacks, and water) will be provided. Free seminar and open to the public* □□

Registration Link: <https://engagedpatrons.org/EventsRegister.cfm?SiteID=6585&EventID=545862&PK=887681&ShowLinkedPKs=Y>

# Continuing Education



**Wed 14 May 25**  
**12:00/1:00pm**



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

**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.** 🐝 🌻 🌿

## 2025 Additional Continuing Education Opportunities

David will be making the following presentations.

They are all free and open to the public.

Bring a pen, paper and your questions!

Date	Location	Topic
5/10/2025	Milberger's at 10:00 am	Planting Landscape Color Plants and Water Saving Tips
5/24/2025	Fanick's at 10:00 am	Patio Planting and Landscaping with Citrus
6/21/2025	Fanick's at 10:00 am	Summer Color with Texas Superstar plants

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# Continuing Education



## Be a Texas Master Naturalist!

Apply today for 2025 Training Class

Texas Master Naturalists are volunteers with a desire to learn about the natural world and share with their community. If you love Texas, you'll love being a Certified Master Naturalist!

### CLASS SCHEDULE

Every other Tuesday evening from 5:45 - 9:15  
August 5, 2025 - November 15, 2025  
Plus 3 Saturday field trips and 8 hours of orientation volunteer activities

### LOCATION

TX A&M AgriLife Extension Bldg  
210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin, TX 78155

### COST

\$175 – Includes Master Naturalist textbook, t-shirt, name tag, and background check. Deadline to apply is August 1

*Classes are taught by university professors, scientists, TX Parks & Wildlife staff, TX A&M AgriLife Extension staff, and other professionals!*

### EXPLORE

Outdoor natural areas  
Texas State Parks



### TEACH

Families and peers in parks, libraries, and schools



### CONSERVE

Collect scientific data  
Restore ecosystems



Download Applications from our website at  
[www.txmn.org/Guadalupe](http://www.txmn.org/Guadalupe)

### Questions? Text or Email

Michelle Damell. 210-601.8957  
[gmmembers@guadmn.org](mailto:gmmembers@guadmn.org)

### Meet n' Greet Open Houses 6PM – 7PM

Tues, July 15 TX A&M AgriLife Extn, 210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin  
Tues, July 22 Schertz Senior Center, 608 Schertz Pkwy, Schertz

RSVP to [gmmembers@guadmn.org](mailto:gmmembers@guadmn.org)

Guadalupe Chapter Texas Master Naturalists  
210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin, TX 78155  
830-379-1972



# Continuing Education

Please check out the following websites for Continuing Education opportunities:

- Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, Austin TX <https://www.wildflower.org/events/>
- 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/>
- 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/>
- Plant Party #18 recording of the “Spring Green Up” Plant Party Webinar (~1 hr 18 min) can be accessed at [https://youtu.be/ziSx-LJjaqo?si=qD\\_OLTJs-8yx\\_VP-](https://youtu.be/ziSx-LJjaqo?si=qD_OLTJs-8yx_VP-)  
Find ALL Plant Party recordings and future events posted at:  
<https://southtexasrangelands.tamu.edu/plant-party/>

Mark your calendars for Plant Party #19: Getting to the Root of SOIL on June 18, 2025.

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\\_LYIe3\\_XUiPjzz](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S5BK_6TGI_LYIe3_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)

# Special Volunteer Opportunities



## Seed Exchange update for May 2025

At this point our gardens and flower beds are looking great, but if you have spots that you are still trying to fill in please remember the Seed Exchange has plenty of seeds to share. There's even a good chance you might find the exact variety you are looking for. There are vegetable and flower seeds available and some are recommended for shade. It may be too late to plant vegetables, but potted herbs and some flowers can still be started in pots on your porch or patio.

It's also a good time to start planning your Fall garden and gathering the necessary seeds to have a successful garden.

Many of the seeds are out on the table in Master Gardeners Office, but most are not (there just isn't enough space).

We know getting here during our normal Seed Exchange hours on Wednesdays from 2-4 PM doesn't work for many folks who work or have other commitments so please reach out to one of the POC's if you have questions or need access at other days and times.

This is a valuable resource that can save you a lot of money. The Seed Exchange has plenty of seeds available. Please don't go buy them until you've checked out our inventory.

If you are short of volunteer hours, we can help with that too.

POCs: David & Karen Koepp – [dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) ,  
[kkoeppnb@gmail.com](mailto:kkoeppnb@gmail.com) , or call/text 210-263-3624,

Ernestine Sykes – [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com) or text 210-544-0756

# Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

## Gardens and Parks

### 1. Big Red Barn Garden

[390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Janice Knobles, [jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto:jmknobles@yahoo.com)

Text: 210-275-4402

Volunteer Day: Fridays 07:30 a.m. Summer 08:15 a.m.  
Winter

### 2. Christian Cupboard Garden

[516 N. Camp, Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Kay McElveen [hkaymcelveen@gmail.com](mailto:hkaymcelveen@gmail.com)

Phone: (479)790-2933

Volunteers work on their own schedule.

### 3. Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden

[1101 Elbel St., Schertz, TX](#)

POC: Ann Odvody [odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net)

Phone (210) 665-3866

Volunteer Day: Tues or Fri 8-1100 a.m.

### 4. Gutierrez Garden Park

[1231 Borgfeld Rd., Schertz, TX](#)

POC: Maria Dykes [mariaq75@gmail.com](mailto:mariaq75@gmail.com)

Phone: (210) 792-1603

Volunteer days: 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday

Call during the week for work hour

### 5. Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center

[1865 East Hwy 90, Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Wendy Salazar [fredandwendy@yahoo.com](mailto:fredandwendy@yahoo.com)

Phone: (210) 483-3717

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 6. La Vernia Primary School Gardens

[249 FM 1346 S., La Vernia TX](#)

POCs: Kay Cover [doncover6969@yahoo.com](mailto:doncover6969@yahoo.com)

Colleen Collier [colleen1631@gmail.com](mailto:colleen1631@gmail.com)

Volunteer Days: Contact the POCs

### 7. Marion Veteran's Memorial Park

[100 W. Huebinger St., Marion, TX](#)

POCs: Carol Suchan [ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com](mailto:ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com)

Text: 210-870-4880

Anne Ottenad [ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com](mailto:ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com)

Volunteer Day: Mondays 8-10 a.m.

### 8. Mill Street Community Garden

[1447 West Mill St., New Braunfels, TX](#)

POCs: Benna Hunter [bennahunter@gmail.com](mailto:bennahunter@gmail.com)

Text: 270-860-2246

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

Volunteer Day: 2<sup>nd</sup>. Saturday of the month.

### 9. Park West Pollinator/Waterwise Garden

[600 N. Vaughn St., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Liz Romero [fleurromero@gmail.com](mailto:fleurromero@gmail.com)

Phone: (830) 491-9676

Monday 8:30-10:30 a.m. & Thursday 8:30-11:30 a.m.

### 10. Polley Mansion Heritage Garden

[11432 FM 539, La Vernia, TX](#)

POC: Robin Muschalek [forcexxi@yahoo.com](mailto:forcexxi@yahoo.com)

Keith Muschalek [keith.muschalek@gmail.com](mailto:keith.muschalek@gmail.com)

Volunteer Days: Contact POCs

### 11. St. Andrew's Park

Corner of S. Crockett & Nolte St., Seguin, TX

POC: Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

Volunteer Days: Wednesday's 9-11 a.m.

## Other Projects

### 1. Big Red Barn Kiosk

[390 Cordova Rd., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 2. Christmas Tree Project (Nov./Dec.)-SEASONAL

[210 E. Live Oak St.](#), (Tree will be on Downtown Square)

POC: Kayla Murray (830-386-9664)

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 3. GC Fair MG Booth (2<sup>nd</sup> week/weekend Oct.)-SEASONAL

[950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX](#) (Fairgrounds Coliseum)

POC: Beth Smith [basmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:basmith5518@gmail.com)

Text: (210)727-9890

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

### 4. GCMG Communication Team

POC: Communications Director: Ingrid Wilgen

[essentiallyingrid@gmail.com](mailto:essentiallyingrid@gmail.com) Text: 210-214-0787

### 5. GCMG Independence Day Parade Float-SEASONAL

POC: Beth Smith [basmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:basmith5518@gmail.com)

Text: (210)727-9890

Setup Location / Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 6. GCMG MG Office/Library/Seed Exchange

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POC: Ernestine Sykes [ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

David Koepp [dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) & Karen Koepp

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

Volunteer Days: Wed.2-4 p.m.

# Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

## Other Projects (continued)

### 7. GCMG Monthly Meeting-Refreshments

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POC: Karen Carrell [carrell1708@msn.com](mailto:carrell1708@msn.com)

Volunteer Days: 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month except June & December – Sign up during monthly meeting or contact POC for current needs and/or make a donation

### 8. GCMG Social Events

Summer POC: April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com)

Winter POC: Beth Smith [basmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:basmith5518@gmail.com)

Text: (210)727-9890

Volunteer Days: TBD for 2025

### 9. GC Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth

(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)

### 10. GCMG Video Team

POC: Paul Prince [phrogtoo@yahoo.com](mailto:phrogtoo@yahoo.com)

Text: 559-259-4317

### 5. Pecan Festival – October 25<sup>th</sup> 2025

Garden Tour & more @ the Big Red Barn

Plant Sale Downtown Seguin on the Square

Big Red Barn POC:

Plant Sales POCs: Paul Carter (830) 481-0817

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

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

### 6. Seeds for Libraries & Craft Opportunities for Plant Sales

[210 E. Live Oak St., Seguin](#)

POC: Beth Smith [basmith5518@gmail.com](mailto:basmith5518@gmail.com)

Text: (210)727-9890

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 7. Yulefest (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in December)

[950 S. Austin St., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com)

## Plant Sales & Related Projects

### 1. GCMG GROW Team

Location details will be provided by POC

POC: Pam Malone [ptmalone@live.com](mailto:ptmalone@live.com)

Text (830) 534-2111

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 2. Plant Sales Team

Sales will be at various GC locations in Spring & Fall

POCs: Paul Carter (830) 481-0817

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

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

Volunteer Days: Will be posted on website and/or emailed

### 3. GCMG MG Information Booth

Location details will be provided by POC

POC: April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com)

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 4. Kingsbury Fall Festival

[644 Railway St, Kingsbury, Tx 78638](#)

POC: Sharon Cooper

Volunteer Day: Contact POC – Event is typically on 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in November



# 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

100 W Huebinger St. in Marion

8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

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

Contact Carol Suchan  
210-870-4880 or email

[ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com](mailto:ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com)

or Anne Ottenad

210-860-3636 or email

[Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com](mailto:Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com).

## Mondays

### Park West Pollinator Garden

600 Block of North Vaughn Ave,  
Seguin.

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Need help with maintenance of the pollinator garden and care of new plants. Bring gardening tools, and dress for the weather

Contact Liz Romero

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

## Wednesdays

### MG Office/Library/Seed Exchange

210 E. Live Oak, AgriLife Bldg, Seguin

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed

Contact Ernestine Sykes

210-544-0756 or email

[ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

The office number is 830-379-1972.

## Wednesday

### St Andrew's Community Garden

The corner of Nolte & Crocket St.

9:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m.

Weeding, planting and edging and whatever else needs to be done

Contact Ernestine Sykes

210-544-0756 or email

[ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com) or



# Volunteer Opportunities

## Tuesdays & Thursdays & possibly other days

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 Maria Dykes

210-792-1603 or email  
[Mariaq75@gmail.com](mailto:Mariaq75@gmail.com).



## Tuesdays & Fridays

### Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden

1101 Elbel Road, Schertz  
(behind the County Annex Building)

8:00 a.m.-11.00. a.m.

Contact Ann Odvody

210-994-9664 or Email

[odvodyd@swbell.net](mailto:odvodyd@swbell.net)

(Always in need of help.)

## Fridays

### Big Red Barn Gardens

390 Cordova Road, Seguin

7:30 a.m. for the summer hours

8:15 a.m. for the winter hours.

Contact Janice Knobles

210-275-4402 or email  
[jmknobles@yahoo.com](mailto: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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Sarah Puckett-Past President

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Pam Younger-Vice President

Kathleen Smith-Secretary

Claire Huebinger-Treasurer

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Brenda Smith-Education Director

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Travis Franke -AgriLife Agent MG Coordinator

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

## **Members in Service**

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**Yule Fest - April Rippel**

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