SEPTEMBER 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 Buzzzzzz?

1. September's meeting potluck is TX A&M TailGate Party.
2. Fall Plant Sales start this month!!
3. Guadalupe County Fair is next month!!!
4. Big Red Barn School Tours!!!
5. Exciting changes coming to the Newsletter!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you noticed just a slight coolness some mornings? Could this be a sign of a “real” fall this year? Here’s hope! Word is that we’re in for a cooler fall and a mild winter, but who knows? Let’s all be optimistic!

September is a great time to plant green beans, snap & lima pole beans, Swiss chard, cucumbers and squash. It’s time to prep your fall garden beds and start planting. You’ll soon have a wonderful harvest.

The Guadalupe County Fair is gearing up, and it’s going to be fabulous this year! The GCMGs will have 3 and possibly 4 booths this year. Stay tuned! Besides the main horticulture booth, we will host a plant sale booth, and the fantastic Pumpkin Decorating booth, which will be expanded to include a photo booth this year. You will absolutely want to check it out!

Volunteer hour opportunities abound in the next couple of months. You can sign up for the school tours at the Big Red Barn, one of the many plant sale booths, be on the grow team and, of course, the multi-day Guadalupe County Fair with many raffle prizes, gorgeous plants, and unbelievably decorated pumpkins to see. There’s also going to be an information and craft booth at the Cibolo Festival. This is the first time the GCMGs have done this one, it sounds like fun!

Nominations for the 2027 GCMG Board of Directors will be open soon. Be sure to attend all the next membership meetings to be a part of the process. Our organization is heading up many very important items; you too can take part in the planning and implementation of these projects/educational opportunities/administrative duties/etc. Talk to one of the GCMG board members today!

Have a great month, stay cool, and stay active! I hope to see all of you at one of the many upcoming activities really soon!

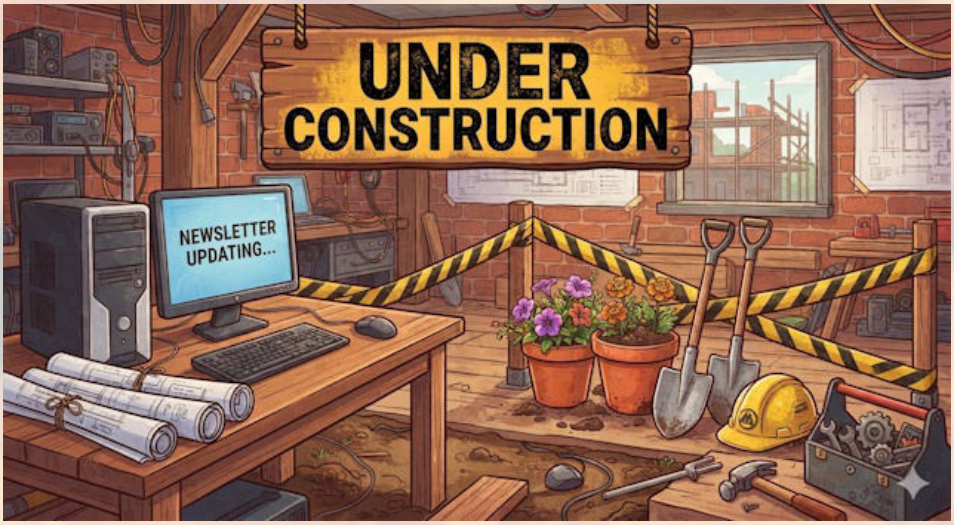
At your service,

April Rippel
2026 Guadalupe County Master Gardener President
Texas Master Gardener Assoc. Director - Guadalupe County
Master Gardening Training Class Co-Coordinator
(830) 433-2218 (Text Friendly)

"A man of words and not of deeds, is like a garden full of weeds." - Benjamin Franklin

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



It will probably be easy to notice that newsletter has some small changes to it this month. My apologies if I missed anything, or if there are some link issues. I changed software and I am also changing some other formatting.

It has occured to me that a lot of the newsletter has become quite redundant in a lot of areas. Who needs to look at the same 30 pages every month? Not to mention that most of this information can be found on the GCMG website. I am pretty sure that we may have the longest newsletter in Texas and at this point it is not really news, but more like a CNN banner that just keeps rerunning.

I would love to hear from you. What do you want to see in the newsletter? What do you want to get rid of? What do you want to keep? Your answers and suggestions will be kept confidential. Please email me at MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com and let me know.

There are some great changes coming, stay tuned!!!
Thank you,

Melinda J Lucas
Newsletter Editor

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Propagating Ferns, Part 3

Have you found any fern spores? Fear not, below are a few other methods of propagating your fern, the mode you choose will depend on what variety of fern you have. Propagating ferns from spores takes a lot of patience. See photo of a Crocodile fern (*Microsorum musifolium*) at 3 ½ months from spore propagation. Crocodile ferns are known for their unique, reptilian-textured leaves.

Check your fern, some ferns produce bulbils. These look like a flat, round seed and can produce plantlets with roots while attached to the parent plant frond. Bulbils might be found at the frond tips, under the midrib, at the base of the midrib, and sometimes over the whole upper surface of a frond. You can harvest a mature bulbil at the end of the growing season. Anchor it in a soilless seed mixture until it has developed roots. Alternatively, you can train the entire frond towards the soilless mixture and anchor the bulbils to the surface, much like you would do with spider plant plantlets, and let it take root. When 3-4 fronds have grown, snip it from the parent plant. You can also propagate from a dormant bulbils in the spring.

Simple division is the easiest way to propagate a fern, and the only way if the fern is a variety that is sterile. For ferns with upright rhizomes or creeping rhizomes, see Propagating Ferns, Part 1 in the June GCMG Newsletter. There are also rock dwelling ferns that have aerial rhizomes, ferns such as Davallia. These rhizomes will produce fronds and roots if anchored onto soil. Follow the directions for mature bulbils above. This method can be used while the rhizomes are still attached to the parent plant, or cut and anchor in soil until roots and fronds have developed. In both cases, transplant to a container large enough to let the roots grow and begin the hardening off process.

Some ferns have underground or aerial stolon (runners that form plantlets at their apex and sometimes nodes). Ferns such as Blechnum, which have underground stolon, or Nephrolepis, that have ariel stolen can be propagated by simply detaching the plantlet from the parent plant in the spring. Make sure that the plantlet has a well-developed root system. Pot in a soilless mixture with slow-release fertilizer. Keep moist and grow in a protected, shady spot.

Layering is a propagation method that can be used for climbing ferns such as Lygodium. Between early spring and early summer, when there is active growth, anchor a node in a pot of moist, sharp sand. Keep the sand evenly moist, place the pot in bright, filtered light, keep the humidity high, and the temperature at 59-68F. When new growth is spotted, clip the new plant from the parent plant.

There are even more fern propagating methods for certain varieties, it is hoped that these articles have peaked your interest in fern propagation and that you'll try some of these methods in the future. When researching your fern(s) on the internet, try to stick with the .org, .edu, and/or .gov website for the best information. A great book for all plant propagation is "*Propagating Plants – How to Create New Plants for Free*."

I hope that you have enjoyed this 3-part series on Propagating Ferns and that your ferns flourish and prosper!

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

Sources

"***Propagating Plants - How to Create New Plants for Free***", Editor-in-Chief, Toogood, DK/Penguin Random House, 2025

https://www.exoticferngroup.org/propagation



Crocodile fern, from a spore, at 3 1/2 months.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

BUG JUICE: AN ENTOMOLOGY TIDBIT

BY KAREN KOEPP

The Cicada Killer Wasp

Few insects make as dramatic an entrance into the late-summer garden as the cicada killer wasp (*Sphecius speciosus*). These large solitary wasps can look intimidating as they patrol sunny areas, but they are not aggressive toward people and play an interesting role in the garden ecosystem. Cicada killers are predators rather than plant pests: the female hunts and stings a cicada, paralyzing it rather than killing it outright, then carries her prey back to an underground burrow. The female cicada killer exhibits "complex spatial memory and precise mathematical sex-determination". When provisioning her underground chamber, she will place two or three paralyzed cicadas into a cell intended for a female egg, but only one cicada into a cell intended for a male egg. I thought that was pretty cool. Emerging larva feed on the cicada as it develops. Adults feed primarily on nectar and to some extent act as pollinators. With their predation they provide excellent pest control and their burrows help to aerate the soil.

The female is larger and has a stinger, but rarely stings. The males are more apt to buzz about "aggressively" trying to protect the nesting areas but are unable to sting.

So, the next time you encounter one of these 'beasts,' there's no need to worry or reach for the bug spray. Give them a little space and let nature take its course; their presence is a reminder that a healthy garden is one where every creature has a role to play.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER RECOGNITIONS

MASTER GARDENER OF THE MONTH JULY 2026



Anne Ottenad with Pam Younger



FALL PLANT SALES



Guadalupe County Master Gardeners

Fall Plant Sales – 2026

Come shop a wide selection of native plants, vegetables, herbs, ornamentals, pollinator favorites, and seasonal garden treasures! Each event features knowledgeable Master Gardeners ready to help you choose the right plants for your landscape. For our ON-LINE Plant Sale <---<<< Click HERE or scan the **Green** QR-Code below.

Sale Dates & Locations

Silver Center – Seguin, TX

- **Saturday, September 5, 2026** — 9 AM to 3 PM
- **Saturday, September 12, 2026** — 9 AM to 3 PM

Veterans Community Park & Memorial – Marion, TX

- **Saturday, September 19, 2026** — 9 AM to 3 PM

Austin Street Market – Seguin, TX

- **Saturday, September 26, 2026** — 9 AM to 3 PM

Guadalupe County Fairgrounds Coliseum – Seguin, TX

- **Thursday–Sunday, October 8–11, 2026** — (Inside the Coliseum)
  Thursday 5 PM to 9 PM, Friday 11 AM – 9 PM, Saturday & Sunday 9A-9PM (or until close)

Pecan Fest – Seguin, TX

- **Saturday, October 24, 2026** — 9 AM to 4 PM

Fall Festival – Kingsbury, TX

- **Saturday, November 14, 2026** — 11 AM to 6 PM

Yulefest – Guadalupe County Fairgrounds Coliseum – Seguin, TX

- **Sunday, December 6, 2026** — 9 AM to 4 PM (Inside the Coliseum)

Guadalupe County Master Gardeners
Email: gcmgtx@gmail.com
210 E. Live Oak St.
Seguin, TX 78155

Scan above QR-Code for our Main Website or go to guadalupecountymastergardeners.org

Online Plant Sales QR-Code

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MEMBERSHIP MEETING



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: What is the white sticky stuff on my vincas and how do I get rid of it?
A: It is mealybug and it is not supposed to be there. I also have fought it off and on all summer. Vinca information on the internet ignores plant pests for the vinca. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station says "Insect and mite pests are not known for this plant material." A University of Florida extension bulletin on the flower, "FPS112/FP112: Catharanthus roseus: Periwinkle, Madagascar Periwinkle, Vinca," says "no pests are of major concern."

Mealybugs feed on the host plant and can kill the plant if you don't do anything. My "Insects of Texas" and "Garden Insects of North America" didn't provide much help. An article from the MissouriBotanicalGarden.org provides a few controls. If you are working with an indoor plant, quarantine it. Mine are outdoors. Second, bring in predatory insects. Again, mine are outdoors, not in a controlled environment. Third, remove mealybugs manually. This can be done with alcohol dipped cotton swabs or a forceful water spray. Fourth, control ants because they can transport mealybugs from one plant to another. Fifth, use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil spray. Sixth, use chemical insecticides such as pyrethrins. (I didn't care to do this because the plants are close to the public.) The soap worked for me. Oil was not a practical answer during this heat and in the full sun.

I also cut off infected parts of the plants as a control, then sprayed with a hard spray of water, and finally sprayed with insecticidal soap. All of this is keeping the plants alive until the time comes for fall and winter annuals to be planted.

Q: When do I plant my spring wildflower seeds?
A: It is hard to think of spring when the temperature is still 103, but according to Doug Welsh's Texas Garden Almanac late August and September are the best times to plant seeds. Remember that after you plant them, you need to water lightly to settle the seeds and soil. Welsh adds, that if we have a drought in September, you need to apply light watering every week.

FYI: Look around your neighborhood to see what is still blooming in this heat. Most of my neighbors don't irrigate so I see the hardier perennials. The firebush (*Hamelia patens*) is covered with blooms as is my Esperanza (*Tecoma stans*). Both are surviving although are perhaps a little smaller than in wetter years. Another plant still in bloom is the Turk's cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus*) although I am not sure I recommend it if you have a small yard. Turk's cap spreads since it is a favorite with birds. The fruit is edible, both raw and cooked, according to Wildflower.org.

Keep your birdbaths cleaned and filled. Put out a water container for neighborhood cats (and probably raccoons, foxes, and other critters).



GCMG FACEBOOK COMMUNITY
by Kat Adams

We added 37 new members. Since some are new to our area, they want to know which trees grow best. They also want to grow vegetables and herbs.

Our top posters were Kathleen Schigut Chinni, Kim Deolloz Castro and April Rippel. Thank you all who posted.

What to Plant and Grow in September
Bush Beans, Pole Beans, Artichoke, Beets, Broccoli, Brussel Sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Collards, Corn, Garlic, Kale, Kohlrabi, Mustard, English Peas, Radish, Spinach, Onions, Swiss Chard, and Turnip.

Herbs To Grow In The Fall:

•Cilantro - Grows well from seed, thrives in well-draining soil in the sun.
•Rosemary - Grows in well-drained soil, in sun.
•Basil - Likes sunny spots.
•Thyme - Full sun, well-drained soil.
•Sage - Full sun, well-drained soil with slightly alkaline pH level.
•Chives - Sun or partial shade, well-drained soil.
•Mint - Partial shade, well-drained soil.
•Parsley - Partial to full sun, well-drained soil, keep soil evenly moist.
•Oregano - Sun, well-drained soil, dry out slightly between waterings.
•Lavender - Full sun, well-drained soil, drought tolerant. Prune Lavender after flowering to encourage new growth.

Thank you to all who post. Please continue to post photos of your gardens, garden helps and questions.

Enjoy Your Gardens.

The Wandering Gardeners

Pyron Garden

Tyler, Texas

Pyrongarden.com

by Melinda J lucas



Pyron Garden is a well-tailored, backyard dream garden that sits behind a private home on 3/4 of an acre of land, in Tyler's historic Azalea District. Though on private land, it is open to the public during certain hours during the week and admission is free.

The garden is run on the honor system. It opens at 9:00a.m. and closes at 6:00 p.m. Friday through Sunday, you just open the gate, walk in, and give yourself a tour while respecting the garden area and reminding yourself that you are in someone's backyard.

The history of the home and garden dates back to 1932 when it was built and occupied by it's original owner, then from 1942-1961 it was owned by C. E. Owens, the owner of the East Texas Auto Supply. After that it went through many owners and the backyard became overgrown and neglected until 1997 when Guy and Joan Pyron bought the property.





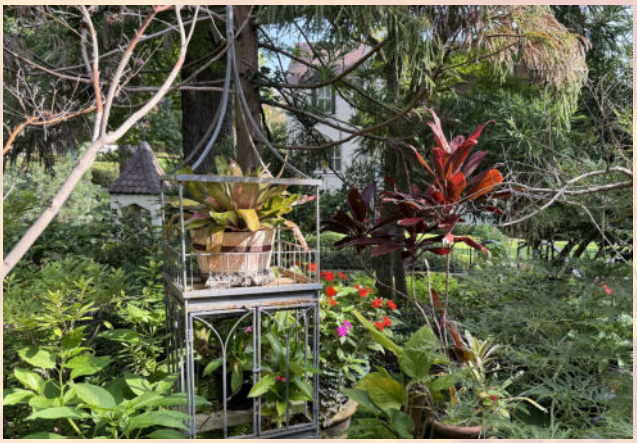
THE WANDERING GARDENERS



From 1997 until Guy's death in 2020, the Pyrons restored the gardens and added over 700 azalea bushes and other beautiful plants, along with artwork, cobblestone paths, seating areas, stonework and hedges. They opened the garden to the public and also made it available for weddings and photographic sessions.

The property was recently purchased by Cooper and Daniel Nagore, who have decided to carry on the tradition started by the Pyrons.

The garden is in walking distance from the Children's Park, where there is plenty of free parking.







If you would like to have your wandering gardener experience published, please email your favorite 7 pictures and 3 short paragraphs to Melinda Lucas MelJLucas78218@Gmail.com

NPSOT

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

September 8, 2026 membership meeting will be held at First Presbyterian church, located at 1121 Walnut St, Seguin. A social, with "finger foods" will start at 6:30 p.m. No speaker is planned. The business meeting will include an in-depth discussion of plans for the chapter plant sales on September 26, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church and on October 24, 2026 at PecanFest.

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



MEMBERSHIIP DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Month Ending 31 July 2026 **Prepared by David Koepp, Membership Director**

Executive Summary:

1. Congratulations to our Master Gardener of the Month July winner **Anne Ottenad**!
2. Only four months left in 2026 to get your hours in! Don't push off your hours until the very end of the year! There's lots of opportunities both indoors and out that can be worked on!
    - If you are looking for projects to work on, please check out the Approved Projects List and the supplemental list which has many indoor opportunities to get volunteer hours, and tons of online continuing education available. You can find both of those lists on VMS under the General Information> Docs/Newsletters > Other Category or on our website in the Homepage top carousel.
3. Thank you to the members who have submitted for their EVS training and background checks All of you who are due should have already received your email notification from AgriLife to start this process (in addition to my notifications to you).
    - Please note, if you let your background check lapse your VMS account will be locked and you will not be allowed to volunteer or participate in events until you have completed the course and background check. Please don't let it expire!!
    - The course takes about 2.5 to 3 hours to complete (that includes the background check process). You will need your AgriLife Learn account name & password as well as your Sterling account name and password, but there are recovery procedures in the event you do not remember either.
4. Thank you members! We had enough certified members in attendance at the August Monthly Membership Meeting to meet quorum (25% of membership minimum which currently is 40 certified members) and were able to catch up and get current on our business. Please always attend if you can.

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

MEMBERSHIIP DIRECTOR REPORT

Access VMS from your smartphone by opening the VMS link in a browser, then click on the hamburger menu (the three stacked vertical lines) in the top left corner to see the menu options. Check out the VMS tips and tricks section for VMS on our website. More tips & tricks coming soon! Let me know things you'd like to see added.

The timely input of **your** volunteer (and CE hours) is **critical** to our organization's funding; thus, we cannot stress the importance enough. Hours need to be entered in the month they were worked to count for our funding. 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.**

You can view our Lunch & Learns and Membership Meeting recordings, the pre-meeting and Agenda slides on our website under "Continuing Education" then click on the "GCMG Lunch & Learns & 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. The recordings are also on our **YouTube Channel**: https://www.youtube.com/@gcmgtx?sub_confirmation=1

Our websites are frequently updated. Please check them out when you get a chance and let us know what you think, what you like/dislike and what else you would like to see added, if something is broken, missing, 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.

Monthly Report Summary 2026 July Breakdown:

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)
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)
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)
April 2026	Intern (44) 8/31/5	Certified (134)	Leave of Absence (7)	Inactive (12)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (0)	Retired (0)	Realigning (0)	Archived (0)
May 2026	Intern (44) 5/31/8	Certified (137)	Leave of Absence (7)	Inactive (1)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (11)	Retired (0)	Realigning (0)	Archived (11)
Roster Totals for June 2026	Intern (18) 0/4/14	Certified (160)	Leave of Absence (9)	Inactive (2)	Faculty/Staff (4)	Emeritus(a) (3)	Released (0)	Retired (0)	Realigning (0)	Archived (0)

Month	# Members Reporting	Mbrs w/ 5+ Hours	Vol Hours	CE Hours	Contacts	Pounds Produce	Mileage
January	74 or 57%	41	1,293.10	131.75	34	664	6,393.30
February	82 or 63%	64	2,145.40	205.75	541	354	8,599.95
March	79 or 60%	50	2,275.75	284.75	232	127	10,013.30
April	79 or 49%	51	2,466.00	204.55	924	312	11,248.50
May	69 or 43%	45	1,470.25	114.75	47	1,196	6,742.00
June	70 or 43%	42	1,140.60	67.25	90	1,284	4,624.00
July	78 or 48%	41	1,211.15	110.45	28	552	5020.0
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Peak 2026 (So Far)	82 or 63%	64	2,466.00	284.75	924	1,284	11,248.50
Avg 2026 (So Far)	78 or 60%	48	1,715.00	160.00	271	642	7,521.00
Totals 2026	82 or 63% Peak	n/a	12,002.25	1,119.25	1,896	4,489	52,641.05
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

In case you missed it, we have paused the Monday MG Office, Seed Exchange, and Research Library hours for now, as interest has been low. If you need something specific, please contact the POCs by phone, text, or email - we're happy to help. **Wednesday office hours (2 PM–5 PM) will continue as usual.** If you'd like to volunteer when Monday hours restart, or if you think another day would work better, we'd love your input.

MEMBERSHIIP DIRECTOR REPORT

Monthly Report July 2026 Summary Breakdown:

Monthly Report July 2026 Summary Breakdown:

	# Submited	# Not Submited
Number of Certified Members that reported any amount of hours for July by reporting deadline	78	82
Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) July 2026	**Vol**	**CE**
Members with 0 hours reported	82	105
Members with >0 & <5 hours	26	53
Members with => 5 & <25 hours	37	2
Members with => 25 & <100 hours	14	0
Members with => 100 & <200 hours	1	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	135	25
Volunteer Hours (Certified Status) YTD 2026	**Vol**	**CE**
Members with 0 hours reported	25	38
Members with >0 & <5 hours	6	35
Members with => 5 & <25 hours	42	81
Members with => 25 & <100 hours	48	5
Members with => 100 & <200 hours	25	1
Members with => 200 & <300 hours	5	0
Members with => 300 & <400 hours	4	0
Members with => 400 & <500 hours	2	0
Members with => 500 hours	3	0

July 2026 Volunteer Recognition Drawing of Certified* Master Gardeners

Certified Members in July with 5+ hours (*Voting Board Members not eligible)	
1. ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	22. HENRY, BETH
2. ALLMAN, CINDY	23. HIGA, VICTORIA "VICKI"
3. ALTHAUSER, MARZELLUS "MARCEL"	24. KNEUPPER, VIRGINIA "RUTHIE"
4. ANCELET, LISA	25. LUCAS, MELINDA
5. BLUMENTHAL, AUDREY	26. MCCARTAN, BELLE
6. BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	27. MILLER, GERMAINE
7. BURTON, RODNEY	28. MOTT, ROBERT "KEITH"
8. CARBAJAL, MARIA	29. ODVODY, DALE
9. CARTER, MARTHA "MARTY"	30. ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"
10. CHASON, ANGELA	31. OTTENAD, ANNE
11. COVER, KAY	32. PADGETT, ANNETTE
12. DE JESUS, SANDRA	33. PHELPS, CLAYTON
13. DYKES, MARIA	34. PRINCE, PAUL
14. EILAND, RACHEL	35. RODRIGUEZ, ELLENIA "ELLENA"
15. FEALY, JAMES	36. SHERMAN, BOBBIE
16. FISHER, DAVID	37. STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"
17. FISHER, RAND	38. STYBLO, MARY
18. FORSYTH, LISA	39. SUCHAN, CAROL
19. GOMEZ, JERRI	40. SULLIVAN, SCOTT
20. HARD, ROSE "DIANA"	41. SYKES, ERNESTINE
21. HARMON, DOMINIQUE	

Recognition Drawings: July 5+ hours: **Maria Dykes** July Door Prize: **Karen Carrell**

MEMBERSHIIP DIRECTOR REPORT

Milestone Achievements

Certified Members Milestone Achievements Volunteer Hours July 2026 YTD

100 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	112.00	13.00	2017
ANCELET, LISA	150.00	5.50	2025
BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	189.25	13.25	2019
BRKICH, KAREN	125.00	14.00	2023
BURTON, RODNEY	113.50	9.25	2015
CARBAJAL, MARIA	153.00	3.25	2026
COUNTS, CHRIS	102.50	0.00	2026
DYKES, MARIA	151.00	4.20	2023
FEALY, JAMES	130.25	5.50	2026
GOMEZ, JERRI	126.75	5.50	2026
HENRY, BETH	168.00	15.00	2014
HIGA, VICTORIA "VICKI"	101.25	8.75	2026
KOEPP, KAREN	183.50	17.25	2023
LUCAS, MELINDA	165.00	7.25	2019
MCCARTAN, BELLE	156.25	7.00	2026
MCELVEEN, HELEN "KAY"	188.50	19.00	2014
MCWHORTER, MISTY	105.75	105.75	2026
MILLER, GERMAINE	141.75	13.00	2026
ODVODY, DEANNA "ANN"	170.50	8.50	1994
OTTENAD, ANNE	174.20	8.25	2022
PRINCE, PAUL	129.70	12.25	2022
SHERMAN, BOBBIE	110.75	24.50	2026
SMITH, KATHLEEN	117.50	13.00	2018
SULLIVAN, SCOTT	140.75	6.00	2026
SYKES, ERNESTINE	151.50	24.00	2016

200 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
CARTER, PAUL	207.00	11.00	2021
CHASON, ANGELA	210.05	39.55	2025
STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"	223.00	10.00	2021
SUCHAN, CAROL	236.05	23.50	2014
YOUNGER, PAMELA "PAM"	280.25	14.00	2017

300 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	305.10	12.00	2008
FISHER, DAVID	351.05	33.50	2025
MALONE, PAMELA "PAM"	371.30	16.00	2024
PHELPS, CLAYTON	326.75	13.50	2025

400 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
ODVODY, DALE	404.00	8.50	1994
RIPPEL, APRIL	467.75	41.50	2015

500 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
HARMON, DOMINIQUE	519.20	11.50	2025

600 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
RIPPEL, FRANK	659.50	37.75	2021

1000 Hour Club	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year
KOEPP, DAVID	1021.25	19.25	2023

Certification / Recertification Achievements

64 Members have met or exceeeded Certification or Recertification Requirements already in 2026!

MG Name	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year	Month Achieved
ADAMS, MABEL "KATHY"	112.00	13.00	2017	May
ALBRECHT, DON	25.75	10.00	2024	July
ALLEN, HEATHER	21.50	13.00	2017	July
ALLMAN, CINDY	83.50	14.00	2026	May
BECKER, LYNN	42.00	0.00	2025	April
BLUMENTHAL, AUDREY	86.25	14.00	2026	April
BOLLINGER, MARK "BO"	189.25	13.25	2019	April
BRKICH, KAREN	125.00	14.00	2023	April
BUCHANAN, BRINDY	59.75	15.00	2026	April
CARBAJAL, MARIA	153.00	17.25	2026	April
CARROLL, KATHLEEN "KATHY"	305.10	12.00	2008	March
CARTER, PAUL	207.00	11.00	2021	July
CAUSEY, DONALD	56.25	20.50	2026	May
CHASON, ANGELA	210.05	39.55	2025	March
COUNTS, CHRIS	102.50	14.00	2026	April
COVER, KAY	95.00	11.00	2015	July
DOMINGUEZ, KATHRYN	68.00	14.00	2026	April
FEALY, JAMES	130.25	19.50	2026	March
FISHER, DAVID	351.05	33.50	2025	February
FISHER, RAND	83.50	27.75	2026	April
FISHER, REID	51.50	14.00	2026	June
FRIESENHAHN, JOYCE	25.95	12.75	2011	May
GOMEZ, JERRI	126.75	19.50	2026	March
HARMON, DOMINIQUE	519.20	11.50	2025	April
HENRY, BETH	168.00	15.00	2014	March
HIGA, VICTORIA "VICKI"	101.25	22.75	2026	March
JOHNSON, SHAUNNA	51.50	15.00	2026	May
KOEHL, MARY	55.00	15.00	2026	April
KOEPP, DAVID	1,021.25	19.25	2023	February
KOEPP, KAREN	183.50	17.25	2023	February
LEVINE, CAROLYN	22.00	20.00	2023	July
LIPPENHOLZ, CONNIE	64.50	18.50	2026	May

MG Name	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Start Year	Month Achieved
MAGEE, JANET	28.00	10.25	2013	July
MALONE, PAMELA "PAM"	371.30	16.00	2024	April
MARCOTTE, CLARA MAE	21.00	11.00	2000	July
MCCARTAN, BELLE	156.25	21.00	2026	March
MCELVEEN, HELEN "KAY"	188.50	19.00	2014	March
MCWHORTER, MISTY	105.75	14.00	2026	April
MILLER, GERMAINE	141.75	27.00	2026	March
MORE, VINA	69.25	14.00	2026	April
MUSCHALEK, ROBIN	41.50	11.00	2019	April
NODINE, WILLIAM	39.50	57.50	2017	March
PADGETT, ANNETTE	93.00	16.50	2025	April
PALOMARES, SELENA	52.50	16.00	2026	June
PHELPS, CLAYTON	326.75	13.50	2025	July
PRINCE, PAUL	129.70	12.25	2022	April
RIPPEL, APRIL	467.75	41.50	2015	January
RIPPEL, FRANK	659.50	37.75	2021	February
SAUCEDA, ERNEST	78.25	16.00	2026	March
SCHAEFER, SHARON	58.75	16.50	2026	April
SCHULTZE, PATRICIA "PAT"	33.00	20.50	2000	April
SHERMAN, BOBBIE	110.75	38.50	2026	May
SMITH, KATHLEEN	117.50	13.00	2018	March
STEELE, TIMOTHY "TIM"	223.00	10.00	2021	July
STYBLO, MARY	78.50	17.50	2011	March
SUCHAN, CAROL	236.05	23.50	2014	April
SULLIVAN, SCOTT	140.75	20.00	2026	March
SYKES, ERNESTINE	151.50	24.00	2016	March
TAYLOR, EVAN	62.50	20.25	2026	March
TAYLOR, JACQUELINE "JACKIE	13.50	1.25	2025	May
THOMPSON, JOANN	60.00	21.75	2026	April
WATKINS, PATRICIA	23.00	12.00	2012	April
YOUNGER, PAMELA "PAM"	280.25	14.00	2017	July
ZUROVEC, MACY	51.75	14.00	2025	May

Summary of July 2026 Projects Data

Project	VOL Hours (Sum)	CE Hours (Sum)	Pounds of Produce (Sum)	Miles (Sum)
Advanced Master Gardener Training Classes/Courses	14.00	3.00	0.00	0.00
Christian Cupboard Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	17.00	0.00	29.00	12.00
Continuing Education (Lunch & Learns, Webinars, & other education events that do not fall under another project)	12.50	30.20	0.00	437.00
Fundraisers (Calendar & Garden Guide, Craft Opp's, Farmers Market, GCFair Raffle, Grow Team, Plant Sales)	145.25	1.50	0.00	382.00
Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden - Education - Schertz	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Guadalupe County Demonstration Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Schertz	90.50	0.00	218.00	196.00
Gutierrez Garden Park - Maintenance - Schertz	53.90	0.00	0.00	179.40
LULAC Community Garden - Education - Seguin	2.50	0.00	0.00	25.00
LULAC Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	5.00	0.00	0.00	25.00
LVISD Primary School - Maintenance/Harvesting - La Vernia	30.00	0.00	0.00	125.00
MG Organizational Support (BoD, Committee work, MGOffice, Newsletter, Research Library, Seed Exchange, Technology, Website work)	369.00	6.25	0.00	1,212.90
Master Gardener Training Class (Class prep, Mentoring, Presenting lecture to Class)	58.50	0.00	0.00	73.00
Membership Meeting & Educational Presentation (incl MM Refreshments, Setup & Cleanup)	54.50	27.50	0.00	586.00
Mill Street Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - New Braunfels	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00
Public Education/Outreach (AAMG Booth,BRB Kiosk,Christmas Tree,GCFair Non-fundraising activities,Lectures Given,Pumpkin Contest)	95.75	22.00	0.00	205.00
Red Barn-Garden - Education/School Tours - Seguin	4.00	0.00	0.00	23.00
Red Barn-Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	129.75	0.00	277.00	792.20
Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Education - Cibolo	5.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Cibolo	36.00	0.00	28.00	54.20
St. Andrews Community Garden - Education - Seguin	1.75	0.00	0.00	5.00
St. Andrews Community Garden - Maintenance/Harvesting - Seguin	23.50	0.00	0.00	247.60
Veteran's Memorial Park - Education - Marion	2.00	0.00	0.00	18.00
Veteran's Memorial Park - Maintenance - Marion	54.25	0.00	0.00	379.00
Youth Education Gardening (Junior Master Gardener)	1.50	0.00	0.00	42.00
Grand Summary	**1,211.15**	**110.45**	**552.00**	**5,020.30**

CONTINUING EDUCATION

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



Karen Koepp
2025 GCMG, Education Director

Education Director Report
August 13, 2026

Education Hours Snapshot of July 2026 (160 Certified Members)

2% have "0" hours – 38 Members
1% have "0.25-2.25" hours – 17 Members
0% have "2.5-5.75" hours – 27 Members
0% have "6-9.75" hours – 29 Members
97% have "10+" hours – 49 Members

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

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. 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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Lunch & Learns

September 2026

AgriLife Bldg, Seguin September 9th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Native Plants presented by Kathy Carroll
Admin: Misty McWhorter (pend)
Discover how native plants can bring beauty, wildlife, and seasonal interest to your landscape. Learn which native plants shine in the fall—and how they can create a healthier, more sustainable garden year-round.

Schertz Public Library September 12th, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fall Gardening—planning & planting presented by Karen Brkich
Admin: Belle McCartan
Discover what to plant this fall and how to plan your garden for a productive, beautiful season. Learn about cool-season crops, flowers, and practical tips for getting your garden growing as temperatures cool.

Seguin Public Library September 12th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Composting presented by Peter Hernandez
Admin: Sandy Foss (pend)
Turn kitchen scraps and yard waste into rich, natural compost for your garden. Learn what to compost, how to get started, and how this simple practice can improve your soil and reduce waste.

October 2026
AgriLife Bldg, Seguin October 14th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Kitchen Herbs for Cool Weather Presented by Karen Brkich
Admin: Belle McCartan
Fall is a wonderful time to grow fresh herbs indoors or in containers. Learn which herbs thrive in cooler weather, how to keep them healthy, and simple ways to harvest and enjoy them all season long.

Schertz Public Library October 10th, 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Herb Propagation Presented by April Rippel
Admin: Kathleen Smith
Propagating herbs is a simple, cost-effective way to grow fresh plants from cuttings, divisions, or seeds. Popular herbs like basil, mint, rosemary, and oregano can quickly produce new growth when given the right light, moisture, and care. Herb propagation supports sustainable gardening, reduces waste, and provides a continuous supply of flavorful, aromatic plants for cooking and wellness.

Seguin Public Library October 10th, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Native Plants presented by Kathy Carroll
Discover how native plants can bring beauty, wildlife, and seasonal interest to your landscape. Learn which native plants shine in the fall—and how they can create a healthier, more sustainable garden year-round.


TEXAS
MASTER GARDENER
TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION
Ready to dig in?
BEGINNER
Gardening
FALL SESSION
Learn. Grow. Connect. Thrive.
You CAN Grow Your Own!
A 6-week, hands-on program for brand-new gardeners! Step-by-step guidance, real-life skills, and plenty of time to ask questions in a fun, friendly environment.
ONLY $90
SUPPLIES INCLUDED!
6-WEEK CLASS
Hands-on learning every Saturday (no class Halloween weekend)
SMALL CLASS SIZE
Maximum 20 participants for personal attention!
EVERYTHING YOU NEED
Fee includes notebooks, printed handouts & classroom materials.
INVESTMENT
Only $90 Supplies included!
CLASS SCHEDULE
Saturdays
September 19 – October 24, 2026
(No class Halloween weekend)
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
LOCATION
AgriLife Building
210 E Live Oak
Seguin, TX 78155
Whether you dream of veggies, flowers, or a beautiful yard— we'll help you
MAKE IT HAPPEN!
Questions? Contact us
karenbrkichgardening@gmail.com
*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. *

SPECIAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES





Seed Exchange Update for September 2026

Only a few more weeks of heat and we should start feeling a change in the air. This is the time to start growing seeds and planting the fall garden. It is tempting to purchase seeds at the nursery while standing in line, but why not save yourself some money and check with the seed exchange first to see if we have those seeds available for free.

We do have bluebonnet seeds right now and this is the month that you want to get them in the ground. Did you know that they need to be sown now in order to bloom in spring? They will actually start growing as early as the end of October and you may have to be careful not to step on the small plants as you decorate for Christmas, but those tiny plants are nearly indestructable and they will not freeze even if we get ice. It is hard to believe, but it is true.

Remember, the Seed Exchange is open on Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. and we are here to help you with your seeds as well as your volunteer hours. We are located upstairs in the Master Gardeners Office inside the AgriLife Library. Everyone is welcome to visit, shop, volunteer, and drop off extra seeds that they harvested this past year. We have a large variety of flower and vegetable seeds available.

We are glad to help if you have questions, or need access at other times.
Looking forward to seeing you soon!

POCs David Koepp at dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com & Karen Koepp at kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com, or call/text 210-263-3624, or email Ernestine Sykes at ejackson.sykes@gmail.com or text 210-544-0756.

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

Special Volunteer Opportunities

CiboloFest 2026

Saturday, October 17th

10am-9pm

*Volunteers needed from

8:30am-9pm

Text: 303-910-7186 with availability

Big Red Barn School Tours

There are many school tours at the Big Red Barn this month.
If you are interested in participating, being a back-up or even just observing so that you can help in the future, please contact Kay McElveen at hkaymcelveen@gmail.com for more information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please check with the listed POC 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. until 10:00 a.m.
F: 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

This is an open park and always needs weeds pulled. Once you know what needs to be done, you would be able to work any time or day that is convenient for your schedule.

Contact Carol Suchan
210-870-4880 or email
ladywithdonkey@yahoo.com
or Anne Ottenad
210-860-3636 or email
Ron.anne.ottenad@Gmail.com

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & 2nd Saturdays

Ron Pedde Community Garden
1017 Town Creek Road, Cibolo

For all work days and times, please contact Rachel Eiland at 757-513-2842 or email rachel.eiland@outlook.com

Wednesdays

MG Office/Library/Seed Exchange
210 E. Live Oak, AgriLife Bldg., Seguin

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 Koepp at dhkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com or Karen Koepp at kkoepp.gcmg@gmail.com or text Ernestine Sykes at 210-544-0756
The office number is 830-379-1972



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

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
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 http://txmg.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
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Treasurer.....Frank Rippel
Publicity Director.....Kat Medeiros-Oropeza
Membership Director.....David Koepp
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Volunteer Director.....Kathy Carroll
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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, 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
GCMG Class Coordinators – Paul Carter & April Rippel
Ron Pedde Memorial Community Garden - Rachel Eiland
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/)