

# JANUARY 2026

## 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?



- **New Year, New Opportunities**
- **Check out Member Services for new leadership for 2026**
- **Special Volunteer Opportunities available.**
- **Don't forget about Seed Exchange!**
- **Class 41 will be starting soon & there are still openings**

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# Letter from the President

Hello All,

Happy New Year Y'all! The start of the new year is a time to reflect and a time to look forward. Looking back at what our organization accomplished in 2025 is very exciting. We were able to grant our first ever college scholarships, we added new projects, improved continuing projects, we had a record number of students in the Master Gardener Class, and we raised more working funds than ever, which enabled us to finally get a new, much needed, storage shed at the AgriLife Building. To list all of you that helped in meeting these goals would take up the rest of this newsletter, so let me just say "thank you!" to all that participated in these endeavors. You will never know how much you are appreciated. Being part of an all-volunteer, non-profit organization is rewarding, frustrating, uplifting, challenging, and above all, **WORTH it!** Looking back at all of our achievements, along with meeting our mission statement of educating others in the ways of high quality, relevant horticulture practices, it is definitely "worth it." So many of you take care of the intricate/working parts of this association; way too many to list here, please know that you are held in high esteem, I applaud and cherish you.

Looking forward is very exciting as well. MG Class 41 will soon be starting, and we will be welcoming all of our new MG interns. New goals are being set, including the possibility of giving the first ever Advanced Training Class in Guadalupe County, and we are already looking at upping the scholarship funds! BTW, in case you didn't know it, our college scholarships are going to the Alamo Colleges system, where funding goes directly to students interested in horticultural pursuits. How awesome is that? We also offer financial help to those of you taking any of the MG Advance Training courses. All you have to do is ask, complete all the advanced training requirements, and then you can get reimbursed for the cost of the course. Want to get involved in any/all/and other sensational MG 2026 pursuits? Just contact me!

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the hard-working 2025 board of directors, most of which are staying on the 2026 board, so I will thank them here for both years. Kay McElveen, thank you for your leadership last year and I look forward to your continued guidance as Past President in 2026, you are very wise. Pam Younger, you are my hero! Always with good advice, participating in so many projects, and as Vice President, your superpower of finding interesting speakers for the membership meetings is amazing! Pam Malone, you are involved everywhere! And always willing to help. Thank you for stepping in as Volunteer Director last year, and as our 2026 President-Elect, you are going to rock! Kathleen Smith, another one who is taking part in so many events and always willing to help where needed. Your Secretary position is very important, and you have tackled it like a champion. You're awesome! Frank Rippel, thank you for stepping in as Treasurer last year and for staying on this year. It's not an easy job, but you've always been a wizard with numbers, as well as computers. Thank you for keeping us in the black! Janice Jadwin (incoming) and

# Letter from the President

Ingrid Wilgen (outgoing), as Publicity Director and Communications Director respectively, thank you for keeping our organization in the news and getting the word out about all our events. You are very significant for keeping members and the public "in the know." David Koepp, thank you for taking over last year and continuing this year as our hardworking Membership Director. Again, not an easy job, but with your ability to spot problems before they get out of hand - I can't think of anyone better suited to this position. Thanks for keeping us straight! Karen Koepp, thank you for stepping in and continuing as our very essential Education Director. Your attention to detail and love of learning make you perfectly fit for this position. This is going to be a fun year! Kathy Carroll, thank you for coming on board as our new Volunteer Director! Your 15 years of gaining knowledge of our organization are going to be a huge asset. I look forward to working with you and our many volunteers to make our non-profit better than ever! Last but not least, Paul Carter, you continue to make the MG Class better and better. Having you on the board as the MG Class Director was long overdue. Your awareness of our organization and amazing fund-raising skills continue to help build our ability to serve our members and the community. Thank you for all you do.

And thank you members! Without you, this organization would not exist. You are a valued resource to our community. You provide superior education, you help to supply hundreds of pounds of produce for the local food banks, you help other non-profits when needed and offer services to our community. Good job in 2025, and I look forward to working with all of you in 2026. It's going to be a grand year!

--

April Rippel  
2026 Guadalupe County Master Gardener President  
Guadalupe County Master Gardener Class Co-Coordinator  
Texas Master Gardener Assoc. Director - Guadalupe County  
[adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com)  
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"The Best Time To Plant a Tree Was 30 Years Ago, and the Second Best Time To Plant a Tree Is Now"-- Unknown



# Membership Corner

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report Month Ending November 30, 2025 Prepared by David Koepp, Membership Director

### Executive Summary:

- Coming in January, we will be presenting several 10, 15, & 25 year service awards to members!
- A lot of progress was made recently in folks getting their hours in and dues paid. The deadline for both is 12/31/2025. As of 12/28/2025 of the 152 Certified Members:
  - A. **120 have met or exceeded ALL Recertification Requirements for 2025! Yay!**
  - B. **8 have met or exceeded their Volunteer Hours requirement** and have some but NOT all their Continuing Education (CE) hours. **Hopefully everyone gets them in by 12/31/2025!**
  - C. **3 have met or exceeded their Volunteer Hours, but have ZERO CE hours**
  - D. 4 have some Volunteer Hours, **but have ZERO CE hours**
  - E. 2 have some Volunteer Hours, **but have met or exceeded CE hours**
  - F. **7 have NO Volunteer Hours & NO CE Hours**
  - G. **1 has NO Volunteer Hours**, but some CE Hours
  - H. 7 have some Volunteer & some CE but not enough of either
  - I. We have **8 Interns** who hopefully will all certify by mid-year 2026
- We now have **24** folks signed up that will be part of upcoming class 41 starting in January 2026!
  - A. We are still trying to get at least **40** people signed up. We are now 60% of the way there with a little less than 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 12/3/2025 vs this document on 12/28/2025. If you have any questions, please reach out to me.
- **2025 Interns** have until 6/30/2026 to get their 50 volunteer hours in to achieve their certification.
- **For everyone who did NOT meet their 2025 recertification requirements and/or did but didn't pay their dues in time, but wish to continue on with GCMG, please reach out to the Membership Director as soon as possible:** David Koepp [dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) or call/text me at 210-263-3624. There is a process documented in the PPM on page 11 under Chapter 5 Membership Section E.
  - E. **Reinstatement of a Lapsed GCMG Master Gardener Intern or Texas Master Gardener.**

On occasion, a Master Gardener Intern or Texas Master Gardener may allow their membership to lapse and later determine they would like to again become an active GCMG member. It is the lapsed individual's responsibility to apply in writing or via email to the Board of Directors for reinstatement. The decision to allow the individual to pursue reinstatement requirements is made at the discretion of the Board, providing the individual has been in a lapsed status for no more than two (2) years, although the Board, at its discretion, may extend this time frame. The Board may reinstate membership if the individual accomplishes the following requirements within one (1) year from approval to pursue reinstatement.

    1. Applies, pays for and passes a new criminal background check prior to volunteering time on any GCMG project (unless their prior one has not yet expired).
    2. Audits a minimum of six (6) classes at the next Master Gardener class at no additional cost. Field trips are not considered classes for this purpose.
    3. A lapsed **Intern** is required to complete 50 (fifty) volunteer hours and any other certification requirements. A lapsed **Texas Master Gardener** is required to complete the current number of volunteer and continuing education hours required for recertification. This may be done concurrent with or prior to attending the classes. Time spent in auditing class sessions is not counted as either volunteer service or continuing education credits.
    4. Pay prorated annual dues based on time of certification.
- **For 2026**, Aside from the many project gardens, there are also many indoor opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of online education available.

# Membership Corner

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

A. Earn Volunteer hours (The following is not a complete list – Refer to the 2026 Approved Projects List which you can find on VMS under the “Other” document category, or on our website at the bottom of the Projects for Volunteer Hours page there is also a link to it below):

- Seed Exchange - Every Wednesday 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Except for 11/26, 12/24, & 12/31) -Contact [David](#) or [Karen Koepf](#) 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 a lot of 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

B. 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 Koepf](#).
- 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.

C. I know there were many of you that had hours you worked or did CE, but for whatever reason did not get them entered them in VMS.

- If you’ve met your 2025 recertification, you can still enter them, but it’s a moot point as it’s past time that they could help the organization financially.

# Membership Corner

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

- If you didn't meet your 2025 recertification, keep your hours log as it can be considered in your reinstatement if you decide to continue with GCMG. I emailed every member who had not met their 2025 recertification requirements individually at least twice (back in mid-November, and again at the end of November). If you didn't get your emails, then we may not have your correct email address in VMS.
- As always, if you ever need your VMS password reset, or if you need help getting your hours entered, please reach out to me. I'm willing to help however I can. My contact info is below.
- 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.
  - A. Reporting in VMS is imperative to the continuance of the EMG program which relies upon State and Federal funding.
  - B. Reporting shows the community and our stakeholders the impact of our volunteer services provided.
  - C. 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.
  - D. 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.
  - E. 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).

Beginning in January, we will be offering some **EVS group sessions** (and probably quarterly or as needed during 2026 and beyond if necessary). If your EVS/Background Check is coming up soon, two things will happen. One you will get an email from AgriLife Learn letting you know you are within 60 days of expiration. You can certainly do the course on your own, but you will also have the opportunity to do it in a group setting. I will also be sending out emails to those who will need to do EVS & Background Check Updates. Please don't let EVS be the reason you choose not to continue with us. This is a State mandated process, but they have received loads of feedback and are working on greatly improving the process in the near future. In the meantime, we'll help you get through it.

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) 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 Koepp [dhkoepp.GCMG@gmail.com](mailto:dhkoepp.GCMG@gmail.com) or GV: 210-263-3624 voice/text friendly

**2026 Recertification Requirements** are **20** hours Volunteer & **10** hours Continuing Education. The new hours requirements were announced back in 2024 and became effective on 1/1/2025. The purpose of this change was to align all states into a common standard. Please note that the local Extension Agents can increase this number but not reduce it. FYI, many of the surrounding counties require much more Volunteer & CE time as well as other requirements and commitments, so if you are thinking about moving to a different county MG organization, I suggest you look into their requirements before doing so.

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.

# Membership Corner

## Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report

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:

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
<b>November</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>878.40</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>1515</b>	<b>3936.6</b>
<b>2025 (So Far)</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>15,678.82</b>	<b>2,020.65</b>	<b>3,977</b>	<b>9,059</b>	<b>62986.7</b>
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 November Summary Breakdown:

	# Submitted	# Not Submitted
Number of Certified Members that reported any amount of hours for <b>November</b> by reporting deadline	84	73
<b>Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) November 2025</b>	<b>Vol</b>	<b>CE</b>
Members with <b>0</b> hours reported	<b>73</b>	<b>114</b>
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
	<b>Vol</b>	<b>CE</b>
Number of Volunteers Reporting this year (so far) January- <b>November</b> 2025	142	130
<b>Volunteer Hours Year-To-Date</b>	<b>Vol</b>	<b>CE</b>
Number of Members with <b>0</b> hours	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>
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

### November 2025 Volunteer Recognition Drawing of Certified\* Master Gardeners

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

1. ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	14. GRIFFIS, JUDY	27. MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE "KAT"
2. ALBRECHT, DON	15. HARD, ROSE "DIANA"	28. MOTT, ROBERT "KEITH"
3. BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	16. HARMON, DOMINIQUE	29. ODVODY, DALE
4. BRKICH, KAREN	17. HENRY, BETH	30. ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"
5. BURTON, RODNEY	18. HUNTER, BELINDA "BENNA"	31. OTTENAD, ANNE
6. CARRELL, KAREN	19. KNOBLES, JANICE	32. PRINCE, PAUL
7. CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	20. KOEPP, DAVID	33. RIPPEL, APRIL
8. CARTER, PAUL	21. KOEPP, KAREN	34. RIPPEL, FRANK
9. CAVAZOS, RACHEL	22. LEACOCK, SUZANNE	35. SAULS, LESLIE "CASEY"
10. CHASON, ANGELA	23. LUCAS, MELINDA	36. SMITH, BETH
11. COVER, KAY	24. MALONE, PAMELA "PAM"	37. STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"
12. CUNNINGHAM, LAURA	25. MCELVEEN, HELEN "KAY"	38. STYBLO, MARY
13. DOMINGUEZ, BRENDA	26. MEADE, CONSTANCE	39. YOUNGER, PAMELA "PAM"

#### Recognition Drawings:

Since we don't have a December Membership meeting this will be handled in the January Monthly meeting.

#### Milestone Club:

<b>100 Hour Club</b>	<b>200 Hour Club</b>	<b>500 Hour Club</b>
ALTHAUSER, MARZELLUS "MARCEL"	BURTON, RODNEY	LUCAS, MELINDA
ANCELET, LISA	DYKES, MARIA	SMITH, BETH
BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	GRIFFIS, JUDY	STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"
BRKICH, KAREN	HENRY, BETH	
CARRELL, KAREN	KOEPP, KAREN	<b>600 Hour Club</b>
CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	MEADE, CONSTANCE	MALONE, PAMELA "PAM"
CHASON, ANGELA	ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"	ODVODY, DALE
COVER, KAY	OTTENAD, ANNE	YOUNGER, PAMELA "PAM"
DOMINGUEZ, BRENDA	PRINCE, PAUL	
FISHER, DAVID	SMITH, BRENDA	<b>700 Hour Club</b>
GEINZER, REBECCA	SMITH, KATHLEEN	No members currently
HARMON, DOMINIQUE	SYKES, ERNESTINE	
JOHNSON, BJORN		<b>800 Hour Club</b>
KNEUPPER, VIRGINIA "RUTHIE"	<b>300 Hour Club</b>	RIPPEL, APRIL
KNOBLES, JANICE	CARTER, PAUL	
MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE "KAT"	MCELVEEN, HELEN "KAY"	<b>900 Hour Club</b>
MOTT, ROBERT "KEITH"	RIPPEL, FRANK	KOEPP, DAVID
MULLINS, GARY "MAC"		
PADGETT, ANNETTE	<b>400 Hour Club</b>	
PHELPS, CLAYTON	No members currently	
STYBLO, MARY		

Missed the Monthly meeting? 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](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com) (830) 433-2218 (Text Friendly)  
 Guadalupe County Master Gardener Training [Class](#)  
[41 Information:](#)  
[Info and Application Click Here](#)



# Membership Corner



**There was also 340 pounds of food collected and delivered to the Christian Cupboard food pantry !!!**

Photos provided by:  
April Rippel &  
Melinda Lucas

# Membership Corner

## Winter Social



Photos provided by:  
April Rippel &  
Melinda Lucas



# Membership Corner

## Christmas Toy Drive



Thanks to all who participated! You blessed a lot of children!!

December 12, 2025

**Children's Advocacy Center**

Texas Master Gardener Guadalupe County  
210 East Live Oak  
Seguin, TX 78155

Dear Guadalupe County Master Gardeners,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of toys for our clients this holiday season. We are truly appreciative of your support and kindness!

The Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center, through our partners in law enforcement, the Department of Family and Protective Services, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), medical professionals, mental health providers, and prosecutors are working together to help children in Guadalupe County. Our efforts in crime safety, justice, and healing make a difference in the restoration of the lives of children and families.

Since opening our doors in 2004, we have conducted 6,498 forensic interviews of children at the request of law enforcement and CPS for their investigations of child abuse and neglect. Our family advocates have run with the non-offending family members of these children to offer information and resources to help them through this difficult process. Thousands of trauma-focused counseling hours have also been provided to children and non-offending caregivers at no cost to the families.

In addition to the reactive work we have always done, we also continue to work on the prevention of child abuse and neglect before it starts with our MHP Child/Teen Safety Mentors and SACTIS Personal Empowerment and Safety programs for children, and through adult educational opportunities of Recognizing and Reporting Abuse Training.

Your donation is integral to completing our mission! Thank you so much for your support!

Thank you,  
*Christy Williams* Thank you!  
Christy Williams, MS  
Executive Director  
Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center

P.S. Please reuse this letter for your records, as it serves as your gift receipt. The Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center is a nonprofit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Take no goods or services provided by individuals in your gift, if it is not deductible in the amount allowed by law.

**GCCAC Board of Directors**

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			Jim Lowrey Robyn Pope

245 Wetz • Seguin, Texas 78155  
(850) 303-4740 • www.gccac.net

**United Way** **CACTX**

Photos provided by:  
April Rippel



# Membership Corner

## Yulefest 2025



Picture provided  
by :  
April Rippel

# Membership Corner

## Bug Juice (An Entomology Tidbit)

Karen Koepp

Even in the coldest months, many beneficial insects are *overwintering* quietly in your garden. Lady beetles, native bees, lacewings and some butterflies survive winter as adults, eggs, larvae or pupae tucked under leaf litter, inside hollow stems, beneath bark, or in the soil. Leaving seed heads standing and resisting the urge to “clean up” too early helps protect those insects – so a slightly messy winter garden is actually a gift to next season’s pollinators and pest controllers.



## What's that Bug?

### The Ensign Wasp

Melinda Lucas

There is a very good chance that you've seen this insect in your home, either alive or dead. The Ensign Wasp is very harmless to humans and looks like a combination between a fly and cricket. It is only about a half an inch long at most and is relatively difficult to kill by smacking with a flyswatter due to its tough exoskeleton.



“Why is it in my house and how do I kill it?”, you may ask. Well, you may not want to kill this harmless beneficial insect because she is in your home due to the fact that you most likely have roaches hiding out and she is like a detective whose job is to find the oothecia (roach egg case) and lay her eggs inside of it. The larvae eats all of the roaches eggs and then emerges as a new Ensign Wasp.

So next time you see one in your home, treat her as an honored guest and let her do her job, she is a free, all natural, exterminator.

# 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. 1<sup>st</sup> until class is full) one Seat: **\$275**

Discount for two applicants sharing 1 Handbook

10% Discount for Military, Educators, 1<sup>st</sup> 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](https://www.gcmgtx.org/Class_41/index.html)

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

Paul Carter: [greenthumbcarter@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com) 830-431-0817

April D. Rippel: [adrappel@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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.

# Monthly Meeting

**GUADALUPE CO. MASTER GARDENERS**

**MEETING & LECTURE:**

**Grandma Survived The  
Depression Cuz Her Supply  
Chain Was Local & She  
Could Do Stuff**

**JAN  
15th  
2026**

**210 E. Live Oak St. In Seguin, TX  
5:45 - Social W/ Food "New Year Traditions"  
6:15 Meeting & Presentation**

**Meet Jay White, Speaker, Owner & Publisher  
Texas Gardener Magazine**

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity provider. The Tx A&M University system, US Dept. of Agriculture, and County Commissioners Courts 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 to request mobility, hearing, visual, or other assistance.

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - DOOR PRIZES**

# 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: One of my friends has a backyard just full of rose bushes. I would love to have roses in my garden but don't know how to choose or where to plant. Can you give me some hints?**

**A:** Perhaps first of all we should look at site selection because that is important. Roses need six hours of sunlight or more each day. It would also be nice, according to Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist, to have an east facing site so that the foliage will dry quickly from the morning dew. The third guideline he suggests is to plant in an area that receives good air circulation. Soil should be a well-drained organic mixture consisting of half organic matter and half topsoil.

Now for the roses. You can plant one of the old fashioned roses, or one of the modern hybrids. Texas A&M has tested all types for Texas type conditions. If you go on line, these roses are designated as Earth-Kind roses. Welsh suggests a mixture of modern hybrids, old fashioned, and new, old-style roses. Over the years, both in Kingsville and Seguin, I have grown a number of the old-fashioned roses including Belinda's Dream, Carefree Beauty (Katy Road Pink), Cecile Brunner, and Martha Gonzalez. I've also grown many of the modern hybrids including Double Delight, Peace, Sterling Silver, and Don Juan (a climber). The two that are still alive in spite of everything (broken irrigation, lack of care, etc.) are Martha Gonzalez and an old green China rose.

Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina describes the green rose (*Rosa Chinensis Viridiflora*) by commenting that it is of particular interest because its flowering structure is composed of sepals and not petals. The rose has been around since the 1800s and has a slight peppery smell which I find very pleasing. Brookgreen says that the rose shows little problem with black spot or other fungal problems, and is a strong performer in the landscape. Mine grew for many years in Kingsville, and another 20 years in Seguin.

**Q: When do I prune my rose bushes?**

**A:** An easy date to remember for pruning roses is February 14 which is about two to three weeks before spring growth begins. Welsh suggests cutting modern hybrids back to a height of 18 to 24 inches. For old fashioned, prune off no more than one third of a plant's height. For spring-blooming climbing roses prune after they bloom and then only the dead or damaged wood. He also suggest removing one or two of the oldest canes in order to promote new growth.

**Q: Can I plant vegetables now?**

**A:** Cool-season crops can still be put in as transplants, including your cold-tolerant herbs, such as chives, cilantro, dill, fennel, garlic, oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage and thyme. Also, bare root fruit and nut plants can be planted.

**FYI:** Don't forget to keep those bird baths cleaned and filled.

Check us out on

**facebook**

## **GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY**

**By Kat Adams**

We added fifteen new members to our community. They want to learn how to grow an edible garden, fruit trees and nut trees.

Our top posters were Sylvia Skorupa, Karen Ann, and Frank Rippel.

Thank you to all who posted.

### **What To Plant In January**

Lettuce, Kale, Peas (Snow Peas, Sugar Snap, English Peas), Pumpkins, Squash, (Zucchini, Acorn, Butternut, Spaghetti), Kohlrabi, Spinach, Green Beans, Radishes, Cabbage, Asparagus

It's that time of year again so get your hot cocoa, snuggle in and plan your garden. I have included a variety of garden catalogs but if you have a favorite that you do not see here then at our GCMG meeting give me your favorite garden website so I can add it. Have fun.

<https://www.texastestedseed.com>

<https://www.davidsgardenseeds.com>

<https://www.victoryseeds.com>

<https://www.gurneys.com>

<https://www.burpee.com>

<https://www.springhillnursery.com>

<https://www.dixondalefarms.com>

<https://www.southernexposure.com>

<https://strictlymedicalseeds.com/>

<https://www.kitchengardenseeds.com>

<https://www.territorialseed.com>

<https://www.botanicalinterests.com>

<https://www.joyfulbutterfly.com>

Check us out on

**facebook**

<https://www.rareseeds.com>

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

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

<https://www.seedsavers.org>

<https://www.johnnyseeds.com>

<https://www.growitalian.com>

<https://www.totallytomato.com>

<https://www.texassuperstar.com>

<https://www.sandiaseed.com>

<https://www.tomatogrowers.com>

<https://www.reneesgarden.com>

<https://www.wildgardenseed.com>

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

The Antique Rose Emporium  
Brenham, TX

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

By Melinda J Lucas

Located in a very rural area, between the tiny historic town of Independence, TX and Brenham, TX, is a jewel of a nursery that is worth the detour to get there. This garden and nursery has something to offer every plant lover and draws over 50,000 visitors a year. The grounds are also a wedding venue. Though you better plan ahead because the next venue space isn't available until 2027.

The garden was established in 1983 and encompasses 8 acres of land that includes the Champney's Green Victorian Home that was built in 1904 and is now used as one of the venues on the property, along with the huge nursery, a chapel, a gazebo, several green houses, a store, and

many other buildings and structures.

Every March there is a rose festival held on the grounds that is open to the public (it is most likely that you will find me there this March). The current owner acquired the business three years ago and has a passion to keep it going as long as possible.

This gem has been on my list of places to go for a long time and I was more than excited when I found out that I was going to have to pass right by it to get from Old Baylor Park (The ruins of the original Baylor University) in order to get to Brenham where I was heading to eat lunch.

Independence is so small that you could blink and miss it, but the few things that are there, like the "town square" that consists of one building built in the late 1800s, the town store that looks like it was frozen in time from the 1950s, the Baptist Museum that is housed in the original church that was built in the 1800s, Old Baylor Park and the Antique Rose Emporium are more than enough to make a great day trip. I could have spent a day just taking pictures and it's not even in full bloom.



# 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)

# NPSOT

## **Native Plant Society of Texas Guadalupe Chapter Meeting**

### **Tree Care and Disease Management**

Presented By: Travis Franke  
Texas Agrilife Extension Service,  
Guadalupe County Coordinator

## **Tuesday January 13, 2026**

**Social 6:30 PM • Program 7 PM**  
*Chapter Meeting After Program*

**First Presbyterian Church of Seguin**  
**1121 E. Walnut Street, Seguin**  
*Parking on N. Moss St. behind the 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**  
**December 4, 2025**



## **Education Hours Snapshot of January – November 2025 (157 Certified Members)**

**15% have “0” hours - 23 Members**

4% have "0.25-2.25" hours – 7 Members

6% have "2.5-5.75" hours – 9 Members

8% have "6-9.75" hours – 13 Members

**67% have “10+” hours – 105 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. 😊**

## **Lunch & Learns January 2026**

**AgriLife January 14 12:00-1:00**  
**Tree Care & Maintenance Travis Franke**

**Schertz Public Library January 10 11:30-1:00**  
**Kitchen Herb Gardens Karen Brkich**

**Sequin Public Library No L&L Scheduled**

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# Continuing Education

## Vice President's Report – December 2025

### Speakers that are scheduled:

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Speaker:* Jay White, Owner of Texas Gardener Magazine

*Topic:* **Grandma Survived the Depression Because Her Supply Chain Was Local & She Could Do Stuff**

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Speaker:* Cindy Luongo Cassidy, President of Dark Sky Texas

*Topic:* **Protecting Our Dark Sky**

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Speaker:* Anna Kurtin, Urban Wildlife Biologist

*Topic:* **Birdwatching In Your Garden**

April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

*Speaker:* Peter Hernandez, MG

*Topic:* **Landscape Mysteries – ID That Plant Or Bug**

May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

*Speaker:* Andy Blair, Urban Biologist, etc.

*Topic:* **Best Grasses To Grow In Texas**

I'm still working on a 'Wine Country' lecture and one about 'Food Forests'

Respectfully,

Pam Younger, Vice President

(512) 656-2322

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TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

TEXAS  
MASTER GARDENER  
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION  
SULLIVAN COUNTY

# 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](#)

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EXTENSION

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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/>
- 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](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S5BK_6TGI_LYle3_XUiPjzz)

Horticulture & Gardening Webinar Series with David Rodriguez:

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

Entomology Webinar Series with Molly Keck:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S50uWVbqYzV3k2nfmxeA\\_9g](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLjqPKX68x1S50uWVbqYzV3k2nfmxeA_9g)

# Special Volunteer Opportunities



## Seed Exchange update for January 2026

Happy New Year! What did you do right and what would you change? January is a great month to reflect on those things. It is an unusually warm winter so far, but remember that January and February are usually our coldest months and Texas weather loves to throw surprises at this time of the year. So what can you do for January to pass the time and not get too excited about putting new plants in the ground?

Get a notebook for 2026 and write down what you learned from 2025. Make a list of goals and what you would like to change and what you would like to plant and where to plant it. You can even do a scrapbook journal format where you paste in the front of your packages of seeds after you plant them and pictures of what your goals are.

After you have made your list, head over to the seed exchange and see what seeds are available for free before you go out and purchase seeds.

If you want to start the year off with volunteer hours, please bring in any extra seeds that you harvested this past year, or come in and help sort and label the seeds that are available.

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](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

# 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 , kkoepfnb@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!

[Guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/](https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/)

# Special Volunteer Opportunities

## Newsletter Proofreaders

Are you looking for a way to get a couple of guaranteed volunteer hours every month? Do you enjoy reading and have a good eye for errors? I am in need of a couple of dependable people to proofread the newsletter draft each month. This would give you a guaranteed 24 hours or more of volunteer time for the year and is something that you can do from home.

I email out the draft two or three days before the end of the month. Your job would be to read through it, looking for errors and test links to make sure they work correctly, then email me back promptly and let me know what you found. That is it. You would only be looking for grammatical and obvious errors. There is no editing involved.

Please do not sign up if you cannot commit to following through. There is a timeline for getting the newsletter published and I do my absolute best to make that deadline. This is a relatively easy volunteer job, but it is also a very important one.

Please email Melinda Lucas at [MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com](mailto:MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com) or call 210-413-9389 if you have any questions or are interested.

## Filming Lunch and Learns

Do you attend the Lunch and Learns and meetings at any point in the year? What if you could earn extra hours for being there? Have you ever noticed the camera in the back of the room? There is a need for volunteers to “man the camera” (or “woman” the camera. Lol). You will be fully trained and only have to volunteer for the Wednesday Lunch and Learn or Thursday meeting that you know you would be available and want to do it. So, one day (or more if you want) out of the year. You would make sure that the camera is turned on, help keep people from walking in front of it, and then turn it back off. No experience is necessary and you will have all the necessary training will be provided. For instance you will still receive your 1 hour of Continuing Education for being present at the Lunch and Learn, but you will also be able to add another hour (on top of your driving time) to your volunteer time. If this sound like something that you are interested in, please contact Paul Prince at [Phrogtoo@Yahoo.com](mailto:Phrogtoo@Yahoo.com).

# Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2026

## Gardens and Park

### **1. Big Red Barn Garden**

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

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

Text: (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)

Text: (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](mailto:mariaq75@gmail.com)

Text: (210) 792-1603

Volunteer days: Tues, Thurs, & Saturdays 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

### **5. La Vernia Primary School Gardens**

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

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

Text: (830) 779-2149

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

Text: (210) 413-4818

Volunteer Days: Contact the POCs

### **6. LULAC Community Garden**

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

POC: Juan Moncada [jmarcus78702@gmail.com](mailto:jmarcus78702@gmail.com)

Text: (512) 701-1696

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### **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)

Text: (281) 381-5268

Volunteer Day: 2nd Saturday of the month.

### **9. Polley Mansion Heritage Garden**

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

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

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

Text: (571) 606-4234

Volunteer Days: Contact POCs

### **10. Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden**

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

POC: Rachel Eiland

[rachel.eiland@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.eiland@outlook.com)

Text: (757) 513-2842

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### **11. St. Andrew's Community Garden**

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

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

Text: (210) 544-0756

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

### **12. Other Gardens** (used as reciprocal cooperation between Counties or organizations)

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

#### **For Example:**

Irma Lewis Outdoor Learning Center Seguin ISD

Park West

Starcke Park Garden

Starcke Park Golf Course Garden

Wilson County Public Library



# Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2026

## Fundraisers & Related Projects

### 1. Calendar & Gardening Guide

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

**POC:** Pam Younger [pamyounger54@gmail.com](mailto:pamyounger54@gmail.com)

Text: (512) 656-2322

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 2. Craft Opportunities for Plant Sales

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

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

Text: (830) 534-2111

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 3. Earth Day (Typically Last Saturday in April)

Plant Sale Downtown Seguin on the Square

**Plant Sales POCs:** Paul Carter

[greenthumbcarter@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com) Text: (830) 481-0817

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

### 4. GC Fair Plant Sales & Raffle (2<sup>nd</sup> wk/wknd Oct)

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

**Lead POC: By Committee**

**Plant Sales:** Paul Carter [greenthumbcarter@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com)

Text: (830) 481-0817

**Raffle:** David Fisher [gcmgdavidfisher@gmail.com](mailto:gcmgdavidfisher@gmail.com) Text:

(361) 920-0368

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

### 5. GCMG Grow Team

Location details will be provided by the POC.

**POC:** Clayton Phelps [kimgoomer@yahoo.com](mailto:kimgoomer@yahoo.com) Text: (832)

641-8580

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 6. Kingsbury Fall Festival (Plant & Craft Sales)

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

**POCs:** Paul Carter [greenthumbcarter@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com)

Text: (830) 481-0817

Sharon Cooper [Rscooper3707@gmail.com](mailto:Rscooper3707@gmail.com)

Text: (281) 684-4632

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

### 7. Online Sales & Storefront-Spring/Fall

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

Regular hours are Wednesday-Saturday\* 8am – 5pm.

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

Text: (830) 433-2218

Frank Rippel [riptron@gmail.com](mailto:riptron@gmail.com) Text: (830) 305-4007

\* Except when it coincides with another GCMG event

### 8. 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](mailto:hkaymcelveen@gmail.com) Text: (479) 790-2933

**Plant Sales POCs:** Paul Carter

[greenthumbcarter@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com) Text: (830) 481-0817

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

### 9. Plant Sales Team

Sales will be at various GC locations in Spring & Fall

**Plant Sales POCs:** Paul Carter

[greenthumbcarter@gmail.com](mailto:greenthumbcarter@gmail.com) Text: (830) 481-0817

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

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

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

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

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

Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Contact POC



# Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2026

## Organizational Support

### 1. GCMG 2026 Board of Directors

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

Regular Board of Directors Meeting at AgriLife Extension Office 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor is 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday's at 4 PM each month (except in October which is 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 4PM) all members are encouraged to attend.

**Past President** – Kay McElveen

[hkaymcelveen@gmail.com](mailto:hkaymcelveen@gmail.com) Text: (479) 790-2933

**President** – April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com) Text: (830) 433-2218

**President-Elect** – Pam Malone [ptmalone@live.com](mailto:ptmalone@live.com) Text: (830) 534-2111

**Vice-President** – Pam Younger

[pamyounger54@gmail.com](mailto:pamyounger54@gmail.com) Text: (512) 656-2322

**Treasurer** – Frank Rippel [riptron@gmail.com](mailto:riptron@gmail.com) Text: (830) 305-4007

**Secretary** – Kathleen Smith

[kathleensmith1214@gmail.com](mailto:kathleensmith1214@gmail.com) Text: (281) 381-5268

**Education Director** – Karen Koepp

[kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) Text: (210) 378-3403

**Membership Director** – David Koepp

[dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) Text: (210) 263-3624

**Volunteer Director** – Kathy Carroll

[kathleen\\_carroll@icloud.com](mailto:kathleen_carroll@icloud.com) Text: (210) 793-1616

**Publicity Director** – Janice Jadwin [jmjadwin@yahoo.com](mailto:jmjadwin@yahoo.com)

Text: (210) 848-3634

**Master Gardener Class Director** – Paul Carter

[GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com](mailto:GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com) Text: (830) 481-0817

**AgriLife Extension Agent, MG Coordinator** – Travis

Franke [Travis.Franke@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:Travis.Franke@ag.tamu.edu) (830) 303-3889

**Class Coordinators**

**(Lead)** Paul Carter [GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com](mailto:GreenthumbCarter@gmail.com) Text: (830) 481-0817

April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com) Text: (830) 433-2218

David Fisher [gcmgdavidfisher@gmail.com](mailto:gcmgdavidfisher@gmail.com) Text: (361) 920-0368

**TMGA** (Quarterly Meetings, IMGC Conference, other TMGA related work)

**TMGA Director 2yr 2026/27 Primary:** April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com) Text: (830) 481-0817

TMGA Director 2yr 2026/2027 **Alternate:** Tim Steele [tlscowboys@hotmail.com](mailto:tlscowboys@hotmail.com) Text: (210) 385-2219

**TMGA Director 1yr 2025 Primary:** Kathy Carroll [kathleen\\_carroll@icloud.com](mailto:kathleen_carroll@icloud.com) Text: (210) 793-1616

TMGA Director 1 yr 2025 **Alternate:** Pam Malone [ptmalone@live.com](mailto:ptmalone@live.com) Text: (830) 534-2111

### 2. GCMG 2025/2026 Audit Committee

Don Albrecht [dar83@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dar83@sbcglobal.net) (806) 341-0373

Dominique Harmon [dominiqueah@mac.com](mailto:dominiqueah@mac.com) (303) 910-7186

Edie Cassell [ediecassell@gmail.com](mailto:ediecassell@gmail.com) (512) 968-5313

### 3. GCMG Education & Speakers Bureau Team

**POC:** Karen Koepp [kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) Text: (210) 378-3403,

Speakers Bureau POC: **VACANT – Need new POC.**

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

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

**POCs:** David Koepp [dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) Text: (210) 263-3624, Karen Koepp [kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com](mailto:kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com) Text: (210) 378-3403, & Ernestine Sykes

[ejackson.sykes@gmail.com](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com) Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Wed.2-5 p.m.

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

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

**POC:** Annette Padgett [padgettboys4@msn.com](mailto:padgettboys4@msn.com) Text: (406) 239-0777

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

### 6. GCMG Newsletter

**POC:** Melinda Lucas [meljulucas78218@gmail.com](mailto:meljulucas78218@gmail.com)

Text (210) 413-9389

Volunteer Days: Contact POC for needs.

### 7. GCMG Scholarship Committee

POCs (Lead) Kat Medeiros-Oropeza

[katoropeza1975@yahoo.com](mailto:katoropeza1975@yahoo.com) Text: (210) 577-8863

Don Albrecht [dar83@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dar83@sbcglobal.net) Text: (806) 341-0373

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

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

### 8. GCMG Social Events

**Summer POC:** April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com) Text: (830) 433-2218

**Winter POC:** April Rippel [adrippel@gmail.com](mailto:adrippel@gmail.com) Text: (830) 433-2218

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### 9. GCMG Technology Team

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

Text: (559) 259-4317

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

# Volunteer Opportunities

GCMG APPROVED GARDENS, PARKS, AND PROJECTS FOR 2026

## Public Education / Outreach

### **1. Ask A Master Gardener Information Booth**

(AAMG)

Location details will be provided by POC.

**POC:** Mac Mullins [macadac242@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:ejackson.sykes@gmail.com)

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### **3. Christmas Tree Decorating Project**

(Nov./Dec.)

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

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

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### **4. GC Fair AAMG Booth, Kids Crafts, Horticulture Exhibits, Pumpkin Contest** (2<sup>nd</sup> week/weekend Oct.)

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

**Lead POC: By Committee**

**AAMG/Information Booth:** Mac Mullins

[macadac242@gmail.com](mailto:macadac242@gmail.com) Text (210) 722-3881

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

Text: (830) 433-2218

**Kids Crafts:** Pam Malone [ptmalone@live.com](mailto:ptmalone@live.com) Text: (830) 534-2111

**Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth:** Pam Younger

[pamyounger54@gmail.com](mailto:pamyounger54@gmail.com)

Text: (512) 656-2322

Volunteer Days: Tuesday-Sunday during Fair Week

### **5. GCMG Independence Day Parade Float**

**POC:** Angela Chason [angelachason@hotmail.com](mailto:angelachason@hotmail.com)

Text: (210) 803-6736

Setup Location / Volunteer Days: Contact POC

### **6. 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](mailto:ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com)

or Anne Ottenad

210-860-3636 or email

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

## 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

250 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 2026**

**April Rippel-President**

**Kay McElveen-Past President**

**Pam Malone-President Elect**

**Pam Younger-Vice President**

**Kathleen Smith-Secretary**

**Frank Rippel-Treasurer**

**Janice Jadwin-Publicity Director**

**David Koepp-Membership Director**

**Karen Koepp-Education Director**

**Paul Carter-Training Class Director**

**Kathy Carrol-Volunteer Director**

**Travis Franke-AgrLife 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 Koepp, &***

***Kat Medeiros-Oropeza***

## **Members in Service**

### **Texas Master Gardener Association Directors**

**Two Year Term (2025-2026) April Rippel, Alternate – Tim Steele**

**One Year Term (2027) Kathy Carroll, Alternate – Pam Malone**

**Yule Fest - April Rippel**

**Pedde Park - Rachel Eiland**

**Tech Team Lead - Paul Prince**

**Big Red Barn - Janice Knobles**

**4th of July Parade - Angela Chason**

**Newsletter Editor - Melinda J Lucas**

**Gutierrez Garden Park - Maria Dykes**

**Facebook Administrator - Kathy Adams**

**Kingsbury Fall Festival - Sharon Cooper**

**Plant Sales - Paul Carter and Tim Steele**

**Ask A Master Gardener Booth - Mac Mullins**

**Christmas Tree Decorating - Ernestine Sykes**

**Speakers Bureau Team– Karen Koepp (P.O.C.)**

**Grow Team Lead By Committee-Clayton Phelps**

**GCMG Class Coordinators – Paul Carter and April Rippel**

**Refreshment Coordinator - Anette Padgett (AKA Montana)**

**Guadalupe Co. Demonstration Garden - Dale & Ann Odvody**

**GCMG Office/Library/Seed Exchange - David & Karen Koepp, Ernestine Sykes**

**2026 County Fair - By Committee, Horticulture April Rippel, Kid's Crafts Pam Malone, Raffle - David Fisher, AAMG/Information booth Mac Mullins, Pumpkin Contest Pam Younger, & Plant Sales Paul Carter**

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