

APRIL 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?



- **Monthly Meeting April 16th, food theme "Spring Fling!"**
- **Plant Sales are in their last spring month and doing great!**
- **Polly Mansion Plant Sale and Tour April 11th!**
- **NPSOT Plant Sale this month!**
- **Earth Day is April 25th!**
- **New Special Volunteer Opportunities available.**
- **Don't forget about Seed Exchange!**
- **Great Continuing Education classes in the near future.**

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Letter from the President



April 2026 Message from the GCMG President:

Welcome to spring in Texas! Rain has been mostly absent this year, but there are a few wildflowers here and there, who knows? Maybe this is nature's way of weeding out weak seeds and promoting the hardy ones.

There are tons of things going on right now within our organization. Plant sales, planting and maintenance at our gardens and parks. If you want to get your volunteer hours early this year, we can find the perfect way for you to do that! Please contact our fantastic Volunteer Director, Kathy Carroll, to find out how you can help.

Have you heard how the GCMGs are helping horticulture college students? Because of our successful fundraising efforts, thank you Paul Carter, we are able to provide even more funding for scholarships this year. Recently, a few of our members were able to see where our scholarship recipients hang out. Palo Alto College and San Antonio College have great programs in horticulture and I'm very proud that our organization is a part of providing the means for students to study in this area. Yay us!

Be sure to do your prep work now to keep your plants healthy and happy. It will soon be very warm outside, this is the perfect time to install drip irrigation, mulch, and prepare to battle with unwanted pests. Your plans and implementation will soon pay off as the long, hot days of summer approach.

Keep up the good work everyone! Stay hydrated, look into getting heat and drought-tolerant plants, and always take the time to enjoy your garden.

At Your Service,

April Rippel, 2026 GCMG President

"It's amazing how many worries are lost while gardening." -- Empress of Dirt

Membership Corner

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners Membership Director Report Month Ending February 28, 2026 Prepared by David Koeppe, Membership Director

Executive Summary:

- Congratulations to our Master Gardener of the Season Winter 2025 winner Ginny Fox!
- Congratulations to our Master Gardener of the Month February winner Carol Suchan!
- We are continuing to see a strong start to 2026. Thank you all for all you do for the organization!
- Everyone who needed to do EVS in the first quarter completed it except for 2 members who are out on a Leave of Absence. They know and will complete it prior to returning to service.
- The next group of members who need to do EVS don't start to expire until mid-August 2026. Essentially there are 25 who have expirations between 8/18/2026 & 1/29/2027. They will get their notices to take the course and submit for background checks at 60 days out from their current expirations.
 - ◆ Remember we're here to help you if you want or need it when it's your time to take the course. EVS consists of just listening to a number of slides (they also have closed captioning if you need it) and clicking the next arrow, and repeat until done, nothing more until you get to the submit for your background check which again is easy.

For 2026, aside from the many project gardens, there are also many indoor opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of online education available.

• Earn Volunteer hours:

- Seed Exchange - Every Monday 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, and Wednesday 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (Except for 11/25/2026 & 12/23/2026) - Contact [David](#) or [Karen Koeppe](#) or [Ernestine Sykes](#). Come sort seeds, pack seeds from donations brought in by others, or help us out in other ways. See our project page here: <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/>. We need to start getting seeds ready for the 4th of July parade!
- Learn to film the membership meetings and lunch and learns - Contact [Paul Prince](#).
- Write an article for the monthly Newsletter - Contact [Melinda Lucas](#).
- Submit an article for the Wandering Gardener section of our monthly Newsletter including pictures of a garden you have visited - Contact [Melinda Lucas](#).
- You can find & view the recordings of our prior Lunch & Learn's, as well as monthly membership meetings for **Volunteer & Continuing Education hours**, by subscribing to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx?sub_confirmation=1 or at the following link on our website <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/continuing-education/>. Remember, the business portion of the membership meeting counts towards volunteer hours (0.75 hours Vol), the educational presentation portion counts towards CE hours (1 hour CE).
- Recruit for the next Master Gardener Class #42 (we already have 4 folks signed up!) – Pick up an updated recruiting packet from the Master Gardener Office upstairs. If you run out of flyers, applications or other materials, come grab another packet or ask one of the MG Office POCs for whatever supplies you may need.
- Another opportunity to gain volunteer hours (and maybe make a new friend) is to **be a mentor** to one or more new interns for class 41. Please also consider also reaching out to our remaining class 40 interns to see if they need anything to help them get their certification completed.
- **All eight of our remaining 2025 interns still need many volunteer hours by the end of June 2026 in order to certify** and may welcome a friendly offer of mentorship to help them achieve that goal. **You can find the intern list in VMS** by going to the General Information tab then

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

Member Roster, then toggle the “Status” twistie on the far left and click on Interns. You can further filter by typing the year (2025) in the quick search box and pressing enter.

- The Seed Exchange wants your help to produce several GCMG-branded documents, pamphlets, and brochures to use to help advertise what we do here at GCMG, and to provide education on our “Seed Library,” “Seed Saving Techniques,” “Seed Starting,” “Varieties That Do Well Here,” “Planting Times,” etc. If you like to write and are interested in producing one of more of these types of materials for us, please contact [David Koeppe](#) for more information.
- The MG Office is also seeking creative members to design GCMG-branded cards for various occasions, including Thank You, Get Well, Sympathy, etc. Please contact [David Koeppe](#) for more information.
- Plant sales are underway! We need volunteers to help with the setup/tear down, transport to/from and of course, help with the sales and answering questions! Please see the project page for the dates: <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/plant-sales/> and contact [Paul Carter](#) if you have any questions.
- Participate in the Speakers Bureau Shadow Program. Earn volunteer hours while learning how to put together and give presentations.
- Do you have a particular Gardening niche you are passionate about? Put together a presentation on it and submit it to the Education Director for review.
- And of course, you can work on any of our other projects - See the [Approved Project List](#) for the Projects and POCs. You can also find the latest Approved Projects List on **VMS** under the “Other” document category.
- Many other opportunities exist throughout the year, just ask any GCMG Board member how you can help. Volunteer hours, including travel time to/from, can only be claimed for activities providing horticultural education and horticultural community service of approved GCMG projects, including but not limited to:
 - Educational outreach (i.e. Info booths), teaching, and demonstration projects.
 - Plant growing/care/sales, crafts, and food items for fundraising events.
 - Volunteering at any of the GCMG-approved gardens/parks/projects.
 - If you have any questions, contact the Membership Director, [David Koeppe](#).
- ♦ **Earn Continuing Education hours:**
 - You can find & view the recordings of our prior Lunch & Learn’s as well as monthly membership meetings for **Volunteer & Continuing Education hours** by subscribing to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx?sub_confirmation=1 or under the following link on our website: <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/continuing-education/> – Remember the business portion of the membership meeting counts towards Volunteer hours (0.75 hours Vol), the educational presentation portion counts towards CE hours (1 hour CE).
 - Bexar County MG YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@MyExtension210>.
 - Aggie Horticulture YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbp4wkcScRVoHIN3Hi1_KUQ.
 - On-line Programs via Texas A&M AgriLife Extension website: <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu>.
 - Earth-Kind On-Line Continuing Education Training: <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/earthkind/training/>.

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

- 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/>.
- Texas Parks & Wildlife Department: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/>.
- Texas Forestry Service: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/education-outreach/>.
- Native Plant Society of New Braunfels Past Presentations: <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/new-braunfels/past-presentations/>.
- 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 that can be found in our monthly Newsletter also apply toward CE hours.
- See our [Website](#) and [Web Calendar](#) for more CE opportunities and details.

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 to a common standard. Please note that the local County Extension Agent (CEA) 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 investigate their requirements before doing so.

Did you know you could access VMS from your smartphone? Yes, the screen is smaller than a computer screen, but it presents on the phone a bit differently. I don't find it smaller or harder to use and you still enter your time via VMS in a web browser the same way as from a computer. My preference is to enter my time on my phone as I find it more convenient to do so as well. If you want any help or demonstration, let me know!

The timely input of your volunteer (and CE hours) is critical to our organization's funding; thus, we cannot stress the importance of the timely input of your hours enough.

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.

Missed the Monthly meeting? You can view the recordings and the pre-meeting slides and the Membership Meeting Agenda & slides on our website under "[Continuing Education](#)" then click on the "[GCMG Lunch & Learns/Monthly Meetings-Virtual](#)" link. You can find all our recorded meetings, Lunch & Learns, and slideshows that are available here broken down by year and month. They are also on our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx?sub_confirmation=1

I still have many members Service Years awards, Milestone Pin awards, and your 2026 Membership cards. You can get them at the next Membership meeting, or stop by the Extension Office on Wednesdays between 2-5 PM and come see me up in the MG Office.

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

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this report, with VMS or EVS, please contact David Koeppe dhkoeppe.GCMG@gmail.com or at 210-263-3624 (voice/text friendly).

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

Monthly Report Summary 2026 February Breakdown:

Roster Totals for June 2025	Intern (20)	Certified (163)	Leave of Absence (5)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (1)	Retired (0)	Realigning (0)	Archived (0)
Roster Totals for July 2025	Intern (21)	Certified (162)	Leave of Absence (5)	Inactive (0)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (3)	Retired (0)	Realigning (0)	Archived (2)
Roster Totals for August 2025	Intern (18)	Certified (157)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (9)	Retired (2)	Realigning (0)	Archived (10)
Roster Totals for September 2025	Intern (17)	Certified (156)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (7)	Retired (2)	Realigning (1)	Archived (7)
Roster Totals for October 2025	Intern (22)	Certified (157)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (3)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (1)	Retired (2)	Realigning (1)	Archived (1)
Roster Totals for November 2025	Intern (25)	Certified (157)	Leave of Absence (4)	Inactive (3)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (3)	Retired (2)	Realigning (1)	Archived (3)
Roster Totals for December 2025	Intern (37) 8/29	Certified (127)	Leave of Absence (11)	Inactive (18)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (9)	Retired (2)	Realigning (1)	Archived (5)
Roster Totals for January 2026	Intern (40) 8/32	Certified (130)	Leave of Absence (11)	Inactive (18)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (0)	Retired (0)	Realigning (1)	Archived (0)
Roster Totals for February	Intern (42) 8/31/3	Certified (131)	Leave of Absence (9)	Inactive (15)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (0)	Retired (1)	Realigning (1)	Archived (0)
	Month	# Members Reporting	Mbrs w/ 5+ Hours	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Pounds Produce	Mileage		
	January	74 or 56%	41	1293.10	131.75	34	664	6393.30		
	February	82 or 63%	64	2145.40	205.75	541	354	8599.95		
	March									
	April									
	May									
	June									
	July									
	August									
	September									
	October									
	November									
	December									
	Peak 2026 (So Far)	82 or 63%	64	2145	206	541	664	8599.95		
	Avg 2026 (So Far)	78 or 60%	53	1720	169	288	509	7497.00		
	Totals 2026	82 or 63% Peak	n/a	3438.50	337.50	575	1018	14993.25		
	2025	127	n/a	17,483.37	2,381.90	4,171	10,186	70,087.17		
	2024	158	n/a	14,959.25	1,712.00	2,539	9,362	60,378.50		
	2023	165	n/a	14,790.50	1,738.15	1,664	5,593	55,688.70		
	2022	146	n/a	11,786.80	1,646.25	3,261	-	44,919.64		

Monthly Report February 2026 Summary Breakdown:

	# Submitted	# Not Submitted
Number of Certified Members that reported any amount of hours for February by reporting deadline	82	49
Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) February 2026	Vol	CE
Members with 0 hours reported	49	74
Members with >0 & <5 hours	19	48
Members with => 5 & <25 hours	44	9
Members with => 25 & <100 hours	16	0
Members with => 100 & <200 hours	3	0
Members with => 200 & <300 hours	0	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 YTD 2026	90	41
Volunteer Hours Year-To-Date	Vol	CE
Number of Members with 0 hours	41	49
Number of Members with >0 & <5 hours	16	60
Number of Members with => 5 & <25 hours	38	21
Number of Members with => 25 & <100 hours	28	1
Number of Members with => 100 & <200 hours	6	0
Number of Members with => 200 & <300 hours	1	0
Number of Members with => 300 & <400 hours	1	0
Number of Members with => 400 & <500 hours	0	0
Number of Members with => 500 hours	0	0

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

February 2026 Volunteer Recognition Drawing of Certified* Master Gardeners

Certified Members in February with 5+ hours (*Voting Board Members not eligible)	
1. ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	27. HERNANDEZ, PETER
2. ALBRECHT, DON	28. JONES, PEGGY
3. ALLEN, HEATHER	29. KIRK, JESSICA "JESS"
4. ALTHAUSER, MARZELLUS "MARCEL"	30. KNOBLES, JANICE
5. ANCELET, LISA	31. LANDEROS, ANN
6. BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	32. LEACOCK, SUZANNE
7. BRKICH, KAREN	33. LEVINE, CAROLYN
8. BURRIS, WELTA	34. LUCAS, MELINDA
9. BURTON, RODNEY	35. MAGEE, JANET
10. BYLER, KELSIE	36. MCCORQUODALE, JANET "LISA"
11. CARRELL, KAREN	37. MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE "KAT"
12. CARTER, MARTHA "MARTY"	38. MICKWEE, LINDA
13. CAVAZOS, RACHEL	39. MOTT, ROBERT "KEITH"
14. CHASON, ANGELA	40. MUSCHALEK, ROBIN
15. COCKERELL, REX "ALAN"	41. ODVODY, DALE
16. COLLIER, COLLEEN	42. ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"
17. COOPER, SHARON	43. OTTENAD, ANNE
18. COVER, KAY	44. PADGETT, ANNETTE
19. EILAND, RACHEL	45. PHELPS, CLAYTON
20. FISHER, DAVID	46. PRINCE, PAUL
21. FOWLER, LARRY	47. SMITH, ANNETTE
22. FOX, VIRGINIA "GINNY"	48. STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"
23. GRIFFIS, JUDY	49. STYBLO, MARY
24. HARD, ROSE "DIANA"	50. SUCHAN, CAROL
25. HARMON, DOMINIQUE	51. SYKES, ERNESTINE
26. HENRY, BETH	52. TREMAINE BLACK, SANDY

Recognition Drawings:

February 5+ [Diana Hard](#), March Door Prize: [Pam Malone](#)

Milestone Achievements

Certified Members Milestone Achievements Volunteer Hours February 2026 YTD		
100 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)
CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	140.60	1.00
FISHER, DAVID	107.00	19.00
HARMON, DOMINIQUE	170.25	4.50
ODVODY, DALE	136.00	1.00
PHELPS, CLAYTON	100.25	4.00
RIPPEL, APRIL	105.50	12.00
200 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)
RIPPEL, FRANK	215.00	18.50
300 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)
KOEPP, DAVID	348.25	10.00

Certification / Recertification Achievements

Members who have met or exceeded Recertification Requirements already in 2026!			
MG Name	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Month Cert/Recert Achieved
FISHER, DAVID	107	19	February
KOEPP, DAVID	348.25	10	February
KOEPP, KAREN	56	11.25	February
RIPPEL, APRIL	105.5	12	January
RIPPEL, FRANK	215	18.5	February

Membership Corner

Spring Has Sprung



Pictures taken by Frank Rippel,
Robin Muschalek, and
Dominique Rosini Harmon

Membership Corner



POLLEY MANSION PLANT SALE



Saturday, 4/11/2026 9 am to 4 pm

Plan to spend the day on the grounds of the beautiful
Polley Mansion near La Vernia TX

Shop for Plants

Guided Tours of the Historic Mansion

Relax on the colorful grounds

Visit the Heritage Garden

Polley Mansion is located about 3 miles north of Sutherland Springs at
11432 FM 539, **La Vernia, Texas 78121** in Wilson County

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



Membership Corner

CLASS 41 UPDATE

By Vina More

At Our 6th Class Meeting, TAMU's Dr. Kimberly Cochran, Associate Professor & Plant Pathology Extension Specialist, lectured on Plant Diseases. Dr. Cochran said that plant disease is a disruption of the plant's good health caused by soilborne or foliar pathogens such as fungi, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes. Dr. Cochran also talked about some of the many disease management strategies such as resistant plants, pathogen avoidance by way of cultivation, removing diseased plant debris, and therapy strategies like pruning. She concluded her great lecture with a short discussion about common disease symptoms and signs with example pictures she had in her handout.

In the second half of our class, returning MG Kay McElveen took her lecture on greenhouses to the next level! Class 41 interns looked at the pros and cons of the essential things to consider when wanting a greenhouse:

- **What kind of greenhouse?** Gabled, Gothic Arch, Geodesic, Lean-To, A-frame.
- **When to erect the greenhouse?** This coming winter, fall or maybe next spring? What about permits, HOAs, contractors, plumbers, electricians. Getting them onboard could change the timeline. And don't forget to factor in the weather!!
- **Where are we going to put the greenhouse?** Location, Location, Location!!! Backyard or the east side of the house? Full sun or part shade? And finally,
- **Why consider a greenhouse?** Growing vegetables and plants year-round? Switching to containers? She even discussed things to think about when you design the inside of the greenhouse - shelves, benches, fans, exhausts, windows, sinks, and even flooring.

Our 7th Class was packed full of information. MG April Rippel started our day by schooling us on the A-Z of herbs. And yes, peppers are herbs too! Class 41 interns got a brief history of herbs and how they were used as far back as 70/69 BC in Cleopatra's Era. But herbs are not just for culinary, beauty, or medicinal purposes. Herbs in modern day are also used for air purifying and freshening, smudging, bug deterrents, teas, companion planting, and even cleaning products. But the best thing of all is you don't need much space to grow most herbs. And thanks to April, we have learned that it doesn't take much effort to grow herbs either.

Then, MG Dr. Bjorn Johnson jumped right in and told us about garden production planning. Whether it be intensive planting, vertical growing, or Mittleider gardening, plant tables are key to maximizing production. And fertilization and watering do have upper limits. And remember that planning your food crops is the best garden production plan.

We wrapped up week 7 with MG Peter Hernandez coming back to the classroom to discuss Earth-Kind Landscaping Principles. He discussed Class 41's Earth-Kind Challenge survey results and ways to improve going forward for even better scores. He pointed out and referred to the Earth Principle Guide which had key areas of focus when aiming to be Earth Kind Friendly. Mr. Hernandez concluded his class time once again with his engaging raffles for plants and reference materials.

Membership Corner

Our 8th class was both a lecture and a hands-on class project. MG Dr. Bjorn Johnson came back to talk about growing vegetables and how to make a raised-garden bed. He started his lecture with ways to evaluate garden information by using the C.R.A.P. Test (**C**redibility, **R**elevance, **A**ccuracy and **P**urpose). His lecture continued by teaching us ways to adapt key practices to things like the best sites to plant, soil prep, seeding, watering, transplanting and fertilizing. We learned about establishing a planning toolkit, different gardening styles such as inground gardening, container gardening, or hydroponic gardening, and some of the resources you will need for them. His lecture dove deep into the garden soil with information about testing practices, adding soil amendments, maintaining a crop cover, and the benefits of crop rotation. Additionally, we learned about essential garden tools and garden hand tool safety. Dr. Johnson brought in several garden tools from his own garden as examples of what can be used and how to use them. Dr. Johnson talked about the garden clock as it relates to average frost dates within hardiness zones and how to calculate the best time for planting. He explained air/soil temperatures and the impact of each as it relates to growing vegetables. He told us the importance of garden site selection and soil bed and garden preparation. Before concluding his lecture, we learned about different season extender methods like greenhouses. He talked about planting seeds, ways to transplant young seedlings, and proper watering techniques. Dr. Johnson also gave everyone a flash drive with his lecture information for future use. But our 8th class meeting did not end there. Dr. Johnson brought in building materials and with the assistance of several Class 41 interns he demonstrated how to build a raised bed garden box.

The typical changing Texas weather detoured our 9th class and field trip back to the classroom instead of being at the St. Andrews Community Garden here in town. Class 41 easily adjusted to the minor plan change and learned about Plant Propagation all within the comfort of the lecture hall - including doing the hands-on exercises. MG Kathy Carroll began the class with an Introduction to Propagation. She talked about what propagation was; the history, the types, and some of the legal considerations associated with plant propagation with cautions to plant patents, pending patents, and trademarks. Then MG Claire Huebinger continued the class session with her presentation on Sexual/Seed Propagation. She discussed the pros and cons and other preferred methods of propagation. She had various examples of self-pollinating seed for the class to examine. Her lecture went into great depths about seed collection and storage, overcoming dormancies, and seed germination. She also talked about soil and potting media, humidity, air circulation, fertilizing, and even hardening off transplants. And then the class welcomed MG Kay McElveen back as she took the class through the many types of Asexual Propagation. She talked about plant cuttings and the advantages and disadvantages of using them, the usage of root hormones, tools and supplies, and propagators like storage bag terrariums. Her lecture taught the class about stem and heel cuttings and how to score them. She concluded her presentation with callus and root development, transplanting, labeling and watering. And finally, MG Beth Henry wrapped up the class lectures with her presentation of Plant Propagation Simple Division. Beth taught the class not only what plant division is, but the correct steps to divide and transplant. She lectured on the root and crown system of plants like clumpers, runners, and rhizomes and when to divide such. She also spoke to the recommended time of the year – either spring or fall as to when to divide plants in general. Her presentation left the class eager to start the hands-on exercises awaiting on the other side of the lecture hall. After all presentations were concluded, class 41 spent hands-on time propagating plants by way of sexual, asexual and the division method we learned about in our lectures.

Membership Corner

Plant Sale

Online or in Store

Online or in Store, we have:

Celebrity Tomatoes
Red Snapper Tomatoes
Roma Tomatoes
Large Cherry Tomatoes
Better Boy Tomatoes
Early Girl Tomatoes
Beefsteak Tomatoes
Jalapeño Medium Peppers
TAM Jalapeño (Mild) Peppers
Serrano Peppers
Sweet Banana Peppers
Cucumbers

In store, all of the above plus:

Calendula
Swiss Chard
Ruby Swiss Chard
Hatch Peppers



In store shopping at: 4037 Stockdale Hwy., Seguin, TX 78155, Wed-Sat, 9am-5pm,
Call April Rippel at (830) 433-2218 (Text Friendly) for other shopping hours, and to
inquire about the 2026 Rodeo Tomato "Polbig F1 Hybrid" - Quantities limited.



Membership Corner

Plant Sale



NPSOT Guadalupe Chapter

Native Plant SALE

SATURDAY April 11, 2026

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Or until we sell out!)

First Presbyterian Church

1121 E. Walnut St., Seguin

Parking is off N. Moss St. behind the Church

There will be a variety of native plants for sale!

Members will be available to help with your questions.

Credit cards accepted

Membership Corner

Bug Juice (An Entomology Tidbit)

Karen Koeppe



This month's tidbit is about a bumblebee wannabe known as the Snowberry Clearwing moth (*Hemaris diffinis*). This day-flying moth has a fuzzy yellow body, black bands and a rapid hovering flight. No wonder it's often mistaken for a bumblebee. This mimicry helps protect it from predators that avoid stinging insects. It also hovers like a hummingbird and drinks nectar from deep flowers with its long proboscis why it is also often referred to as "hummingbird moth". An efficient pollinator for many garden plants such as honeysuckle, bee balm and snowberry, its presence enhances biodiversity and supports healthy ecosystems by aiding in cross-pollination. Another common nick name is "flying-lobster"...I mean just look at that "tail".

What's that Bug?

Mountain Laurel Mirids

Melinda Lucas



Most of the Mountain Laurels have already bloomed and the flowers are starting to vanish by now. This is the time of the year that the bright new growth begins to appear at the end of the limbs.

Maybe you have recently noticed tiny scarlet red bugs on your Mountain Laurels and wondered about them. They are really pretty and eye catching and when they start to appear, they sometimes can be very plentiful.

What you are looking at is the Mountain Laurel Mirid (*Lopidea Major*), a piercing, sap-sucking, insect that causes the leaves to appear wrinkled or puckered. Though they don't do long term damage, the short term appearance is not very appealing.

The insect is harmless and provides a great snack for birds, spiders, lizards and other hungry yard dwellers, though I wouldn't advise human consumption. Lol. Soapy water is a great way to remove them from the Mountain Laurel if desired.

Monthly Meeting

YOU ARE INVITED
TO A MASTER GARDENER
MEETING

Landscape Mysteries- ID That Plant Or Bug

With Peter Hernandez, Master Gardener,
Master Naturalist, and Master Composter

Thursday, April 16th, 2026
210 E. Live Oak in Seguin, TX

5:45 Social W/ Food (Spring Fling)

6:15 Business Meeting

7:00 Lecture - Presentation

8:00 Door Prizes

**FREE & OPEN
TO ALL**

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity provider. The Texas A&M University system, US Department of Agriculture, and the 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, 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: How do I know when to water? I either water too much or too little.

A: This is a question I was asked outside our library the other day. The simple answer from Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist, in his book *Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac*, is to water when your yard or plant needs it. Your yard and your plants will show you if you look. Lawns wilt, show footprints, or turn dull and gray-green. Some plants will wilt like hibiscus and periwinkle. You do not want to wait for wilting for your vegetable garden. Instead, use the tried and true method of sticking your finger into the soil about 2 to 3 inches. If the soil is cool, then there is enough moisture. If it feels warm or dry, then it needs water.

When searching the Texas A&M site, I found something that looks like it will be useful: WaterMyYard.org with a free cell phone app. Check it out. For now, turn off your lawn irrigation system's automatic feature. Put on an inch of water, then wait till your lawn needs it again. You can figure out how to get an inch of water by putting out cat food cans or cake pans and running the system until there is an inch in the pans. Make sure that you note the amount of time this takes. After that, run the system for that amount of time.

Q: I use a lot of herbs when I cook and I prefer that they be fresh. What herbs will grow in Seguin? Can I grow them in pots?

A: At the moment I have several pots by my front door (more sun out front) which have herbs growing in them. One pot contains garlic chives, another has basil and rosemary. (I also have a pot with lettuce, one with onions, and one with the new Rodeo tomato.) Well-drained soil and full sun (6 hours direct sunlight) is a must. In my back yard I have a bay tree growing which has survived many freezes without being killed (and also survived my alkaline soil). It stays small which is okay, because how many bay leaves do you need for stew?! Cilantro grows here over the winter. Above 85 degrees it starts to bolt and flower. Other herbs that grow in Seguin include chives, dill, Mexican mint marigold, Mexican oregano, mints, oregano, parsley, sage, and thyme.

Q: Should I be removing dead blossoms from my annuals so that they will keep blooming?

A: I do at the library. I clip back the snapdragons that have gone to seed to the next node. New growth comes which extends their blooming time. Of course, eventually the sun will be too hot and I will have to replant with something that takes the heat better like periwinkles.

At home I clip the dead blooms off of my roses. You might not want to do this if you like rosehips. All of this depends on how much time you have, of course. Remember: I'm retired.

Check us out on

facebook

GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

by Kat Adams

We added 58 new members. They want to learn about growing sustainable gardens, herbs, vegetables and fruit trees.

Our top posters were Dominique Rosini Harmon, Frank Rippel, and Robin Broughton Muschalek. Thank you to all who post.

What to plant and grow in April

Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Beans, Cucumber, Eggplant, Leek, Lettuce, Mustard Greens, Okra, Sweet Pepper, Hot Pepper, Tomato, Turnip, Watermelon, Honeydew, Cantaloupe, Sweet Potato, Onions.

Grow A Tea Garden

Plant Mints (Peppermint, Spearmint, Orange Mint, Chocolate Mint), Lemon Balm, Tulsi (Holy Basil), Roselle Hibiscus, Rose Hips, Passionflower, Ginger, Echinacea, Anise Hyssop, Bee Balm, Lavender, Rosemary, Sage, and Lemongrass.

Plant companion plants to help deter pests and can also be made into teas.

Cilantro, Basil, and Calendula.

Harvest Tea Herbs

Youngest leaves are the most tender and flavorful.

Pinch leaf clusters above the growing nodes to encourage growth.

Harvest in the early morning, once dew has dried and before it gets too hot.

Harvest year round, the most flavorful leaves are from the first spring harvest, March to May.

Drying Tea Herbs

Lavender, Sage, Rosemary - Dry individual herbs by bunching together and place in a well ventilated dark area with low humidity.

Basil and Mint do best in the oven or dehydrator.

Other techniques are air drying in mesh trays, microwaving, or placing herbs in a paper bag in a warm car.

Storing Tea Herbs

Once tea herbs are dried, store in an airtight container away from light and moisture. Using a glass jar vacuum sealer will pull air out of the glass after you put a lid on it, this extends your tea herbs shelf life.

Thank you to all who post. Please continue to post photos of your gardens, garden hacks, frugal gardening and questions. We all learn from each other.

Enjoy Your Gardens.

The Wandering Gardeners

Windmill Island Gardens Holland, MI

<https://www.holland.org/listing/windmill-island-gardens/284/>

By Melinda J Lucas



You may not know this, but there is only one authentic, operational Dutch windmill in the United States and it is located in the midst of a stunning 36 acre garden, in Holland, Michigan. The amazing De Zwaan (The Swan) Windmill was brought over from the Netherlands in 1965 and is 5 stories tall (125 feet from ground to the top of the blades) and open to visitors from mid-April until early Autumn each year. The whole park can be seen from the top floor. Inside, amongst the working machinery, there is also a museum with a lot of information about how windmills were used long before electricity was invented. If you are lucky

you may visit during one of the working mill days and get to watch the wheat milling process.

The Garden, part of the American Horticulture Society, as well as the city of Holland, is famous for the annual Tulip Festival that takes place the first two weeks of May. Over 5,000 annual flowers and an amazing array of thousands of tulips. Just think, you can visit Holland without a passport!

The end of the Tulip season is July 29th, so July is also a very busy time to visit, but June is prime time as

well and less busy. We visited in September so there were no tulips, but there was no disappointment! Bring your camera and plan on getting your steps in.



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 MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com by the 20th of the month.

NPSOT

Upcoming Meetings and Events for Native Plant Society of Texas, Guadalupe County

- April Meeting – April 8, 2026

Guadalupe Chapter Monthly Meetings include a Social at 6:30 PM, a Presentation at 7:00 PM, followed by a Business Meeting.

St. John Lutheran Church, 600 S Center St (FM 465), Marion, TX, 78124

- Chapter Tax-Free Plant Sale - April 11, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church of Seguin, 1121 E. Walnut Street, Seguin, TX, 78155
- Earth Day booth/plant sale/educational information table April 25, 2026, Seguin Downtown in the square.

If you have any questions, please visit the NPSOT page at <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/guadalupe/>



GCMG and GCNPSOT working together. Propagation of native plants taught with Kathy Carroll, Sandy Black and NPSOT members



Continuing Education

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



Education Director Report March 12, 2026

Karen Koepp
2025 GCMG, Education Director

Education Hours Snapshot of February 2026 (131 Certified Members)

"0" hours – 49 Members
"0.25-2.25" hours – 36 Members
"2.5-5.75" hours – 30 Members
"6-9.75" hours – 10 Members
"10+" hours – 6 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 to input your hours in VMS. 😊

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Continuing Education

Lunch & Learn Events

April 2026

AgriLife April 8 12:00-1:00

Propagation Presented by Kay McElveen

Plant propagation allows gardeners to multiply favorites, preserve strong genetics, and grow resilient landscapes. Join us for an informative presentation on proven propagation techniques and how best to handle a variety of plants.

Schertz Public Library April 11 11:30-1:00

Native Gardening Presented by Karen Brkich

Native Plants are sustainable choices that support local wildlife and thrive in the heat and dry conditions of our area. Come learn how to choose, plant and care for native plants.

Seguin Public Library April 11 12:00-1:30

Butterflies, Bees and Moths—Oh My! presented by Kathy Carroll

Join Kathy as she shares tips for inviting pollinators into your gardening space. Kathy is certified in native landscaping and has helped establish pollinator gardens in large and small spaces. Any gardening space can be used to invite our native pollinators to visit.

May 2026

AgriLife May 13 12:00-1:00

Bugs: Good vs Bad Presented by Karen Brkich

Learn how to identify helpful insects that support your garden and the pests that cause damage, so you can make smarter, more sustainable gardening choices.

Schertz Public Library May 9 11:30-1:00

Bye Bye Bugs! The Consequences of “Pest” Elimination Presented by Melinda Lucas
Learn more about the reality of eliminating the bugs that drive you buggy.

Seguin Public Library May 9 12:00-1:30

Container Gardening presented by Marvin Borth

Discover how to grow flowers, herbs, and vegetables in containers of all sizes. This presentation covers plant selection, soil, watering and simple tips to help your container garden thrive in any space.

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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/>



The **Plant Party** webinar series is a collaboration between Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. These quarterly webinars are meant to provide advanced training on all things plants and to get people excited about the flora of our state.



Join us for the next Plant Party:
"Identifying Plants Without Leaves or Flowers"
December 10, 2025; 10-11:30 am (Central)
Registration Details will be Available Soon!

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:

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

Special Volunteer Opportunities



Seed Exchange Update for April 2026

A quarter of the year is already behind us and Spring may, or may not, be happening this year. This is your last chance to really get your garden going or your plants will really have to struggle to grow through the heat and lack of rain.

April is a good month to plant okra, peas, cucumbers, melons, zucchini, zinnias, and basil, and guess what? All of those seeds are available at the seed exchange.

Now is also the last good chance to get the wildflower seeds sewn. If you have packs of seeds sitting around your house, get them out into the yard. Wake those guys up and get them going! If you don't have seeds, we do, so come and get them.

Come up to the AgriLife Library on Monday mornings or Wednesday afternoons and visit and shop, or volunteer, and remember to please bring in any extra seeds that you harvested this past year.

There are a large number of seeds available at this time, so please head up to the seed exchange in the Master Gardeners Office and pick out what you need.

*****Please note that the new hours are Mondays from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** If those hours don't work for you due to work or other commitments please reach out to one of the POCs. 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,
kkoeppe.gcmg@gmail.com, or call/text 210-263-3624,
Ernestine Sykes – ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756

The current list of available seeds is being updated. To find out more, please visit Guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/.

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

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

Text: (479) 790-2933

After initial consult, Vols work on their own schedule.

3. Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden

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

POC: Ann Odvody odvodvd@swbell.net

Text: (210) 665-3866

Volunteer Day: Tue & Fri 8-11:00 a.m.

4. Gutierrez Garden Park

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

POC: Maria Dykes mariaq75@gmail.com

Text: (210) 792-1603

Volunteer days: Tue, Thurs, & Sat 9-11 a.m.

5. La Vernia Primary School Gardens

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

POCs: Kay Cover doncover6969@yahoo.com

Text: (830) 779-2149

Colleen Collier 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

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

Text: 210-870-4880

Anne Ottenad ron.anne.ottenad@gmail.com

Volunteer Day: Mon 8-10 a.m. & Fri 9-11 a.m.

8. 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

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

Keith Muschalek 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

Text: (757) 513-2842

Volunteer Days: M/W/F 9-11a.m. & 2nd Saturday of the month from 9a.m.-12p.m.

11. 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: Wed 9-11 a.m.

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

Must contact Volunteer Director to obtain Board of Directors permission to work and claim time.

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

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

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 Text: (830) 481-0817

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

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

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

Lead POC: By Committee

Plant Sales: Paul Carter greenthumbcarter@gmail.com

Text: (830) 481-0817

Raffle: David Fisher 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

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

Text: (830) 481-0817

Sharon Cooper Rscooper3707@gmail.com

Text: (281) 684-4632

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

Text: (830) 433-2218

Frank Rippel 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 Text: (479) 790-2933

Plant Sales POCs: Paul Carter

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

Tim Steele 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 Text: (830) 481-0817

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

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

10. Yulefest (1st Sunday in December)

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

POC: April Rippel 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 2nd Floor on 2nd Thursday's at 4 PM each month (except in October which is 1st Thursday at 4PM) all members are encouraged to attend.

Past President – Kay McElveen

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

President – April Rippel

adrippel@gmail.com Text: (830) 433-2218

President-Elect – Pam Malone

ptmalone@live.com Text: (830) 534-2111

Vice-President – Pam Younger

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

Treasurer – Frank Rippel

riptron@gmail.com Text: (830) 305-4007

Secretary – Kathleen Smith

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

Education Director – Karen Koepp

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

Membership Director – David Koepp

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

Volunteer Director – Kathy Carroll

kathleen_carroll@icloud.com Text: (210) 793-1616

Publicity Director – Janice Jadwin

imjadwin@yahoo.com Text: (210) 848-3634

Master Gardener Class Director – Paul Carter

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

AgriLife Extension Agent, MG Coordinator – Travis Franke

Travis.Franke@ag.tamu.edu (830) 303-3889

Class Coordinators

(Lead) Paul Carter

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

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

David Fisher 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 Text: (830) 481-0817

TMGA Director 2yr 2026/2027 **Alternate:** Tim Steele

tlscowboys@hotmail.com Text: (210) 385-2219

TMGA Director 1yr 2025 Primary: Kathy Carroll

kathleen_carroll@icloud.com Text: (210) 793-1616

TMGA Director 1 yr 2025 **Alternate:** Pam Malone

ptmalone@live.com Text: (830) 534-2111

2. GCMG 2025/2026 Audit Committee

Don Albrecht darpp83@sbcglobal.net (806) 341-0373

Dominique Harmon dominiqueah@mac.com

(303) 910-7186

Edie Cassell ediecassell@gmail.com (512) 968-5313

3. GCMG Education & Speakers Bureau Team

POC: Karen Koepp 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

Text: (210) 263-3624

Karen Koepp kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com

Text: (210) 378-3403

Ernestine Sykes ejson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Mon 10a.m.-Noon, Wed 2-5 p.m.

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

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

POC: Annette Padgett padgettboys4@msn.com

Text: (406) 239-0777

Volunteer Days: 3rd Thursday each month except June &

December – Sign up to bring refreshments during monthly meeting or contact POC for current needs.

6. GCMG Newsletter

POC: Melinda Lucas melilucas78218@gmail.com

Text (210) 413-9389

Volunteer Days: Contact POC for needs.

7. GCMG Scholarship Committee

POCs (Lead) Kat Medeiros-Oropeza

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

Don Albrecht darpp83@sbcglobal.net Text: (806) 341-0373

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

Ingrid Wilgen essentiallyingrid@gmail.com

Text: 210-214-0787

8. 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

9. GCMG Technology Team

POC: Paul Prince 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

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 Decorating Project (Nov/Dec)

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

POC: Ernestine Sykes ejackson.sykes@gmail.com

Text: (210) 544-0756

Volunteer Days: Contact POC

4. GC Fair AAMG Booth, Kids Crafts, Horticulture Exhibits, Pumpkin Contest

(2nd week/weekend Oct.)

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

Lead POC: By Committee

AAMG/Information Booth: Mac Mullins

macadac242@gmail.com Text (210) 722-3881

Horticulture: April Rippel adrippel@gmail.com

Text: (830) 433-2218

Kids Crafts: Pam Malone ptmalone@live.com

Text: (830) 534-2111

Pumpkin Decorating Contest Booth: Pam Younger

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

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 & Fridays

Marion Veterans Community Garden

100 W Huebinger St., Marion

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

F: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 p.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, Fridays & 2nd Saturdays

Ron Pedde Community Garden

1017 Town Creek Road, Cibolo

For all work times and Days

Please contact Rachel Eiland

Text 757-513-2842 or email

rachel.eiland@outlook.com

Mondays & Wednesdays

MG Office/Library/Seed Exchange

210 E. Live Oak, AgriLife Bldg., Seguin

M: 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

W: 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Volunteers are always needed.

Please see the Seed Exchange page for more details.

Contact David Koepf at

dhkoepf.gcmg@gmail.com or Karen

Koepf at kkoepf.gcmg@gmail.com or

text Ernestine Sykes at 210-544-0756



Volunteer Opportunities

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays

Gutierrez Park

1231 Borgfeld Rd, Schertz

9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

For times and volunteer opportunities,
contact Maria Dykes at 210-792-1603 or
email [Mariaq75@gmail.com](mailto:Marიაq75@gmail.com)

Wednesdays

St Andrew's Community Garden

The corner of Nolte & Crocket St., Seguin

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

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

Please text Ernestine Sykes
at 210-544-0756



Tuesdays & Fridays

Guadalupe County Demonstration
Garden

1101 Elbel Road, Schertz

(behind the County Annex Building)

8:00 a.m. until 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

250 Cordova Road, Seguin

Start times:

7:30 a.m. (Summer)

8:15 a.m. (Winter)

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 1487

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

President	April Rippel
Past President	Kay McElveen
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Vice President	Pam Younger
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Treasurer	Frank Rippel
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Education Director	Karen Koepp
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Volunteer Director	Kathy Carroll
AgriLife Agent MG Coordinator	Travis Franke

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Melinda J Lucas, Editor
MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com

REMINDER

If anyone needs a card from the organization for an illness or a loss of a family member, please send an email to: GCMGTX@gmail.com.

Newsletter Staff

Editor - Melinda J Lucas

Proofreaders - David Koepp, Diana Hard, Kat Medeiros-Oropeza, Lisa Ancelet, Jessica Milburn and Heidi Brown

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

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

Speakers Bureau Team– Karen Koepp

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

Grow Team Lead By Committee-Clayton Phelps

Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Rachel Eiland

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

GCMG Scholarship Committee Members: Kat Medeiros-Oropeza Tim Steele, Don Abrecht, 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/>)