



DECEMBER 2025

GUADALUPE GARDENER

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

What's the Buzzzz?



- **Winter Social, December 11, 4:45 @ The Big Red Barn.**
- **There is still an Immediate need for a Lead or Video Lead Technologist to take over filming Lunch and Learns and meetings. This is a pretty easy way to earn volunteer hours and training will be provided. No experience needed. More than one person can take this position and rotate every other month.**
- **Seed Exchange! Come and check it out and leave with volunteer hours and or seeds!**

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Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Master Gardeners

I hope each of you had a happy Thanksgiving. I'm sure that none of us over indulged in holiday food and plan to keep that self-control in place throughout the holiday season.

We've had a really busy and successful fall season. Although November was somewhat slower than October we had the Kingsbury Harvest Festival and the wrap up of the Beginning Gardeners class that Karen Brkich organized. We got great feedback from the participants. I think it's definitely a "do again" project. All of this is in addition to all the work that went into the fall gardens at our various projects. Now "all" we need to do is get ready for the spring planting. Oh, and let's not forget YuleFest and winning the Christmas Tree decorating contest!

This is my final "Letter from the President" and I want to tell all of you how much I appreciate your support in making 2025 a truly outstanding year. We have continued to provide opportunities for the public to learn about various aspects of gardening. In addition, we have raised funds so that we can fund our many projects and the scholarships that we're committed to. The Grow Team and the Plant Sales Team really have set a high bar for 2026. Our projects have also provided literally thousands of pounds of produce to food pantries. As someone who volunteers at a food pantry, I can tell you that it has been a true boom. All of this is due to your hard work and commitment.

I have a special thank you for the Board of Directors. We have had turnover on the Board of Directors for various reasons, which has made it challenging. So, a special shout out to those who hung in and those who stepped up mid-year. What a fantastic group of people to work with!

I look forward to seeing all of you at our Winter Social on December 11 at the Big Red Barn in Seguin. Meanwhile, just keep "digging in the dirt" – sorry, I mean "soil"

Kay McElveen

President, GCMG



Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report Month Ending October 31, 2025 Prepared by David Koepp, Membership Director

Executive Summary:

- Congratulations to [Karen Brkich](#), Master Gardener of the Season.
- Coming in January, we will be presenting several 10, 15, & 25 year service awards!
- As of 11/25/2025 of the 157 Certified Members:
 - **102 have met or exceeded ALL Recertification Requirements for 2025**
 - **13 have met or exceeded their Volunteer Hours requirement**, and have some but NOT all their Continuing Education (CE) hours
 - **5 have met or exceeded their Volunteer Hours, but have ZERO CE hours**
 - 7 have some Volunteer Hours, **but have ZERO CE hours**
 - 3 have some Volunteer Hours, **but have met or exceeded CE hours**
 - **11 have NO Volunteer Hours & NO CE Hours**
 - **2 have NO Volunteer Hours**, but some CE Hours
 - 14 have some Volunteer & some CE but not enough of either
 - We have 9 Interns who hopefully will all certify by mid-year 2026
- We have **16** folks signed up so far that will be part of upcoming class 41 starting in January 2026.
 - We are trying to get at least **40** people signed up. We are at 40% of the way there with a little over 1 month to go before the next class starts and could use everyone's help in Recruiting (see more on Recruiting below).
- Please note that some of the numbers above will not match with the charts below as the charts below were put together on 11/4/2025 vs this document on 11/25/2025. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.
- **2025 Interns** have until 6/30/2026 to get their 50 hours in to achieve their certification.
- **For everyone who has NOT yet met their recertification requirements:** Aside from the many project gardens, there are also many indoor opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of online education available. All Certified members who have NOT yet met the recertification requirements received a personalized detailed email from me on 11/12/25 or 11/13/25 which shows how many hours you still need Volunteer and/or CE. The email also contained detailed Volunteer & Continuing Education opportunities options and links.
 - **Earn Volunteer hours:**
 - Help with the Christmas Tree Decorating Team – Contact [Ernestine Sykes](#)
 - Yulefest December 7, 2025, 10:00 AM –4:00 PM-Contact [April Rippel](#)
 - Seed Exchange - Every Wednesday 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Except for 11/26, 12/24, & 12/31) - Contact [David](#) or [Karen Koepp](#) or [Ernestine Sykes](#)
 - Learn to film the membership meetings and lunch and learns-Contact [Paul Prince](#)
 - Work in any of the Project Gardens-See the [Approved Project List](#) for the Projects and POCs
 - Write an article for the monthly newsletter-Contact [Melinda Lucas](#)
 - Submit a Wandering Gardener write up including pictures to the monthly newsletter- Contact [Melinda Lucas](#)
 - You can view the recordings of prior membership meetings for volunteer hours (the business portion counts towards Volunteer hours, the Presentation portion counts towards CE hours) <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/continuing-education/>
 - Recruit for the next Master Gardener Class – Pick up a recruiting packet from the Master Gardener Office upstairs on the table to the left as you walk into the office. If you run out of flyers or applications, come grab another packet or stop by the Seed Exchange and ask me for more flyers or applications or whatever supplies you may need. Also, in the event there are no packets up on the table, there is a box labeled recruiting packets that is under that same table.
 - Keep in mind for 2026, another opportunity to gain volunteer hours is to be a mentor to one or more new interns for class 41 and/or reach out to our existing interns to see if they need anything to help them get their certification. Several of our 2025 interns still need volunteer hours in order to certify and may welcome a friendly offer of mentorship to help them.
 - Many other opportunities exist just ask any GCMG Board member.

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

- **Earn Continuing Education hours:**
 - GCMG Lunch & Learns/Monthly Meetings (the business portion of the video counts towards Volunteer hours, the Presentation portion counts towards CE hours) <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/continuing-education/>
 - GCMG YouTube Channel (Be sure to subscribe) <https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx> Watching our [YouTube channel](#) which has our Membership Meetings and presentations, as well as our Lunch & Learns, and much more.
 - BCMG YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@MyExtension210>
 - On-line Programs Via Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>
 - Plant Party webinar series is a collaboration between Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. <https://southtexasrangelands.tamu.edu/plant-party/>
 - Have questions about what can count towards your CE hours? Refer to the GCMG Policy & Procedure Manual (PPM) which you can find on our website here <http://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/files/2025/01/PPM-October2024.pdf> starting on page 20 under Section C. Definition of Approved Continuing Education (CE) Hours. If not listed there, you can contact the GCMG Education Director [Karen Koeppe](#).
 - Many video links are listed in our monthly newsletter that apply towards CE hours as well.
 - See our [website](#) and [web calendar](#) for more details.
- There are still many of you that have hours worked, but for whatever reason have not entered them in VMS. Please get it done or reach out to me for help in getting them input! While many may be past time to help the organization financially, they still apply towards your certification or recertification requirements. I have emailed several of you individually about this as well as sent the monthly reminder.
- If you need your password reset, or if you need help getting the hours entered, please reach out to me. I'm willing to help however I can. My contact info is below.
- You may not be aware, but the timely input of your volunteer (and CE hours) is critical to our organization's funding; thus, we can't stress enough the importance of your timely input of your hours.
 - Reporting in VMS is imperative to the continuance of the EMG program which relies upon State and Federal funding.
 - Reporting shows the community and our stakeholders the impact of our volunteer services provided.
 - Just to clarify for anyone who may think our monthly bank balance is in good shape and their VMS hours don't matter, you are mistaken. Our bank balance is our operating budget money, the financial funding we get from the State & Federal level is not something you see on a balance sheet each month.
 - This State & Federal funding gives us the facilities and office space for our training classes, meetings and presentations, the audio & video equipment we utilize, the network and internet access, our website, it pays for the electricity to keep the lights on, the phones, computers, and many other things.
 - You might be thinking well I'm just donating those hours and I'm not going to bother reporting them, and while that is nice sentiment, it is actually hurting the organization financially. So please, input the hours worked or spent on CE in a given month (by the last day of the given month at the very latest).

I am looking at offering some **EVS group sessions** within the next 60 days (and probably quarterly during 2026 and beyond if necessary). I will start with the 21 folks that have background checks expiring in the next 60-90 days. More details to come on that, but essentially the plan is to have at least one Saturday or Sunday where you can bring in your laptop (or we will have some available to use) where you can come in and we will help you go through the entire EVS certification process and background check submission. EVS takes between 2.5 to 3 hours to complete. This is Continuing Education time that counts towards your recertification. And your travel time to & from the office also counts as volunteer time. I will also offer this every Wednesday during the normal Seed Exchange time frame (2-4PM)

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

but I will stay until you're done so 5 PM or whenever you are finished. We will need to coordinate in advance so we will know if we have enough laptops or computers available (unless you're bringing your own in which case it must have Wi-Fi connectivity capability).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, with VMS or EVS, please contact David Koepf dhkoepf.GCMG@gmail.com or GV: 210-263-3624 voice/text friendly

2025 Recertification Requirements are **20** hours Volunteer & **10** hours Continuing Education. This was announced back in 2024 and became effective on 1/1/2025.

Did you know you could access VMS from your smartphone? Yes, the screen is smaller than a computer screen, it presents on the phone a bit differently, but you can enter your time via VMS in a web browser the same way as from a computer.

We recommend entering your hours into VMS if not the same day as the task performed, then at least weekly! But **worst case: Please, log all of your hours by or before the last day of the month in order for them to be counted properly.**

Monthly Report Summary 2025 Year-To-Date Breakdown:

Roster Totals for June	Intern (20)	Certified (163)	Leave of Absence (5)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (1)
Roster Totals for July	Intern (21)	Certified (162)	Leave of Absence (5)	Inactive (0)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (3)
Roster Totals for August	Intern (18)	Certified (157)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (9) Retired (2)
Roster Totals for September	Intern (17)	Certified (156)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (13) Retired (2) Realigning (1)
Roster Totals for October	Intern (22)	Certified (157)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (3)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (13) Retired (2) Realigning (1)

Month	# Members Reporting	Mbrs w/ 5+ Hours	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Pounds Produce	Mileage
January	88	38	1083.00	135.75	178	223	4529.7
February	106	62	1484.85	169.00	107	261	5513.5
March	114	74	1870.38	264.50	210	108	8641.1
April	110	84	2072.35	144.25	622	220	8771.0
May	96	59	1152.80	582.50	101	1525	4509.4
June	62	45	941.25	47.75	41	1969	3926.1
July	81	39	1168.14	101.10	46	740	3923.1
August	80	42	1219.50	123.00	191	515	5077.9
September	82	47	1604.60	207.90	193	1099	6208.1
October	84	59	2203.55	134.90	747	884	7950.1
2025 (So Far)	138	n/a	14,800.42	1,910.65	2,436	7,544	59050.1
2024	158	n/a	14959.25	1712.00	2539	9362	60378.5
2023	165	n/a	14790.50	1738.15	1664	5593	55688.7
2022	146	n/a	11786.80	1646.25	3261	0	44919.6

Monthly Report October Summary Breakdown:

	# Submitted	# Not Submitted
Number of Certified Members that reported any amount of hours for October by reporting deadline	84	73

Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) October 2025	Vol	CE
Members with 0 hours reported	73	114
Members with >0 & <5 hours	17	38
Members with => 5 & <25 hours	40	5
Members with => 25 & <100 hours	24	0
Members with => 100 & <200 hours	2	0
Members with => 200 & <300 hours	1	0
Members with => 300 & <400 hours	0	0
Members with => 400 & <500 hours	0	0
Members with => 500 hours	0	0

	Vol	CE
Number of Volunteers Reporting this year (so far) January-October 2025	142	130

Volunteer Hours Year-To-Date	Vol	CE
Number of Members with 0 hours	15	27
Number of Members with >0 & <5 hours	7	13
Number of Members with => 5 & <25 hours	35	107
Number of Members with => 25 & <100 hours	62	10
Number of Members with => 100 & <200 hours	14	0
Number of Members with => 200 & <300 hours	14	0
Number of Members with => 300 & <400 hours	2	0
Number of Members with => 400 & <500 hours	2	0
Number of Members with => 500 hours	6	0

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

October 2025 Volunteer Recognition Drawing of Certified* Master Gardeners

Certified Members in October with 5+ hours (Voting Board Members not eligible)

1. ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	21. FRIESENHAHN, JOYCE	41. OTTENAD, ANNE
2. ALBRECHT, DON	22. GEINZER, REBECCA	42. OXFORD, PAULA
3. ANCELET, LISA	23. GONZALEZ, POTA "PENNY"	43. PADGETT, ANNETTE
4. ANDERSON, MARILYN	24. GRIFFIS, JUDY	44. PHELPS, CLAYTON
5. BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	25. HAINES, BRENDA	45. PRINCE, PAUL
6. BORTH, MARVIN	26. HARD, ROSE "DIANA"	46. RANCE, CELESTE
7. BRAVO-GONZALEZ, DIANA	27. HARMON, DOMINIQUE	47. REAL, DEBORAH "DEBBIE"
8. BRKICH, KAREN	28. HENRY, BETH	48. RODRIGUEZ, ELLENIA "ELLENA"
9. BURRIS, WELTA	29. HUEBINGER, CLAIRE	49. SCHULTZE, PATRICIA "PAT"
10. BURTON, RODNEY	30. HYATT, JUDITH	50. SCULL, RENEE
11. CARRELL, KAREN	31. KIRK, JESSICA "JESS"	51. SMITH, BETH
12. CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	32. KNEUPPER, VIRGINIA "RUTHIE"	52. STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"
13. CARTER, MARTHA "MARTY"	33. KNOBLES, JANICE	53. STYBLO, MARY
14. CASSELL, EDIE	34. LUCAS, MELINDA	54. SUCHAN, CAROL
15. CHASON, ANGELA	35. LYSSY, CYNTHIA	55. SYKES, ERNESTINE
16. COCKERELL, REX "ALAN"	36. MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE "KAT"	56. TAYLOR, DENESEE
17. COVER, KAY	37. MOTT, ROBERT "KEITH"	57. TRUAX, LINDA
18. EDWARDS, MELVADEAN "MELVA"	38. MULLINS, GARY "MAC"	58. WINGATE, LINSHA
19. FISHER, DAVID	39. ODVODY, DALE	
20. FOSS, LISA	40. ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"	

Recognition Drawings:

October- Celeste Rance

November MM Door prize-Clayton Phelps

Milestone Club:

Certified Members Milestone Achievements Volunteer Hours YTD

100 Hour Club ALTHAUSER, MARZELLUS "MARCEL" ANCELET, LISA BRKICH, KAREN CARRELL, KAREN CHASON, ANGELA COVER, KAY FISHER, DAVID GRIFFIS, JUDY HARMON, DOMINIQUE JOHNSON, BJORN KNEUPPER, VIRGINIA "RUTHIE" KNOBLES, JANICE KOEPP, KAREN MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE "KAT" MULLINS, GARY "MAC" OTTENAD, ANNE PADGETT, ANNETTE PHELPS, CLAYTON	200 Hour Club BURTON, RODNEY CARTER, PAUL DYKES, MARIA HENRY, BETH MEADE, CONSTANCE ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN" PRINCE, PAUL SMITH, BRENDA SMITH, KATHLEEN SYKES, ERNESTINE 300 Hour Club MCELVEEN, HELEN "KAY" RIPPEL, FRANK 400 Hour Club LUCAS, MELINDA STEELE, TIM	500 Hour Club SMITH, BETH YOUNGER, PAMELA "PAM" 600 Hour Club MALONE, PAMELA "PAM" ODVODY, DALE 700 Hour Club RIPPEL, APRIL 800 Hour Club KOEPP, DAVID
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Our November Membership Business Meeting ran long so I did not get to present the Membership Directors report, but you can view the pre-meeting slides and the Membership Meeting Agenda & slides on our website under "[Continuing Education](#)" then click on the "[2025 Lunch & Learn and Membership Meetings Recording](#)" link then scroll down to the November meeting and choose the pre-meeting slideshow and the Membership meeting Agenda and Slides to view the rest. You can also find all our recorded meetings, Lunch & Learns, and slideshows that were available here broken down by year and month.

Something missing from our website, have a comment or suggestion? [Please click here to let us know!](#)

Membership Corner

2026 Master Gardener Calendar

Great news! The GCMG 2026 Gardening Guide & Calendars are in!

This full color, beautiful, informative guide will give you invaluable information about vegetables and when to plant them. This is a fundraiser for our non-profit organization.



Order now, or come to 4037 Stockdale Hwy., Seguin, TX 78155 Wed-Sat. 9am - 5pm, to buy in person. Link for ordering: <https://gcmgtx.org/2026calendar/index.html> The calendars will also be available at upcoming Lunch and Learns, meetings, and plant sales.

Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted.

Every year our calendars will feature a different horticulture topic, 2026 is vegetables. There is a rumor that 2027 will be trees, stay tuned! Don't delay, get yours soon, supplies are limited! These will make great Christmas gifts!

April Rippel
 2025 GCMG President Elect
 Texas Master Gardener Assoc. Director - Guadalupe County
 Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class Co-Coordinator
adrippel@gmail.com (830) 433-2218 (Text Friendly)
 Guadalupe County Master Gardener Training [Class 41 Information:](#)
[Info and Application Click Here](#)



Membership Corner

**Master Gardener of the Season
Summer
Mac Mullen**



Photos provided by:
Melinda Lucas &
April Rippel

Membership Corner

Master Gardener of the Season
Summer & Autumn
Karen Brkich



Paul Carter presented the grow team and helpers with a new pin for their help for all of the plant sales this year



Picture provided by
April Rippel

Membership Corner



Bug Juice (An Entomology Tidbit)

Karen Koepp



Still stuck on the ladybird beetles....During the winter months ladybugs follow a unique seasonal rhythm that keeps them active in surprising ways. While you may not see these bright red beetles crawling across your garden in December, they're far from inactive.

When the temperatures drop they gather in large groups—sometimes hundreds or thousands (can you imagine?!)—in protected spaces such as tree bark crevices, leaf litter, rock piles, or wall voids. This clustering helps them conserve moisture and maintain body heat during cold months. This is called diapause – similar to hibernation.

During warm spells they may venture out, returning to the warmth when cold returns. Here they stay ready and waiting for Spring to protect your garden from all the juicy aphids and the like.



What's that Bug?

Spotted Lanternfly

Melinda J Lucas

What a pretty “moth”.....but it's not a moth and it's very invasive. The Spotted Lanternfly is native to China and is slowly making its way through the United States.

Why is it such a threat? They produce a sugary “honeydew” excretion that causes a black sooty mold to grow on grapevines, orchards and other agricultural crops, causing decimation and economic hardship.

One of the trees, that is also invasive and a native of China, that the Spotted Lanternfly can be found on, is the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). When plants are brought in from other countries it can cause major issues with our ecosphere and environment. Even though these trees are very pretty, it is recommended that they be removed and burned.

If you happen to see one of these Spotted Lanternflies please try to catch it or kill it and immediately contact the Texas A& M AgriLife extension with detailed information of where you found it or saw it. https://www.texasinvasives.org/action/report_detail.php?alert_id=24



Membership Corner
The Last Plant Sale of 2025

Sunday December 7



Class 41 Registration



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Training Spring 2026 - Class 41



Become a Certified Master Gardener

Master Gardeners is an education sharing horticultural program through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Master Gardeners Association, and the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Our mission is to improve our community through volunteering and providing educational outreach programs.

Schedule

Every Tuesday
January 20 - May 5th, 2026

Time

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Location

AgriLife Building
210 E. Live Oak Street
Seguin, TX 78155

What you get

64 Educational Class Hours
The Texas Master Gardener Handbook (\$100 value)
Official Master Gardener T-Shirt
Hands on Training & Field Trips
Professional Credited Speakers
Graduation Certificate upon Class completion &
Master Gardener Certification upon meeting all requirements

Cost: Early Bird Special until Oct 31, 2025 - \$250.00

Regular Tuition (Nov. 1st until class is full) one Seat: **\$275**

Discount for two applicants sharing 1 Handbook

10% Discount for Military, Educators, 1st Responders & Law Officers

See Class Application at website below for complete discount information

Applications will be accepted Until the Class is Full

Class Seats fill up quickly - Sign up Now to ensure your seat & to avoid late fee!

NOTE: A background check is required on ALL applicants participating in any Extension Volunteer Program, fee is included in your tuition.

For On-Line Class 41 complete Information, Applications, & payment methods:

https://www.gcmgtx.org/Class_41/index.html

Need more information? Contact one of our Class 41 Coordinators:

Paul Carter: greenthumbcarter@gmail.com 830-431-0817

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

Leave Message if No Answer



Learn about the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc. - a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization:

www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

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.

Class 41 Registration



Learn about the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Scan QR-Code for Main GCMG Website =>>>



*Hey y'all, Christmas is right around the corner!
Why not give someone a gift that keeps on giving by enrolling them in the upcoming **Guadalupe County Master Gardener's Class.***

Classes every Tuesday 9a-1p 1/20/2026-5/5/2026

It's a gift they'll appreciate and use for a lifetime!

What you get: 64 Educational Class Hours, The Texas Master Gardener Handbook (\$100 value), Official Master Gardener T-Shirt, Field Trips and Hands on Training, Professional Credited Speakers

Caution!! May cause the formation of a **green** thumb!

Use the QR-Code to the right **or** go to the following link for Registration. You can even pay online:

<https://gcmgtx.org/Class/index.html>



10% Military Discount with Military ID or DD214: Please email for Invoice.

Military discount is for all Veterans, Retired, Active Duty, and Spouses with proper ID

Applications will be taken up until the class is full. Classes will be held at the Seguin AgriLife Extension Office located at 210 E. Live Oak St, Seguin TX 78155

Master Gardeners is an education sharing horticultural program through the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, the Texas Master Gardeners Association, and the Guadalupe County Master Gardeners. Our mission is to improve our community through volunteering and providing educational outreach programs.

Questions on Master Gardener Classes?

Please contact one of the GCMG Class Coordinators below. Please leave a message if there is no answer and we'll get right back to you:

Paul Carter
greenthumbcarter@gmail.com
Cell: (830) 481-0817

April Rippel
adrippel@gmail.com
Cell (830) 433-2218

Monthly Meeting

Private Master Gardeners Party

A vertical rectangular graphic with a black background, decorated with Christmas ornaments, pine branches, and candy canes. The text is centered and reads: "YOU ARE INVITED TO A Christmas DINNER 11TH DEC 5:00-9:00PM BIG RED BARN - 250 CORDOVA ROAD SEGUIN TX BRING UNWRAPPED, NEW TOYS FOR THE GUADALUPE CO. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER. BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD LIVE DJ - FOOD BY BILL MILLER BEST DRESSED CONTEST PHOTO BOOTH - BINGO".

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Christmas DINNER

11TH DEC 5:00-9:00PM

BIG RED BARN - 250 CORDOVA ROAD
SEGUIN TX

BRING UNWRAPPED, NEW TOYS FOR THE
GUADALUPE CO. CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY
CENTER. BRING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE
CHRISTIAN CUPBOARD

LIVE DJ - FOOD BY BILL MILLER
BEST DRESSED CONTEST
PHOTO BOOTH - BINGO

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. 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: I see lots of different holiday plants for sale in our big box stores including different types of Christmas trees. Can you tell me a little about their care and whether these plants have any chance of living past the Christmas season?

A: The plants I see in the stores in my area are poinsettias, amaryllis, Christmas cactus, cyclamen and Norfolk Island pines. I think most of my friends toss their poinsettias rather than keep them for another year. My neighbor gave me one three years ago. Last year it looked pretty good and had small red bracts. Then I put plumeria fertilizer on it during the summer. It tripled in size (in its six inch pot that I sometimes forgot to water). Now, the last week of November, it has one or two small red bracts but not the glory of the first year, or even the looks of last year. I will probably dispose of it after the first freeze.

Amaryllis are easier to re-bloom. When I lived in Kingsville, I would just plant the bulb outside after it finished blooming. The plants lived for many years. With our climate warming and the USDA plant hardiness zone shifting upwards, we may be able leave our amaryllis in the ground here. However, for now, when your amaryllis flowers die, cut the stalk near the top of the bulb without cutting the leaves. Give the plant more water, light and fertilizer according to Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist. In the spring, move the plant outside. In mid-August to early September withhold water. After the leaves die, move the plant to a cool location. When you see the tips of new leaves emerge, put the plant back out and add water.

I've never been comfortable with growing Christmas cactus. I either get them too wet, or keep them too dry. This is a tropical plant that requires short days and long nights, as well as cool temperatures to re-bloom. Welsh suggests you grow the plant indoors on a windowsill, preferably one with darkness at night in the fall and winter.

Cyclamen are nice plants to put in a large showy pot outside your front door. They will bloom and look good until it gets hot. Norfolk Island pines are another nice plant to put on your gift table. Welsh says this Norfolk Islands and Australian native does not like temperatures over 95 or lower than 32. My son many years ago gave his teacher in Kingsville a small pine which she planted outside. It grew taller than her house and was alive for many years. I think the reason it survived was because it was in an internal courtyard and was well protected.

The main requirements for holiday plants are bright light for at least 6 hours a day, room temperatures of 68 to 72 (or whatever you are comfortable with), water thoroughly when the plant feels dry (use the finger test: 1 to 2 inches into the soil), and fertilize only once during the holidays. You probably should also check for insect pests since you are bringing this plant into your house from an outside source.

FYI: As always, provide water for the backyard wildlife.

Check us out on

facebook

GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

By Kat Adams

We added 46 new members. They want to grow fruit trees, berries and vegetables. Our top posters were Frank Rippel, Dominique Rosini Harmon, and Rachel Eiland. Thank you to all who contributed.

What To Plant In December:

Arugula, Broccoli, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Kale, Mustard, Radish, Spinach, Swiss Chard, Lettuce, Onions, Parsnips, Turnip.

How To Care For Miniature Christmas Tree In Pot

- Give your tree time to acclimate in your home as temperatures will vary from the garden center.**
- Enjoy your miniature Christmas tree in your home by keeping it moist.**
- Keep it in a cool area of your home such as a window sill.**
- Make sure your little tree does not become waterlogged, check for drainage.**
- 'Walk' your tree by turning it slightly daily so each side of your tree receives sunlight.**
- After the holidays, repot and transplant your little tree into the next size pot using high quality soil.**

Thank you to everyone who posts. You are all appreciated. Please continue to post photos of your gardens, your garden hacks and garden questions.

**We all learn from each other.
Enjoy your gardens.**



The Wandering Gardeners

Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens
Toronto, Canada

By Kat Medeiros-Oropeza

In September, my husband Steve and I had the opportunity to visit with family in Upstate New York. We have been there before and always had a good time, but this trip was different. We finally made it to Niagara Falls which is beyond breathtaking, because of the Falls of course, but also the flowers and plants with all their beautiful tapestries of colors and the lush green grass!

We also crossed over to the Canadian side of the Falls, and had the opportunity to visit The Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens in Toronto, Canada. As an avid butterfly fan, it was an awesome experience. We also walked through the flower gardens and of particular interest to me was the wide variety of Coneflowers we saw!

If you visit Niagara Falls, be sure to stop by the Butterfly Conservatory and Gardens in Toronto, Canada. Mid-September or Autumn is the perfect time to visit!



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

NPSOT

No December Meeting

Scheduled speakers for January and February :

January 13,2026 -"Tree Care & Management (including diseases)" by: Travis Franke, AgriLife Extension Agent. In Seguin at First Presbyterian Church.

February 10, 2026 - "Beyond Bluebonnets-Texas Wildflower Diversity" by: Andy Blair. In Marion at St John Lutheran Church.



Continuing Education

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



Karen Koepp
2025 GCMG, Education Director

Education Director Report November 3, 2025

Education Hours Snapshot of January – October 2025 (157 Certified Members)

17% have “0” hours - 27 Members
6% have "0.25-2.25" hours - 9 Members
7% have "2.5-5.75" hours - 11 Members
11% have "6-9.75" hours - 16 Members
60% have “10+” hours - 94 Members

If you need CE hours check out our website
Under the “Continuing Education” tab for
A variety of educational opportunities and
Then make sure input your hours in VMS. J

Lunch & Learns are on break for the holiday season.

Resuming January 2026

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.



Continuing Education

Spring 2026 Seminar

Comal Master Gardener's

Spring Seminar, *From the Ground Up*

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

New Braunfels Civic/Convention Center

375 S. Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX 78130

ALL GARDENERS WELCOME



We are excited to announce registration for our Spring 2026 is now open. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the speakers.

We hope to see you there!

Registration link [HERE](#)

TEXAS A&M
AGRILIFE
EXTENSION

TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Guadalupe County

Continuing Education

Please check out the following websites for Continuing Education opportunities:

- Garden Style San Antonio, TX <https://www.gardenstylesanantonio.com/events-calendar/>
- 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
- 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/>



Find ALL Plant Party recordings and future events posted at:

<https://southtexasrangelands.tamu.edu/plant-party/>

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:

Special Volunteer Opportunities



Seed Exchange update for December 2025

Happy Holidays! We are all wishing you a very happy and peaceful December, whatever your traditions are. Please enjoy this month and spend time considering what 2026 and your Spring garden will look like.

This is the month to sharpen tools, clean pots and collect the seeds that you want in your garden. You can start them indoors toward the end of the month, so that they will be well established by March. If you don't have room to grow plants indoors, then just spend time organizing your seeds by when they need to be planted and germination time. This will make Spring planting so much easier.

There are many seed packets available, as well as many seeds that need sorting. This is one of your last opportunities to get some volunteer hours for the current year. Please contact us ahead of time to make sure that we will be in the office the day that you are interested in, due to the holidays.

The following page has a list of some of the many seeds that are available and more are coming in all the time, so please head up to the seed exchange in the Master Gardeners Office and take advantage of the free seeds that are available on Wednesdays from 2-4 PM. If those hours don't work for you due to work or other commitments please reach out to one of the POC's. They will be glad to help if you have questions or need access at other days and times.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

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

Ernestine Sykes – ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756

Special Volunteer Opportunities

Vegetables

Asparagus
Beets - Many varieties
Bok Choy
Broccoli
Broccoli Raab
Brussel Sprouts
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Carrot - Many Varieties
Celery
Collard
Cucumber - Many Varieties
Eggplant - White, Green, Purple, & Black
Green Beans - Many varieties Bush & Pole
Hot Pepper - Many varieties
Hot Pepper - Ghost
Hot Pepper - Habanero
Hot Pepper - Lemon
Mild Pepper - Many varieties
Mild Pepper - Yellow Banana
Mild & Hot versions Jalapeno
Kale
Lettuce - Many Varieties
Lima Bean
Mesclun Salad Mix
Mustard Greens
Okra
Onion - Yellow Bulb
Onion - Bunching
Parsnip
Peas - Many Varieties
Pumpkin - Many Varieties
Radish - Many Varieties
Spinach - Many Varieties
Squash - Many Varieties Summer & Winter
Squash - Butternut
Squash - Gold Winter
Squash - Scallop
Squash - Yellow Summer - Many varieties
Squash - Zucchini - Many varieties
Sweet Corn - Many varieties
Sweet Pepper - Many varieties
Tomato - Many varieties small & large / color
Tomato - Golden
Tomato - Roma
Turnip
Veggie Packs - Large Starter Kit

Fruit

Cantaloupe
Watermelon - Many Varieties

Herbs

Basil - Many varieties
Chamomile
Chives
Cilantro
Dill
Lavender
Lemon Balm
Oregano
Parsley
Peppermint
Rosemary
Sage
Spearmint
Thyme

Flowers

African Daisy
Agave
Alyssum
American Elm
Bachelor Button
Bee Balm
Blackeyed Susan
Blanket Flower
Blue Aethea
Bluebonnet
Butterfly Flower
Butterfly Weed
Calendula
Canterbury Bells
Cape Coral Vine
Candlestick Bush
Carnation
Chinese Forget-Me-Not
Chrysanthemum
Columbine
Cosmos
Dahlia
Delphinium
Desert Rose
Esperanza
Foxglove
Gaillardia
Gazania
Hibiscus
Holly Hock
Johnny Jumpups
Larkspur
Lupine
Marigold - Several varieties
Monarch Sanctuary Wildflower Mix
Moonflower
Morning Glory - Several varieties
Nasturtium - Several varieties
Painted Daisy
Pansy
Petunia
Poppy
Shasta Daisy
Snow in Summer
Strawflower
Sunflower - Several varieties
Sweet Pea
Sweet William
Thunbergia
White Heath Aster
Wildflower Mix - Several varieties
Yucca - Red & White
Zinnia - Several varieties

Please note we have many varieties of seeds available that are not listed above, so please come see us on Wednesday's from 2-4 PM or feel free to contact one of us via text/email if you have any questions.

Seed Exchange POCs: David & Karen Koepf – dhkoepf.gcmg@gmail.com , kkoepf@gmail.com , or call/text 210-263-3624, Ernestine Sykes – ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756
<https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/>

Also for some seeds we have large bulk 1/2lb pack quantities available as well (Corn, Green Beans, Okra, & Peas)

We still would like your seed donations if you have a surplus of something you have grown successfully!

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Gardens and Parks

1. Big Red Barn Garden

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

POC: Janice Knobles, jmknobles@yahoo.com

Text: 210-275-4402

Volunteer Day: Fridays 7:30 a.m. Summer 8:15 a.m. Winter

2. Christian Cupboard Garden

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

POC: Kay McElveen 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

Phone (210) 665-3866

Volunteer Day: Tues / Fri 8 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

4. Gutierrez Garden Park

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

POC: Maria Dykes mariaq75@gmail.com

Phone: (210) 792-1603

Volunteer days: Tuesdays, Thursdays, & Saturdays 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

5. Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center Seguin ISD

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

POC: Wendy Salazar 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

Phone: (830) 779-2149

Colleen Collier colleen1631@gmail.com

Phone: (210) 413-4818

Volunteer Days: Contact the POCs

7. LULAC Community Garden

[1502 Eighth St., Seguin, TX 78155](#)

POC: Juan Moncada jmarcus78702@gmail.com

Text: (512) 701-1696

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

8. Marion Veteran's Memorial Park

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

POCs: Carol Suchan ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com

Text: 210-870-4880

Anne Ottenad ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com

Volunteer Day: Mondays 8-10 a.m.

9. Mill Street Community Garden

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

POCs: Benna Hunter bennahunter@gmail.com

Text: 270-860-2246

Kathleen Smith kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

Volunteer Day: 2nd Saturday of the month.

10. Polley Mansion Heritage Garden

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

POC: Robin Muschalek forcexxi@yahoo.com

Keith Muschalek keith.muschalek@gmail.com

Phone: (571) 606-4234

Volunteer Days: Contact POCs

11. Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden

[1017 Town Creek Rd., Cibolo, TX 78108](#)

POC: Rachel Eiland

rachel.eiland@outlook.com

Phone: (757) 513-2842

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

12. St. Andrew's Community Garden

[Corner of S. Crockett & Nolte St., Seguin, TX](#)

POC: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756

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

13. Other Gardens used as reciprocal cooperation between Counties or organizations

Must have board permission to work and claim time in these projects.

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Fundraisers & Related Projects

1. Calendar & Gardening Guide

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

POC: **VACANT** – Need new POC.

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

2. Craft Opportunities for Plant Sales

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

POC: **VACANT** – Need new POC.

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

3. Earth Day (Typically Last Saturday in April)

Plant Sale Downtown Seguin on the Square

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

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

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

4. GC Fair Plant Sales & Raffle (2nd week/weekend Oct.)

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

POC: Kathleen Smith kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

POC: April Rippel adripping@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

4. GCMG Grow Team

Location details will be provided by the POC.

POC: Pam Malone ptmalone@live.com

Text (830) 534-2111

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

5. Kingsbury Fall Festival (Plant & Craft Sales)

[644 Railway St., Kingsbury, TX 78638](#)

POC: Paul Carter & Sharon Cooper

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

Text: (830) 481-0817

Rscooper3707@gmail.com

Text: (281) 684-4632

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

6. Online Sales & Storefront-Spring/Fall

[4037 Stockdale Hwy, Seguin TX 78155](#) Regular hours

are Wednesday-Saturday* 8am – 5pm.

POC: April Rippel adripping@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

7. Pecan Festival (Typically Last Saturday in October)

Garden Tour & more at the Big Red Barn

Plant Sale Downtown Seguin on the Square

Big Red Barn POC: Kay McElveen

hkaymcelveen@gmail.com Phone: (479)790-2933

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

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

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

8. Plant Sales Team

Sales will be at various GC locations in Spring & Fall

POCs: Paul Carter (830) 481-0817

greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

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

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

9. Yulefest (1st Sunday in December)

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

POC: April Rippel adripping@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Organizational Support

1. GCMG 2025 Board of Directors

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

President – Kay McElveen hkaymcelveen@gmail.com

Past President – Sarah Puckett – Resigned

President Elect – April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Vice-President – Pam Younger pamyounger54@gmail.com

Treasurer – Frank Rippel riptron@gmail.com

Secretary – Kathleen Smith

kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

Education Director – Karen Koepp

kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

Membership Director – David Koepp

dhkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

Volunteer Director – Pam Malone ptmalone@live.com

Communication Director – Ingrid Wilgen

essentiallyingrid@gmail.com

Publicity Director – Janice Jadwin jmjadwin@yahoo.com

Master Gardener Class Director – Paul Carter

GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com

AgriLife Extension Agent, MG Coordinator – Travis Franke

Travis.Franke@ag.tamu.edu

Class Coordinators

(Lead) Paul Carter GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com,

April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

TMGA Director 2yr 2024/25

Primary: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Alternate: Tim Steele tlscowboys@hotmail.com

TMGA Director 1yr 2025

Primary: David Koepp dhkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

Alternate: Robin Rieder gatewood2005@yahoo.com

Regular Board of Directors Meeting at AgriLife Extension

Office 2nd Floor is 2nd Thursday at 4 PM each month

(except in October which is 1st Thursday at 4PM) all

members encouraged to attend.

2. GCMG Communications Team

POC: Communications Director: Ingrid Wilgen

essentiallyingrid@gmail.com Text: 210-214-0787

3. GCMG Education & Speakers Bureau Team

POC: Karen Koepp kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

4. GCMG MG Office, Research Library, & Seed Exchange

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

POCs: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

David Koepp dhkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com & Karen Koepp

kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

Text: (210) 263-3624

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

5. GCMG Monthly Meeting-Refreshments, Setup, & Cleanup

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

POC: Karen Carrell carrell1708@msn.com

Volunteer Days: 3rd Thursday each month except June &

December – Sign up during monthly meeting or contact POC

for current needs.

6. GCMG Newsletter

POC: Melinda Lucas meljlucas78218@gmail.com

Volunteer Days: Contact POC for needs.

7. GCMG Social Events

Summer POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Winter POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

8. GCMG Technology Team

POC: Paul Prince phrogtoo@yahoo.com

Text: 559-259-4317

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

9. TMGA (Quarterly Meetings, IMGC Conference, other TMGA related work)

TMGA Director 2yr 2024/25 Primary: April Rippel

adrippel@gmail.com

TMGA Director 2yr 2024/2025 Alternate: Tim Steele

tlscowboys@hotmail.com

TMGA Director 1yr 2025 Primary: David Koepp

dhkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com

TMGA Director 1 yr 2025 Alternate: Robin Rieder

gatewood2005@yahoo.com

Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2025

Public Education / Outreach

1. Ask A Master Gardener Information Booth (AAMG)

Location details will be provided by POC.

POC: Mac Mullins macadac242@gmail.com

Text (210) 722-3881

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

2. Big Red Barn Kiosk

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

POC: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

3. Christmas Tree Project (Nov./Dec.)

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

POCs: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756 & Kayla Murray

misskaylamurray@gmail.com

Text: (830) 386-9664

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

4. GC Fair AAMG Booth, Crafts, Horticulture Exhibits

(2nd week/weekend Oct.)

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

POC: Kathleen Smith kathleensmith1214@gmail.com

POC: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

5. GCMG Independence Day Parade Float

POC: Angela Chason angelachason@hotmail.com

Text: (210) 803-6736

Setup Location / Volunteer Days: Contact POC

6. GCMG Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth

(2nd weekend in Oct.) – Fairgrounds Coliseum

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

POC: Pam Younger pamyounger54@gmail.com

Text: (512) 656-2322

7. Youth Education – Junior Master Gardeners

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

POC: **VACANT** – Need new POC.

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

or Anne Ottenad

210-860-3636 or email

Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com.

Mondays & Wednesdays

Ron Pedde Community Garden

1017 Town Creek Road, Cibolo

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Contact Rachel Eiland

Text 757-513-2842 or email

rachel.eiland@outlook.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

The office number is 830-379-1972.



Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesdays & Thursdays & possibly other days

Gutierrez Park 1231 Borgfeld Rd,
Schertz

Contact Maria Dykes

210-792-1603 or email
[Mariaq75@gmail.com](mailto:Marიაq75@gmail.com).

Wednesday

St Andrew's Community Gar-
den

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 or

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

(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



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

Kay McElveen-President

April Rippel-President Elect

Pam Younger-Vice President

Kathleen Smith-Secretary

Frank Rippel-Treasurer

Ingrid Wilgen-Communications Director

Janice Jadwin-Publicity Director

David Koepp-Membership Director

Karen Koepp-Education Director

Paul Carter - Training Class Director

Pam Malone-Volunteer Director

Travis Franke -AgriLife Agent MG Coordinator

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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 Koeppe, Heidi Brown, & Kat Medeiros-Oropeza

Members in Service

Texas Master Gardener Association Directors

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

One Year Term (2025) David Koeppe, Alternate – Robin Rieder

Speakers Bureau Team– Karen Koeppe (P.O.C.), Karen Brkich

Plant Sales - Paul Carter and Tim Steele

Ask A Master Gardener Booth - Mac Mullins

Guadalupe Co. Demonstration Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody

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

Refreshment Coordinator - Karen Carrell

Kingsbury Fall Festival - Sharon Cooper

Grow Team Lead - Pam Malone

Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles

4th of July Parade - Angela Chason

Yule Fest - April Rippel

Tech Team Lead - Paul Prince

2025 County Fair - Kathleen Smith & April Rippel

Facebook Administrator - Kathy Adams

Christmas Tree Decorating - Kayla Murray & Ernestine Sykes

Newsletter Editor - Melinda J Lucas

Web Content Masters - Frank K. Rippel & David Koeppe

Gutierrez Garden Park - Caroline Moody

GCMG Class Coordinator – Paul Carter and April Rippel

(For a complete list please visit: <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/about/officers-members-in-service/>)