

MAY 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 May 21st, food theme "Picnic and Remembrance"**
- **Final plant Spring plant sale at Marion Veteran's Memorial Park on May 23rd from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**
- **New Special Volunteer Opportunities available.**
- **Don't forget about Seed Exchange!**
- **Great Continuing Education classes in the near future.**
- **Start looking forward to the Summer Social in June.**
- **The Fourth of July Parade will be here soon!**



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Letter from the President

With the recent rain, our Texas wildflowers are finally coming up and so are unwanted weeds! Many of our Guadalupe County Master Gardener-sponsored gardens and parks are in need of extra help at this time of year. Please volunteer for a few hours at your favorite project. Public outreach is one of our main objectives. When the public looks at our examples of good husbandry, they learn from us! To volunteer, please contact one (or more) of your GCMG project coordinators and volunteer to help. They'll be most appreciative. Let's all pitch in to make Guadalupe County extra gorgeous this year.

The days will soon be very hot. Remember to wear comfortable, breathable clothing. A large hat is a good idea, sunglasses to protect your eyes, and sunscreen to protect your skin while working outside. This will, again, set an example to the public of how to stay safe while tending our gardens.

From www.weather.gov heat cramps may be the first sign of a heat-related illness. Symptoms are painful muscle cramps, spasms in the legs and abdomen and heavy sweating. First aid: Apply firm pressure on cramping muscles or gently massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water unless the person complains of nausea, then stop giving water. If cramps last more than one hour, seek medical attention. This may lead to heat exhaustion. Symptoms are heavy sweating, weakness or tiredness; cool, pale, clammy skin, fast, weak pulse, muscle cramps, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, headache; fainting. First aid: move into A/C, loosen clothing, apply wet cloths or have the person sit in a cool bath. Offer sips of water. If a person vomits or symptoms last more than one hour, seek medical attention. Heat stroke symptoms are throbbing headache, confusion, slurred speech, nausea, dizziness; body temperature above 103F, hot, red, dry or damp skin, rapid and strong pulse; fainting; loss of consciousness. First aid: **Call 911 or get the victim to a hospital immediately.** Heat stroke is a medical emergency. If you are alone and feel any of the above symptoms, let someone know you're not feeling well and take the appropriate action as stated above.

Let's all stay safe this summer and live long to enjoy our beautiful gardens. Have a great month and be sure to mark your calendars for our Summer Social and Class 41 Graduation, June 27th, details to follow.

At your service,
April Rippel
2026 GCMG President

-"There is nothing quite like gardening. We work with nature to create something unique. In the process of planting seeds, caring for plants, adapting to seasons and weather, and the physical work, we find something greater within us. Gardening calms. Encourages. Uplifts. Invigorates." -- Monty Don

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Month Ending March 31, 2026

Prepared by David Koepp, Membership Director

Executive Summary:

1. Congratulations to our Master Gardener of the Month March winner Dominique Harmon!
2. Although member participation in March was lower than in February and below first-quarter levels from 2024 and 2025, our Volunteer and CE hours remain substantially higher than in either year. Thank you for your continued dedication and for all the incredible work you do for the organization!
3. **2025 Interns** you have until **June 30th, 2026**, to achieve your 50 hours for certification. Many of you are about halfway there. There are many ways available to you to achieve the remaining hours!
4. Aside from the many project gardens and other projects shown on the [Approved Projects List](#) which you can see by clicking the link above or by downloading it from [VMS](#) (under General Information > DOCs/Newsletters > Document Type > Other Category), there are also many **indoor** opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of **online** continuing education available. See that list here: <https://guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/files/2026/04/2026-Volunteer-CE-opportunities.pdf>

2026 Recertification Requirements are **20** hours Volunteer & **10** hours Continuing Education.

Did you know you could access VMS from your smartphone? I will soon be posting additional [VMS tips and tricks](#) for [VMS on our website](#) including using VMS from your smartphone and how to set it up there.

Remember, 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 and Membership Meeting Recordings" 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

Please note that I still have several Service Year Award Pins, a few Milestone Pin Awards, and multiple 2026 Membership Cards to distribute. These may be picked up at the next Membership Meeting or at the Extension Office on Wednesdays between 2 and 5 PM in the MG Office.

I have made many changes to our main website recently and many more are coming soon. Please check it out when you get a chance. I truly appreciate hearing all your feedback. Let me know what you think, what you like/dislike and what else you would like to see added. Also, if something is missing from our website, or you just 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 Koepp dhkoepp.GCMG@gmail.com or GV: 210-263-3624 voice/text friendly.

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

Monthly Report Summary 2026 March Breakdown:

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 2026	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 (1)
Roster Totals for March 2026	Intern (44) 8/31/5	Certified (132)	Leave of Absence (8)	Inactive (13)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (1)	Retired (1)	Realigning (1)	Archived (2)
Month	# Members Reporting	Mbrs w/ 5+ Hours	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Pounds Produce	Mileage			
January	74 or 57%	41	1293.10	131.75	34	664	6393.30			
February	82 or 63%	64	2145.40	205.75	541	354	8599.95			
March	79 or 60%	50	2275.75	284.75	232	127	10013.30			
April										
May										
June										
July										
August										
September										
October										
November										
December										
Peak 2026 (So Far)	82 or 63%	64	2276	285	541	664	10013.30			
Avg 2026 (So Far)	78 or 60%	52	1905	208	269	382	8336.00			
Totals 2026	82 or 63% Peak	n/a	5714.25	622.25	807	1145	25006.55			
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 March 2026 Summary Breakdown:

	# Submitted	# Not Submitted
Number of Certified Members that reported any amount of hours for March by reporting deadline	79	53
Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) March 2026	Vol	CE
Members with 0 hours reported	53	69
Members with >0 & <5 hours	19	44
Members with => 5 & <25 hours	36	19
Members with => 25 & <100 hours	21	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	95	37
Volunteer Hours Year-To-Date	Vol	CE
Number of Members with 0 hours	37	42
Number of Members with >0 & <5 hours	9	40
Number of Members with => 5 & <25 hours	37	47
Number of Members with => 25 & <100 hours	35	3
Number of Members with => 100 & <200 hours	9	0
Number of Members with => 200 & <300 hours	3	0
Number of Members with => 300 & <400 hours	1	0
Number of Members with => 400 & <500 hours	1	0
Number of Members with => 500 hours	0	0

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

March 2026 Volunteer Recognition Drawing of Certified* Master Gardeners

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

1. ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	26. KNOBLES, JANICE
2. ALLEN, HEATHER	27. LANDEROS, ANN
3. ALTHAUSER, MARZELLUS "MARCEL"	28. LEACOCK, SUZANNE
4. ANCELET, LISA	29. LUCAS, MELINDA
5. BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	30. MAGEE, JANET
6. BRKICH, KAREN	31. MCCORQUODALE, JANET "LISA"
7. BURTON, RODNEY	32. MEADE, CONSTANCE
8. CARRELL, KAREN	33. MEDEIROS-OROPEZA, KATHERINE "KAT"
9. CARTER, MARTHA "MARTY"	34. MICKWEE, LINDA
10. CAVAZOS, RACHEL	35. MOTT, ROBERT "KEITH"
11. CHASON, ANGELA	36. MULLINS, GARY "MAC"
12. COCKERELL, REX "ALAN"	37. MUSCHALEK, ROBIN
13. COLLIER, COLLEEN	38. NODINE, WILLIAM
14. COOPER, SHARON	39. ODVODY, DALE
15. COVER, KAY	40. ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"
16. DYKES, MARIA	41. OTTENAD, ANNE
17. EILAND, RACHEL	42. PADGETT, ANNETTE
18. FISHER, DAVID	43. PHELPS, CLAYTON
19. FOX, VIRGINIA "GINNY"	44. PRINCE, PAUL
20. GEINZER, REBECCA	45. SAULS, LESLIE "CASEY"
21. GRIFFIS, JUDY	46. SCHULTZE, PATRICIA "PAT"
22. HARMON, DOMINIQUE	47. STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"
23. HENRY, BETH	48. STYBLO, MARY
24. HYATT, JUDITH	49. SYKES, ERNESTINE
25. JOHNSON, BJORN	50. TREMAINE BLACK, SANDY

Recognition Drawings:

March 5+ **Ann Odvody**, April Door Prize: **Kat Adams**

Milestone Achievements

Certified Members Milestone Achievements Volunteer Hours March 2026 YTD		
	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)
100 Hour Club		
CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	176.60	11.00
CARTER, PAUL	124.00	5.00
CHASON, ANGELA	111.30	20.80
MALONE, PAMELA "PAM"	133.80	4.00
OTTENAD, ANNE	101.3	6
PHELPS, CLAYTON	182.5	5
RIPPEL, APRIL	186.5	16.75
STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"	130.00	2.00
YOUNGER, PAMELA "PAM"	106.50	6.25
200 Hour Club		
FISHER, DAVID	208.30	27.00
HARMON, DOMINIQUE	262.70	8.80
ODVODY, DALE	200.50	7.00
300 Hour Club		
RIPPEL, FRANK	348.00	25.50
400 Hour Club		
KOEPP, DAVID	495.50	14.50

Membership Corner

GCMG Membership Director Report Continued

Members who have met or exceeded Recertification Requirements already in 2026!

MG Name	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year	Month Cert/Recert Achieved
CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	176.6	11	2008	March
CHASON, ANGELA	111.3	20.8	2025	March
FISHER, DAVID	208.3	27	2025	February
HENRY, BETH	71.25	10.5	2014	March
KOEPP, DAVID	495.5	14.5	2023	February
KOEPP, KAREN	87.75	13.25	2023	February
MCELVEEN, HELEN "KAY"	88.5	17	2014	March
NODINE, WILLIAM	30.5	53.5	2017	March
RIPPEL, APRIL	186.5	16.75	2015	January
RIPPEL, FRANK	348	25.5	2021	February
SMITH, KATHLEEN	45	10	2018	March
STYBLO, MARY	45.5	10	2011	March
SYKES, ERNESTINE	76.5	19	2016	March

Interns who have met or exceeded the 50 hours Certification Requirement already in 2026!

MG Name	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year	Month Cert/Recert Achieved
FEALY, JAMES	52.75	3	2026	March
GOMEZ, JERRI	59.5	4.5	2026	March
HIGA, VICTORIA "VICKI"	50	2	2026	March
MCCARTAN, BELLE	62.5	4	2026	March
MILLER, GERMAINE	70.25	8	2026	March
SAUCEDA, ERNEST	54.25	2	2026	March
SULLIVAN, SCOTT	61	3	2026	March
TAYLOR, EVAN	50.25	4	2026	March

Summary of March 2026 Projects Data

Project	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Pounds of Produce (Sum)	Miles (Sum)
Advanced Master Gardener Training Classes/Courses	15.50	1.00	0.00	220.00
Christian Cupboard Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	9.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Continuing Education (Lunch & Learns, Webinars, & other education events that do not fall under another project)	76.20	181.50	0.00	1,008.10
Fundraisers (Calendar & Garden Guide, Craft Opp's, Farmers Market, GCFair Raffle, Grow Team, Plant Sales)	759.50	5.75	0.00	2,001.60
Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden - Education - Schertz	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Schertz	110.50	0.00	94.00	290.00
Gutierrez Garden Park - Education - Schertz	10.50	0.00	0.00	45.00
Gutierrez Garden Park - Maintenance - Schertz	61.75	0.00	0.00	211.00
LVISD Primary School - Education - La Vernia	13.75	1.00	0.00	30.00
LVISD Primary School - Maintenance/Harvesting - La Vernia	20.50	0.00	0.00	125.00
MG Organizational Support (BoD, Committee work, MGOffice, Newsletter, Research Library, Seed Exchange, Technology, Website work)	346.25	6.00	0.00	1,298.00
Master Gardener Training Class (Class prep, Mentoring, Presenting lecture to Class)	304.25	52.75	0.00	1,526.40
Membership Meeting & Educational Presentation (incl MM Refreshments, Setup & Cleanup)	92.20	35.00	0.00	910.40
Mill Street Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - New Braunfels	10.00	0.00	1.00	28.00
Public Education/Outreach (AAMG Booth, BRB Kiosk, Christmas Tree, GCFair Non-fundraising activities, Lectures Given, Pumpkin Contest)	97.50	0.00	0.00	355.60
Red Barn-Garden - Education/School Tours - Seguin	4.75	0.00	0.00	38.00
Red Barn-Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	146.05	1.75	0.00	902.20
Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Education - Cibolo	6.00	0.00	3.00	2.00
Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Cibolo	66.75	0.00	29.00	66.80
St. Andrews Community Garden - Education - Seguin	3.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
St. Andrews Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	50.05	0.00	0.00	305.20
Veteran's Memorial Park - Maintenance - Marion	35.25	0.00	0.00	354.00
Whitehall Polley Mansion - Maintenance - La Vernia	35.25	0.00	0.00	289.00
Grand Summary	2,275.75	284.75	127.00	10,013.30

Membership Corner

GCMG BOD's and Scholarship Committee Members Visited Eco Centro in San Antonio

By Kat Medeiros-Oropeza, GCMG Scholarship Committee Member

Some members of the Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee had the opportunity to visit San Antonio College's Eco Centro on March 16, 2026. For those unaware of this treasure, William R. Sinkin Eco Centro serves the community with "...information and resources to positively address environmental and social challenges".

Rose Flores, the Academic Program Director of Eco Centro gave us a brief presentation and showed us the garden located at Eco Centro. Along the way, we were shown 3 ways the center captures/harvests water to support the plants at the center. After the garden tour, we were given the opportunity to visit the new and emerging farm also on SAC's campus. Roughly 30 rows of various vegetables and other plants are being planted where a tennis court once stood.

I would recommend everyone with an interest in urban gardening and community outreach to contact Rose and the kind people at Sinkin Eco Centro for a tour. You don't want to miss the inspiration and opportunity to learn what is available there! Click here: <https://www.alamo.edu/sac/about-sac/college-offices/eco-centro/>



Pictures taken by Kat Medeiros-Oropeza



Membership Corner

Acknowledgements



Ann Ottenad receiving the 2025 100 Hour award from Frank Rippel



Ginny Fox receiving the Master Gardener of the Season award from April Rippel



Lisa Ancelet receiving the 2025 100 Hour Club award from April Rippel



Dominique Harmon receiving the Master Gardener of the Month award from Pam Younger and April Rippel

Membership Corner

Ron Pedde Park Plant Sale



Membership Corner Earth Day

A big thanks to all who made all of the plant sales and Earth Day possible. If you played any role in making this Spring successful, you are appreciated and we couldn't have done it without you!



Membership Corner

One Last Spring Plant Sale



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
MARION VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



RAFFLE PRIZES

Plant Sale

FREE CRAFTS



SATURDAY MAY 23RD
9AM-2PM

108 Huebinger Street + HWY 465 Marion Tx 78124

SIGN UP FOR FUTURE
GARDEN CLASSES

*Across from the Marion Library
Near the Marion Subway*

SERVICE ANIMALS
WELCOME
BRING CLEANUP BAGS

A WIDE VARIETY OF BEAUTIFUL PLANTS
FOR PURCHASE!

We have a small area so children can play while parents shop!

Texas A&M Agrilife Extension is an equal opportunity provider. The Texas University system, US Dept. of Agriculture, and the Co. 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.



Membership Corner

Bug Juice (An Entomology Tidbit)

Karen Koepp

Fireflies—often called lightning bugs—have been active early this spring, making it a great time to appreciate these fascinating garden visitors. Despite their name, they are neither flies nor true bugs; they are actually a type of beetle.

Their flashy displays are a form of communication and play a crucial role in their mating cycle. Typically, males fly and flash while females remain on the ground or perched in plants, signaling back in response.

Fireflies are also beneficial allies in the garden. During their long larval stage, they feed on pests like snails, cutworms, and other small insects. As adults, many species consume pollen and nectar, contributing to pollination.

Perhaps most importantly, the presence of fireflies signals a healthy, balanced ecosystem. They are highly sensitive to pesticides, habitat disruption, and light pollution—and their numbers have been declining in many areas.

Gardeners can help support firefly populations with a few simple practices:

- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use
- Leave some leaf litter for habitat
- Plant native species
- Provide a small water source
- Minimize outdoor lighting at night



By creating a more natural and less disturbed environment, you not only invite fireflies back into your garden—you help sustain the delicate balance that benefits all living things.

What's that Bug?

Ground Beetle

Melinda Lucas



Ground beetles are a common part of Guadalupe County, but what do we know about them? They come in a variety of colors, usually black or brown, but sometimes in metallics, but they are easily identified by their mandibles that make them intimidating. If you see them, they are usually under something you move, or they are scurrying across the sidewalk, or ground, as fast as their little legs can take them, but should you be concerned about them being in

your garden?

No doubt, they are a little scary looking with their giant mandibles, however, this little warrior is working for you, not against you. The Ground Beetle, and their larvae (not the cutest baby), are predators that feed on snails, slugs, caterpillars and other garden destroying pests. While you are sleeping, they are out doing their best to manage your garden for you.

So please welcome these predators into your landscape and try not to step on them.



Monthly Meeting

JOIN US FOR A MASTER GARDENER MONTHLY MEETING

GRASSES FOR THE MASSES

What are Grasses? How Did They Evolve? What Is Their Role In Our World?

With Andy Blair, Ecologist

5:45 Social w/ Food

6:15 Business

7:00 Presentation

8:00 Door Prizes

Thursday, May 21st, 2026

210 E. Live Oak Street

In Seguin, Texas

Free & Open To The Public

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 County Extension Office at least one week prior to the program to request mobility, hearing, visual, or other assistance.



Ask the Master Gardeners

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

Q: My tomato plants are lovely and blooming. Some of the fruit has set. However, our nights are turning warm and I am getting worried. What is the hottest temperature that the tomatoes can have and still set fruit?

A: I am going to paraphrase an answer from Dr. Jerry Parsons, a retired Extension Horticulturist, in his column PlantAnswers.com. He says that tomato blooms drop off because of a type of pollination problem. The plants are hermaphroditic with the male and female parts in the same flower. If the flower or pistil is inactivated because of hot temperatures or made sticky by cool, cloudy conditions, it won't be pollinated. Sheryl Williams, Travis County Master Gardener and Horticulture Program Assistant for Texas A&M AgriLife Extension-Austin, adds that though tomatoes need warm temperatures, this does not mean extreme heat. She says the pollen produced on the flower anthers will become sterile if nighttime temperatures exceed 75 degrees. Pollen may also become unviable if prolonged daytime temperatures exceed 90. And, if our humidity is over 70 percent, pollen becomes sticky and won't fall properly. All of this explains why we plant tomatoes as early as we can in the spring, and also try to get in a fall crop.

In researching this, I found several interesting points. The flowers on tomatoes, peppers and eggplant can be artificially set by use of blossom-set hormones sold in local nurseries. "However," says Dr. Parsons, "they are effective fruit-setters only during early spring in cool, cloudy temperatures. The tomatoes that set will have fewer seeds." Also, I found a neat article on A&M's website: *How to Grow the Tomato and 115 Ways to Prepare it for the Table* by George W. Carver at Tuskegee Institute. The site is <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/vegetable/additional-resources/carver-tomato/>.

Q: What are some of the problem insects for tomatoes?

A: Doug Welsh, Extension Horticulturist, lists stinkbugs and leaf-footed bugs as the primary problem bugs. He suggests hand collection, or the least toxic effective pesticide labeled for vegetables. Dr. Joseph Masabni, in Aggie-Horticulture's Easy Gardening section on Tomatoes, adds flea beetles, hornworms, psyllid, and white fly. Hornworms can be controlled with *bacillus thuringiensis*, psyllids with insecticidal soaps, and whiteflies with insecticidal soaps. Remember that you are going to eat this vegetable, so read the label of whatever you are using and make sure that it is suitable for vegetables and human consumption.

Q: When do I plant my heat tolerant plants?

A: Heat-tolerant butterfly-attracting plants can be planted now. These include butterfly weed, lantana, penta, salvia and verbena. In fact, my lantana and salvia are already blooming.

Check us out on
facebook

GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY

By Kat Adams

We added 82 new members. Wow, I think that is a record. They want to learn how to grow vegetables, fruit and herbs. Our top posters were Frank Rippel, Lisa Knopf, Misty McWhorter and Kathy Carroll. Thank you all who post.

What to plant and grow in May

Bush Beans, Eggplant, Okra, Sweet Potato, Malabar Spinach, Southern Peas, Cucumber, Peppers, Pumpkin, Watermelon, Honeydew, Cantaloupe, Sweet Corn, Green Beans, Onions

Planning and Planting a Kitchen Garden

A kitchen garden is a space dedicated to herbs, vegetables and edible flowers that you use in your cooking. Planting the garden close to your kitchen enables you to step outside to harvest what you need for cooking.

Small Spaces - Hanging Pots, Vertical Gardening, and Containers are perfect for herbs and salad greens.

Mini Garden - Windowsills can hold a few small pots of Basil, Parsley, Chives or Micro Greens.

Raised Beds - Salad Greens, Radish, Carrots, Calendula, Nasturtiums, Tomatoes and Peppers.

Other ideas include -

Herbs - Basil, Parsley, Mint, Rosemary, Sage, and Thyme

Quick-Growing Vegetables - Leafy Greens, Radish, and Green Onions

Small Fruit-Bearing Plants - Cherry Tomatoes, Peppers, Strawberries

Edible Flowers - Calendula, Nasturtiums, and Violas

Planning Kitchen Garden

- Start Small - Few herbs and vegetable plants

- Pick the Right Spot - 6-8 hours of sun a day close to your kitchen

- Use Quality Soil - Containers use high-quality potting mix made for vegetables and herbs. Raised beds use high-quality soil that has added compost to enrich soil and boost plant health.

- Water Consistently - Check your soil regularly and water when the top inch feels dry

- Grow What You Love

- Add Beauty - Mix in flowers that attract pollinators and double as edible blooms

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

The Wandering Gardeners

Round Top, TX

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

By Melinda J Lucas



Round Top, Texas is a small town, located 2 hours northeast of San Antonio, between Austin and Houston. It is small, and big, at the same time. With a population of around 90 people (that actually live “in” the town), it is considered a tiny town, however it also contains roughly 11 miles of antique and garden shops and holds two annual antique festivals each year that draw over 100,000 visitors.

I had never heard of this town before, but it definitely catches your eye as you are driving through it, even if you are not an antique connoisseur. I found it quite by accident as I was returning from Brenham.

Putting the antiques and festivals aside, this tiny town is brimming with beautiful garden scenery and shops that sell plants, pots and other garden accessories, and it is only a few miles from the Antique Rose Emporium and Martha’s Bloomers. But don’t take my word for how unique this place is, check out the link above and plan your trip to Round Top.



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

May



The May Guadalupe Chapter meeting will be Tuesday, May 12th, 6:30 PM at First Presbyterian Church in Seguin. At 7:00 PM, Mark Fanick of Fanick's Nursery in San Antonio will speak on "Texas Natives – Incredible Survivors". Fanick's Nursery is a multi-generational San Antonio institution with native species research and education. Social will start at 6:30 PM followed by Mark's presentation at 7:00 PM and then a short business meeting. Light snacks are welcome!



June



The June Guadalupe Chapter meeting will be Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 PM at St. John Lutheran Church in Marion. At 7:00 PM Belinda Rossiter will share her story of how she developed her native landscape over the past three years. Social will start at 6:30 PM, followed by Belinda's presentation at 7:00 PM, and then a short business meeting. Light snacks are welcome!

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

Continuing Education

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



Education Director Report April 9, 2026

Karen Koepf
2025 GCMG, Education Director

Education Hours Snapshot of March 2026 (133 Certified Members)

“0” hours – 43 Members
"0.25-2.25" hours – 20 Members
"2.5-5.75" hours – 29 Members
"6-9.75" hours – 22 Members
“10+” hours – 19 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.



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.

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Guadalupe County

Continuing Education

Lunch & Learn Events

May 2026

AgriLife Building - May 13 -12:00 pm -1:00 pm

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 am -1:00 pm

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 - 2:00 pm -1:30 pm

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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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/>



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.

Find ALL Plant Party recordings and future events posted at:

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



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!

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 May 2026

If you read Kathy's Facebook article this month, you know that there is still time to get some things planted. We have the seeds for that. If you want to start that Kitchen Garden, please come check out our herb seeds. If you still want to plant the other items listed in the article, then please come and ask about those seeds as well.

We were blessed last month with a good amount of rain, take advantage of it, and finish up those garden tasks before the summer heat sets in next month and it's too hot to plant anything.

The seed exchange, located in the AgriLife Library, is available on Monday mornings or Wednesday afternoons. Everyone is welcome to visit, shop, volunteer, and bring in any extra seeds that have been 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,
kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com, or call/text 210-263-3624,
Ernestine Sykes – Please 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/](https://www.guadalupecountymastergardeners.org/volunteer-outreach-service-opportunities/seed-exchange/).

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 days
and times,

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



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)

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

Fridays

Big Red Barn

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
President Elect	Pam Malone
Vice President	Pam Younger
Secretary	Kathleen Smith
Treasurer	Frank Rippel
Publicity Director	Janice Jadwin
Membership Director	David Koepp
Education Director	Karen Koepp
Training Class Director	Paul Carter
Volunteer Director	Kathy Carroll
AgriLife Agent MG Coordinator	Travis Franke

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M University system, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts Cooperating provides equal opportunities in its programs and employment to all persons, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity. 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. The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is implied.

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/>)